

## **Keep Our Swans Safe!**

### **Please Leash and Watch Your Dogs**

As you may know, as of September, 2012, Desert Shores is home to eleven black swans. These are beautiful, gentle birds that originate in Australia. They add a great deal to the natural beauty and character our community.

Recently there was an attack on one of these swans, and many believe it occurred on the green belt in the Racquet Club. That is where the swan was discovered. He was savagely bitten, and the vet believes it was by a dog. Despite the fact he needed immediate medical attention, no one helped him because the dog owner did not alert anyone. The swan bite wounds became infected to the point that he was walking around with maggots in his neck.

By the time some member of the Black Swan committee got him to the vet, he was beyond saving. This senseless suffering and killing was easily preventable. The efforts of a handful of local residents do the lion's share of monitoring of these creatures. We need your help to educate all in the community. So please, while you admire these majestic creatures, note the following:

- Make sure your dogs do not charge or bite them. Dogs are to be on a leash at all times.
- In the unfortunate event that a dog does bite a swan or other waterfowl - please make sure you call a member of the Swan Committee at 240-0343.