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Feral hog attacks car, charges people

Police put down wild animal raising a ruckus in neighborhood outside Dallas

Frank Burnett and friend Tony Wyatt pose with the wild hog shot in Burnett's neighborhood outside Dallas shortly after 10 a.m. Sunday.

Photo submittedFrank Burnett and friend Tony Wyatt pose with the wild hog shot in Burnett's neighborhood outside Dallas shortly after 10 a.m. Sunday.

The wild hog raising a stink in a neighborhood outside Dallas took several shots from a .40-caliber handgun, says Frank Burnett, “and all that did was make it dizzy.”

A county police officer eventually used a rifle to kill the feral animal Sunday morning after the hog charged at people on the 400 block of Wimbledon Drive near Miles Road, said Capt. S.V. Jentsch of the Gaston County Police Department.

The officer, assigned to Gaston County Animal Care and Enforcement, formerly Animal Control, had responded to a call about a vicious hog. The animal was at least 200 pounds, according to estimates from people who saw it damage a car before the animal was shot by a nearby homeowner.

His neighbor, alerted to the hog’s presence by a car alarm, shot the animal, which then charged the shooter, said Burnett.

He thinks the wild hog was looking through the neighborhood for something to eat when it saw its own reflection in the car and attacked.

Bears have recently been spotted in the neighborhood, too, said Burnett, a hunter who figures the dry season caused animals to leave nearby woods in search of sustenance.

The neighborhood is in a densely populated area, according to Burnett. He hopes people will take Sunday’s events as a warning and call the authorities when wild animals show up in residential areas.

“This thing can kill you as quick as a bear can,” Burnett said. “It took two or three shots from a high-powered rifle to make it go down.”

Jentsch said a feral hog is not a common sight in Gaston County, and the aggressive animal killed Sunday is being tested for rabies.

The good news, he said, is that it did not hurt anyone or come into contact with any person.

The sergeant who shot the animal did so because the hog was a threat to residents’ safety and because it was already suffering from gunshot wounds, said Jentsch.