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Wounded Bambi dies near Disney



Animal control officers prepare to take a deer to an animal care facility, but it died during the trip. | JEAN LACHAT-SUN-TIMES

'I'M TRAUMATIZED' | Deer struck on Lake Shore Drive sought refuge at school

BY STEFANO ESPOSITO
Staff Reporter

Bambi made a desperate dash across Lake Shore Drive during rush hour Wednesday morning and then, fittingly, sought refuge at Walt Disney Magnet School on the North Side.

But it was a grim fairy tale ending for the wandering young buck — and his female companion — both of which were struck and killed by cars on the drive.

"I'm traumatized by this," said Chicago Police Officer Lisa Eitel as she listened to the pained bleat of the dying buck Wednesday morning. "I can't imagine what first-graders would think."

In fact, Disney's principal Kathy Hagstrom kept her students inside to avoid upsetting them.

The city's Animal Care and Control Department first received a report about 9 a.m. Wednesday of three deer in the 5400 block of North Lake Shore Drive, said Anne Kent, the department's executive

director. Kent said the city has a small deer population of about 50, and perhaps the three animals spotted Wednesday were drawn to the lakefront's lush grass.

When Animal Care inspectors arrived at the drive, they found a dead female deer and the injured buck running around. The third deer had apparently fled, Kent said.

Animal tranquilized

The injured buck eventually made its way to the Disney school in the 4100 block of North Marine Drive, where inspectors, with police assistance, cornered and tranquilized it.

But as two inspectors tried to haul the deer into a van, the deer struggled to free itself.

"Dealing with ignorant people is so much easier than innocent animals," said Eitel, who backed away because she couldn't stand the deer's cries.

The buck died on the way to the Animal Care facility at 27th and Western, Kent said.

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