Shannon Alexander

**Possible danger of Rabies at UNT**

Recently there have been some reports of daytime sightings of racoons, which are known to be nocturnal creatures, at UNT. These racoons have also been reported to be both acting and looking unusual during these sightings. Based on these reports, it is possible that these racoons may have rabies.

Resident Lily Campbell, who is a sophomore at UNT, reported her experience with unusual acting racoons both to Denton’s animal field services and to Twitter. According to her reports, the racoons acted aggressively toward her while she was taking out the trash around 9 a.m. They lunged at her before chasing her back to her apartment. In her tweet about the incident, Campbell said, “Crazy racoons at Crash Pads chases me back to my apartment. Wonder if they’re sick?”

Another UNT resident, Torrance Harris, who is a graduate student and lives in a downstairs unit, also reporting his experience with racoons. According to his reports, his dog Morty, a German shepherd-mix aggressively barked at the window around 11 a.m. He also reported that he saw two racoons near the door during this time.

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Although these reports are unusual, it is unclear whether these racoons have rabies. According to Campbell, even though the racoons acted strangely, they looked normal and didn’t appear sick. However, according to Harris’ report, the racoons appeared to have watery ayes and matted hair around their faces.

In order to know for sure whether an animal has rabies, a test must be done to confirm it and that could take a few days. Dr. Kai Brooks, who works at Denton Animal Hospital, encouraged pet owners to make sure their pets were vaccinated, just to be on the safe side. She recommended that people avoid contact with wild animals and contact Animal Field Services if they encounter any that look sick or injured