



Living with wildlife: **Wildlife and protecting your property**

What can you do?

People and wild animals live side by side in Ontario. As a landowner, you can prevent or address problem wildlife on your property.

Ontario's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act sets out actions property owners can take to protect their property from wildlife damage.

You are allowed to harass, capture or kill wildlife that is causing damage, or about to cause damage, to your property (with the exception of some wildlife such as deer, moose, elk and species at risk, which requires authorization from the government). You must not cause unnecessary suffering to wildlife or use poison or adhesives. You must follow other relevant rules (e.g. federal firearms rules, municipal by-laws, trapping rules).

If you capture wildlife

If you capture wildlife, but don't kill it, within 24 hours of capture you must:

- Release wildlife as close as possible within a kilometer from the capture site and in similar habitat wherever possible.
- Deliver it to an authorized rehabilitation facility if injured, sick or orphaned.



No poisons and adhesives

You may not use poisons or adhesives to kill, capture or injure wildlife, including in protection of property. There is an exemption for licensed poisons for the removal of pests such as mice and rats.

You can use an agent

You may use a wildlife control agent to act on your behalf to carry out or assist with wildlife removal. The agent must have authorization from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry or belong to a regulated class of agents (e.g. wildlife removal company, licensed trapper).



Checklist for hiring a wildlife control agent

What to do first

- Determine the service you require.

Finding an agent

- Ask friends, family or neighbours for recommendations.
- Do an Internet search for wildlife removal companies, or speak with your local Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry district office.
- You can also find a licensed trapper by contacting the Ontario Fur Managers Federation at 705-254-3338 or furmanagers@gmail.com
- Set up a building inspection with the agent.
- Ask a lot of questions to get to know the agent and the type of services they provide.

Getting estimates and proposals

- Obtain various estimates; they should include a detailed description of the work to be done.

What should be in the contract?

- Your name, address and telephone
- Agent's name, address and telephone
- Description of the work being performed
- Costs
- Warranty information
- Start and completion date
- Signatures – after you have carefully reviewed the details
- Ask for references from past customers.



For more information and fact sheets on what you can do, visit

ontario.ca/livingwithwildlife