



Lawrence Township Animal Control WILDLIFE TRAPPING



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Lawrence Township Health Department

A function we serve as Animal Control Officers is to educate the public on the habits and habitats of wildlife. We are heading into a busy season when we receive hundreds of calls from the community about wildlife. Solving unwanted encounters before they occur is our goal, please read below.

During certain months, if wild animals have taken up residence under your house, porch, shed or other structure, wait until they have vacated that area before closing up the entry point. If you haven't already done this and an animal has sheltered there, it may be too late to close off the entry point. Wildlife is protected by state law during their breeding season since they are building their dens in anticipation of giving birth. Young will be present in the spring, summer, and early fall.

A quick reference to mammal birthing seasons is as follows:

Cottontail (rabbits)- February to October

Chipmunks-April to May, July to August

Woodchuck (ground hogs)- May-June

Squirrels-March-May, August-Sept.

Fox-March

Raccoon-February to April

Skunk-April to June

Opossum- March-April, July-Aug.

Bats have babies usually in June



Some deterrents that can be used to prevent wildlife from walking through your yard include planting herbs like rosemary, mint, or eucalyptus. A good motion detector sprinkler can deter several types of animals from visiting your garden. Use of vinegar can get rid of weeds, and the smell is going to keep most animals away as well.

Do not feed backyard wildlife as this encourages wildlife to rely on human handouts that are not a part of their normal diet. They will continue to come back and become a nuisance.

- Use sturdy trash cans with secure lids.
- Do not feed your pets outside and clean up any leftovers immediately.

Without proper permits and in closed seasons, it is unlawful to trap and/or relocate wildlife in New Jersey.

In addition, this practice only provides a short-term solution since other animals will take the place of those trapped. The conditions that attracted wildlife to begin with must be corrected to resolve the issue. Trapping is prohibited for all species listed above on March 15, 2025 Statewide. Bat exclusions should only be conducted from April 1st to April 30th and August 1st to October 15th. NO exclusions from roosts should be conducted from May 1st to July 31st.

NJ Fish & Wildlife laws can be found at: <https://dep.njgov/njfw>

If you need assistance with sick, injured, orphaned or abandoned wildlife, please contact **Lawrence Animal Control** at (609) 844-7092 during regular business hours M – F, 8:30- 4:30 p.m. and non-emergency Police at (609) 896-0225. You can also contact **Mercer County Wildlife Center** at (609) 303-0552