

Kiawah Nature News

Daytime Raccoons

Raccoons are a very common sight on Kiawah Island and we frequently get calls to Town Hall related to raccoons. One of the most common calls we receive involves raccoons being sighted during daylight hours and the assumption that these animals are sick or rabid. This is rarely the case. Raccoons are considered nocturnal but will move about during daylight hours if food is scarce. Many times, raccoons seen during daylight hours are females that are out foraging to feed their growing offspring. They need to eat a lot to offset the demands of nursing and raising young. Raccoons certainly do get sick, mainly from canine distemper, and these animals are typically very lethargic, have a crusty nose and eyes, and are in very poor body condition. These animals should be reported to Town Hall (768-9166) or KICA Security (768-5566).