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Dog Bites in Dallas

Ironically, when I was thinking of writing my next article, I decided to write about Dallas Animal Control and the dog issue. I did not think I was going to be bitten by a dog before it was written. I really didn't need the personal experience to relate to the issue, but I got it anyway. It happened quickly and it could have been worse. It was a customer's dog and it was traumatic for everyone involved. The worst part for me is the time taken using the company's workers compensation insurance for the check ups to make sure everything is O.K.

I grew up in Duncanville, but Ann and I have raised our family in Plano. I have known people in Plano who gave me the impression they have never been to the south side of LBJ let alone the south side of Dallas. We service the south part of town and one of my service projects in pest control provides pest treatments to senior citizens in this part of Dallas who would otherwise never be able to afford the service. You definitely see more dogs running around in that part of town. I know the mentality of people in Plano, you see a loose dog and want to help find the owner. I have done that myself. In south Dallas though, you would not see me getting out of my truck to pick up a dog, my attitude would be reversed.

Is there a dog problem? What has changed? I have worked with the Dallas Animal Control since the 80s and it is clear that it has been politicized. It was easy for us to catch a raccoon and put it in a cage and animal control would most likely euthanize the animal and leave our trap. But in the last two years, I personally delivered an opossum in a cage and they were reluctant to take the animal. One of our techs was turned away on two different occasions by the staff when trying to drop off opossums. Another time I pulled an injured cat from a deck for a customer and took it to Dallas Animal Control and they were not open, yet it was mid morning, but they made an exception for me because they were videotaping something so they videotaped this cat in my cage to be transferred to another location and I am sure the injuries would require the cat to be euthanized.

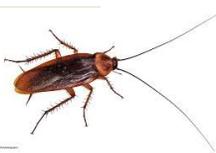
It has gone from great service over the decades to poor service. Our office is in North Dallas and a lady called the office to tell Ann about a situation with a cat that might have been struck by a car and was under a house. Neighbors were working to solve the problem and they told Ann that Dallas Animal Control would not come out and help. So one of the individuals came to the office and picked up an animal grabber from Ann. They solved the problem themselves and brought the grabber back. What is going on here?

Pest of the Quarter:

American Cockroach

Everybody has an opinion of what a good bug is. In my last class for young entomologists called *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*, we concluded that most insects could fall into any of the above categories. It is a discussion with no true victors.

As for the American Cockroach, yes it is bad and probably ugly. But, then I would tell them that when the ships were sailing from Europe to America there were a lot of bedbugs. The travelers liked the American Cockroaches because they ate the bedbugs. Therefore, they, too, in some instances could be called Good. Life is complex.



Dallas Animal Control contracts a company to deal with wildlife. This company is basically a no kill company. They are rehabilitators of animals. I disagree with this approach. Since everyone wants to feel good about not killing anything the backlash is animals of all sorts just keep reproducing and then they overpopulate to the point that something has to lower the population, and that is disease. Wildlife populations have to be maintained and you do not see hunters in Dallas. Dog populations have to be maintained too, but when individuals have decided not to make the tough decisions, then they have to live with the repercussion of their decision, and in the case of Ms. Brown, she died because people focused on avoiding catching the dogs so they would not be forced to euthanize them. The Dallas Animal Controls' service for the community has diminished to the point that citizens have to save cats in North Dallas and nobody was there for Ms. Brown when she was attacked. It is clear the philosophy of the present day Dallas Animal Control was a reason for her death.

Know Your Poop

We get calls about droppings (scat) from mice and when I get to the home the problem is not mice but cockroaches. What gives it away is that we do very few mouse jobs in DFW, most rodent jobs are for the roof rat. Mouse droppings are very small but the American Cockroach will have droppings that are close to the same size. The roach droppings are hard whereas the droppings of a mouse that are fresh will have moisture and can be squished. (Yes, I learned this in college.)



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Attic Party Animals?

A reminder of new community courses



Oak Point Park Nature & Retreat Center



In July and August you may have some kids or grandkids that need something to do. I have two classes in Plano on Saturdays this year. On 7-16, at 10a.m. my course is Jurassic Park Insects and we catch damsel and dragonflies and of course learn about these insects. There are 8 slots still open. On 8-20, at 10a.m. I have a course on Insects of Oak Point and there are still 6 slots available.

Last year in August we visited our niece and her husband to celebrate their sons 1 year birthday. Our other great nephews were there and we happened to find a bug kit at a local store. All the kids at the party loved catching bugs and even the adults got into it. So if your grandkids or kids have never had the chance to catch bugs this class is a great opportunity to catch and look at interesting insects.

Just google Plano Leisure online and go to Outdoor Adventures and look for Jurassic Park Insects, and Insects of Oak Point. My name does not show up online.



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