

Wild animal control: Information for municipalities

Wildlife such as coyotes, wolves, and other furbearing mammals sometimes come into conflict with people. Municipalities are responsible for deciding on and taking appropriate actions when human-wildlife encounters create ongoing conflict situations on municipal property, and can also take action on private property with the permission of the landowner.

The province supports municipalities by providing advice and expertise on actions they can take to resolve such situations.

In many cases, these conflicts can be prevented (see tips at ontario.ca/livingwithwildlife). However, when prevention fails, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act allows municipalities to protect their property by harassing, capturing or dispatching a variety of wildlife species, including coyotes, or to hire a licensed hunter or trapper to do so on their behalf. Municipalities may also take action to address human-wildlife conflicts on private property with the permission of the landowner. No approval or authorization is required from the province in these cases.

Any situation that impacts public safety should be referred to the local police as they are the authority to deal with these matters. Police can dispatch an animal if they deem it necessary to protect public safety.

What you need to know

Municipalities may pay licensed hunters or trappers to hunt or trap furbearing mammals within their municipal boundaries. The municipality determines the terms of any such arrangement, including the species of furbearing mammals, the hunters or trappers involved, the number of animals, and the locations and time periods that apply.

Compensation for hunters and trappers is also the responsibility of the municipality. Effective July 1, 2013, municipalities do not need authorization from MNR to make these arrangements.

Hunters and trappers hired in this way must abide by relevant municipal by-laws and all applicable hunting rules and regulations. Conservation officers may monitor the activities of hunters and trappers at any time, to ensure that they are hunting or trapping in accordance with the regulations.

As a reminder, hunters or trappers must:

- Ensure that furbearing mammal pelts are treated in a manner that is consistent with provincial regulations (for example, they are not permitted to abandon pelts of commercial value or allow them to spoil or be destroyed).
- Comply with regulated restrictions on the types of firearms and traps or sets that may be used.

For advice on best management practices and techniques to reduce conflicts and protect property in municipal areas, please contact your local MNR District Office at ontario.ca/mnr/offices.

Important links

For more information on preventing conflicts with wildlife, please visit ontario.ca/livingwithwildlife.

To locate a licensed trapper, contact:

Ontario Fur Managers Federation
705-254-3338
email: furmanagers@ontario.ca

To view Ontario's list of furbearing mammals, please visit the Definitions section of Ontario's Hunting Regulation Summary at ontario.ca/hunting.

For more information

1-855-613-4256
Email: mnr.rasc@ontario.ca
ontario.ca/livingwithwildlife