

## REMINDER ABOUT OUR DESERT NEIGHBORS

Although most of us have lived in the desert long enough to know the critters that can do us or our pets harm, it does hurt to review the basics since it is so easy to be complacent about them since we don't see them often. Consider this Refresher of Critters – 101.

### RATTLESNAKE FACTS



- If you have a rattlesnake in your yard, garage, etc. you can still call 911 to have them physically removed by the Golder Fire Department.
- You won't normally see one if the temperature is 55 degrees or cooler but when it is 75 degrees, the ground is cool and the sun warm, this is their ideal condition...and we get those days in our winter-time. The Desert Museum warns, don't assume our rattlesnakes hibernate in the winter.
- The survival rate from bites is high if you seek immediate medical attention.
- The DON'T have to coil to strike.
- They DON'T always rattle before striking.
- A head cut off a rattlesnake is as venomous as if still on its body.
- They are nocturnal during the hottest months of the year.
- There are 11 rattlesnake species in Arizona.
- They do have live young, born from August to October and they are venomous.

### AFRICANIZED BEES



- If you see them like a ball in a tree, wait a couple of days before calling the bee remover. They most likely will move on in a couple of days.
- If you get attacked (and are with your dog, pick up your dog) run like crazy in a straight line for at least a quarter of a mile...that's about as far as they can go when they are on the attack.
- Don't jump into a pool to get away from them. They will hover and wait for you to come up for air and then attack.
- If our community, there have been a little more than half of a dozen winter residents who have returned to find their walls and/or attics filled with honeycombs. If it happens, be careful and expect a substantial bill for its removal and then, repair.
- Only  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long, they are easily provoked and become quite mean. Rain, perfume, dark clothes, shiny jewelry and loud noises irritate them enough, it will probably require a bee-keeper to remove them since they've been known stay agitated for up to 24 hours.
- Typically, there are about 80,000 bees in a group.



### KEEP YOU & YOUR PET SAFE

**Coyotes** are opportunistic predators. Leaving your dog alone in your yard is an invitation for a hungry coyote.

**Javelinas**, who normally travel as a family, can become quite mean if they feel their babies are in danger. They have killed little dogs, knocking owners down who try to save their pet. Beware of **hawks and owls** who will easily take a small dog from a patio area. Finally, you do need to read up on this one...**the summer toad**. Dogs will pick them up in their mouth and the poison on the toads skin can kill a dog before you can get it to the animal hospital. They show up in the monsoon season, after a good rain. They live in the dirt until it gets wet.