



## For More Information Contact

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

**BCSPCA**  
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

# GULLS

## WILDLIFE CONTROL BEST PRACTICES

### Species

Family *Laridae*

### Legal Designation

Protected, *Migratory Birds  
Convention Act*

### Disease Risks

Gull droppings may contain  
*Salmonella* bacteria, and gulls that  
feed at places like landfills could carry  
*E. Coli*

### Seasonal Considerations

Lay 1-4 eggs that hatch in early summer.  
Baby gulls can leave the nest and follow  
their parents shortly after hatching, but  
can't fly until about 40 days



#### Did you know?

Gulls pair for life - male and female gulls take turns incubating eggs, and feeding and protecting their babies.

Glaucous-winged gull, Photo Credit: Colin Franks

## Common Conflicts

Gulls can come into conflict with people because of their droppings, by nesting on urban structures, gathering on buildings, in marinas, flying close to airports and/or flight routes, acting aggressively if food conditioned, and gathering in large noisy groups.

Sometimes gulls nest on balconies or rooftops, their babies will remain there until they can fly, but may need help if they accidentally fall, jump, or have an unsuccessful first flight and need to get back to the colony.

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

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



## Conflict Prevention

The nests and eggs of these birds are protected and require a federal permit to be interfered with or destroyed. Empty nests must be registered with the federal government as "abandoned" and empty for a designated wait period before they can be removed. Discourage intentional feeding of gulls – feeding may be illegal in some municipalities.

To help prevent nesting, install gull-detering grid wire systems over structures. Habitat modification can help prevent gathering, examples include:

Plant barriers: use dense, tall plant cover (minimum 75 cm high, 6 m wide)

Barriers: erect grids of overhead rope, cable, wire, flagging or Mylar® tape





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CONTROL BEST  
PRACTICES



Baby glaucous-winged gull



### RECOMMENDED

#### Actions & methods for control

Gulls can be hazed using devices like flags, balloons, reflective tape, purpose-designed lasers, motion-activated sprinklers, and noise canons or pyrotechnics. A permit is not required to haze birds with specially-trained dogs as long as there is no contact with the birds or their eggs (*Migratory Bird Regulations 24 (1), 24 (3)*). A federal permit is required to haze migratory birds with a raptor. To be most effective, hazing should begin as soon as gulls appear in an area, before they become established or begin nesting.

Egg addling and other fertility control can prevent egg development and limit reproduction. A permit is required for egg addling and should be conducted with minimal disturbance to nesting bird(s). Damage permits are always required to kill migratory birds.



### NOT RECOMMENDED

#### Actions & methods for control

It is illegal to kill gulls without a permit. If a permit is granted, a legal control method must be used. The following are legal methods, but they 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
- Carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide
- Cervical dislocation
- Captive bolt
- Shot to brain



### ILLEGAL

#### Actions & methods for control

- Bait poisons or chloroform
- Blunt force trauma
- Crossbow
- Drowning
- Suffocation
- Freezing (including dry ice)
- Thoracic compression
- Vehicle exhaust



Glaucous-winged gull, Photo Credit: Colin Franks