

Here are some suggestions

- Do not feed the wildlife (L.A.M.C. 53.06.5). \$1,000 Fine/6 Months in jail.
- Remove or enclose compost, brush, & woodpiles, food type vegetation (avoid composting human food items).
- Keep low hanging branches trimmed & remove fruit as it ripens. Pickup fallen fruit daily. Trim trees from the roof eaves to a distance of at least 3 to 5 feet.
- Attaching sheet-metal flashing to tree trunks as tree banding or baffling can prevent wild animals from climbing.
- Use strong tensile tree netting when possible to discourage birds & squirrels.
- Make sure chimney tops are screened with a proper cap.
- Secure crawl spaces with 16 gauge welded wire cloth mesh sandwiched between 2 frames & screwed in place.
- Screen holes, gaps under eaves, attic vents, air ducts, dryer & heater ducts.
- Tack down new sod with lawn stakes until lawn is established (Reduce access to new sod by children & pets until sewn in place).
- Use motion-activated sprinklers & strobe lights.
- Keep BBQ grills clean, covered & stored in a secure place.
- Strap down trash can lids. Don't put trash cans out until day of pickup.
- Lock down pet doors from dusk to dawn to reduce the chance of wild animals from entering your home.
- Remove pet food and empty dishes from the outside if your pet is not there to eat it.
- Remove pet waste daily as it attracts wildlife.
- Make a wildlife scare kit to keep handy that has some pans to bang together, an air horn, bull horn, whistle, umbrella to open & wave around, tennis balls to throw, and a disposable camera with flash.
- Do not scatter food for birds & squirrels on the ground.
- Ensure fence lines are in good condition. Reduce gaps & add footers under fences to prevent digging.



Warnings: Strobe lights may trigger seizures in people with certain health issues. Do not use hot wires or chemicals where children & pets have access. Do not use moth balls. Ammonia soaked rags used to deter wildlife can pose a health risk to humans, pets or the environment. If you are going to use chemical deterrents, wear protective clothing, a disposable mask, and gloves. Never place deterrent chemicals in direct contact with or near a heat source, open flame, soil, food, or near vents leading into your home. If you use ammonia soaked rags, place in a lidded jar or container with a couple of pencil sized holes punctured around it. Do not shoot at wildlife with BB guns, firearms, arrows or sling shots.



Main Office

221 N Figueroa Street 5th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(888) 452-7381 Fax: (213) 482-9511

http://www.laanimalservices.com/About_Animals/Wildlife.htm

North Central Shelter

3201 Lacy Street
Los Angeles, CA 90031

Harbor Shelter

957 N Gaffey Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

East Valley Shelter

14409 Vanowen Street
Los Angeles, CA 91405

West Valley Shelter

20655 Plummer Street
Chatsworth, CA 91311

South LA Shelter

1850 W 60th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90047

West LA Shelter

11361 W Pico Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90064

ENCOUNTERS WITH...

Trapping Wildlife: Is It Really Necessary?



Photo Courtesy Los Angeles Animal Services
Wildlife Division

**City of Los Angeles
Department of
Animal Services
Wildlife Division**



A Zoo in your Backyard: Regardless of where you live, you will most likely have encounters with wildlife. The entire State of California is wildlife habitat, it is a myth that "wildlife should only live in the mountains, hills or forests." It is very common to find a variety of wildlife living off the food items that we city dwellers often have outside our homes. Many people may not ever see wildlife, but may find evidence of wildlife foraging and wonder what animal is visiting the yard.

Trapping Facts: Sadly, many wild animals that are trapped are euthanized. The trapping process itself is a very stressful and the Animals caught in traps often become injured in their effort to escape as they try to dig out of the trap, which causes bleeding injuries to the face, extremities and claws. Trapped animals may also suffer from exposure to weather extremes as well as stress from dogs barking at them. Trapping is usually a short term "quick fix" and not a real solution that results in the trapped animal's death, and in many cases creates orphans when the parent animal is trapped leaving the offspring to die slowly from starvation and exposure to the elements. Additionally a deceased baby mammal under your home or attic will attract rodents and other animals and you will likely have very noxious odor to deal with as well. The Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and California Fish & Game allows very few options for handling nuisance wild animals. The law allows for trapped wildlife to be immediately released from the trap or they can be euthanized, which has been the past practice from many agencies. Humane euthanasia is mandated in California, however some trappers still dispatch wildlife by placing them in a chamber that introduces gasoline fumes, which causes convulsions, painful damage to the eyes, nose, throat and lungs of the animal waiting to die.

Wildlife Frustration: The presence of a wild animal is not a reason for its removal. The vast majority pose little threat to the health & safety. Most people do not want to trap wildlife, but become frustrated often with property damage or pet loss before calling a wildlife professional for advice. It is best to identify the type of wild animal causing damage, and make changes necessary to discourage future problems. Once you are familiar with the types of wild animals that live in your community, you will understand the role they play in nature and ways to reduce conflicts from occurring.



Photo: Los Angeles Animal Services

There is no relocation: In most cases wild animals in our yards come from successive generations born nearby surviving on the food, water, and shelter around our homes. These urban mammals may not have the same foraging skills as true wild populations which live in our forests, hills and mountains. Once an urban mammal is relocated, they often die as a result of starvation in an environment that is completely foreign. Some may have relied on a food cache created during leaner times which will no longer be available to them. The trapped wild animal may have had contact with domestic pets that had a disease or parasitic infestation, now the wild animal, once exposed, may become a carrier and introduce illnesses or parasites into other wildlife populations with devastating results. Environments that are able to support wildlife only support as many as the ecosystem can handle. Adding new animals will only further burden those animals already present, which upsets the delicate balance of nature. A wild animal removed from an area leaves a niche that is often filled by another animal soon after. Many wild animals are territorial, so introducing another animal into a previously claimed territory often leads to conflicts with bloody and/or deadly consequences to the animals.

What about poison? Poison is illegal and most often has effects on non-target animals, it is simply too dangerous to use in a crowded urban environment. Whether or not the offending animal or another has eaten the bait, once deceased, the poison can be spread throughout the animal community by those that fed on the carrion of the poisoned animal. Children and domestic pets can become seriously ill from eating or having contact with poison bait set out for wildlife. Poison can transfer from deceased wildlife into the watershed affecting well water, streams and other water sources.

What about shooting wildlife? Shooting wildlife can lead to a many serious consequences in an urban setting as a stray bullet could hit a person, pet, or property. It should also be noted that the willful discharge of a firearm in City of Los Angeles is a felony violation, and in most cases is punishable by fines and/or imprisonment. In the long run, it is cheaper and far less dangerous to be proactive and make preventative changes to your property, rather than rely on lethal tactics.

Trapping Wildlife in the City of Los Angeles

The City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services is not providing traps or issuing trapping permits for the public to use their own, rented, or borrowed traps to remove nuisance wildlife. The trapping or relocation of wildlife by the public is prohibited. The Department of Animal Services suggests trying property alteration, deterrents, & exclusionary methods. The option exists for L.A. City residents to contract with a Nuisance or Pest Control company that has permits to trap and remove some types of mammals. Wildlife trapped by these agencies would be released on site or immediately euthanized. California State law prohibits the relocation of predatory mammals (CCR Title 14 sec. 465.5).

Detering Urban Wildlife: There are remedies and products designed to discourage wildlife. The key is to identify the culprit and determine the attraction source. Generally wild animals respond to assaults on their senses. Some products rely on bitter or peppery tastes. Others rely on offensive odors. There are sensor devices, like motion sprinklers, motion activated noise makers, or motion strobe lights that may deter wildlife. Some animals may not be easily deterred, so exclusionary methods and property alteration should be implemented as well. It is important to recognize your role in the solution as we humans by default provide a semi-stable environment for urban wildlife. Discourage wild animals when possible but expect to be inconvenienced from time to time as no amount of wildlife removal will prevent others from filling the empty niche.

What are wild animals good for? Wild mammals keep down rodent populations that could cause more damage and disease than mammals ever would. Many of our small urban mammals will eat rodents, scorpions, black widows, snails, or other dangerous & harmful insects. Wild mammals also eat carrion and without them we could be knee deep in dead vermin around our homes, roads & highways. Many wild predators also help the ecosystem by dispersal of a variety of plant seeds in their scats allowing for tree and plant growth

Do Not Feed the Wildlife: (53.06.5 L.A.M.C)

No person shall feed or in any manner provide food or cause to be fed any non-domesticated mammalian predator including, but not limited to, badgers, bears, bobcats, cougars, coyotes, foxes, opossums, raccoons and skunks. Any person

violating this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or by imprisonment in the County Jail for a period not more than six months, or by both a fine and imprisonment. Feeding can increase danger, spread disease and draw in larger predators. Wildlife fed by humans may quickly lose their natural fear and may attack when cornered. Often these wild animals are destroyed since they can easily become food aggressive. If you are feeding wildlife and move, what happens after you are gone? It may be you who eventually causes the demise of the animal you were feeding as now it became dependant on humans.



Photo by Greg Randall LAAS Wildlife Specialist