



## For More Information Contact

wildlifecontrol@sPCA.bc.ca  
BC SPCA Animal Helpline  
1.855.622.7722

**BCSPCA**  
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

# MARMOTS

## WILDLIFE CONTROL BEST PRACTICES

### Species

Yellow-bellied marmot (*Marmota flaviventris*), Vancouver Island marmot (*Marmota vancouverensis*), Hoary marmot (*Marmota caligata*), Woodchuck (*Marmota monax*)

### Legal Designation

Yellow-bellied marmot, woodchuck, Schedule B; Vancouver Island marmot, red-listed *Species at Risk*; Hoary marmot, Schedule A.

### Seasonal considerations

One litter of 3-5 babies in early summer, hibernate through winter in burrows.



#### Did you know?

Whistler is said to be named for the distinctive whistle of hoary marmots in their mountains!

Yellow-bellied marmot, Photo Credit: Trent Black

## Common Conflicts

Marmots sometimes come into conflict with people when they dig burrows under or around structures, in agricultural areas, or in lawns and gardens. Yellow-bellied marmots are most likely to come into conflict because they are well adapted to living in urban areas. Some people fear that their burrows may create a tripping hazard, but severe outcomes like this are rare.

## Conflict Prevention

Marmots like good sight-lines around burrow entrances. Discourage marmots from digging more burrows by placing high fences around an area to make the habitat less appealing to a colony. Fences should be buried at least 30 cm into the ground. To check that burrows are empty, stuff a crumpled piece(s) of newspaper in burrow openings and monitor for 48 hours. If the burrow is active, the newspaper will be pushed out by the marmot's comings and goings. If the newspaper stays in place undisturbed, the burrow is empty and can be deactivated. Deactivate old burrows by sealing openings with 1/2" galvanised wire mesh (hardware cloth) buried at least 30 cm deep. Do not undertake this work in winter during hibernation season.

Call an **AnimalKind** accredited wildlife control company if you need help managing marmots

Visit [www.animalkind.ca](http://www.animalkind.ca) for more information





## For More Information Contact

wildlifecontrol@spca.bc.ca

BC SPCA Animal Helpline

1.855.622.7722

**BCSPCA**  
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

## MARMOTS

WILDLIFE CONTROL  
BEST PRACTICES



Woodchuck, Photo Credit: Susan Jones



### RECOMMENDED

#### Actions & methods for control

Secure garbage bins and compost. Ensure bird feeders are not overflowing and no pet food is left outside. Repair or block holes around building exteriors and porches, and keep areas tidy. Deactivate old and empty burrows by sealing openings. Discourage colonization by making habitat less suitable.

### Don't Trap and Relocate

It is illegal to trap or relocate Vancouver Island and Hoary marmots without a permit. Although it is legal to trap yellow-bellied marmots and woodchucks if they are causing damage to property, trapping and relocating is not an effective solution. Relocated marmots may not survive without an existing burrow system, or they may just return to the original site. Marmots will continue to occupy sites if they remain accessible.

Trapping and relocating wildlife away from their home is generally not a permanent or humane solution. Animals often injure themselves and may die trying to escape a trap. Relocated animals have to set up a new home, may starve trying to find food or get into fights with other animals over territory, and may spend vital energy trying to return home.

When you trap animals, you also risk separating a mother from her babies. Even if you move an entire family, a mother may abandon her young due to the pressure of caring for the babies while trying to find food in a new area.



### NOT RECOMMENDED

#### Actions & methods for control

The BC SPCA does not recommend killing marmots. However, legal regulated methods may be used for euthanasia to relieve suffering when animals are injured. They may also be used legally for control of Schedule B marmots, but are not recommended as they can cause suffering, may be high risk to non-target animals, and/or are difficult to administer. Check local bylaws and/or regulations to confirm whether the method is legal in a municipality.

- Trapping and relocating (in accordance with the **BC Wildlife Act** - can only relocate within 1 km on Vancouver Island & Gulf Islands, within 10 km in the rest of the province)
- Shot to brain
- Crossbow
- Captive bolt
- Carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide
- Spring trap (e.g. Conibear-style)



### ILLEGAL

#### Actions & methods for control

- Bait or fumigant poisons
- Blunt force trauma
- Drowning
- Suffocation
- Chloroform
- Electrocution
- Freezing (including dry ice)
- Killing neck snare
- Leghold or foot snare
- Vehicle exhaust