



Understanding Canada Geese: History, Behavior, and Management

A Brief History of Canada Geese

Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) are native to North America and are known for their striking black heads and necks with white chin straps. Historically, they were migratory birds, traveling thousands of miles between northern breeding grounds and southern wintering areas. However, during the mid-20th century, wild Canada goose populations faced significant declines due to overhunting and habitat loss. In response, wildlife agencies launched recovery efforts, including the introduction of captive-bred geese into urban and suburban areas. These relocated geese, with abundant food and few predators, adapted quickly—many stopped migrating altogether.

RESIDENT vs MIGRATORY GEESE

- **Resident geese** stay year-round and breed locally. they typically hatch 4-7 goslings per nest and become more aggressive in spring.
- **Migratory geese** pass through seasonally & are less likely to become long-term problems.

KEY DIFFERENCES:

- **Migration Behavior:** Resident geese do not migrate due to ample local food and mild winters.
- **Population Growth:** Resident geese reproduce rapidly, often raising several goslings per year.
- **Territorial Imprinting:** Once a goose is born in an area, it often returns to that site to nest—creating long-term population issues.

WHY GOOSE MANAGEMENT IS CRITICAL

Controlling resident goose populations is not only about improving aesthetics or convenience—it's about ensuring public safety, protecting environmental quality, and maintaining the functionality of shared spaces.



Humane, science-based management—like the use of trained goose dogs, nest treatment, and habitat modification—is essential for long-term success.

WHY GOOSE REMOVAL MATTERS

1. Public Safety and Aggression

Canada Geese are **highly territorial**, especially during nesting and fledging seasons. They may chase or attack pedestrians, creating **serious liability risks** for property owners, including **residential communities, commercial properties, parks, and campuses**.

2. Health Hazards and Property Damage

Each goose produces up to **2 pounds of feces daily**, contaminating lawns, walkways, and ponds. This leads to:

- **Slip-and-fall risks**
- **Water quality issues**
- **E. coli concerns**
- **Costly landscape damage**

3. Imprinting and Site Loyalty

Geese **imprint** on specific locations and return year after year. Without proactive deterrence, populations grow as offspring return to nest in the same place—often **residential neighborhoods or commercial greenspaces**.

4. Nesting: The Hidden Threat

Nest removal and egg treatment are critical to breaking the Goose life cycle we apply for all federal permits needed for your company to legally remove or treat the nest. Properly permitted and humane, this process prevents future generations from taking hold.



COASTAL K9
PEST SOLUTIONS

THE ROLE OF TRAINED GOOSE DOGS

Why Use Dogs?

Trained goose dogs simulate natural predators, using safe pressure to make geese believe the area is no longer secure. This causes flocks to leave without harm, making dogs one of the most effective and humane goose deterrents available.

How the Program Works

- Coastal K9 provides multiple visits per day.
- Varying the times and days prevents geese from learning patterns or adjusting behavior.
- Dogs patrol nesting areas, shorelines, and open fields, using herding-style movements to flush and move geese.

Professional Teams Only

Only properly trained dogs and skilled handlers can safely execute this work. Coastal K9 handlers use dogs professionally trained in **obedience, predator simulation, and wildlife control**, ensuring safe and legal goose deterrence in **commercial and residential environments**.

WHY COASTAL K9?

- Trained Working Dogs & Handlers
- Federally Licensed & Permitted Nest Treatment
- Custom Goose Management Plans
- Eco-Conscious & Science-Backed Methods
- Minimal Disruption to Residents or Business
- Efficient, Effective and humane way to remove the geese off of your location

CONTRACT STRUCTURE & SUSTAINED SUCCESS

Goose deterrence isn't a one-and-done solution. That's why Coastal K9 offers **one-year contracts** designed for **seasonal strategy and long-term prevention**:

- **Spring:** Nesting, imprinting, and aggression—**crucial nest treatment period**
- **Summer:** Molting, aggression, and heavy grazing
- **Fall/Winter:** Prevents early site selection and new flock imprinting



Success depends on

consistency. Multi-visit patrols with varying times stop habituation and teach geese that the area is never safe to return to.

COASTAL K9 SERVES:

- ✓ Residential Communities (HOAs, private estates)
- ✓ Commercial Properties (corporate parks, malls)
- ✓ Golf Courses & Resorts
- ✓ Airports & Transportation Zones
- ✓ Universities, Parks & Government Campuses



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