

Living with Urban Wildlife

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"You may not feed the wildlife, including but not limited to geese, ducks, squirrel and raccoons. These animals can cause significant damage to turf, waterside areas, attics and even your crawlspace when they are encouraged to nest in our community." Bullet 5 "You may have standard residential bird feeders in your yard as long as you keep them clean and maintained. Do not 'overfill' the feeders so that food spills onto the ground which can attract undesired wildlife."

From time to time, homeowners face challenges that arise regarding urban wildlife in their yards—raccoons, nutria, skunks, opossums, squirrels and stray cats to mention a few. There are options available for homeowners if they are being bothered by any wildlife. These animals can carry and transmit diseases and may also be destructive. Pet cats from nearby communities sometimes do roam Claremont, but these cats usually are not from our residents as it is clearly specified in our *Design Guidelines* that neither cats nor dogs are to be off leash when outside of their property. It is also thought that some people abandon unwanted pets around golf courses and wetlands.

Please note that Claremont does not advocate or condone any specific remedies or actions related to wildlife. This document is merely intended to provide information on some options, certainly not all, available to you as a resident of Washington County, if you have a problem. The details relating to these resources may change at any time, so we suggest that you do your own research to assure that you have the most current and up-to-date information possible on the solutions you deem appropriate for your situation. Depending on your personal viewpoint, beliefs and opinions, you are the only one that can decide on the best remedy for your situation.

The Audubon Society of Portland has a very detailed, informative, and expansive website available at audubonsociety.org/backyard_wildlife. They offer specific solutions and ideas for almost every kind of wildlife we encounter locally.

Affordable Wildlife Response (formerly Critter Gitter) 503.408.9453 Melissa, owner of Affordable Wildlife, will trap animals for you. Her fee is \$152.00 Additional fees would apply if the animal is to be delivered to an animal control facility or shelter. The yellow pages of the phone book contain additional listings under pest control. Your further research might provide competitive pricing and other companies if you choose to hire someone to assist you.

There are various **products or devices** you might want to consider if you are dealing with feral or stray cats. There are many, many devices available in the marketplace, but we are mentioning only a couple herein, as a possibility. A source for ultrasonic motion sensors and motion activated sprinklers is www.safepetproducts.com, 1-888-977-pets (7387). These motion sensors emit ultrasonic tones that annoy animals and encourage them to vacate the area. Motion activated sprinklers detect animals and cause a brief spray from a sprinkler attached to a garden hose. In addition to safe pet products, another source for these sprinklers is Havahart (www.havahart.com or 1-800-800-1819). Some people have had positive results installing plants in the yard to discourage or repel wildlife.

Washington County Animal Services

1901 SE 24th Avenue, Hillsboro, on Tualatin Valley Hwy in the Lowe's parking lot 503.846.7041. They charge \$10.00 to take a cat. They will check for an identification microchip, and if a chip is present, they will make an effort to contact the owner for one week. These shelters have a history of being overcapacity with stray cats that have been turned in. Washington County recommends purchasing a trap from Harbor Freight Tools at a cost of about \$25 (call 503.296.6200 to verify availability). Harbor Freight is located in the Cedar Hills Shopping Center next to the new DMV office. Successful bait for the traps is reported to be stinky canned cat food.