

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



Department of
Fish and Game

Eddie Grasser, Director

Division of Wildlife Conservation

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Neighborhood Attractants and Lynx

September 23, 2021— An adult female lynx was killed under Defense of Life or Property (DLP) circumstances in early September by a south Anchorage homeowner, after the animal was believed to have killed and injured multiple ducks and chickens. The DLP situation was reported to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), meeting the legal requirements for killing an animal under these regulations.

Following this incident, four lynx kittens were seen nearby without an adult and reported on social media over the following days. ADF&G received multiple reports of the kittens moving between homes and running across streets. Sadly, one of the kittens was killed by a car on a nearby roadway, resulting in the decision to capture the remaining kittens for evaluation. With the assistance of local homeowners who had been observing the kittens, ADF&G staff were able to capture the kittens on Tuesday.

Examination of the three lynx kittens indicated they were in poor body condition, which is difficult to determine from a distance on animals with thick fur like lynx. While the kittens had been seen chasing feral domestic rabbits, they were not old enough to thrive in the wild on their own. Feral domestic rabbits, which are regularly seen in the area, are classified as deleterious exotic wildlife and are illegal to feed either negligently or intentionally under state law.

ADF&G makes efforts to place orphaned animals with permanent placement wildlife facilities whenever possible; however, placement options are very limited. Furthermore, due to disease transmission concerns and under the recommendations of ADF&G veterinarians, the lynx were only approved for permanent placement within Anchorage and could not be transferred to an out-of-state facility at a later date. Department staff contacted a facility that had expressed interest in lynx but they were unable to take them. The kittens were later euthanized.

“This is a sad situation for everyone involved. The best place for young wild animals to grow up is in the wild under the care of their mothers. Euthanizing an animal is not a decision any of us take lightly, and the circumstances leading to this situation were very unfortunate,” said Regional Supervisor Cyndi Wardlow.

Minimizing the availability of attractants (i.e. poultry, livestock, etc.) around homes reduces the likelihood of potentially dangerous human-wildlife interactions, loss of personal property, and the unnecessary destruction of wildlife, including lynx. Homeowners who keep poultry, livestock and other domestic animals outside their homes, should invest in their perimeter and electric fences to further

reduce their availability to wild animals. For more information on electric fences, contact your area department office or visit the department webpage at:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.bearfences>.

Young animals alone for more than 48 hours should be reported to the nearest ADF&G office during regular business hours, or by filing a report online at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov> and clicking the "Report a Wildlife Encounter" button. For immediate public safety concerns, please call 9-1-1.

For more information, visit www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=distressedwildlife.mammals.

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Media Contact: Jeff Selinger, (907) 260-2905, jeff.selinger@alaska.gov