

DON'T CREATE A RISK FOR THE SQUIRRELS IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

An Important Message from the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre

The Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre asks you **NOT** to feed squirrels peanuts.

Well over half of the orphaned young squirrels received by wildlife centers each year come in because someone has trapped and relocated their mother. Many of these orphans are in terrible shape and many others are never found so are thus left to die of starvation. Also, the vast majority of relocated adult squirrels do not survive in a new and unfamiliar territory.

We have found from the calls received from hundreds of area homeowners that they are trapping and relocating adult squirrels because of the damage they are doing by burying peanuts in their lawn and/or garden.

Therefore, every time we feed a squirrel a peanut, we are putting it at risk. Remember, not everyone loves them as much as we do.

Squirrels do not need to be fed over the summer months as they should be encouraged to forage for natural foods when they are plentiful. In the late Fall and through the winter months, we believe that squirrels – just like birds - should be fed to help them through the coldest season. We urge you to feed them the large stripped unsalted sunflower seeds - this way they will eat the seeds at your feeder and not get themselves into trouble by burying peanuts in your neighbours' lawns and gardens.

For further information, visit www.wildlifeinfo.ca.