

## Animals and Garages

My guess is when the property at the Fairways and Lake Ridge was cleared some 10 to 15 years back all of the animals were displaced. Well, things have grown back and quieted down and the animals have found their way back and as witnessed by the rabbit population alone, they are multiplying rather quickly. Rabbits and other wild animals do not watch television I guess and so have not heard about all the great birth control stuff continuously advertised. To have the rabbits and chipmunks eat your flowers and vegetables is one thing but what happened to my neighbors, Don and Arlene Brody is quite another thing altogether. One morning Don was trying to start his car and although it cranked over fast enough it just wouldn't start. I said to Don that I would like to help but today's cars were out of my league. He replied that he had other problems, his garage door wouldn't close. Now, this is something I know a little about so I went to investigate. We found one of his interference sensors knocked off and the wire all mangled and broken off. Not something you could do by hitting it with the garbage can. I was able to splice a new section of wire and when I was reinstalling it, I went to the area between the two garage doors to measure the height of the other sensor and saw a rather large animal specimen of feces on the floor. Now we figured we knew what happened, an animal had chewed the wires. The mechanic came and couldn't find the problem right off. Don had to have the car towed to the repair shop. The next morning Don called for me to come over. Three of the four sensors for his two garage doors had been ripped off and the wires chewed up. One of his insulation panels had been pulled off and chewed up into small pieces and there was another dump on the floor by his door. I have a dog that is 12

pounds and this was larger than what she does. The mechanic called and said his car's wiring harness and air conditioning connections had been chewed by an animal. Don called pest control and they located an animal that they never identified in the engine



compartment of his wife's car. They couldn't get him to move so they pushed the car into the driveway and when the pest control guy came back two hours later the animal was gone. Don had almost \$1200 worth of damage to his car and a \$300 bill for repair of the garage door sensors

and wiring. Don never leaves his doors open for any period of time but the day before he was working on his shrubberies, left the doors open for the time he was working and this is probably when the animal got in and then when he closed the doors the animal was trapped and frightened. I figure it was a ground hog but I never actually saw it. So, I would say be careful about leaving your garage doors open but if you see signs of an animal, then leave them open for a while so the animal can get out.