

Got a Wildlife Issue?



Guide to Online Resources for Community Association Managers and Related Professionals



If you have questions about the contents of this guide, feel free to contact the author at Falyn.Owens@ncwildlife.org or 919-616-2208. Cover photo by Emily Brown. Updated April 2024.

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Getting Direct Assistance – Who Can Help?

Wildlife Control Agents

- Licensed by NCWRC to handle nuisance wildlife issues. Like other pest control professionals, they charge a fee for services.
- Main information page: <https://www.ncwildlife.org/Have-A-Problem/Preventing-Wildlife-Conflicts>
- Wildlife Control Agent Finder: www.ncwildlife.org/Trapping/Wildlife-Control-Agent

Wildlife Rehabilitators

- Licensed to rehabilitate injured, sick, and orphaned wildlife. Their services are funded through donations.
- Main information page: www.ncwildlife.org/injured-wildlife
- Interactive map to [find a licensed wildlife rehabilitator](#)

NC Wildlife Helpline

- Staffed by NCWRC biologists who can provide recommendations for a variety of wildlife issues, including handling wildlife conflicts and helping sick/injured wildlife. They can also provide contacts for professionals who are able to assist directly.
- **Wildlife Helpline staff cannot dispatch someone to remove a wild animal, for free or otherwise.**
- Email: HWI@ncwildlife.org
- Call: 866-318-2401. The Wildlife Helpline is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except on state holidays.



Wildlife Enforcement

- If you suspect someone is illegally keeping wildlife in their possession, poaching, or otherwise violating wildlife-related laws, contact Wildlife Enforcement Dispatch, 24/7 at 1-800-662-7137.
- Anyone can anonymously report a wildlife violation via these methods:
 - Text “WILD TIP” + your message to TIP411 (847411)
 - Complete the online form at www.ncwildlife.org/wildtip
 - Download the [TILD TIP app](#)

Species-Specific Resources to Share with the Public

Alligators

- Printable handout: [Coexist with Alligators](#)
- Preventing conflicts with [alligators in neighborhoods](#) webpage
- Read the [statewide alligator feeding ban](#) that helps prevent alligators from learning to associate humans with food.

Bats

- Printable handout: [Coexist with Bats](#)
- Webpage: [Have a Bat Problem?](#)
- Webpage: [NC bat regulations](#)
- Learn [how to attract bats](#) to your community.

Bears

- BearWise website: www.bearwise.org
- BearWise communities
 - [sample ordinances](#)
 - BearWise Community [certification](#)
 - [Bear-resistant trash cans](#) – product list
- Printable [BearWise handouts](#):
 - Attracting birds without attracting bears
 - Keeping dogs safe in bear country
 - How to be BearWise around your home
 - How to be BearWise at your vacation rental
- [BearWise Basics refrigerator magnets](#) and other items
- Explanation of [why bears are not relocated](#) in NC
- [North Carolina Black Bear Management Plan](#)



BearWise provides printable handouts and other items for community residents that teach how to live responsibly with bears.

Beavers

- NC Beaver Management Assistance Program: www.ncwildlife.org/BMAP
- [Additional options](#) in counties that are not participating in BMAP

Bobcats

- Webpage: [Have a Bobcat Problem?](#)

Canada Geese

- [Managing Canada Goose Issues](#) presentation slides (PDF)
- Webpage: [Have a Canada Goose Problem?](#)
- Example anti-feeding signs
 - [Thank you for not feeding us](#)
 - [Please...don't feed waterfowl!](#)

Coyotes

- [Managing Coyote Conflicts in Residential Areas](#) recorded presentation (YouTube)
- Information page: [Have a Coyote Problem?](#)
- Printable handout: [Coexist with Coyotes](#)
- [NC Coyote Management Plan](#)

Deer

- Webpage: [Have a Deer Problem?](#)
 - Guide to managing deer issues in residential areas

- Community Deer Management Assistance Program (CDMAP)
- Printable handout: Is Feeding Deer Harmful?
- Tips on avoiding deer-vehicle collisions
- Deer-proof fencing recommendations (also try googling “attractive deer fencing”)

Feral Swine

- NCWRC Webpage: [Have a Feral Swine Problem?](#)
- Report feral swine sightings or damage: [NC Feral Swine Report Form](#)
- [National Feral Swine Management](#) Information

Foxes

- Handout: [Coexist with Foxes](#)
- Webpages on [gray foxes](#) and [red foxes](#)
- Information about [mange](#). (Note: placing medication into the environment to treat mange in free-ranging animals poses a danger to domestic pets and non-target wildlife and can result in treatment-resistance. It is not recommended and may not be legal).
- Information about [rabies](#)
- Webpage: [Preventing Conflicts with Wildlife](#)



Gray foxes are common in neighborhoods statewide and help keep rodent and rabbit populations in check.

Groundhogs

- Webpage: [Have a Groundhog Problem?](#)

Hawks

- U.S. Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services handles damage-related issues involving protected birds, including all native hawks. Contact the NC Wildlife Helpline to find your current USDA contact.
- Webpage: [Have a Hawk Problem?](#)
- For hawk issues involving bird feeders, the best solution is to remove the feeder and [encourage birds to forage naturally on native plants](#).

Opossums

- Webpage: [Have an Opossum Problem?](#)

Owls

- U.S. Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services handles damage-related issues involving protected birds, including all native species of owls. Contact the NC Wildlife Helpline to find your local USDA contact.
- Webpage: [Have an Owl Problem?](#)

Rabbits

- Webpage: [Have a Rabbit Problem?](#)

Raccoons

- Handout: [Coexist with Raccoons](#)

- Handout: [The Hazards of Feeding Wildlife](#)
- Webpage: [Preventing Conflicts with Wildlife](#)
- For issues involving birdfeeders, encourage homeowners to [feed birds naturally](#) by planting native plants.
- Information about [rabies](#)

Skunks

- Handout: [Coexist with Skunks](#)
- Information about [rabies](#)

Snakes

- Handout: [Coexist with Snakes](#)
- Herps of NC Website (for snake ID): www.herpsofnc.org/snakes
- NCWRC Webpage for [snake regulations and protections](#)
- Handout: [Report Rattlesnake Sightings](#)

Squirrels

- Handout: [Coexist with Squirrels](#)
- Webpage: [Preventing Conflicts with Wildlife](#)
- For issues involving birdfeeders, encourage homeowners to [feed birds naturally](#) by planting native plants.

Vultures

- U.S. Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services handles damage-related issues involving protected birds, including all native species of hawks. Contact the NC Wildlife Helpline to find your local USDA contact.
- Webpage: [Have a Vulture Problem?](#)
- Note: vulture issues are usually resolved by hazing or hanging a vulture effigy (see photo). In some cases, a property owner or manager can seek a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to lethally remove vultures that are causing property damage, but non-lethal methods must be tried first.



A vulture effigy is an effective deterrent for both black and turkey vultures.

Woodpeckers

- U.S. Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services handles damage-related issues involving protected birds, including all native species of woodpeckers. Contact the NC Wildlife Helpline to find your local USDA contact.
- Cornell University: [Handling Woodpecker Conflicts](#)
- Note: woodpecker issues are usually resolved by hazing or painting building surfaces to a non-wood color. In some cases, a property owner or manager can seek a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to lethally remove woodpeckers that are causing property damage, but non-lethal methods must be tried first.