

Wildlife Smarts

brought to you by Medicine River Wildlife Centre

Your quick reference on how to live better with wildlife: make your yard safe, reduce potential conflicts, what to do when finding injured wildlife, and who to call for help.



Who to Call

Injured or orphaned wildlife + general advice

Wildlife conflict (bats, skunks, pigeons, mice, coyote, fox...)

Medicine River Wildlife Centre - 403-728-3467

Deer or moose unable to get up

Dangerous wildlife (cougar or bear)

Report-a-Poacher - 1-800-642-3800

Ask for the officer on call in your area and explain the situation

Animal found dead on the road

Your local community, Alberta Highways, or Alberta Animal Services (in Red Deer)



Safe Yards

Removing hazards and making your yard a safe place for wildlife will reduce their injuries and your stress.

- Keep urban and rural cats indoors or under control
- Rural dogs should be kept close in June (during fawn season)
- Cover rain barrels
- Remove outdoor sticky fly traps
- Remove outdoor fine netting
- Cover open containers of oil
- Install screen covers on window wells and dryer and stove vents
- Prevent window collisions by installing deterrents (www.flap.org & www.featherfriendly.com)
- Safely recycle plastic lids and can holders to avoid entanglement



Avoid Attracting Unwanted Wildlife

If you don't want wildlife in your yard, don't invite them!

- Feed pets indoors
- Enclose compost
- Clean up ripened fruit
- Properly enclose sheds, walkways, and porches (contact MRWC for proper methods)
- Keep garbage in sheds or secure containers



If You Care, Leave Them There



There are many cases when a young or even injured wild animal should be left alone. It's important to know when to intervene and when to stand down.

Adult deer or moose who can walk but have a damaged leg

Leave alone - If the animal is eating and moving, they have a good chance of survival if left. These huge mammals are surprisingly fragile and die very easily once brought into care.

Fawns in a curled up position

Leave alone - Young deer are regularly left by their mothers for hours at a time. This is normal. Please do not disturb the fawn.

Fawns walking and noisy

Get help - This could be a sign that something has happened to the mother. Call MRWC for advice.

Songbirds unable to fly but healthy looking (May - August)

Leave alone but monitor - This is likely a fledgling and is learning to fly. Parents are nearby to protect and guide.

Baby hare alone

Leave alone - The little bunnies are born fully haired and are left by their mothers most of the time, only meeting up at dusk and dawn to be fed. They don't need our help if they are in a safe place. If out in the open, quickly place in the best, nearby cover. Do not take them home as they die very easily in captivity.



Tricky Situations

Please call MRWC for advice before taking action on the following situations:

Ducklings without a mother

Never chase them as the stress can kill them. If possible, slowly gather them and put into a box with a warmed towel. Never put water in with them.

Injured eagle or large bird of prey

These birds have strong feet and sharp talons. Have a towel or blanket, appropriate sized box, and gloves ready.

Problem skunks

Do not trap and remove skunks that may be causing a problem. Studies show that this method can actually increase the local population as new males will move into the territory and females will have larger litters. You may also leave young without a mother. Eviction and prevention techniques are the best long term solutions. Visit our website or call us for advice and support.



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