

Wildlife adds aesthetic value to urban and suburban environments. However, when human and wildlife environments overlap, there can be negative consequences.

Wildlife is a significant public resource that is greatly valued by the California public. However, as a highly dynamic and mobile resource, wildlife causes a variety of problems including:

- Risks to human health and safety
- Damage to agricultural, industrial, and personal property
- Threats to endangered species and natural resources (wildlife habitat and water quality)

Wildlife conflicts are complex. If you need assistance, careful planning and consultation with a qualified wildlife damage-management professional is available by contacting USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services.

California State office, Sac.	(916) 979-2675
North District.....	(530) 336-5623
Sacramento District.....	(530) 438-2706
Central District.....	(209) 545-4639
San Luis District.....	(805) 237-0912
South District.....	(619) 561-3752



Make the animal-proofing of your home a priority. County officials receive hundreds of calls each year about wild animals in and around residences. Some animals are just a nuisance, however, some can carry disease and pose a threat to health and safety. Animal-proofing is simple and a matter of common sense.



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California Department of Food and Agriculture

A Guide to Living With Wildlife



“How to Animal-Proof Your Home”

Animal Health and Food
Safety Services
Animal Health Branch
Wildlife Services

Small Wildlife

(Raccoons, Skunks, Opossums, Squirrels)

Remove Overhanging Limbs

Overhanging tree limbs are a major pathway for squirrels and raccoons to reach attics and chimneys, and are favorite nesting places for both species. If any tree limbs hang over the house, trim them back.



Inspect the Outside of the Home

- Check the chimney, attic vents, and the structure itself for any openings more than 1/4 inch. All holes and openings should be blocked or screened with building materials resistant to gnawing or prying.
- Screen louvers, vents, and fan openings.
- Keep doors and windows in good repair.
- Tighten eaves and replace any loose or decayed boards.
- Seal off all foundation openings with 1/2 inch wire mesh, sheet metal or



concrete.

Animal-Proof Your Yard

- Remove bird feeders or use squirrel-proof bird feeders.
- Remove acorns and other nuts from the yard.
- Store garbage cans in a garage or shed, or use metal cans and secure the lids with locks, straps, or tiedowns.
- Do not leave pet food outside. It attracts many wildlife species.
- Spray your lawn for grubs and water just before dawn so the water will settle and the grubs will sink into the ground before wildlife species become active during the night.



Large Wildlife

(Coyotes, Bears, Mt. Lions, Deer)

- **PROTECT YOUR PETS!** Do not allow your pets to roam, especially at night.
- Make sure your yard is appropriately fenced with at least a six-foot fence. To further increase effectiveness, include electric fencing material.
- Protect your livestock by using loud music, barking dogs, exploder cannons, nightlights, and scarecrows. To deter predators, change the position of objects to improve effectiveness.
- Trim and clean near ground level any shrubbery that provides hiding cover for predators or prey
- Lambing and farrowing in protected enclosures prevents predation on young livestock.
- Discourage deer by removing supplemental food sources, using plants that deer do not like for landscape, and by using scare devices and repellants.

