

greater angle on ledges to prevent pigeons from perching (they prefer a flat surface).

- To keep birds from landing on ledges, a variety of bird wires may be installed, ranging from single strand wires placed 3 to 4 inches above the rail of ledge to a more complex wire coil that is wound around a railing or fixed on a ledge.
- A hatch control product called Ovocontrol P may be used to control pigeon reproduction after appropriate permits are secured.

GOPHERS, MOLES, RATS, AND MICE

Situation: While the burrows that these animals make benefit the soil by aerating it, homeowners are often put off by the mounds of dirt.

Solutions:

- Make soil unsuitable for burrowing by frequent watering. Very moist soil is undesirable to burrowing animals.
- Place wire mesh around bulbs and the roots of ornamental plants or bury the mesh a foot beneath the topsoil of yards or gardens.
- Wrap tree trunks in commercial tree wrap.
- Apply a mole repellent such as "Mole-Med" which is environmentally friendly and can be found at most hardware and garden stores.
- Block holes and fill cracks in the house to exclude rats and mice. Remove food sources by cleaning up spilled food and storing food in glass, metal, or plastic containers.
- Trap rats and mice using a live trap (check trap often) and release outside.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

More information about the techniques and products described in this brochure can be obtained from the following companies:

- Lines/wires; barrier fencing:
Bird Barrier America
20925 Chico Street; Carson, CA 90746
(800) 503-5444 • www.birdbarrier.com
- Humane live traps, spray repellents, motion-activated sprinklers, electric fence kits:
Havahart
(800) 800-1819 • www.havahart.com
- Bat conservatory; ultrasonic yard devices with strobe light:
Real Goods Solar, Inc.
833 W. South Boulder Rd.
Louisville, CO 80027
(800) 919-2400 • www.realgoods.com



Animals are attracted to an area for two reasons: food and shelter.

PHOTO: JEFF JONES

MORE INFORMATION

- Learn more about our Coexisting with Wildlife Program at www.coexistingwithwildlife.org.
- For information on reprints, downloading a free copy, or how to order more of this or our other Coexisting with Coyotes, Geese, Beavers, and Deer brochures, visit www.bornfreeusa.org/catalog or call (202) 450-3168.
- Please share this information with your friends, family, neighbors, homeowners associations, city and county councils.
- Join us by becoming a member of Born Free USA and help Keep Wildlife in the Wild. Visit www.bornfreeusa.org/membership.

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Born Free USA is a national animal advocacy non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to end the suffering of wild animals in captivity, rescue individual animals in need, protect wildlife in their natural habitats, and encourage compassionate conservation.



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KEEP WILDLIFE IN THE WILD®



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Whether in the city, suburbs, or the country, chances are that the area you call home is also home to wild animals. How we use that area may not be in accord with the animals' wishes, and thus conflicts arise.

Animals are attracted to an area for two reasons: food and shelter. The first step in reducing conflicts is prevention — limiting access and removing attractants. Remedies can be as simple as moving pet food inside, repairing holes in outside walls, or capping the chimney. More complex remedies include natural spray repellents and scare devices.

As the human population progressively encroaches on wildlife habitat, conflicts between wildlife and people are bound to increase. This brochure is designed to help you enjoy the wildlife around your home by providing suggestions for humane ways to deal with conflicts.

RABBITS AND SQUIRRELS

Situation: While many homeowners tolerate, and even enjoy, the presence of these animals, others perceive them as nuisances.

Solutions:

- To exclude rabbits, fence in garden areas with 1-inch wire mesh ("chicken wire"). Make sure it is at least 3 feet high and buried 1 foot below the ground.
- One-liter soda bottles that have the bottoms cut out can be placed over seedlings until they are

large enough to endure mild browsing or are no longer desirable.

- Protect trees from rabbits with commercial tree tape or by surrounding tree base with wire mesh.
- Commercial repellent sprays are available. Do not use sprays that contain predator urine such as fox, coyote, or bobcat.
- Cap the chimney, block entrances to the attic, and repair loose siding to keep squirrels out. (Make sure squirrels and/or young are out before blocking.)
- Use a variety of squirrel-proof bird feeders and "bafflers" available at garden stores and specialty bird shops. (Do not use hot sauce or repellents on bird feeders).

RACCOONS AND SKUNKS

Situation: Raccoons and Skunks are famous for getting into garbage cans, digging in yards, and nesting under houses. Occasionally they may kill chickens or get into confrontations with dogs and cats.

Solutions:

- Secure garbage cans by fastening lids with rope, bungee cords, or chains and tying the handle to a stake driven into the ground.
- Don't leave dog or cat food outside.



- Fence off garden areas with the fence buried under the ground
- Use repellents such as capsaicin (hot sauce) to make plants unpalatable.
- "Milky Spore" (available at most garden stores) is a natural bacterium that gets rid of grubs in the yard which attract skunks and raccoons.
- Close chickens in at night and surround the coop with fencing that extends 6 to 8 inches underground.
- Make sure your dogs and cats are current on their rabies and distemper shots and occasionally check their stool for roundworms.
- Motion-detecting water sprayers or sprinklers can scare wildlife away.
- Misting diluted white vinegar into the air will neutralize the smell of skunk.

BATS

Situation: Bats are attracted to warm dark areas to roost, so they sometimes find their way into buildings. While bats generally do not cause any real damage, they may frighten house occupants and leave offensive droppings — but they are beneficial for insect control.

Solutions:

- Wait until the bat leaves at nightfall, then seal holes and cracks through which the bat may have entered (bats can squeeze through openings as small as 3/8ths of an inch).
- Clear bats from an occupied space by brightly lighting the area day and night (this is annoying to nocturnal animals).
- Use fans to cool areas such as attics to make

the temperature unsuitable for bats.

- Attach bird netting or flexible plastic strips above the opening leaving the bottom loose to create a one-way exit so that bats can leave but not re-enter.
- Capture a trapped bat with a net, jar, plastic tub, thick towel, or leather work gloves and release in a safe place outside.

BIRDS

Situation: The problems encountered with birds vary depending on the type of bird. Birds may fly into windows, roost or build nests in undesirable places and may disturb gardens.

Solutions:

- To frighten birds away from areas, use a scare device, such as reflective scare tape, balloons, or model owls.
- Use netting to exclude birds from virtually any type of structure and to protect garden vegetables and fruit trees.
- Fasten a piece of wood or metal at a 60° or



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