

## Wildlife Facts

### Raccoons, Skunks and other Mammals

- Not uncommon in the spring to be out during the daytime as they wake up hungry. They have been sleeping for months.
- Being out during the day is NOT necessarily a symptom of rabies. Rabies can only be confirmed by a sample of the brain.
- If wildlife is creating a nuisance issue, call a wildlife removal company, not the police. Wildlife removal/control is not what police are trained for.
- Be concerned if the animal is circling, dragging its back end, repetitive movement or in poor body condition. Although concerning many things can cause neurological symptoms, like being hit by a car or poison. **KEEP YOUR CHILDREN AND PETS AWAY.**
- Wildlife carries diseases other than rabies that can be transferred to people. Call a wildlife removal company. They are the people who are trained to "deal" with wildlife.
- The best way to deal with wildlife is to let them move on, give them their space.
- Animals in town are familiar with people and activities; they are not afraid.
- Keep all garbage and food waste in a secure container. To wildlife you are just providing them with an easy food source.
- They are on your property for only 3 reasons: food, water or shelter. Remove these reasons and they will move on.

### Birds

- Baby birds "fledge" the nest and spend time on the ground. Don't worry, Mom is close by watching and feeding them. If you find a baby bird, place it up in a tree to avoid predators.
- It is a myth that birds reject their babies if touched by a person. Birds generally have a poor sense of smell.
- Fledglings have a downy appearance on their body with some adult looking feathers on their wings.

### Rabbits

- Mother rabbits only nurse their babies once or twice a day, usually dawn and dusk.
- They run over to the nest, nurse them and take off, this helps protect both Mother and babies from predators.
- Nests are commonly in short grass, like your lawn. Check before you mow.
- Baby rabbits are independent at a very young age, approximately 3 weeks of age. If they are hopping around, even if they appear very small, they are ok. Let them be.

### Turtles

- Turtles return to where they were hatched to lay their eggs. That's all a Turtle does, lay her eggs.
- Turtles carry bacteria. If you handle a turtle, wash your hands.
- Always move a turtle in the direction it is heading. They are heading that way for a reason. If you change that path they will just turn around and go back.
- Snapping turtles are aggressive and are capable of causing serious injury. If you need to move one, **use extreme** caution keeping your fingers and toes away from its mouth. Turtles have long necks and can bite you quickly and can reach around to their tails. **Do not pick them up! Use a shovel to push them.**