Oregon is a special place, known for its natural features and its diverse and abundant wildlife. However, as human populations grow, the space left for wildlife shrinks, especially around urban areas. When their habitat, food and water sources disappear, “critters” look elsewhere for their basic needs – and sometimes that means your yard, attic, crawlspace or garage. In urban areas, parks and green spaces provide important wildlife habitat; but sometimes animals residing there are attracted to easy meals or living quarters near human dwellings. By making a few modifications to our behavior and our homes, most conflicts can be avoided.

There are many parallels between wildlife needs and people needs. To understand why wild animals behave as they do, we need to see the world from their perspective.

It’s easy to think that an animal will simply move “somewhere else” when people clear a piece of land to build a house, a road or a shopping mall. However, like people, many species need their “own space” and don’t like to be crowded together. They have homes and territories and don’t like intruders moving in. Try to imagine a stranger moving in to share your home. A raccoon, for example, faces a choice when forced from its home: either try to squeeze into an area already occupied by another raccoon or move in with the new human neighbors. This is where conflict often begins. A critter takes up residence under your deck and eats the pet food on the porch. Or birds decide to nest in your chimney or attic. **What can you do?**

**Critter-Proof Your Home**

**Plan ahead.**

To critter-proof a building, try thinking like a critter – before it moves in. The busiest time of year for conflicts between wildlife and people is the spring breeding season when animals search for dens or nest sites to raise their young out of the reach of predators. This begins as early as February for some species. In the fall, some wildlife seek places out of the weather for hibernation or for winter denning.

**Evaluate your home, buildings and outdoor spaces.**

Think like a critter as you walk around your house and yard. You’d want to be warm and dry, so look for snug spots out of the rain and wind that an animal can access. Some species, like squirrels and raccoons, live high up in trees, so your eaves and attic look good to them. Skunks are ground dwellers and burrow under things like porches and woodpiles. Look for small openings like vents, drain
pipes, and cracks in the foundation where mice, rats, bats and snakes could enter. Even dryer vents can become nesting places for birds.

**Take steps to prevent problems.**
- Seal potential entryways with sturdy wire mesh, solid materials (plywood, sheet metal, bricks), or caulk openings before animals move in. Choose materials that best suit your situation and the type of animal. Species that chew a lot, like squirrels, may quickly chew through a sheet of plywood, but that same plywood would effectively keep out bats.
- Cover window wells by making a framed cover using hardware cloth, chicken wire or heavy wire mesh; or purchase commercially-made grates or bubbles.
- Screen foundation vents and close holes around and under foundations so animals aren’t tempted to enter. Bury wire mesh 1–2 feet deep in places where animals might gain access.
- Screen chimneys, wood stove pipes, and furnace, attic and dryer vents. Chimney tops should be screened from February to September to prevent birds and animals from nesting inside. Check first, however, with your local fire department or other safety source to prevent fire and safety hazards. Close dampers when not in use to avoid “drop-in” guests.
- Avoid attracting unwanted wildlife.
  The sound of a tipped over garbage can or finding empty pet food bowls could mean wildlife visitors. It’s not healthy for animals to consume food that’s not part of their normal diet, to associate areas of human habitation with food, or to lose their fear of people. To prevent this:
  - Please DO NOT FEED WILD-LIFE. Feeding animals artificially increases wildlife populations, making it difficult for them to establish territories for their other needs. Providing artificial food sources may also lead to unnaturally large concentrations of animals and increase the spread of disease. When raccoon numbers are high, for example, diseases like distemper spread more readily in the raccoon population. Some wildlife diseases can be transmitted to domestic animals, but if pet vaccinations are current, the risk is very low.
  - Feed pets indoors. If you must feed dogs or cats outside, bring in food dishes after pets have finished eating to prevent wildlife from eating the leftovers. Bring water bowls in before dark.
  - Keep your garbage can in a secure location like a closed garage or outbuilding and bring it out just
If You Build It, They Will Come – Creating Wildlife-Friendly Habitat

Many people enjoy creating backyard habitat to attract birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians by planting selected trees, shrubs and food plants preferred by wild creatures and adding water sources such as ponds or basins.

Consider your priorities in landscaping your yard. Keep pet areas and high-use areas for children and adults separate from the planned “wild” area of your yard to minimize the disturbance to wildlife – and be especially sensitive to the presence of wildlife parents and young in the spring and early summer during nesting and rearing season.

If you create a pond, be aware that you are welcoming a variety of animals that will benefit from this new water source, including frogs who may serenade you – music to some peoples’ ears, but not to others. If you add fish, raccoons may show up to eat them and also disturb your carefully placed rocks and water plants. Check with a local pond store for raccoon solutions before you invest your time and money. Smaller water features may be a better option, depending on your situation.

A good reference for creating backyard habitat to benefit wildlife is *Naturescaping - A Landscaping Partnership with Nature*, published by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. To purchase a copy, contact an ODFW office or check your local bookstore.

before garbage collection time. If you must keep it outside, tie the can upright with a cord through the handle and fasten it to something sturdy like a post. Metal cans and a tight-fitting lid work best. Raccoons can be persistent and bears sometimes show up in outlying areas.

• Pick ripe fruit and vegetables daily in the garden and pick up fallen fruit from the ground. If you use a compost bin, choose a style that excludes wildlife that may be attracted to vegetable and fruit scraps.

• If you feed birds, be aware that feeders may attract other wildlife. In some areas, that may include bears. Try placing feeders where they are not accessible to other wildlife species or use feeders designed to exclude other species.

• To keep feathered visitors healthy, provide fresh seed without mold and clean feeders, water containers and bird baths weekly with a solution of one part bleach to nine parts water. An alternative to artificial feeding is to provide natural food sources for birds and other wildlife. See reference to the *Naturescaping* book below.

• Share these tips with your neighbors. It only takes one household to create a problem.
Managing Conflicts With Urban Wildlife Species

Be sure to read the previous sections on preventing problems with urban wildlife.

BIRDS

Birds sometimes fly into windows resulting in injury or death. To deter birds from windows, hang a silhouette of a raptor, strips of cloth or shiny mylar from the eaves to catch any breeze and create movement. Marking a window with strips of white tape can also break up the pattern of a reflected background of sky and vegetation, or of indoor plants that appear to be accessible. Placing feeders away from windows also reduces collisions with glass.

Research shows that free-roaming cats kill millions of birds and small animals each year in North America. Bells on a cat’s collar have not proven effective in alerting birds to a feline’s presence. Consider making your cat an indoor cat to protect birds and other wildlife – and to protect your cat from injury from cars, cat fights, disease and other hazards.

All native migratory birds are protected by federal law. It is illegal to injure, kill or possess a native bird or to interfere with an active nest. If birds build a nest in an inconvenient place or in a location where birds and young will not be safe, the nest can be moved only if no eggs or young are yet in the nest. Please do this only if necessary.

Flickers and other woodpeckers are sometimes noisy neighbors when searching for insects under tree bark. They may set up shop on a new construction site and “hammer away” on the new wood, loudly announcing their territory or trying to attract a mate during the breeding season. Territorial “drumming” on houses may be a breeding season behavior or could indicate an insect infestation underneath the siding that the homeowner should investigate. Because these birds are territorial, it is best to take action as soon as possible. Discourage them from using the site by hanging large strips of bright cloth, aluminum foil, or mylar around the location. Owl decoys may also be effective. Provide suet away from the pecking area as an alternative food source, but hang it out of the direct sun. In areas where bears may visit, be aware that bears like suet also. If woodpecker damage continues, call for advice.

Hawks, owls, falcons and eagles, known as raptors, hunt in fields and woods for food. Some raptors hunt small mammals or snakes while others prefer to hunt small birds. Hawks and owls are beneficial in controlling rodent populations. Hawks are sometimes seen on the ground beside free-ways “mantling.” Don’t be alarmed. The bird is not injured, but is covering its prey with spread wings to prevent other birds from seeing and taking its prey.

Occasionally, a raptor may perch in a tree or on a fence near your home. Raptors are not a danger to you or your pets and will probably stay only a short time. However, if a hawk or owl shows up in your yard and you would like it to leave, waving and shouting or banging pots together, will usually
chase the bird away. It’s important to remember that all birds of prey are protected by law, so if you have a problem with a raptor, contact ODFW for advice.

**Swifts** are fast-flying birds that nest in the spring and roost during fall migration in large-diameter hollow trees throughout Oregon. They often use older chimneys with a rough interior surface when large hollow trees are unavailable. Although they look somewhat similar to swallows, swifts have cigar-shaped bodies and fly with faster, more shallow wing beats. Because they have quick, erratic flight patterns, they are sometimes mistaken for bats when seen flying at dusk. Like bats, they are beneficial and consume huge quantities of flying insects in flight.

Vaux’s swifts (rhymes with boxes) are often noticed in large groups during spring and fall migration when they swirl above a chimney like a tornado and suddenly plunge into the structure where they roost, clinging to the chimney walls for the night. They may roost in a chimney for several weeks while pausing in an area to feed and fuel their journey.

If swifts nest in your chimney during the spring breeding season, close the flue and be patient until the young have left the nest in about four weeks. Adults and young are protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If they select your chimney as a mass roosting site in the autumn, enjoy the nightly spectacle until they depart southward so you can use your chimney again. Call your nearest ODFW office for further advice.

**Waterbirds**, including ducks, geese, and great blue herons, spend most, but not all of their time near water. **Ducks** sometimes nest in less than ideal places such as parking lots. If baby ducks fall into a storm drain, call the local public works or road department. **Geese** like open landscapes such as golf courses, lawns and ponds. They may feed heavily on lawn grasses and leave numerous droppings behind. Geese can be very aggressive when young goslings are present. In the short-term, waving, shouting and other loud noises will often cause the birds to leave temporarily. However, the best remedy is to change the landscape. Geese don’t like tall grass, because they can’t see predators well. Let vegetation grow taller and keep native vegetation along pond edges. Consider alternatives to short turf grasses. Plant trees and shrubs in the flight path between ponds and lawns. Keep backyard swimming pools covered to discourage geese and ducks from landing in them.

**Heron**, and sometimes **osprey** (a fish-eating hawk), are fond of fish in backyard ponds. To prevent them from reaching fish, place logs or branches in the water to provide cover for fish to hide. You can also screen the pond with lightweight mesh fabric or other materials. Herons may be seen far from water. They sometimes hunt for field mice on grassy strips along highways or in fields.

**Mammals**

**Bats**, like snakes, can stir a lot of emotion in people. However, knowing a few facts about these interesting and useful creatures may help. Bats are flying mammals that are nocturnal (active at dawn and dusk, and at night). They provide excellent insect control and can eat...
thousands of mosquitoes and other insects each night. They roost in crevices and under tree bark. When these natural roosting sites are unavailable, bats look elsewhere for places to roost and raise their young. Attics and eaves are prime alternatives.

To prevent bat entry, seal off any openings (as small as a dime in size) after you are sure the bats have left to hunt at night. Never seal off an area during the summer when young bats are still in the nursery – they will be trapped and die, resulting in bad odors. Many people like to have bats around (although not in their house) and install bat boxes nearby to provide roosting areas. In return, they are rewarded with a voracious insect eater and another garden friend.

To read more about bats, contact your nearest ODFW office to request the ODFW brochure, *Living With Wildlife - Bats*.

**Bear** information is also available by requesting the ODFW brochure, *Living With Wildlife - Black Bear*, from your nearest ODFW office.

**Beaver, muskrats and nutria** – all three of these critters look alike at a casual glance. Pay attention to size and tail shape to tell them apart. Beaver are the largest, up to 30 inches long, with a broad, horizontally flat tail. Muskrats are smaller (10 to 14 inches), with a tail that is flattened vertically on the sides. Nutria are about 2 feet long with a round tail. Usually they are grayer than the very brown beaver or muskrat.

Damage from beaver can be hard to control. If they are damaging trees, mix 1 tablespoon of hot sauce in a gallon of water and spray the lower portion to prevent gnawing. Re-apply regularly, especially after a rain. Hardware cloth around each tree may also help, but it must be at least 3-1/2 feet high around the trunk and buried at least a few inches below ground. Painting the lower bark with a mixture of sand and paint may also help. Live trapping is an option, but seldom is an entire family of beaver trapped out. Trapping in summer could orphan young kits in the beaver lodge. Live trapping requires a permit, so call your local ODFW office for more information.

Muskrats, like beaver and nutria, prefer to burrow into slopes or banks. You may also see gnawed vegetation in the water or dome-like mounds in the middle of a pond. If you can live with the situation, muskrats will provide excellent aquatic vegetation control. However, live trapping or using rock to cover the slope at the water are alternatives. Consider planting crops at least 200 yards away from a waterway, which is approximately the extent of the territory for these mammals.

Nutria were introduced to Oregon and are not protected by law. They can eliminate certain species of native aquatic plants and also compete with native muskrats for food and shelter. As a non-native species, they cannot be relocated.
**Chipmunks, ground squirrels and woodrats** may be a problem east of the Cascades, and to a lesser extent on the west side. To discourage their presence, keep wood piles small and away from houses. Close off all openings around buildings, decks and patios. Pets may also discourage their presence. If needed, clear out brush piles and other cover habitats. Washington ground squirrels, restricted to sage shrub-steppe habitat in Morrow, Gilliam and Umatilla counties, are listed as endangered under the state Endangered Species Act.

**Cougar** (mountain lion) information is available by requesting the brochure, *Living With Wildlife: Mountain Lion*, from your nearest ODFW office.

**Coyotes** are most active from dusk until dawn. This 25-35 pound animal typically prey on rodents, insects, amphibians, fruits, birds and their eggs, and sometimes fawns. They are opportunistic and will also raid garbage cans, outdoor pet food bowls and take livestock and untended small family pets when the opportunity arises. Prevent problems with coyotes by eliminating unnatural food sources around your home and housing pets indoors when not under your direct supervision, especially at night. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) manages coyotes. For more information, check with your nearest Wildlife Services office, listed in the phone book under USDA.

**Deer and elk** can damage trees, crops and landscaping plants. Effective fencing must be at least 7 feet high to keep out both deer and elk. For specifics on effective fencing materials to fit your site and terrain, contact ODFW for advice.

Many people prefer to use repellents that taste bad or give off a bad odor. They must be applied on a regular basis, especially after it rains. These products are available commercially at farm and garden stores. You can experiment with other techniques like hanging mirrors, strips of aluminum foil, or rags soaked in ammonia. Never attempt to corner or harass a deer or elk. They can be dangerous and unpredictable.

Also keep in mind that deer will leave their fawns for long periods of time while feeding nearby. **Do not pick up deer fawns.** Call ODFW before you take action.

**Opossums** (or “possums”) are nonnative and usually active at night. Like raccoons, opossums take advantage of easy living situations and are successful because they adapt to urban environments better than some native species. The same rules of prevention apply – remove opportunities for food and shelter as you would for a raccoon. Opossums negatively impact native invertebrates, small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and ground-nesting birds, eggs and nestlings.

**Raccoons** may nest in sheltered spots like your attic or crawlspace. They are omnivores and opportunistic, meaning they eat a wide variety of foods wherever they are available. These black-masked mammals are intelligent, curious and learn quickly where to get an easy meal or a warm nap.

**Feeding raccoons can artificially increase populations that soon cause problems and spread disease.**
To keep raccoons away, remove the two most important things—food and shelter. Keep pet foods off the porch and keep all garbage cans securely fastened or inaccessible in a garage or shed. Close off all openings and cracks in attics, barns and sheds, and prevent access under porches and decks. Don’t forget that raccoons can enter through pet doors.

**Skunks** are typically nocturnal and people usually smell them before they see them. They like to burrow under porches and sheds and grub around for a meal of insects, small animals, or fruit. It’s important to seal openings—even small ones—around foundations and porches. Skunks can dig under a fence, so anchor any barrier at least 1 foot beneath the surface. Remember that skunks are most active after dusk, so seal any openings in the late evening to prevent trapping a skunk under a building. The only thing that smells worse than a live skunk is a dead skunk under your house.

**Tree squirrels** will take up residence in attics or under eaves. Seal openings and screen vents very early in the year or during the winter, because the nesting season for these critters can begin in February and last until autumn. Be sure no adult squirrels are spending the winter inside before you close the openings.

Although they seldom damage crops or gardens, squirrels can quickly take over any birdfeeder that isn’t fitted with a squirrel guard. If squirrels are a problem at your feeder, your local wild bird supply store can show you feeders designed to discourage squirrels.

**REPTILES**

**Snakes** are gardeners’ friends. They are great rodent and slug eaters and are quiet guests, living in burrows or under logs. If that still doesn’t convince you to let these beneficial reptiles stay, discourage them from taking up residence in your yard by removing debris, elevating or sealing off bases of woodpiles, keeping the lawn trimmed very short, and sealing openings under structures.

If you see a snake and want it to leave, spray it lightly with a garden hose or push it gently with a broom.

While most native snakes will not harm humans, people who live in rattlesnake country may be concerned about these poisonous snakes. The best control is to construct a snake-proof fence around areas where human activities occur. Contact an ODFW office for more specifics on fencing out rattlesnakes.

Sealing openings into buildings, modifying habitat to eliminate shelter, and controlling rodents that snakes might feed on can also reduce their presence. Problem “rattlers” can be trapped and relocated to areas away from homes or killed. Again, snakes are beneficial, so the action taken should reflect the seriousness of the situation to the property owner.

**AMPHIBIANS**

**Frogs** - The most likely native frog to visit your pond is the Pacific treefrog. They are found throughout Oregon in a variety of habitats, often far from water. Treefrogs frequently “discover” backyard water features during their wanderings and are voracious insect eaters. They are green to

Left: Pacific treefrog
Right: Turtles encounter many hazards in urban areas (painted turtle).
Domestic Animals

It is illegal to release domestic animals into the wild. Too often, when people tire of having a pet like a dog, cat, rabbit or pigeon, they turn it loose. These animals are not prepared to live in the wild and usually die. Those that survive may prey on or compete with native wildlife for food and habitat, eventually displacing them. Find safe and secure homes for any pet you cannot keep.

Free-roaming pets can harass or kill wildlife, so keep your pets fenced in, on a leash or under voice control at all times. Make your cat an indoor cat to protect birds and small animals.

By law, ODFW cannot assist you with domestic animals. Contact your local city or county government or your local animal control office.

Nonnative Species

To protect Oregon’s native wildlife, never turn nonnative animals loose in the wild.

Nonnative wildlife are sometimes called exotic, non-indigenous, introduced or alien species. Nonnatives are those species that have been introduced outside their natural or historical range of distribution. Many are kept as pets, like ferrets and parakeets. Many nonnative species introduced into Oregon compete with native species for food and habitat. These introduced animals can also spread diseases for which native wildlife have no immunity. If you’re not sure what animals are native or nonnative, contact an ODFW office for advice and request the brochure, Nonnative Wildlife in Oregon.

Some common nonnative species that are illegal to release include:

- Opossum
- Fox squirrel
- Eastern gray squirrel
- Eastern cottontail
- Nutria
- Egyptian goose
- Bullfrog
- Red-eared slider turtle
- Snapping turtle

Grey in color with a distinct black stripe running from the tip of the snout, back through the eye, and to the shoulder. Don’t let their small size (up to 2 inches) fool you - they have loud voices, and the “spring chorus” of singing males may keep your neighbors awake at night. In the not-so-distant past, the sound of croaking frogs was a welcome sign of spring and a soothing sound at bedtime. Now, some folks are more comfortable listening to urban sounds and find a frog chorus irritating.

If treefrogs become a noise issue, first talk with your neighbors, and let them know that the chorus only lasts a few weeks (with occasional summer calls). In the meantime, they’re munching on mosquitoes, flies, ants and beetles. If you still need to discourage frogs, remove vegetation from your water feature if you can. Adults are difficult to catch, so draining the pond temporarily may encourage them to leave.

Beware of the nonnative bullfrog, which preys on many small animals. It has a large round eardrum behind the eye and often squeaks when jumping into the water to avoid people. It is illegal to buy, sell or own these frogs.

Salamanders - Don’t be surprised to find a salamander under your woodpile. They are beneficial and eat insects and other garden pests.

Turtles - Western pond turtles and painted turtles are the only two native to Oregon and their populations are declining. Most encounters with turtles are rescue situations - being hit by a car, wandering across a road, or digging a nest in a gravel driveway. Turtles have amazing recuperative abilities, so no matter how badly injured, try to get the turtle to an animal care facility or ODFW office. Do not collect uninjured turtles; just move them gently out of harm’s way.

ODFW can help you identify turtle species and has a brochure on how to provide habitat for native turtles on your property. You cannot legally collect native turtles to place in your pond. Creating good turtle habitat may draw them in, as well as other wildlife species, so nature may surprise you!

Please obey the law. The release of nonnative turtles, such as red-eared sliders and snapping turtles, is illegal and contributes to the decline of native turtles and other wildlife.

To read more about turtles, contact your nearest ODFW office to request the ODFW brochure, Living With Wildlife - Turtles.

Bullfrogs are not native to Oregon.
You’ve Got a Critter in Your House - Now What Do You Do?

Never attempt to handle a wild animal yourself. Even a small animal can be aggressive if cornered or harassed. A frightened one can do considerable damage in a home if chased. If the animal is loose in a room, open a window or door and then leave for a while. It will usually take the opportunity to exit as soon as possible. If this doesn’t work, other methods are needed.

Babies in the Nest

If an animal is in an inaccessible location in a building, be certain it and any babies are out before closing off its entry point. If possible, please live with the wildlife family until the young are raised and gone. To seal out the parents and let young animals dehydrate and starve is inhumane and can result in a bad odor. Attempting to handle the young, even if you can reach them (which isn’t always possible in small spaces) is not recommended, because the adults may aggressively defend the nest.

Repellents

The use of bad tasting or bad smelling repellents often encourages wildlife to leave the premises. Rags soaked in ammonia placed within an opening (where you can reach it for later removal) will often work. However, if young are present that are not yet able to leave on their own, do not use this method. Try placing a battery-operated transistor radio, set on low volume, in the vicinity of the area you want the animal to leave. Give it time to remove its young. If damage from chewing or browsing is the problem, try spraying the area where damage is likely to occur with a solution of hot sauce and water (1 tablespoon of hot sauce to 1 gallon of water). Be careful not to place these items where children or pets can reach them.

How to Know If The Animal Has Left Your House

Unless you were able to trap the animal, determining when a critter has left your house (so that you can seal up the entrances) can be a real detective mystery. Use the following clues to help.

Clue # 1

Time of day is important. If the animal is usually nocturnal, like a skunk, bat or opossum, wait until the animal leaves in the late evening to search for food, then seal any openings. Critters active during the day sometimes come back during the day to rest or to get out of bad weather. Plan accordingly and try to work during the early morning or late afternoon when the animal is most likely to be out foraging.

Always check for the presence of young before sealing an opening.

Clue #2

Look for footprints. When you’re ready to seal the openings, use animal tracks as a clue. If more than one opening exists, close up all but one, using sheet metal, plywood or other sturdy materials. At the one remaining opening, sprinkle flour or talcum powder at the entrance. Check frequently for tracks leading out of the opening. When tracks show the animal has left, close up the access. If tracks show the animal has re-entered, you missed your chance and should re-apply fresh powder and try again the next day.

Clue #3

Listen for sounds. You may hear an animal leaving, especially if it’s in your attic or under the porch. Careful listening may also give you a hint whether young animals are present in a nest.
Injured or Orphaned Wildlife

If you find injured, sick or possibly orphaned wildlife, call a licensed wildlife rehabilitation center or ODFW for advice before taking action. Proper care and handling will increase the animal’s chance for recovery; your safety in handling injured wildlife is also important.

Most baby animals are not really abandoned or orphaned. Either the wildlife parent left to forage for food and will return or is out of site nearby, waiting for you to leave. Do not pick up fawns, seal pups, baby birds and other wildlife babies unless you are certain it is injured or you witnessed the death or injury of the parent. If needed, keep an eye on the situation to keep pets and people from bothering the animal. If a young bird on the ground is in harm’s way, place it back in the nest or in a nearby shrub; or use a small basket and hang it in a tree by the handle. Otherwise, the best policy is to leave wildlife young alone.

Removing Problem Wildlife

Permits from ODFW are required to capture and relocate native wildlife. Live-trapping should be done as a last resort. Relocation sites must be chosen carefully, because many animals do not survive relocation. Relocated animals may also spread disease and disrupt wildlife populations in the areas where they are relocated. ODFW does not advocate live-trapping wildlife when young are in the nest. Nonnative wildlife may not be relocated and should be euthanized. Call ODFW for advice.

Some ODFW offices have live-traps for loan. Others can refer you to vendors who rent live-traps or companies authorized to capture and relocate problem wildlife – or look in the telephone directory under Animal Control. Contact Wildlife Services, listed under USDA, for assistance with coyotes or cougar preying on livestock.

Wildlife and the Law

It’s important to know what Oregon law says about handling wild animals.

- Only licensed wildlife rehabilitators may care for injured wildlife.
- Permits are required from ODFW to live-trap and release protected wildlife. Permits are issued with live-traps. If you are unsure whether a species is protected, call for advice.
- All birds – except starlings, house sparrows and rock doves (feral pigeons) – are protected by law.
- It is illegal to release domestic and nonnative animals into the wild. Many nonnative species are illegal to sell, purchase or own.
- In general, protected species may not be captured from the wild under any circumstances. Permits are issued for only a few protected species. Call ODFW for more information.
- Poison may not be used to remove most native wildlife. Poison may be used for mice, rats, moles and gophers. Remember that these species may be eaten by other domestic and wild animals which could harm them.
What You Can Do to Help Wildlife

- Keep the “wild” in wildlife. Observe wildlife from a distance and don’t feed them or encourage them to approach you. Do not expect them to behave like domestic pets; they can become aggressive when approached or if they feel threatened.
- Help prevent injuries to wildlife by picking up litter, especially six-pack holders that may get caught around a neck or wing. Pack out fishing debris such as fishing line, lures and hooks that could get caught in a bill or foot.
- Help wildlife by providing for their basic needs – food, water and space. Turn part of your yard into wildlife habitat. Include water features and plant native vegetation to provide natural food and shelter.
- Pick up some field guides and books on wildlife to learn more about animals in nearby natural areas or those visiting your yard.
- Support funding for nongame and urban wildlife programs.
- Donate to wildlife rehabilitation centers.

WHO TO CALL FOR ASSISTANCE

NATIVE WILDLIFE: For information and referrals on problems, contact your local Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife office. For emergencies or after business hours, contact your local police department or Oregon State Police.

INJURED NATIVE WILDLIFE: Contact Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife or a local wildlife rehabilitation center.

DOMESTIC OR NONNATIVE ANIMALS: Contact your city or county animal control program.

ROAD-KILLED DEER: Contact the city, county or state highway department with jurisdiction for the road.

WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS: Call the Oregon State Police.


Wildlife friendly backyard.