



Chris Carothers/Sentinel

Wild in the street

Animals

11/19/94

Aptos man reports being pursued by three galloping pigs

By JOHN BESSA
Sentinel staff writer

APTOS — First there were mountain lions chasing joggers. Now the wild pigs have gotten into the act.

So says Ian Browde, who was walking in a field near Cabrillo College Thursday night when he came face-to-face with three of the galloping beasts.

He didn't even threaten to huff, puff, or blow their houses down.

"I've never had that experience before," Browde said. "A mountain lion is tame compared to these animals."

Browde, 45, and his two German shepherds were walking in a field near his Haas Drive home about 8:30 p.m. The dogs went ahead.

Then Browde heard a sound.

"It sounded like a bullfrog. Then all of a sudden

my dog came flying by me," he said.

Both pets ran pell-mell back home, with Browde in rapid tow.

The dogs are "not scared of anything but they ran ahead of me," Browde said.

The lead pig trailed Browde by about 30 feet, he said.

Taller than his full-grown shepherd, the pigs likely weighed more than 200 pounds, Browde said, judging by their stout build and dense flesh.

"They're heavy meat, you know," he said.

A state Department of Fish and Game warden was told of the encounter and was investigating the report Friday afternoon.

Game Warden Gloria Lopez said Friday afternoon she had been unable to reach Browde, so she

Please see WILD — BACK PAGE

Wild pigs

Continued from Page A1

didn't know what may have prompted the incident.

"There had to be something that prompted the attack because they don't normally attack people," she said.

The pigs may have been agitated by Browde's dogs, or perhaps he unwittingly got between a sow and her piglets, Lopez said.

Pig attacks are uncommon, Lopez said. On an earlier occasion, some domestic pigs roaming free

chased a man because they apparently were hungry and thought he would feed them, Lopez said.

In pig confrontations, people should stay still and look for a tree to climb, Lopez said.

"Pigs don't really see well. If you start running you're going to attract their attention," Lopez said.

The pigs should be avoided. "You don't want to get cut by those tusks," she said.

Browde called the Sentinel Friday because he wanted people who

walk in the area to know about the aggressive pigs.

"I'm assuming they'll still be there. I certainly didn't do anything that is going to shoo them away," he said.

On Oct. 6, a mountain lion was spotted by a jogger nearby, on undeveloped Cabrillo College property.

Browde said he would rather confront one of the cats.

"Give me a mountain lion any day," he said.