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Department of
Fish and Game

Division of Wildlife Conservation

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Brown Bear Killed by ADF&G in South Anchorage

September 23, 2020 (Anchorage)- On Monday evening, September 21, personnel from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers killed an adult male brown bear that had been overturning dumpsters in South Anchorage. Turning over the dumpsters often broke the bear-resistant mechanisms and allowed access to trash. Saturday night the bear dug under the perimeter fence of the Alaska Zoo and killed a 16-year-old alpaca.

ADF&G personnel initially began receiving reports of a brown bear flipping dumpsters in the neighborhoods around the Alaska Zoo in mid-September. Brown bears are known to defend food sources, including trash. When this happens in neighborhoods or densely populated areas, brown bears are considered an elevated threat to public safety and are usually killed. ADF&G personnel immediately began efforts to find the bear and remove it.

Anchorage Area Biologist Dave Battle said "This time of year we frequently have a surge in bear activity as bears enter hyperphagia, a period of excessive eating meant to fatten them up just before they go into the den so they can survive the winter. During this time, bears feel a need to eat as much as they can, so they attempt to exploit every food source they can. That often includes human-provided food sources like trash and birdfeeders. It's very important that residents continue to secure all attractants so that bears can't access them."

Keeping bears out of trash and other human-provided attractants is part of being a responsible homeowner in Anchorage. If residents are aware of any bears feeding from trash or birdfeeders, they are asked to please call the ADF&G office directly at 907-267-2257 or report online at:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=reportwildlifeencounter.main>.

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