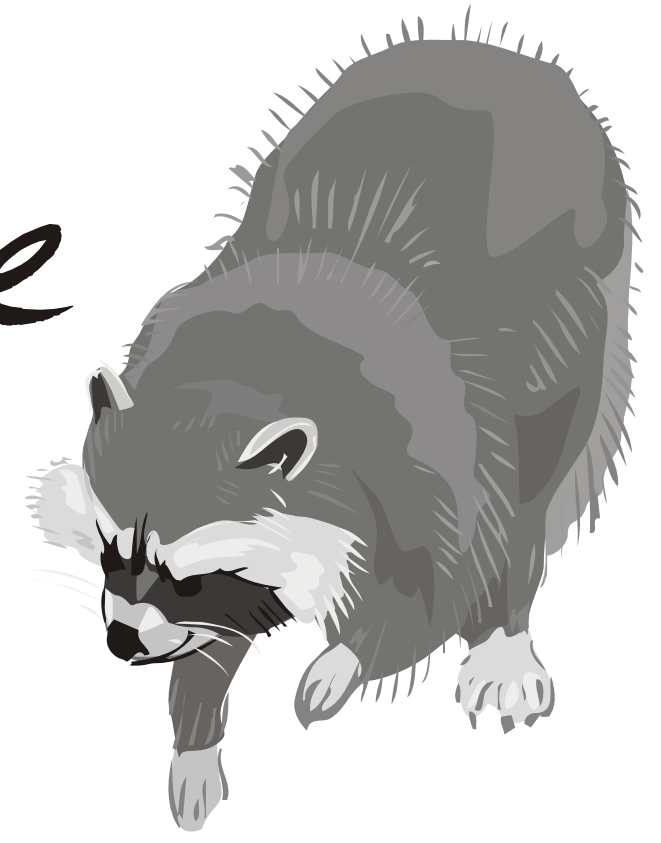


Living with Urban Wildlife



Problem Garbage

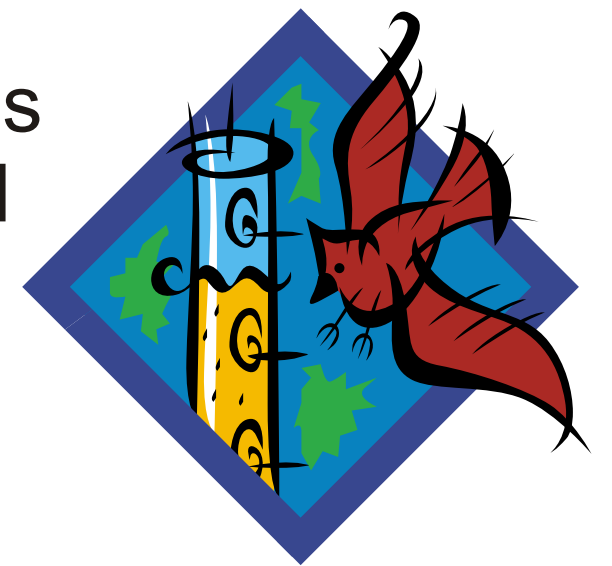
Your garbage is a tempting treat for neighbourhood wildlife. Unfortunately the food we eat is not always healthy for wild animals and it also encourages dependency. Also, plastics and other materials are a health hazard for our wild companions.

Here are some ways to help:

- Use wildlife proof garbage bins
- Rinse tins and containers of food
- Wrap up broken glass
- Wash cooking twine and cut it up
- Cut up plastic six pack holders
- Recycle oils or dispose of them in sealed containers

Around Your House

- Place a hawk silhouette on the outside of your large windows as this breaks up the reflection and can discourage birds from flying into them.
- Make sure small mammals are not able to get into your home prior to the denning season. Block off any holes or entrances with 1cm x 1cm wire mesh. Watch those staircases and patios!
- Maintain clean bird feeders. Clean your feeders often with diluted bleach, as stale wet seed can make a bird very ill. Diseases from saliva or feces can also be spread from bird to bird if feeders are not regularly cleaned.



- If you live in an area inhabited by bears and other large mammals, make sure to keep your yard clear of all fallen fruit and seed sticks. Do not place food or give food to the bear. Remember, a fed bear is a dead bear!



- With the exception of bird seed or other natural vegetation, do not feed the wildlife! Many of the foods we consume are too processed and can be extremely harmful to wildlife. Also, if animals become dependent on humans for their food, they lose their ability to find food naturally. You can maintain a native garden to encourage birds and other small mammals to visit your yard, yet retain their wild nature.



Domestic Pets and Wildlife

The average life of an outdoor cat is two to three years; the average life expectancy of an indoor cat is 15 years. Please help protect your cat and the wildlife around your house by keeping your cat indoors.

If you do have an outdoor cat, here are a few ways to cut down on any problems:

- Spay or neuter your cat
- Feed cats indoors
- Put a bell on your cat's collar
- Place bird feeders in open areas

Please keep dogs on a leash when around wildlife refuges. Dogs are naturally curious to explore and can disrupt breeding grounds and wildlife habitats if left to run free.

Wildlife Rescue
ASSOCIATION

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