

## Guidelines for Choosing a Wildlife-Control Company (abbreviated)

These guidelines will help customers determine whether a company will follow humane approaches and will also help protect them from questionable business practices.

- Ensure that the company will provide an on-site inspection or assessment to diagnose the problem. Ask them if they physically inspect rooflines, attics, foundations etc. (Any fee for on-site inspection should apply to work contracted for.)
- Make sure the company will provide a firm written quote for work that addresses both the conflict and any additional problems found and also comes with a guarantee against re-entry by the animals.
- Ask specific details about how the problem/conflict will be resolved. For instance:
  - *How will the animal be treated?*
  - *Will the animal be killed, and if so, why?*
  - *Is there any possibility that young will be orphaned, abandoned, or sealed inside a structure?*
  - *What will be done with the young if found?*
- Be highly suspicious of any advice that animals “have” to be killed. No animals have to be killed—they can be released on-site.
- For animals in structures, **insist** on the use of exclusion strategies involving one-way doors and/or hands-on removal and reunion of families on-site.
- Ensure that the company provides a full range of animal-proofing, exclusion, and prevention services.
- Never sign a contract with an open-ended clause that allows a company to charge for removal of any wild animal captured on your property. This is unrelated to your problem, as well as unnecessary, expensive, and unethical.
- Ask if the company carries an appropriate amount of liability insurance. It should be 1 million+.
- Ask for assurance that the company’s practices are in compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations and that they have the required permits to conduct control activities.

***If you do not ask for and receive direct or written assurances, you will not be protecting your interests and ensuring that the animals will receive humane treatment***

Provided by



Resourced from the book:

***Wild Neighbors: The Humane Approach to Living with Wildlife***  
***Online at [humanesociety.org/hspress](http://humanesociety.org/hspress).***