

DO'S

- ✓ Do ensure garbage is kept in tightly covered containers that are not easily tipped over and accessible to wildlife.
- ✓ Securely close off areas where trash is stored and other potential shelter area such as under porches and in garages and sheds.
- ✓ Do ensure your surroundings are kept clean and tidy.
- ✓ Do keep your gardens and hedges trim. Overgrowths provide natural foliage and habitat for wildlife.
- ✓ Ensure your dogs have their current vaccinations
- ✓ Do consider securing any pet doors
- ✓ Make sure chimneys (a preferred spring birthing spot for raccoons) are capped.
- ✓ Do remove bird feeders especially if problem wildlife species are seen around these feeders.

Educate your neighbors. Pass this information along since your good efforts could be futile if neighbors are purposely or unintentionally providing food or shelter for wildlife.

Studies have shown that the above simple and inexpensive practices are the most effective and humane ways for our community to deal with this growing concern. Prevention is the key.

For more information on wildlife in your neighborhood please contact the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife at (508) 389-6300, the Animal Control Officer at 617-846-1212 and the Winthrop Board of Health at 617-846-1740.

Sources –

Masswildlife – www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw

Town of Winthrop-
www.town.winthrop.ma.us

Humane Society- www.humanesociety.org



Town of Winthrop

Board of Health

WILDLIFE ADVISORY



A RISE IN WILDLIFE

Over the past year there has been a regional increase in the activity of wildlife in Winthrop during the summer. A number of raccoons, squirrels, skunks, and rats have increased around town. These animals are gradually being habituated i.e. made to feel comfortable around humans due to the availability of food and shelter around dwellings. The recent dry weather has caused distemper virus to spread amongst these animals, resulting in this advisory and appeal for your assistance from our residents.

HOW WE CAN ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM

Everybody has a role to play in ensuring we do not provide a favorable feeding and breeding habitat for these animals. Some of the factors contributing to the increase in wildlife populations include indiscriminate feeding of pets, ducks, sea gulls, birds and other 'friendly' animals; putting trash out early; etc. An overnight raccoon or skunk assault on a trashcan is more of a trash problem than an animal problem and it can be handled by modifying how the trash is set out. Unintended shelter in an attic, under a porch or an open shed or garage are invitations to urban wildlife. By observing the following simple rules, we can tackle this problem.

DON'TS

- ⊘ Do not leave trash barrels or dumpsters uncovered. Wildlife will rummage through exposed dumpsters. Dumpsters are not to be filled between eleven p.m. and seven a.m., at which times the lids are to be locked. The lids must be closed when the dumpster is not in use during all times.
- ⊘ Do not put your trash out the day before pick up. Take out trash the morning pick up is scheduled, not the previous night.
- ⊘ Do not leave pet food or water outside your homes as it provides easy meals for these animals.
- ⊘ Consider freezing smelly foods such as fish and meats between curbside pickups
- ⊘ Rinse cans and bottles before disposing of them