



# University of California, Irvine POLICE DEPARTMENT

## COMMUNITY ALERT

### Bobcat Sighting

#### WARNING

**DATE/TIME:** Tuesday, August 7, 2007 (9pm)

**LOCATION:** Verano Housing, Parking Lot 25 and Verano Children's Center

**DETAILS:** Young bobcat seen chasing rabbits. 15-20 lb bobcat was the size of a large house cat and last observed in the bamboo forested area near the Children's Center.

**PLEASE REPORT ANY FUTURE SIGHTINGS TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY.** While this sighting is not a cause for alarm, the UCI Police Department encourages the campus community to keep the following safety measures in mind:

Bobcats do not cause any public health or safety problems for humans. They can be an important, perhaps even critical, part of the balance of nature, even in areas that are densely settled by people. Their almost exclusively carnivorous habits and their preference for rabbits and rodents as prey means that they can help control the populations of these animals. Bobcats tend to be active during the evening and early morning hours. However during the spring and summer months you may see mom and her cubs out during the daylight hours. As the cubs get older they are often seen out playing together, however mom is nearby keeping an eye on her young.

#### **Appearance**

Bobcats are the size of a medium dog with fur varying from buff to reddish color. Occasionally mistaken for mountain lions, the bobcat has a short tail (six to seven inches long) with a black end, tipped with white and tall ears with short tufts of hair. The males weigh approximately 25 pounds. Females weigh approximately 15-20 pounds.

#### **Habitat**

Bobcats have adapted to a wide variety of habitats. They do well in small-forested areas, and open grasslands, as well as brush land, as long as cover is available.

#### **Diet**

Bobcats are opportunistic carnivores. The general preference for prey falls in the range of rabbits up to raccoons. Where an abundance of rabbits occur the best feeding conditions for bobcats exist.

#### **Deterrents**

Make a lot of noise: clap your hands, yell, bang pots and pans together, make yourself look as big as possible. Open your jacket if you are wearing one. Never turn your back and run from the animal.

Do not approach a bobcat. Never try to pet any wild animal.

Control food sources in your yard: don't leave pet food outside, limit the use of birdseed because bobcats are attracted to the animals that feed there.

Keep your yard trimmed and clear of excess brush and woodpiles that may serve as housing for predators or prey.

Don't leave food or water out for any wildlife.

Don't allow pets to run loose at anytime.

Outdoor lights and noise can be used in yards to deter predators.

Keep trash in sturdy containers with tight-fitting lids.

University of California, Irvine Police Department  
150 Public Services Building  
Irvine, CA 92697

EMERGENCY.....9-1-1  
Non-Emergency (949) 824-5223