

As a team we researched different strategies that currently exist to assist drivers in safely sharing the road with animals. We researched animal bridges and tunnels, using glow in the dark paint, posted signs and deer whistles. Although we loved the ideas, we researched and found negative input about the cost and effectiveness of their use.

Our team met with three experts in our community. A veterinarian talked to us about the animals that he has treated that have been hurt in the roadway. An insurance agent told us about the costs and hurt people from car accidents. A police officer, that is called to automobile accident sights, also came to speak with us. He said that drivers often do not drive in the most safe way. The experts shared a lot of information and our team decided that the best solution was to help driver awareness education.

We chose to educate drivers on how to best interact with animals on the road.

PJMS – Jaguar Robotics Team



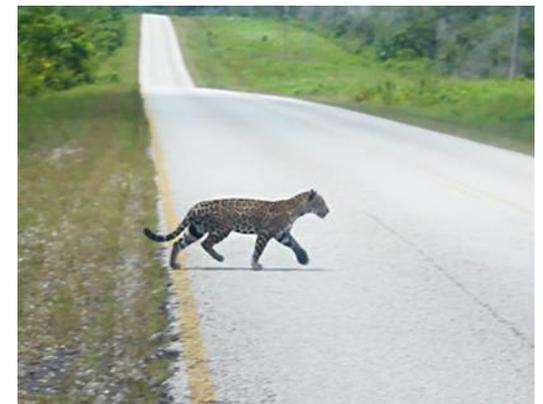
POPE JOHN XXIII
MIDDLE SCHOOL

JAGUARS ROBOTICS TEAM



Animal & Human Road Cooperation

By PJMS Jaguar Robotics
Team



Learning to share and to interact with animals on the roadway is an important issue so that humans and animals can be safe.

HOW TO SAFELY SHARE THE ROAD WITH ANIMALS:

The Facts:

- 1.5 million animals are involved collisions in the US each year.
- An average of 200 people are killed each year in the US due to collisions with animals.
- Approximately 10,000 people are injured each year in the US due to collisions.
- About 1.2 million dogs are killed and 5.4 million cats are killed on US roadways every year.
- \$3,171.00 was the average cost spent on collisions with animals in 2011.
- The total economic cost of collisions with animals in the US in 2011 was 8 billion dollars.



- Drive the speed limit; Do not speed.

- Pay attention to the road; don't get distracted.



- Don't swerve out of your lane to avoid hitting an animal, serious accidents can occur when drivers lose control of the vehicle.

- Pay attention to animal crossing signs.



- Keep your headlights on.

- Drive defensively; watch out for animals on the road.

- Take a safety driving class for a review.

- If you see a deer, keep your eyes out for others that may be following it.



- Anticipate unpredictable behavior from all wildlife.

- Wear your seatbelt at all times.

- Honk your horn and flash your lights to scare animals off the road.

- Be mentally prepared and think about what you would do if an animal darts in front of you.

- Clean your windshield, inside and out, once a week for good visibility.

- Deer are most active at dusk and dawn, times when your vision is most compromised. Slow down and stay alert, especially after dark.

- On a multi-lane road, the center lane is your safest bet for avoiding a collision. This gives the animal plenty of space.



Sharing the road takes Cooperation & Coopertition!