










Feeding Wildlife in Urban Areas

Why Feed Wildlife in an Urban Setting?

-  To supplement seed or water for birds during harsh winters or dry summers.
-  Viewing/photography purposes.







Why Not Feed Wildlife in an Urban Setting?

-  Wildlife become nuisance pets when they are habitually fed.
-  Some wildlife species such as coyote, javelina, and bear can attack domestic pets.
-  Fed wildlife that become nuisance wildlife are rarely successfully relocated in the wild and more often than not have to be euthanized.
-  Some wildlife species can be threatening to humans.
-  Some wildlife species can transmit diseases (rabies, parvo, distemper, bubonic plague, and feline leukemia) to domestic pets.
-  Smaller wildlife species that are fed in urban areas can attract larger, unwanted, predator species.
-  Wildlife species that become dependent on supplemental feeding can damage property such as decks, roofs, trash cans, gardens, flower beds, etc....

For questions, call Wildlife Biologist, Janie Agyagos, at 282-4119.

How to Deter Nuisance Wildlife

You may have noticed an increase in the number of wildlife sightings in your area. Due to drought conditions, wildlife such as mountain lions, bears, coyotes, javelina, raccoons, and skunks are attracted to residential areas for the food, water, and shelter found there. While you may enjoy observing wildlife, certain species can be a nuisance. In order to protect your pets, garden, and property from damage caused by wildlife, here are a few tips you can follow:

-  Do not provide food or water for wildlife. Bird feeders are all right but keep spilled seed off of the ground and keep feeders at least 8 feet high in bear country. Keep pet food in animal proof containers.
-  Keep garbage stored inside until collection day or store garbage in animal proof containers.
-  Close all entry ways accessing underneath buildings and trailers.
-  Keep fruits and vegetables harvested and discard rotting materials. Fencing gardens and orchards with electric fences may be necessary to keep out javelina.
-  Keep yards and adjacent areas mowed and trim shrubs near ground level to minimize hiding cover.
-  Encourage your neighbors to follow these tips. All it takes in one neighbor to encourage wildlife to visit your neighborhood.

Remember, if attractants (food, water, and shelter) are reduced or eliminated, wild animals will move on to better areas. If you follow these tips and are not able to alleviate the problem, call the Arizona Game and Fish Department for information on trapping and relocating. Due to high costs and potential danger to humans and the animal being trapped, this method is used only in extreme cases.