

Got a Wildlife Problem?



Guide to Statewide Resources

for Animal Control Professionals



This guide was updated for the 2023 NCARCA Conference held Oct. 15-18, 2023. If you have questions about this guide or its contents, please contact Falyn Owens, NCWRC extension wildlife biologist at Falyn.Owens@ncwildlife.org or 919-616-2208.

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Getting Direct Assistance – Who Can Help?

Wildlife Control Agents

- Certified to handle wildlife complaints. Charge a fee for removal and/or repair services.
- Info and local contacts: www.ncwildlife.org/Trapping/Wildlife-Control-Agent

Wildlife Rehabilitators

- Licensed to rehabilitate injured and sick wildlife. Funded by donations.
- Webpage: www.ncwildlife.org/injured-wildlife
- Interactive map to [find licensed wildlife rehabilitators](#)

NC Wildlife Helpline

- Staffed by wildlife biologists who can answer questions about wildlife, including best options for preventing or handling wildlife-related conflicts.
- **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.



NCDOT

- Removal of dead animals and other debris from public roads and rights-of-way.
- Report road debris via [online form](#) or by calling 1-877-DOT-4YOU.

Wildlife Enforcement

- When 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 any of these methods:
 - Call the Poachers Hotline at 1-855-WILDTIP
 - Text "WILDTIP" + your message to 274637
 - Complete the online form at www.ncwildlife.org/wildtip

Species-Specific Resources to Share with the Public

Alligators

- Printable handout: [Coexist with Alligators](#)
- Preventing conflicts with [alligators in neighborhoods](#) webpage

Bats

- Printable handout: [Coexist with Bats](#)
- Webpage: [Have a Bat Problem?](#)
- Webpage: [NC bat regulations](#)

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



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?](#)

Coyotes

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



Ordinances against feeding ducks and geese can help prevent overpopulation issues.

Deer

- Webpage: [Have a Deer Problem?](#)
 - Guide to managing deer issues in residential areas
 - Community Deer Management Assistance Program (CDMAP)
 - Handout: why and how to stop feeding deer, Is Feeding Deer Harmful?
 - Tips on avoiding deer-vehicle collisions
- Information about Chronic Wasting Disease: www.ncwildlife.org/CWD

Feral Swine

- NC Feral Swine Management Website: www.ncferalswine.org
- Report feral swine sightings or damage: [NC Feral Swine Report Form](#)
- NCWRC Webpage: [Have a Feral Swine Problem?](#)

Foxes

- Handout: [Coexist with Foxes](#)
- Webpages on [gray foxes](#) and [red foxes](#)
- Information about [mange](#)
- Information about [rabies](#)
- Webpage: [Preventing Conflicts with Wildlife](#)



Gray foxes are common in residential areas across North Carolina.

Groundhogs

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

Hawks

- 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 current local contact.
- Note: hawk issues are usually resolved by keeping small pets and backyard poultry closely supervised or in an enclosure with a roof that provides protection from aerial predators. Aggressive behavior from nesting hawks is short-lived and will resolve on its own once the young leave the nest. 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 current local contact.
- Note: owl issues are usually resolved by keeping small pets and backyard poultry closely supervised or in an enclosure with a roof that provides protection from aerial predators. Aggressive behavior from nesting owls is short-lived and will resolve on its own once the owlets leave the nest.

Rabbits

- Webpage: [Have a Rabbit Problem?](#)
- Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease: [Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease](#) and [Best Practices for Rabbit Owners](#)

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

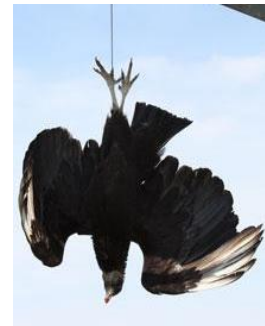
- Handout: [Coexist with Snakes](#)
- Herps of NC Website (for snake ID): www.herps of nc.org/snakes
- NCWRC Webpage for [snake regulations and protections](#)
- Handout: [Report Rattlesnake Sightings](#)

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 current local contact.
- 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.



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 current local contact.
- 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.