



Figure 2. Two small feral hogs in a corral trap in southern Indiana. (Photo courtesy U.S. Department of Agriculture)

hunting, and aerial hunting can be effective at removing localized populations (Figure 2). The state of Texas encouraged feral swine control by declaring October “Hog Out Month” and by holding a “Get the Hogs Out of Texas” contest that will award a \$25,000 grant to the county that removed the highest number of hogs by the end of the month (Texas Department of Agriculture, news release, October 4, 2010). However, the hog problem is not unique to Texas.

In Panama City, Florida, feral hogs have been hanging around the yacht club. NBC’s Today Show (January 7, 2010) reported that feral hogs are terrorizing neighborhoods and causing property damage in Florida. However, residents became so enamored by the hogs that residents disabled the traps that animal-control officers set to remove the critters.

Damage from feral hogs in urban areas is not limited to areas with a large population of hogs. In Detroit, Michigan, escaped hogs from boar-hunting refuges have been turning up in the outskirts of the city. As hog populations continue to expand throughout the United States, problems with urban hogs are expected to increase.

Mountain goat fatally attacks hiker

Although attacks by mountain goats are rare and considered highly unusual, they are not unheard of. The *Discovery Press* (October 18, 2010) reported a mountain goat attack that left a hiker dead in Olympic National Park (ONP) in Washington State. Robert Boardman was hiking in ONP when he encountered a mountain

goat. He tried to shoo the ram away, when it attacked and gored him in the thigh. Boardman was airlifted to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. Park officials shot the animal after they observed blood on its horns. The goat that attacked Boardman was submitted for necropsy (ONP news release, October 28, 2010). No evidence of rabies virus, encephalitis virus, plague, and tularemia was found. According to the pathologist, the ram appeared to be in rut at the time of the attack.

More moose loose in New England

The *Litchfield Country Times* (December 9, 2010) reported that moose (*Alces alces*) sightings are on the rise in Connecticut. Free-ranging moose populations have not been present in Connecticut



Figure 3. Moose sightings are on the rise in New England. (Photo, L. Paulik, courtesy USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services’ National Wildlife Research Center)

since at least 1935. But from 1992 to 2002, there were a total of 106 moose sightings reported in 45 Connecticut towns (Figure 3). Since April 2010, moose have been sighted in a number of towns in eastern Connecticut. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is warning motorists to use additional caution because several moose have been sighted or killed near roadways. During the fall, a 227-kg and 318-kg moose were killed in Goshen and Barkhamsted, respectively, in vehicle–moose collisions. Since 1995, the DEP has documented 22 moose–vehicle collisions in the state. Luckily, there have been no human fatalities during these collisions. Each year, Maine and New Hampshire typically experience 3 and 1 human deaths, respectively, due to moose–vehicle collisions.

Information from In the News can be cited as: Caudell, J. N. 2011. In the news. *Human–Wildlife Interactions* 5:3–4.