

WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE SETTING YOUR OWN HUMANE TRAP ON YOUR PROPERTY



Are you dealing with uninvited guests on your property such as raccoons, skunks, squirrels and cats? Although many animals can be pleasant to watch, the increasing number of wildlife sightings in residential areas is becoming greater and can quickly become a major nuisance to home owners. These creatures can get into your trash, destroy gardens and yard furniture, cause unpleasant odors etc. This may become challenging to even the most tolerant nature lovers.

The first and most important task to prevent animals from encroaching on your property is to remove their food source. This can be done easily by making certain all trash bins and dumpsters are closed, outside pet food bowls are removed at night and bird feeders eliminated. Next, identify and repair any openings in and around outside structures (i.e. sheds) as well as your home. Common points of entry include holes in walls, dryer/duct vents, missing vent screens and pet doors as well as openings under sheds and decks etc.

If you have nuisance wildlife on your property, the best method is to discourage them but if your efforts are not successful and you feel you need to set a humane trap to remove the unwanted wildlife, please read the information given by New Jersey Fish, Game and Wildlife on their website (<https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/>)

“Relocation of nuisance wildlife must be evaluated on a case by case basis. Failure to remedy the situation by removing the attractant, (e.g. garbage) will guarantee the problem will continue even if the offending animal is removed.” – New Jersey Fish, Game and Wildlife

Before you set a trap please assess your situation and realize you will be responsible for what you catch. Have a plan as to what you will do when something gets in your trap.

Local Animal control services do not include removal of nuisance wildlife.

However, if you feel wildlife is sick or injured, animal control will evaluate the situation. Only sick or injured animals will be taken by an animal control officer to a licensed rehabilitator or an animal hospital. It is important that set traps **MUST** be checked at least twice a day.

Western Monmouth Animal Control suggests that deterring wildlife from your property will have the most effective results. In fact, trapping and relocating is rarely a long term solution. As mentioned previously, wildlife is looking for food, shelter and a safe place to live.