

PAWS & CLAWS

Living With Wildlife – Gardening Tips

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www.wildlifeinfo.ca

With nice weather upon us, many of us are planning our garden. Whether you are an avid gardener or just enjoy a few hanging baskets on your patio, sometimes wildlife may pose a challenge. So, what can you do to avoid the frustration of rabbits or groundhogs using your garden as an all-you-can-eat buffet?

There are some great non-toxic, natural deterrents that will reduce your garden's appeal to wildlife. These are most effective when you use as many as possible, overwhelming the animal with bad tastes and threatening smells. Start early in the season and be consistent for at least two weeks. Don't forget to refresh after heavy watering or rain!

You can introduce predator scents by sprinkling blood meal fertilizer on the soil and by placing dog hair in nylon stockings secured to low stakes around the garden. Other smell deterrents such as garlic and onion powder and lemon slices or lemon juice can also be used around plants. Talcum powder can be mixed with water and sprayed on plants, wash off vegetables before



A young Woodchuck, commonly referred to as a Groundhog, enjoying an apple.

consuming. Plastic garden mesh or bird netting, found at building or garden centres, can be placed over shrubs, especially over new growth. Make sure to leave 2"-3" at the bottom so small animals do not get trapped in the mesh. If you are an avid gardener, a fence may be worth considering.

When you plant bulbs in a garden bed or planter box, 1" x 1" welded wire mesh can be used to protect them. Place mesh over the bulbs and soil then secure firmly with metal pegs. The mesh should be placed 2"-3" below the soil. Plants will grow through the mesh but squirrels will not be able to reach the bulbs.

Squirrels will also dig in planter boxes and gardens to stash peanuts.

If you are feeding peanuts to the birds or squirrels you can wean them off for the summer as there is lots of natural food. If you feed over the winter use large striped sunflower seeds as the animals will eat these and not stash them. If you think your neighbour is feeding peanuts, suggest they switch as well.

When working around your garden if you find baby rabbits or hares, it is normal not to see mom. Just leave them alone and they will disperse in a few weeks.

In the meantime, remember this is the height of the birthing season for wildlife. Do not take any action before first checking www.wildlifeinfo.ca for effective advice.

Pet Adoptions



#3666 SAMPSON D/S/H Neutered Male
6 years



#3664 EMMA D/M/H Spayed Female
2 years



#3545 SAICHI D/S/H Spayed Female
10 months



PETS OF THE WEEK

#3696 THUMPER & #3697 BUTTERCUP

Thumper and Buttercup were brought to the shelter to find a new home after a family member developed severe allergies. They are both great cats, Thumper is a large, medium length hair, eleven year old, neutered and declawed male, and Buttercup is a short haired, 6 year old, spayed female. They have been companions for the past four years, and we would like to see them adopted together, the shelter would be willing to reduce the adoption fee for the right home. They are affectionate, friendly cats, they love attention, both are very clean and quiet. Thumper & Buttercup would be best suited in a quiet home, where they will be kept as strictly indoor cats. This adorable pair came from a home where they were loved very much, so Thumper and Buttercup are scared, confused and missing their family, please consider taking them out of the shelter and into your heart and home.



Arnprior Humane Society
613-623-0916

Please note: Arnprior Humane Society has many other companion animals available for adoption. Featured animals are adopted quickly!
To learn more about adopting an animal from the Arnprior Humane Society
Website: www.arnpriorhumanesociety.ca
Email: district.spea@bellnet.ca • Telephone: 613-623-0916