

## HUMANE WAYS TO DISCOURAGE WILDLIFE

**RACCOONS AND SKUNKS:** bring pet food indoors at night. Feed birds well away from porch and carport areas. Place garbage in sturdy cans with snap-down handles (or use bungee cord) to secure the lid in place. Rinse food containers before placing them in your recycling bin. Fox urine (available at hunting supply stores) can be sprayed around your property to trick raccoons into thinking a predator is nearby. If you have a garden pond, provide fish with a hiding place in the form of cinderblocks, rock piles or clay flowerpots laid sideways in the pond. Raccoons can carry canine and feline distemper as well as rabies. Skunks also carry rabies. Never try to play with raccoons, no matter how cute they look!

**MOLES:** water your lawn frequently -- burrowing animals don't like flooded dens! Purchase a plastic owl or hawk from a garden center and place it on a branch or post in your yard -- the mole will think it's a real predator. Bury wire mesh 8"-12" deep around vegetable and flower gardens. If you have a pet snake, or know someone who does, place snake sheds in the mole's burrow and re-cover with soil. The mole will think twice about hanging around.

**RABBITS:** Fence in your garden with a four-foot chicken wire fence. Bury one foot of it below ground, leaving a 3-foot-high section above. Plant garlic around the edges of your garden. Spray fox urine (available at hunting supply stores) around your garden border.

**SQUIRRELS:** Buy squirrel baffles (available at many garden supply stores) and place them on your bird feeder supports. To keep squirrels out of your attic, cap your chimneys and make sure all attic and eave vents are lined with sturdy mesh wire. Repair small holes leading into your attic from outdoors, and replace broken panes in attic windows.

**BIRDS:** place plastic owls or hawks in plain sight in your yard. Buy inexpensive rubber snakes and place them in your garden or other places you want birds to avoid. Reflective tape helps discourage some birds from landing in places where they are not welcome. For pigeons, mount a piece of steeply angled wood on places where you don't want them to land -- pigeons like flat surfaces. Cap your chimney and seal your attic, as described for squirrels.

**BATS:** If bats have made a home in your attic, light the area brightly day and night to discourage them from roosting. If this fails, wait until bats leave at nightfall, then seal all holes and cracks through which they might re-enter (if you can fit a pencil into a hole, a bat can get in). Keeping the area cool and well-ventilated helps discourage them as well - bats prefer warm places. Never handle a bat with your bare hands. Bats can carry rabies.

**SNAKES:** snakes are predators. Your first course of action is to discourage the population of rats, mice and other small wildlife around your home. Take pet food in at night so the food doesn't attract mice and rats (which in turn attract snakes). Weeds, scrap lumber, flowerpots, tires and other piles of outdoor clutter provide hiding places, attracting both small prey and the snakes who eat them. Check flowerpots before bringing your plants indoors for the winter - snakes sometimes accidentally hitch a ride indoors on a plant!