

# Pets and Wildlife

Learn how to prevent conflicts between pets and wildlife.

## Key Facts

- In North America, domestic cats kill hundreds of millions of wild birds and mammals each year.
- Cats kill wildlife whether they are well-fed or not and they only bring home a fraction of the animals they hunt.
- Collar bells do not prevent cats from catching and killing prey.
- Most birds that are caught by a cat will not survive. Even birds that appear to escape succumb to internal injuries, stress, or infection.
- Each year wildlife rehabilitation centres treat injuries caused by domestic dogs. Dogs can seriously injure many wild species, including squirrels, seal pups and deer fawns.



Photo credit: Lisa Desprez

## What you should do

- Keep your cat indoors; there are too many hazards that can injure them and shorten their lives.
- Outdoor enclosures or leashes are safe options for those cats that have a strong desire for outdoor access.
- If you have an outdoor cat, keep it away from bird feeders and try out a CatBib – scientifically proven!
- Keep your cat inside at night when it is most likely to hunt. This will also help keep your cat safe from nocturnal predators.
- Keep your dog leashed in areas where you may encounter wildlife.
- Respect leash regulations in any parks where you take your dog.

## What you shouldn't do

- Don't allow your dog to chase or injure wildlife, or to roam unsupervised.
- Don't let your cat outside free to roam; build an enclosed outdoor area or use a leash and harness.
- Don't abandon a pet you can't care for. If you can't find it a caring home, contact a shelter for help.

# Watch out for wild babies!

Spring and summer are busy times for wildlife rehabilitation centres. It's the time of year when many animals and birds are building nests and raising their babies. It is critical to be vigilant about your pets in order to prevent injury to these wild families. Animals that have ground nests – like mallards and rabbits – are extremely vulnerable, and the death or injury of an adult can leave its babies orphaned.

If your pet brings you a baby animal, it has likely found a nest and will return to it if not supervised. Please keep your pet inside or away from the area to prevent injury to other babies in the nest. Contact a rehabilitator immediately for assistance with the pet-caught baby.

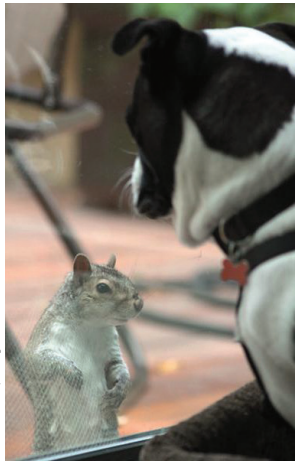


Photo credit: Lynn Ingham

We can have happy pets and keep nature in balance by being responsible pet guardians if we learn how to keep both our pets and wildlife safe and healthy.



## You can help wildlife now

An injured or orphaned animal's best chance for success is to be cared for by a wildlife rehabilitation centre. Help us care for wild animals in need at [www.wildarc.com](http://www.wildarc.com)

**BCSPCA**  
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

## When to get help

- Your pet injures an animal; or,
- Your pet has killed a parent and the babies need care.

## Who to call

Contact the BC SPCA's wildlife hotline for more information on diseases your pet may have been exposed to or to locate a wildlife rehabilitation facility:

1-855-6BC-SPCA  
(1-855-622-7722)