



PROBLEMS WITH WILDLIFE???

FIND OUT THE FACTS BEFORE YOU ACT!

WE'RE HERE TO INFORM YOU.

HELP US HELP YOU.

HELP US HELP THEM.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW...

According to studies, there are 18 raccoons, 18 skunks, many groundhogs and hundreds of squirrels per square kilometer in urban areas. Often these animals are only passing through on our properties and make no damage. In such cases, it's preferable not to approach, capture or destroy these animals, since they are protected by Section 67 of the "Wildlife and Parks" legislation which reads as follows:

A person, or anyone assisting this person, cannot kill or capture an attacking animal, or an animal causing damage to his/her property, or the property under his/her care or maintenance, if the person can scare the animal away or can prevent him from causing further damage.

However, in certain cases, wild animals in an urban environment can unwillingly become nuisances, destroying flowerbeds and gardens. In certain rare instances, they may even sneak into attics or basements, or even dig burrows under garden sheds seeking protection from the elements.

Traditionally in urban areas, wild animals that had become too familiar were captured and were either destroyed or relocated (**see relocation**). It soon became obvious that the animals being captured were quickly replaced by other ones.

Biologists have been studying the phenomena and have discovered that animals need two very specific conditions to reproduce:

1. Food supply:

In an urban environment, the food supply is abundant (garbage cans, flower bulbs, humans feeding wildlife, etc.) and, as nature dictates, as long as the food supply is plentiful, the species will reproduce until it reaches a point of saturation.

If the available food supply were enough to feed 500 animals, nature would see to it that the species' population remained at more or less 500.

If the population should fall below 500, because of captures or extermination, then the gestating mothers would produce bigger litters in order to replenish the territory.

Results: soon enough, there are as many animals as before!

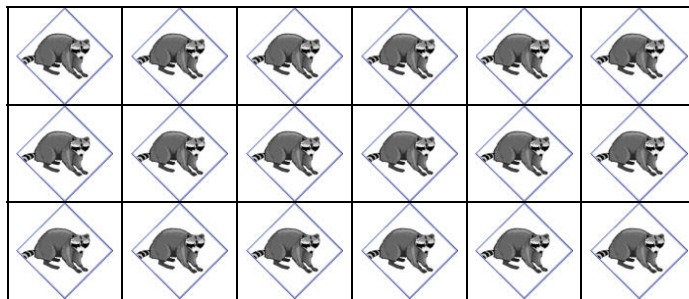
2. Nesting (building or inhabiting a shelter or a burrow)

In an urban environment, wildlife animals benefit from an array of possibilities that provide shelter and allow them to reproduce. An obvious choice is the garden shed without foundations, under which animals can dig a burrow to protect themselves from the elements thus obtaining an ideal shelter. Animals can also live in our sheds, our attics, in our vacant or dilapidated buildings, in restaurant back-alleys, etc.

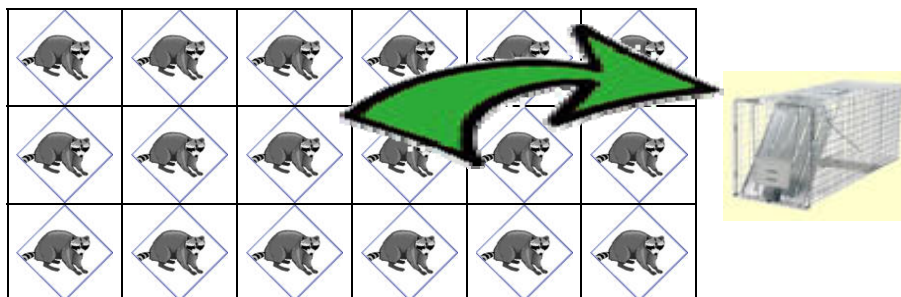
Again, as long as animals find a comfortable nesting site, nature commands that they reproduce. However, on the other hand, should they be captured or exterminated, it would be up to the remaining animals to repopulate the territory.

Results: soon enough, there are as many animals as before!

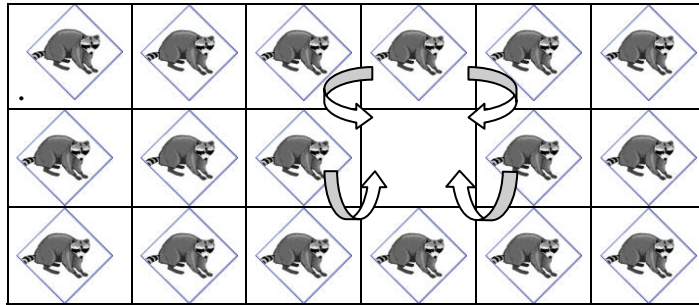
The following illustrations demonstrate how an animal that has been captured or exterminated will be replaced almost immediately, as long as the food supply and shelter opportunities are abundant.



In an urban environment, 18 raccoons share a territory that spreads over a square kilometer



When an animal is removed from its perimeter, raccoons living in neighboring territories will fight to occupy the vacant space.



For each animal that has been relocated or exterminated, nature will make sure the territory is replenished, with gestating females having bigger litters.

SOLUTIONS:

Once the biological reproduction phenomena of urban wildlife is understood, it becomes obvious that the only viable and long-term solutions rests with the food supply and nesting opportunities.

1. Food supply:

If people would only make an effort to keep their garbage bags indoors in between municipal pick-up days, this would greatly reduce the number of animals who count on garbage cans as a food supply. Moreover, we recommend using strong, rigid garbage cans that are tightly sealed and animal-proof. If you notice wild animals visiting your garbage cans, simply attach a few birthday balloons to the top of the can. When the animal claws through the garbage, the balloons will burst and scare him away.

The garbage should never be taken out the night before pick-up, especially if the waste is in plastic bags, since most of these animals are nocturnal creatures and will feast on your trash while you sleep. Moreover, if you regularly take your garbage bags out the night before, animals will get used to your schedule and will make a habit of visiting you.

Certain animals, such as the raccoon, feed on those little white worms that can be found underneath the roots of your grass. You can spray you lawn with an insecticide designed to kill beetles' larva. Note that relocating an animal without removing his food supply is useless since the neighborhood's other animals will in turn come to feed.

As we mentioned, raccoons love to feed on the worm larvae that proliferate under the grass. Some raccoons are so voracious, that they can rip apart an entire lawn in one night. To prevent this from happening, you can spray your lawn with a special product containing repellent ingredients, which can be found in garden centers and in hardware stores. It's important to repeat that operation after each rainfall and each watering – make sure you get expert advice and select products that are environmentally safe.

Wild animals also feed on certain flower or plant bulbs. Similar repellent products are also sold in hardware stores that will render your plants and flowers totally repulsive.

2. Nesting (habitat):

If you're not thrilled at the idea of treating your lawn against the invasion of wildlife animals, and if you're willing to invest a few dollars in order to get some peace of mind, there is a miraculous device that provides almost immediate results. This product, marketed under the name *Scarecrow*, is similar to a motion detector linked to a simple garden sprinkler installed in the middle of your lawn. The *Scarecrow* will watch your lawn throughout the night while you sleep and the animals are active. It works quite simply: a sensing head that swivels at 360° detects any movement on your lawn and automatically sprinkles the intruder with a strong water jet wherever he may be. The animal will immediately flee and, after being treated this way a few times, will never return. Also thanks to the device, you will no longer find presents left on your lawn by the neighbor's dog or holes dug by the neighborhood cats.

You can find out more about this product, or order it, by calling one of the following numbers: 1-800-267-8761, 1-877-823-5776 or 1-888-472-3266, or by visiting one of the following web sites: <http://www.pestproducts.com/scarecrow.htm> or http://www.wildlifecontrolsupplies.com/Merchant2/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=NWS001&Product_Code=NWSCRO102&Category_Code=NWSDM01

If an animal has dug a burrow on your lawn or under your garden shed and you don't want to use the *Scarecrow* to dislodge him, don't give up, there are less expensive solutions. Just be patient and read what follows with attention.

Animals that have dug a burrow (skunk and groundhog):

1. Completely soak a rag or a towel in pure liquid ammonia (which can be found in hardware stores or drug stores) and stuff it in the burrow during the day, while the animal is deeply asleep (never do this after sundown, you may have an unpleasant encounter with an animal leaving or returning to its burrow). The next day, you will find the rag or towel next to the burrow, as the animal will have pushed it out in order to come out.

2. Repeat this operation every day for 10 days. The persistent repulsive odor should chase the animal away.
3. When you notice one morning that the rag or towel is still inside the burrow, that will mean the animal has moved out the night before and you have won the battle.
4. After that, make sure you thoroughly block the burrow's entrance so that it doesn't become home to another undesired guest. Make sure you block the entrance with chicken wire so that the burrow cannot be dug into again.
5. A good way of protecting garden sheds from animals that dig burrows underneath is by applying chicken wire, folded at a 90° angle all around the shed in order to have one side of the angle resting against the structure (see drawing).

Raccoon settled in a building:

1. It's important to protect our buildings against the invasion of urban wildlife seeking shelter from the elements, especially during the fall season. This is why it's especially important to block off any entry and opening that would allow access to the building, such as air vents, chimneys flutes, etc. Each one of these entrances should be covered with solidly anchored and screwed chicken wire. Never forget that raccoons have amazing dexterity which allows them to tear off any wire that hasn't been solidly anchored.
2. If the animal has entered your basement or a room inside the house, try whenever possible to confine the animal to that room, making sure you leave an open window so the animal can escape. Shut all the lights off so that the only light source is the opened window. Instinctively, the animal will step outside in order to be free again.
3. If that approach doesn't work, call the SPCA at this number: (514) 735-2711 and make sure you leave a message with a phone number where we can reach you.

Animals who chew wood or shrubs (squirrel, hare, groundhog):

Spray the wood with a thymol-based fungicide. This product will not damage the wood and its bad taste will keep the animals from chewing on it.

Animals who feed from garbage cans:

- Put away garbage bags in a sealed garbage can (example: Robac).
- Pour a cup of pure liquid ammonia in the bags. This will render the contents inedible.

Recipe to remove the smell of a skunk:

- 1 liter of oxygenated water (hydrogen peroxide)
- 1/4 cup of sodium bicarbonate (baking soda)
- 1 teaspoon of liquid soap

Bird problems:

There are many solutions, depending on the nature of the problem:

- Hang aluminum plates.
- Install plastic owls.
- Stop filling the bird feeders for a while.

Finding baby animals/birds:

Always leave the babies of wild animals, including birds, where you found them. The parents are usually hidden nearby or have gone to fetch food. Weaning baby animals is very difficult. People manipulate young animals too often, which eventually tames them and renders them unsuitable to be released in the wild again. Often these animals are left in the woods when their adoptive parents think they're ready. Not knowing how to fend for themselves, they die of hunger or get attacked by other wild animals. It's therefore more humane to leave the babies in the care of their mothers.

