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Cougar sighting startles Gig Harbor resident

MARQUES HUNTER
of the Gateway

A Gig Harbor woman spotted a cougar on Tuesday afternoon while visiting her friend's condo located off Ray Nash Drive.

Karen Funaro was driving her car up the driveway to drop her dog off when she saw a large animal she initially thought was a large dog.

"It was no dog once the tail came around," she said. "It was stunning. It was in my friend's backyard."

Funaro, who stayed in her car, said the cougar was a light tan color with white rings around its tail. She said it looked fully-grown.

"This animal was not afraid of me," she said. "It was walking around in some ivy."

Funaro reported the sighting to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement. Officials were not immediately available for comment.

Jill Pinch, who owns the condo, said it's scary if these animals are just wondering around.

"We've got animals in areas that aren't always fenced," she said.

The land is largely wooded. There haven't been other cougar sightings in the general vicinity, Pinch said.

Upon leaving Pinch's condo later that night, Funaro said she carried her small dog to her car.

"I would have been afraid if I had been out of the car," Funaro said.

Reach reporter Marques Hunter at 853-9224 or by e-mail at marques.hunter@gateline.com.