

Wild Animals in Our Urban Environment




Many little "wild" animals are fond of living in the peace and quiet of our residential neighbourhoods. Not only do they find food, water and shelter, but their natural predator-enemies are virtually non-existent in our surroundings.

Generally speaking, these animals keep their distance from human beings, unless they find—in our lawns and gardens—what they need to survive. In this case, they tend to "make themselves at home" and that's when the problems start...

To get rid of these unwelcome visitors, we must eliminate or make inaccessible whatever seems to be attracting them: easy sources of water and food and the possibility of finding shelter.

In most cases, the solutions proposed here are efficient ways of eliminating the presence of small wild animals; however, if no solution seems to dissuade the unwelcome visitor, the animal patrol may be able to analyse the situation in some cases and if all other options have been exhausted, the patrol may set up a cage to capture these animals.



			
Food	Skunk Flowers, vegetables, insects, garbage (eats anything)	Raccoon Garbage, fruit, insects, small animals (eats anything)	Squirrel Flowers, vegetables, fruit
Clues	Burrow, odour, torn and emptied garbage bags, lawn pulled apart (looking for white worms)	Burrow, overturned garbage cans, torn and emptied garbage bags, lawn pulled apart (looking for white worms)	Gnawed fruit on fruit trees or on the ground, a hole near the roof of a building
Characteristics	Lives under balconies, decks, patios and sheds	Very keen sense of smell, lives under balconies, decks, patios and sheds as well as in chimneys and attics	Often lives in a shed or attic of a house or in a shed accessible via a tree branch

Change Certain Habits

- Avoid feeding your pets outside.
- Block access to your household refuse by placing it in hermetically-sealed, metal garbage cans.

Take physical prevention measures

- Trim the branches providing access to a roof.
- Use hermetically-sealed metal garbage cans.
- Place a protective covering over chimneys.
- Install vinyl strips (designed for chain-link fences) to prevent animals from climbing up the trunk of fruit trees.
- Install a net over the tree if the animal manages to reach it by climbing up a nearby tree or fence.

Solutions



Use repellants

- Spray ammonia into your garbage bags and inside your garbage can lids in order to limit the spread of odours and make the garbage can contents unattractive to these animals, with their keen sense of smell.
- Use a repellant designed to chase away wild animals (sold in hardware stores).
- Brush the wood with a repellant containing thiram (found in nurseries).
- Eliminate white grubs in your lawn (June beetle larvae).

The Animal Patrol



If you have any questions or want further details on the suggested solutions, phone 514 367-1000 to contact the animal patrol.

For more information:

www.fidp.ca
www.bergerblanc.com
www.fapaq.gouv.qc.ca (unwelcome animals)

Did you know?

Although these animals are unwelcome visitors on our property, we mustn't forget that they do serve a purpose. For example, 70% of a skunk's diet consists of organisms that are harmful to humans, such as insects and small rodents.

No one may kill or capture an animal that is damaging his property, if he can simply prevent it for example from causing harm by depriving it of its burrow and sources of food.

Eliminate access to burrow

Here are the steps to follow in order to block access to a burrow under a garden shed or balcony:

- Locate the access or accesses.
- Block off all access—except for one—with wire netting, buried at least 18 inches underground.
- Place a rag soaked with liquid ammonia inside the burrow.
- Sprinkle flour in front of the access.
- Install a source of light, day and night.
- Keep a radio on, non-stop, inside the burrow, day and night, but without disturbing the neighbourhood.
- Check for visible tracks on the flour—confirming that the burrow is empty.
- Block up the access with wire netting, buried at least 18 inches underground.