



For More Information Contact

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

BCSPCA
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

CROWS

WILDLIFE CONTROL BEST PRACTICES

Species

American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

Legal Designation

Schedule B, *BC Wildlife Act*

Disease Risks

Avoid direct contact with crow droppings or dead bodies

Seasonal Considerations

In summer, parent crows protect fledgling baby crows on ground

Did you know?

Crows are extremely intelligent birds. They can use tools to access food, and can recognize individual people by their facial features.

Photo Credit: Sabrina Desjardins

Common Conflicts

Crows are most abundant where they are intentionally or accidentally fed (e.g. food scraps, crumbs, garbage, or agricultural areas). Crows also come into conflict with people when they damage agricultural crops, gardens or lawns. They are attracted to grain crops like corn and grass seed.

Conflict Prevention

Discourage intentional feeding – giving crows bread, grain, or other food can be harmful and attracts more birds and other animals. Secure garbage bins and compost to prevent accidental feeding.

European chafer beetles are an invasive species and an attractive food source for crows - birds may damage lawns trying to access them. Maintain healthy turf to avoid beetles and treat infestations using methods permitted by your municipality.

Dive-Bombing

When young crows are starting to fledge and learn how to fly, they may spend up to a week on the ground building up their flight muscles. The parents will watch from close by and try to protect their young – sometimes dive-bombing people who get too close. Unless the young crow is hurt or in a dangerous place, you can leave the crow alone.

Avoid walking near the fledgling crow and keep pets on a leash. If you have to pass through, carry an open umbrella as an extra barrier. The parents will stop dive-bombing as soon as the young crow can fly away with them.

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

Visit www.animalkind.ca for more information



Legal designation and control varies widely by species. For more information on other types of birds, please consult our best practices sheet for other birds.

sPCA.bc.ca/urban-wildlife





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Photo Credit: Geoffrey Shuen



RECOMMENDED

Actions & methods for control

Where crows have already become an issue, use mild humane harassment techniques like bird spikes, predator decoys (e.g. owls, hawks), reflective strings, or sound deterrents. Hazing by a professional with a specially-trained raptor may also be used. Humane harassment should be postponed if birds are nesting or have babies in the nest.



NOT RECOMMENDED

Actions & methods for control

The BC SPCA does not recommend killing crows. However, legal regulated methods may be used for euthanasia to relieve suffering when animals are injured. They may also be used legally to control crows, 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.

- Alpha-chloralose
- Avicides – permit required
- Blunt force trauma
- Carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide
 - using pure gas in sealed chamber with regulator
- Cervical dislocation
- Live traps with food, water, and bedding – checked at least every 24-48 hours
- Captive bolt
- Repellent gels or sticky substances
- Shot to brain



ILLEGAL

Actions & methods for control

- Bait poisons or chloroform
- Drowning
- Suffocation
- Freezing (including dry ice)
- Glue traps
- Maceration
- Thoracic compression
- Vehicle exhaust



Photo Credit: Lindsay Eagleson