



For More Information Contact

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

BCSPCA
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

BEAVERS

WILDLIFE CONTROL BEST PRACTICES

Species

Castor canadensis

Legal Designation

Furbearer, *BC Wildlife Act*

Seasonal Considerations

3-4 kits in early spring to early summer

Did you know?

Beaver dams create valuable wetland habitat that benefits many other species. Beavers improve water quality, and create food and habitat for salmon and other fish and wildlife.

Beaver

Common Conflicts

Beavers are attracted to sources of fresh water and young trees (5-13 cm in diameter). They can damage trees, and their dam building can flood land and cause blockages to engineered structures such as culverts.



Conflict Prevention

It is illegal to disturb or destroy beaver dams except with a permit - consult the provincial government for permit information. Killing and/or relocating is rarely necessary, and will not prevent beavers from returning or other beavers from moving into the site. Simple structures like pond levellers and culvert fences can prevent or control flooding caused by beaver dams. These structures can be made of wood or metal, and last 10 or more years if well-built. These structures are cheaper to build and maintain than the cost of dam destruction and beaver removal.

Consult **AnimalKind** accredited wildlife control standards if you need help managing beavers

Visit www.animalkind.ca for more information



AnimalKind
BCSPCA Accredited

Photo Credit (left): Pond leveller, courtesy of the Fur-Bearers

sPCA.bc.ca/urban-wildlife





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Beaver, Photo Credit: Tina Hurd



RECOMMENDED

Actions & methods for control

Prevent beaver problems or discourage beavers by removing or protecting potential food sources, and maintaining culverts and waterways. Trees can be protected by wrapping them with galvanized welded wire 80 cm high and placed at a distance from the trunk. Alternatively, painting tree trunks with a mixture of 600 mL coarse mason sand to 4 L exterior latex paint discourages chewing. Properly constructed exclusion fences can be set up around culverts and other infrastructure to keep beavers out and deter damming activities. A pipe system ("pond leveler") can be placed through an existing dam to manage water levels as desired.

If the beaver is at risk (e.g. construction site, highway), use cage traps and relocate them within appropriate habitat in their home range. Injured or orphaned beavers should be taken to a wildlife rehabilitator for treatment. Beavers in critical distress can be euthanized by a veterinarian or wildlife rehabilitator using barbiturates.

Don't Trap and Relocate

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 beavers. However, legal regulated methods may be used for euthanasia to relieve suffering when animals are injured. They may also be used legally to control beavers, 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 **BC Wildlife Act**)
- Blunt force trauma
- Crossbow
- Killing neck snare, land or submerged
- Leghold snare, submerged
- Captive bolt
- Shot to brain
- Spring trap (e.g. Conibear style), land or submerged



ILLEGAL

Actions & methods for control

- Bait poisons or chloroform
- Carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide
- Cervical dislocation
- Drowning (excluding legal traps outlined in **BC Hunting & Trapping Regulations**)
- Suffocation
- Electrocution
- Freezing (including dry ice)
- Leghold or foot snare, on land
- Vehicle exhaust