



Wild animals have adapted to urban life. For many, wild animals are a pleasure to see, but for others their activities are a nuisance. The agency responsible for wildlife, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, **strongly encourages removal of food and shelter for effective control.** Removal and humane destruction of the animal itself is a temporary solution at best, as the remaining habitat and food sources will be used by other wild animals.

By removing sources of food and shelter you can reduce the possibility of nuisance wild animal problems. **You can reduce food sources by keeping your garbage containers closed, not feeding wild animals, and feeding your pets indoors,** which minimizes food sources.

Maintaining your home, accessory structures, and landscaping reduces shelter for wild animals. Fireplace chimneys should have a screened cap. Exhaust vents from dryers and bathrooms also should be screened. Decks, stoops, and sheds can provide areas to burrow. These areas may need to be modified to stop burrowing. Trim landscaping so wild animals do not have concealed paths to and from these areas.

The habitat and food sources each species prefers varies. The [University of Illinois Extension](#) site is an excellent resource for all species of wild animals. Where removing food and shelter fails to control a nuisance problem, refer to the Extension service [website](#) for a list of Wildlife Control Operators.

