



# WILD Kids



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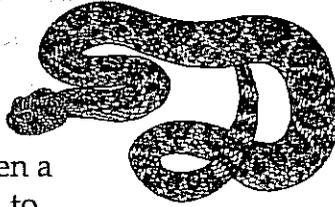
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## Close Encounters With Wildlife

"Help! There's a rattlesnake on my front porch!" When snakes, coyotes, javelina and other wild animals wander into people's yards, the Arizona Game and Fish Department usually receives a call. These close encounters with wildlife happen frequently in Arizona, and often in urban areas.

Wildlife find their way into urban areas when searching for food, water, or shelter. This is when they may get themselves into trouble. When a person calls the Game and Fish Dept. to



report a wildlife encounter, often the first person they talk to is the dispatcher in the radio room. This is where all incoming calls are picked up. The dispatcher determines if it is an emergency situation and what type of action is needed.

The dispatcher reports the call to a wildlife manager in the area. The job of the wildlife manager is to protect and manage wildlife. The wildlife manager decides what needs to be done next. He/she takes the appropriate action to protect wildlife and people.

Below are two incoming calls to the dispatcher. Read through each call. If you were a wildlife manager how would you respond? What actions would you take to protect people and wildlife?

### Call #1

Dispatcher: "Hello, Game and Fish Radio."

Caller: "There's a bear in my yard!"

Dispatcher: "Where is the bear?"

Caller: "It's in a tree in my yard!"

Dispatcher: "Where are calling from?"

Caller: "I'm inside my house."

Dispatcher: "Where do you live?"

Caller: "345 N. Rocky Ridge in Pinetop."

(over)

### Call #2

Dispatcher: "Hello, Game and Fish Radio."

Caller: "There's a javelina at the shopping mall!"

Dispatcher: "Where is the javelina?"

Caller: "It's in the flower bed near the entrance."

Dispatcher: "What is the javelina doing?"

Caller: "It's eating my flowers! I'm the gardener."

Dispatcher: "Where are calling from?"

Caller: "I'm at a pay phone outside the mall."

(over)

**Call #1 continued**

Dispatcher: "How did the bear get in the tree?"

Caller: "My poodle chased it into the tree."

Dispatcher: "Call the dog inside. Is there anyone else outside near the bear?"

Caller: "The dog is inside now. The neighbors are inside their homes watching the bear."

Dispatcher: "Stay inside. Tell everyone to stay away from the bear. A wildlife manager will be there soon."

When the wildlife manager arrives at the scene, he finds the bear is starting to climb out of the tree. There are no people nearby, everyone has remained in their homes.

*What would you do?*

**Call #2 continued**

Dispatcher: "Which mall are you at?"

Caller: "The Borgata in Scottsdale."

Dispatcher: "Are there other people in the area?"

Caller: "I'm the only one here right now."

Dispatcher: "I'm sending a wildlife manager to the mall. Do not approach the javelina. If anyone else arrives tell them to stay away."

Caller: "O.K. I'll stay right here."

When the wildlife manager arrives on the scene, she finds the javelina is munching on flowers. A dozen people have arrived at the mall and are watching the javelina from a close distance.

*What would you do?*

**I. Write at least two paragraphs about what you would do if you were the wildlife manager who arrived at each of the above calls.**

1. What things would you need to think about?
2. What would you need to do to protect wildlife and people?
3. What would you do if the animal started to run away?
4. Would you try to move the animal?
5. What would you say to people at the scene if they asked you to explain what you're doing?
6. What would you do if a crowd began to gather? How would you control the situation?
7. What would you do if the animal became aggressive?

