



PRESS RELEASE

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JOHN B. COOKE
SHERIFF

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 1, 2009

MOUNTAIN LION SPOTTED IN SOUTH WEST WELD COUNTY

Greeley, Colo. – A mountain lion was spotted in the Del Camino business area late Sunday evening.

Around 11:00 pm Sunday evening, June 28, the Weld County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) was notified of a mountain lion sighting in the parking lot of the Quality Inn in Del Camino, approximately the 10000 block of west I-25 frontage road. WCSO deputies and officers from the Firestone and Frederick Police Departments searched the immediate and surrounding areas for about an hour and were unable to locate the mountain lion. The witness reported the mountain lion was approximately six feet long and walked across the parking lot behind the motel.

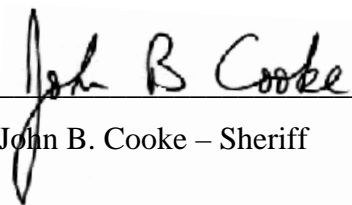
On June 29, a resident living in the 9000 block of west I-25 frontage road called WCSO to report four dead animals on his property. He told the officer three rabbits and one cat had been decapitated. The rabbits were found Sunday and the cat was discovered Monday after about 1:45 pm. A second family cat was discovered hiding in a barn and was described by the owner as "really frightened".

Wednesday, May 6 around 7:30 am a Firestone resident living in the Stoneridge subdivision called the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) to report she saw a mountain lion. Around 5:00 pm the Firestone Police Department received two calls about a mountain lion trapped in the window well of a home in the 9800 block of Buffalo Street in the Stoneridge subdivision. DOW tranquilized the lion and removed it to a field office. They determined the lion was approximately 9 months old.

DOW has information about mountain lions available on their website at:
wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/Profiles/Mammals/MountainLion.htm

DOW suggests during an encounter with a mountain lion you stay calm. Talk calmly yet firmly to it. Move slowly. Stop or back away slowly. Do not run. Raise your arms to appear larger. If the lion behaves aggressively, throw stones, branches, or whatever you can get your hands on without crouching down or turning your back. Fight back if a lion attacks you. Lions have been driven away by prey that fights back.

Report any sightings to your local police department or the Weld County Sheriff's Office 970-356-4015. Always call 911 in case of an emergency.



John B. Cooke – Sheriff

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