



# Go Wild For Wildlife

## A WILD WORLD

No matter where you live, you're sure to have wild animal neighbors. Though many people enjoy the sights and sounds of wildlife, people and wild animals don't always get along. Conflicts with wildlife are sometimes dealt with by trapping, killing, or otherwise causing harm to the animals. There is a better way! For just about every wild animal problem, there is a safe, effective, and humane solution:



### ◆ Bushy-Tailed Charmers

Squirrels are consistently judged "Most Popular" among our wild neighbors. They also rank as the top problem-makers among all species of urban wildlife. Adult females often establish nests in buildings and squirrels often become nuisances at bird feeders, consuming large quantities of birdseed or gnawing on the feeders. Scaring squirrels away, sealing off chimneys and other openings to homes, and using "squirrel-proof" bird feeders are a few ways of humanely solving unwelcome squirrel encounters.

### ◆ Oh, Deer

Deer are faithful to their home ranges, areas that are shared by related females and young males. When their home ranges happen to be in people's backyards or fields, there is usually some damage to gardens or crops. Choosing plants wisely and using fencing, repellents, and scare devices all work to help us live in harmony with deer.



### ◆ Night Ranger

At least as intelligent as cats or dogs, raccoons use their paws to eat and have a highly developed sense of touch. These nocturnal animals have been known to raid gardens, garbage cans, and bird feeders. And chimneys, attics, and porches are all attractive denning sites for raccoons. Turning on a radio to harass the animals, keeping trash secure, and sealing openings to homes are ways of solving and preventing conflicts with raccoons.

### ◆ Urban Bird

Brought to North America by early European settlers, pigeons thrive in cities. There, food and water are readily available, there are few predators, and there's free housing: window ledges, rooftops, bridges, and warehouses. Droppings are the number one problem for people. Wire barriers, netting, and door curtains are humane ways of preventing pigeons from setting up house on buildings.



### ◆ Clever "Caw"

Crows are considered to be among the most intelligent and social of all birds. Scientists have observed them making leaf and twig tools and then using them to catch insects. Crows also plan ahead, hiding food in crevices in tree bark and on the ground in dry grass and leaves. In recent decades, crows have been moving from the country to cities, where residents are beginning to call for the control of their noise and droppings. City governments often look to deadly means. Humane solutions include using bright and flashy objects like Mylar balloons to repel crows and securing trash outside to prevent problems.



### ◆ Love Stinks

Occasional sightings of these nomadic animals in a neighborhood need not be cause for alarm. Skunk spray (used for defense) has given the wrong impression about these gentle, non-aggressive creatures. Skunks are omnivores and have a hearty appetite for grubs and insects who are pests to



## PUT A LID ON CANNED HUNTING

In canned hunts, people kill animals who are trapped within enclosures. These animals—from private breeders, animal dealers, or even zoos—are often hand-raised and bottle fed. They have lost their natural fear of people and make easy targets. No federal law bans canned hunting, and most states allow it. Ask your lawmakers to crack down on canned hunting! Visit [humanesociety.org/teens](http://humanesociety.org/teens) for campaign updates and tips on contacting your lawmakers.

humans. You can make your yard uninviting to skunks by not leaving garbage or pet food out at night and by sealing openings to sheds and under porches. Placing ammonia-soaked rags by the entrance to burrows is one way to get skunks to go away.

### ◆ Nature's Engineers

The hard-working aquatic mammal that was once nearly trapped out of existence is now recognized as a "keystone" species—one that is necessary in an ecosystem. But as beavers return to long-abandoned watersheds, conflicts with humans increase—the two most common are the flooding that results from dam building and the destruction of trees. Tree guards and devices called beaver "bafflers," which control water level, can help solve these problems.



### ◆ The Bear Facts

In many parts of North America, sightings of black bears—the most widely distributed of the three species of bears found on the continent—are increasing. Part of the reason is that more and more, suburban areas are moving into wildlife habitat. In some areas, shortages of food or water may bring bears into closer contact with humans. Not leaving trash and food around outdoors is an easy way of preventing conflicts.



## YOU CAN HELP!

Join **Mission: Humane** and do the "Shoot to Save Wildlife" project—take photos of wild animals as part of a public awareness campaign about living peacefully with wildlife. Visit [humanesociety.org/teens](http://humanesociety.org/teens) to get started!