

Why not trap and relocate wildlife?



Setting a trap for an animal may sound like a good idea, but the truth is live-trapping and relocating wildlife will almost always have negative consequences for the animal that is trapped. Perceived as a quick fix, trapping and removing animals will likely not solve your problem. In some cases, it can even make the problem worse.

- Trapping and removing wildlife is a short-term solution because it doesn't address why the animals are attracted to the area in the first place.
- Trapped animals are often nursing mothers whose young are unintentionally left behind and, as a result, die of starvation.
- Setting a trap does not guarantee that you will catch the animal you have a conflict with.
- Despite being marketed as humane, live traps can be dangerous and cause animals to suffer if not used properly. When trapped, animals can severely injure themselves trying to escape. When left too long, or when exposed to extreme weather conditions, they can even die.
- Studies show that relocated animals have an extremely low survival rate due to:
 - territorial disputes with current residents
 - inability to find food, water, and den sites
 - no knowledge of safe areas to hide from predators
 - increased movement across roads in an effort to return "home" or to find babies from which the animal was separated
- Relocating animals outside of their home-range may spread disease to surrounding wildlife populations.
- Euthanizing healthy wildlife is not an alternative to relocation. It is costly, time-consuming, and entirely unnecessary for successful conflict resolution.

An animal's *best* chance of survival is within its own home-range where it knows the location of food, water, & den sites as well as places to flee from danger.

For tips on dealing with wildlife conflicts, please visit WildNeighbors.org.

For eviction and exclusion services in the Washington D.C. metro area, visit HumaneWildlifeServices.com or call 1-866-9HUMANE.

Summary of Local Wildlife Regulations

	Trapping Permit	Trap Check	Disposition/Relocation
Washington D.C.	Required	Required once every 24 hours	All wildlife can be released onsite. Attempt should first be made to release wildlife at the capture site. If not possible, wildlife may be relocated to a safe location where problems are unlikely to occur with permission of the property owner.
Maryland	Required	Required once every 24 hours	All wildlife can be released onsite. It is illegal to trap and relocate foxes, skunks, coyotes, and raccoons. Other wildlife can only be relocated with written permission of the property owner.
Virginia	Required	Required once every 24 hours	All wildlife can be released onsite. It is illegal to trap and relocate wildlife. Trapped wildlife must be released onsite or euthanized.