

## 21ST CENTURY SOLUTIONS

Wildlife conflicts can be prevented by viewing the world from the animal's perspective. Non-lethal and sustainable solutions range from using caps to prevent animals from nesting in chimneys to installing culvert protectors to keep beavers from flooding roadways. If beavers are causing damage to trees, wire mesh will protect the trees from damage. Fencing keeps animals out of gardens and prevents them from living under decks and outbuildings. Garbage pails and dumpsters can be secured to keep raccoons, opossums, and other animals out.

**Wrapping trees prevents beaver damage.**



In a 2017 poll conducted by University of Vermont's Center for Rural Studies, 75% of Vermonters responded that they were in favor of banning trapping altogether. Employing humane solutions to wildlife conflicts is something we can all support!

There are humane and long-lasting solutions to conflicts with any species. Visit the Human/Wildlife Conflicts page on our website to learn more.

[www.ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org](http://www.ProtectOurWildlifeVT.org)



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# Living with Wildlife





**According to a recent Vermont survey, a significant majority of Vermonters list wildlife watching as a favorite activity.**

Businesses also depend on our abundant wildlife since tourists flock here for a chance to observe wild animals in their natural habitat. Whether catching a glimpse of fox kits frolicking in the grass or beavers busily building a dam, wildlife viewing is a pastime that's one of the great aspects of living in the Green Mountain state.



**Observing wildlife is a favorite activity.**

But, when wild animals make their homes in and around our houses or outbuildings, or present other possible conflicts, people are unsure what to do and lethal methods are often used to address the problem. However, lethal methods are only temporary and present risks.

The good news is that with knowledge and a little effort, we can peacefully co-exist. Protect Our Wildlife serves as a resource to homeowners and municipalities to resolve and even prevent these conflicts.

Due to human habits such as leaving pet food outdoors, not bringing in bird feeders at the end of the winter season and not securing garbage, we invite conflict that could otherwise be avoided. The loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitat is also causing humans and wildlife to have unintended encounters. It is our obligation to find ways to coexist peacefully.

**Raccoon kits wait for mom.**



A common method of resolving conflicts is to move animals to another location. Unfortunately, this only disrupts animal families since it's impossible to know if the animal you caught has a litter of babies waiting for her. Relocating also moves animals from their home territories into the territories of other animals, which can mean certain death for them. Dependent upon the species, it may also be illegal to relocate. We know that it is much more effective and humane to learn how to live with wildlife and to prevent problems from happening in the first place.

Trapping and killing animals is a common method of solving human/wildlife conflicts. Not only is trapping inhumane, it's also ineffective as it creates a vacuum for new animals to inhabit. It also results in orphaned wildlife when mothers are trapped during times of the year when they are raising their young.

Traps do not discriminate. A trap set for a wild animal will also trap a dog or cat or even endangered and protected species. There is no guarantee that a trap set for the "problem" animal will actually trap that particular animal.



**Beaver painfully caught in a leghold trap.**

Tragically, beavers are one of the most frequently trapped animals. Beaver trapping not only causes immense suffering as the beavers drown in underwater traps, but trapping also destroys families. Beavers have very close family units. Kits stay with the parents for two full years as they learn how to be an adult beaver. Trapping done in defense of private property is virtually unregulated: there are no controls or oversight in place. Vermont Fish & Wildlife has no record of how many of these keystone species are killed each year.