

7 PRINCIPLES for ETHICAL WILDLIFE CONTROL

Wildlife control – the lethal or non-lethal management of wild animals to restrict their activities – is often controversial because inhumane and ineffective strategies are used.

Following these international consensus principles ensures wildlife control programs are evidence-based and fully consider ethical concerns.



1 BEGIN BY MODIFYING HUMAN PRACTICES

Human actions like feeding or approaching wildlife may be the root cause of conflict. Long-term education or prevention efforts may reduce or eliminate the need for other control methods.



WIED'S MARMOSET

2 JUSTIFY WITH EVIDENCE

Harm to people, property, livelihoods, or ecosystems should be demonstrated with evidence. Nuisance behaviour may be found tolerable to a community through education and preventive measures.



URBAN DEER

3 ENSURE OBJECTIVES ARE CLEAR AND ACHIEVABLE

Objectives of wildlife control should be specific, measurable, and outcome-based. Failure to achieve poorly-defined objectives can be costly and erode public support of control programs.



EUROPEAN BADGER

4 PRIORITIZE ANIMAL WELFARE

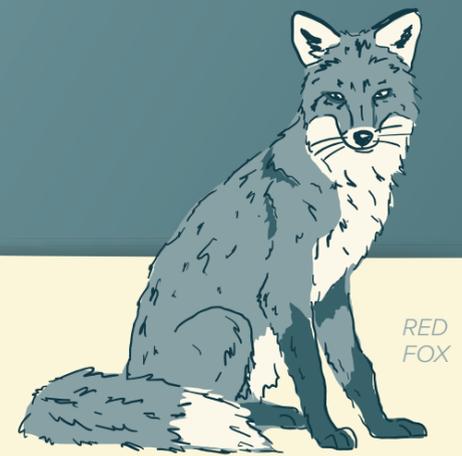
Methods that cause the least harm should be preferred, and best practices should be updated as new control methods are developed. Non-lethal methods are not always the least harmful, as not all animals tolerate relocation.



BRUSHTAIL POSSUM

5 MAINTAIN SOCIAL ACCEPTABILITY

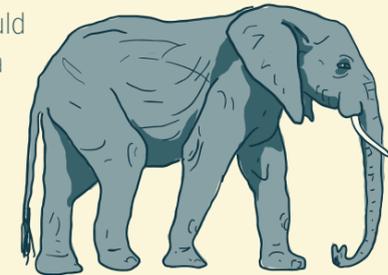
Community values are key to the decision-making process, which should use scientific information to inform how best to meet those values. A collaborative community effort informed by scientific and practical information is more likely to result in a program that is supported in the long-term.



RED FOX

6 CONDUCT SYSTEMATIC PLANNING

Wildlife control should always be part of a program of long-term systematic management. This includes long-term monitoring of objectives and using a process of continual learning that prioritizes less harmful methods.



AFRICAN ELEPHANT

7 MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON SPECIFICS, NOT LABELS

When animals are negatively labeled as introduced, abundant, or pest, control methods may be applied without proper justification. Control programs should ensure that a negative label has not reduced the consideration for animal welfare.



GREY WOLF