



@skedaddlewildlife

#### YOUR GUIDE TO URBAN WILDLIFE CONTROL

## It's Baby Season!

by Skedaddle Humane Wildlife Control

It's that time of year, winter is finally over. With spring comes new life and unfortunately for some homeowners that new life could be raccoon babies in the attic.

Mother raccoons begin to give birth in March and will continue to have babies through spring and early summer. During this time, mother raccoons search out warm, dark and secure places to raise their young. That search very often ends inside an attic where they find ideal conditions and create plenty of headaches for the human residents inside.

When raccoon babies are born, they are completely immobile for the first 8 weeks. That means that the only way to remove baby raccoons from the attic is by hand. Skedaddle Humane Wildlife Control begins every raccoon removal service during the birthing season with an exhaustive search of the den site for any babies. Removing raccoon babies from the attic can put you face to face with an angry mother. Despite the danger, here's why it's important to perform a hands-on removal of raccoons:

In a lot of cases, homeowners will block off the raccoon's entry point after seeing the mother leave for food. When she returns to find that she can no longer get into the attic

the mother raccoon can cause tremendous amounts of damage. In her attempts to reunite herself with her babies she will rip up shingles and other parts of the roof in a desperate attempt to find her babies.

Another common mistake is to trap and relocate a mother raccoon only to find out that she has a litter of babies in the attic. Without their mother the babies will surely die an inhumane death. Not only that, if they die inside the attic it could result in terrible odour, flies and damage.

Once our technicians have located and removed the raccoon babies from the attic they are placed in a weather-proof reunion baby box and positioned near the entry area. We then use the mother raccoon's maternal instinct to lure her out of the attic so that she can re-join her babies. When she does, the exit is sealed behind her.

One by one the mother will relocate the babies to one of her alternate den sites in the area. Raccoons typically have between 8-10 den sites.

With all potential points of entry on the home secured the job is complete.

## SPLIT, SCRAM, SCOOT ...THE SKEDADDLE QUARTERLY



## APRIL 2014

#### IN THIS ISSUE



### Wildlife Can Be Destructive

Are you hearing thumping, scurrying, pounding, and other violent sounds coming from your ceiling? If you have already suspected wildlife are having a party up in your attic you are more than likely correct.

Page 2



### Why Raccoons Prefer Your Home

A raccoon is a resourceful, curious and extremely intelligent animal. For these simple reasons it is important to be mindful of your property and what may attract raccoons and other wildlife to it.

Page 3

# Wildlife Can Be Destructive

by Skedaddle Humane Wildlife Control

Are you hearing thumping, scurrying, pounding, and other violent sounds coming from your ceiling? If you have already suspected wildlife are having a party up in your attic you are more than likely correct. Except there's more to the story.



Wildlife are not very quiet when it comes to mating. It's often an extremely drawn-out, loud and rather violent affair. But the results are newly-born raccoons or squirrels that plan on living happily-ever-after, safely burrowed into your insulation. The fluffy-pink promised land of the wildlife kingdom!

Raccoons can be especially troublesome due to their dexterity and size. They tend to build large nests as well, in which they defecate and in some cases cause major damage to attics. If you're playing host to a budding wildlife family inside your living space it would be wise to call a professional to help you evict them immediately.

Skedaddle Humane Wildlife Control has many methods of removing and preventing entire families of wildlife from re-entering your home humanely and effectively. After mating season you have kits, or babies, living there, which increases the mess and makes it more difficult to solve the problem.

The mother typically cares for the babies full time, which means constant coming and going from an entry hole somewhere on your home. **All this moving around results in more noise and damage.**

The longer wildlife are allowed stay in your home, especially your attic, the more damage they will cause to you insulation. Over time, they will reduce its effectiveness resulting in higher home energy bills.

If you suspect there are animals living in your attic, shed, or other structure on your property, don't take chances with DIY methods. Call Skedaddle Humane Wildlife Control, who can assist with everything from prevention to clean-up.

Many urban wildlife species, such as raccoons and squirrels, take up residence in homes across North America during the year. Unless you're aware of this in your own home, or you take immediate action, the situation arises where these wildlife start mating in February and by the time March rolls around, you've got a full-blown love nest in your attic.

The following are just a few of the issues that can arise from allowing wildlife to live long-term in your home:

- The introduction of ticks, fleas and mites into the living space (they hitch a ride in the animals fur).
- After mating season you have kits, or babies, living there, which increases the mess and makes it more difficult to solve the problem.
- The mother typically cares for the babies full time, which means constant coming and going from an entry hole somewhere on your home. All this moving around results in more noise and damage.
- The longer wildlife are allowed stay in your home, especially your attic, the more damage they will cause to you insulation. Over time, they will reduce its effectiveness resulting in higher home energy bills.



A wildlife technician installs screening over a wall vent.

## SIGNS OF WILDLIFE



### Chewing

Squirrels are rodents, which means their teeth are constantly growing. In order to keep the length of their teeth reasonable they need to be constantly chewing. Plastic and metal are favourite materials of theirs, especially when the jackpot on the other side is a warm, safe nesting spot.



### Roof Vent Damage

This roof vent felt the wrath of the mighty raccoon paw. These are examples of flimsy, metallic vents that are installed on thousands of homes. This type of vent is commonly promoted by roofing companies as "wildlife proof". They are no match for the strength of raccoons, or the teeth of squirrels.



### Droppings

This is an example of an accumulation of bat droppings near a chimney. Bat entry holes are typically near or above the roofline of a home, which means any droppings from the animal can build up over time around the point of entry.



# What Attracts Raccoons to Your Property?

A raccoon is a resourceful, curious and extremely intelligent animal. For these simple reasons it is important to be mindful of your property and what may attract raccoons and other wildlife to it.

Garbage is the number one attractant for raccoons. They love the variety of discarded food scraps (they aren't picky!), and the ease at which they can tear open the plastic to get the food.

Another reason raccoons may want to spend an extended period of time on your property is the fact that they're attempting to gain access to the inside of a structure through any vulnerable spots. These include garages, attics, sheds and under porches. Raccoons need food and shelter to survive and humans can provide more than enough of both.

The warmth of an attic's insulation provides ideal conditions for a raccoons nest. Often, raccoons will enter through soffits and loose roof vents. The heat from the vents attracts the raccoon and lets them know that there's a warm, safe place right below.

Once inside an attic a single raccoon can cause irreparable damage to insulation and structural wood. The constant defecation and coming-and-going will undoubtedly be difficult for a homeowner to deal with.

It's important to note that there are many raccoons in any given neighbourhood. The Ministry of Natural Resources estimates there are between 15-25 raccoons per square kilometre. A single home is only one of potentially many homes that a raccoon is poking around.

**Here are some tips for making your house less desirable for a raccoon:**

- Keep garbage in closed containers and put it to the curb in the morning
- Repair any damage to the exterior of the home where a raccoon could enter
- Frequently inspect the integrity of any external structures such as sheds, decks and porches to make sure they aren't being frequented by wildlife
- Don't leave pet food or bird seed outside. Keep any food sources locked up



**Call us toll free 1-877-222-9453**