



Think Wild Humane Exclusion Methods

Overall, humane exclusion techniques make your property less desirable or inviting for wildlife. Generally, remove outdoor food sources (pet and bird food, secure trash), ensure exterior maintenance and security (no holes, covered crawl spaces, etc.), and minimize shelters (open decks, wood piles, old sheds).

It is illegal to trap and relocate most native wildlife and their nests. Other than humane exclusion, extermination is the only other option – but it is not a permanent fix. Humane exclusion techniques offer inexpensive, long-lasting, humane, environmentally friendly and safe solutions to human and wildlife conflicts.

Call our wildlife hotline if you have any additional questions or would like to set up a site visit and consultation: (541) 241-8680.

Raccoons and Skunks

Type of conflict

General Exclusion

- If no babies, can soak a towel, tennis balls or sheet in ammonia and leave onsite when raccoon is gone during the night (using baking flour to see the tracks). The ammonia smells like pee and prevents raccoon from coming back. If there are babies, be patient and wait for the skunk family to leave on their own after about eight weeks.
- Make sure no exposed trash (can use bungee cord over trash can)
- Feed pets during the day or inside. Do not leave out overnight – pet food is a huge attractant for skunks and raccoons.
- Minimize shelters for raccoons and skunks to hide in by cleaning up debris piles, trimming low hanging vegetation, and putting hardware cloth around outbuildings.
- Consider removing bird feeder or making sure no seed is falling on the ground for animals to eat.
- Play a radio, use motion activated lights and sprinklers, bang pots and pans to scare animal off

Nesting under deck or in property



- Adding fencing and covering holes and spaces is the most effective way to prevent raccoons from nesting in or under your property. Make sure there are no animals or their babies inside. Mothers will do anything to get back to their babies.
- Directions:
 - Purchase ½” hardware cloth wire mesh at Lowes, Home Depot or Ace in the length and width required for the hole or space under deck or property.
 - Trench at least 6-12 inches along perimeter of deck or space.
 - Once the raccoon (and any babies) are gone – you can use baking flour to see tracks - use the ½” hardware cloth to cover holes or entries to deck. Bury the hardware cloth in the trench or have it come to the ground and bend 90 degrees to create an apron going out away from the structure. Backfill with dirt or rocks.

Attacked Dog

- Do not put out dog or cat food near property, bird food may also attract
- Make sure trash is completely enclosed and covered
- Keep dog on leash
- Bring dog to veterinarian ASAP

Eating chicken

- Keep chickens in coop at night
- Use locks on doors
- Bury the wiring at least a foot below ground or have it bend 90 degrees to create an apron going out away from the structure.
- Use motion lights to spook nocturnal predators

Pets being Sprayed

- Check outdoor areas and make noises before letting pets out (especially at dawn, night, or dusk)
- Keep pet on a leash or let them out inside a type of fenced in run
- If animal is sprayed use this common recipe to bathe your pet: Combine 1 quart 3 percent hydrogen peroxide, 1/4 cup of baking soda, and 1 teaspoon liquid dishwashing soap to make a shampoo

Small Mammals (marmots, squirrels, muskrats) and Rodents

Type of conflict



Getting into feed

- Place feed in sturdy hard plastic or metal container
- Do not leave any food out for pets

Nesting in property

- Cover any openings more than a quarter inch in diameter with ¼ inch hardware cloth or wire mesh
- Use steel wool or copper mesh to create a barrier in holes that cannot be plugged
- Place offensive odors around the nest area, soiled kitty litter, ammonia soaked cloth, Epsom salts.

Inside house

- Use a live trap with food inside to capture the animal overnight and relocate the animal outside

Eating out of bird feeders

- Place the bird feeder on a wire with two liter sized bottles on either side, strung on the wire
- Use Squirrel proof cage feeders
- Dust cayenne pepper on outside of feeder, the birds don't mind
- Clean up seeds and debris beneath the feeder that may attract squirrels
- Prune back any bushes or trees in a 12 foot diameter around feeder (squirrels can jump over 10 feet so place away from launching points)

Tunnel in and around irrigation ditches

- Remove food source, prescribed burning of aquatic vegetation in the area when ditches are low or dry
- Allow ditches to run dry when not in use to reduce overwintering habitat

Deer

Types of conflict

Eating flowers or trees

- Hanging CD's, may not work if deer are used to urban living



- Planting deer resistant plants, such as Poppy's (Toxic), Yarrow (they do not like the taste),
- Using chicken wire to create a large enough barrier around trees that they can not be reached (works for rubbing bucks also)
- Fencing around an orchard that is at least 8 feet high and planted firmly in the ground so that they can not use their heads to lift them.
- Deer repellent spray
- Stop feeding deer

Fence migration blocking/caught in fence

- Ladder going over (example link:

Rabbits

Types of conflicts

Eating garden or other vegetation

- Appropriate fencing, such as chicken wire that is buried to keep rabbits out of the area.
- Placing a concrete base under gates so that rabbits cannot dig under them
- Small mammal repellent spray
- Insect netting over plants over night

Birds

Decoys: <https://www.birdbgone.com/products/visual-bird-deterrents/>

Types of conflict

Eating from gardens

- Use a mesh of netting to cover the produce, use stakes to provide enough space between the netting and the vegetation

Making nests in chimneys/where not wanted

- Cover any entrances with wire mesh, or netting.
- Make sure chimney flue is closed before nesting begins

Running into windows

- Place reflective streamers over windows



- Use a matte covering for the outside of the window to reduce the appearance that the window is still part of the surrounding area
- At night leave lights off in rooms that are not in use
- Use washable paint or dish soap to obscure reflection
- Place stickers on mirror surfaces

Invasive using nesting boxes

- Use hole openings appropriate for the target bird species (i.e. an entrance hole smaller than 1.5 inches will keep starlings out of the nest box)

Stuck inside house

- Open the nearest exit, close all other exits, turn off lights and leave the room. Give the bird a couple of hours and they will most likely leave on their own

Waterfowl (Ducks and Geese)

Decoys: <https://www.birdbgone.com/products/visual-bird-deterrents/>

Getting into your pond or lawn (poop issue)

- Behavioral: Use a decoy like a great blue heron, coyote, owl, etc. or shiny tape, pinwheels or other shiny materials
- Physical: deer netting or pond cover over the pond
- Bang pots and pans whenever they approach

Porcupines

Types of conflict

Pets getting quilled

- Avoid conflict by keeping pets on leashes when they are outside, or using a type of run to keep porcupines out
- Check the area before letting animals out

Gnawing on wooden furniture or tools outside

- Keep products in a closed storage when not in use
- Cover with tarp

Beaver



Types of Conflict

Downing trees

- Build fencing around property to keep beavers out
- Place a fence around the base of the tree that is a sturdy 2x2 in wire mesh
- Remove any unwanted or dead trees from property
- Paint tree with sand paint to deter chewing

Flooding property

- Build an area such as a culvert that the beavers can build a damn on top of without completely blocking the passage of water

Rattlesnake

Types of Conflict

Presence in yard

- Avoid luring any prey animals in with dog or cat food, as well as dog poop
- Do not overwater lawn, as this attracts frogs which are also a prey source
- Avoid planting low to the ground plants that provide a large amount of shade
- Trim plants so that there is six inches between the ground and the plant
- Keep firewood away from the house as this makes a good hiding place for prey items

Bites

- Avoid shady and damp areas at peak heat times
- Stay away from tall vegetation near streams or rivers
- Keep pets out of these locations as well

Bats

Types of conflict

Stuck inside house

- Open exit that bat came through, close any other escape routes, turn of the lights and leave the room. The bat will most likely fly out on its own.



Nesting in roof/house

- Cover any entrance sites to your house (i.e vents, holes, chimneys, etc.). Leave the exterior entrance open. When they leave to hunt for the night, cover the exterior entrance with 1/8 – 1/4 inch hardware cloth or polypropylene netting to prevent them from reentering.
- If already in the house use a one-way device so that after they have left the house to hunt for the evening the cannot return