

Living with Urban Wildlife

Wild animals are a natural part of the environment in San Mateo County. It is normal for these animals to pass through properties as they go about their lives among the humans who have moved into their habitat. Some species may even be protected by law.

Common species of urban wildlife found in San Mateo County include:

- Skunks
- Raccoons
- Opossum
- Squirrels
- Deer
- Rats and mice
- Coyotes
- Bobcats
- Mountain lions

However, wild animals that lose their fear of people can become a nuisance, destroy property, or even pose a risk to human health. Never encourage wildlife to linger around human residences by feeding or by allowing access to food sources, including garbage, pet food, or fallen fruit.

Need Help with Urban Wildlife?

If you believe you have a wildlife problem, a San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District technician can inspect your property and provide recommendations for wildlife exclusion and control.

San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District technicians are not able to provide trapping or wildlife exclusion on private property. If you need these services, San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District can provide information on selecting a wildlife trapper or pest control operator.

Wild animals may visit your property looking for a handout, but they don't really need help from humans to find food. In fact, animals that associate people with food may become aggressive toward humans, putting both their and our safety at risk.

Animals that are fed by humans are also likely to congregate in large numbers, leading to increased disease transmission between animals and from animals to people.



Raccoon Roundworm

Raccoon roundworm is a parasite that infects raccoons. When humans are infected with raccoon roundworm through contact with raccoon droppings, they can become very sick or even die.

The best way to avoid infection with raccoon roundworm is to avoid contact with raccoon droppings. For information on cleaning up a raccoon latrine, contact the a vector control technician.

Solving Wildlife Problems

Trapping and relocating individual animals is not usually a good solution to problems with wildlife. When one animal is removed, another will quickly move into its territory and take up residence.

Instead, residents should make their property inhospitable to wildlife by removing attractants such as food, water, and shelter. You should trim vegetation, secure trash cans, bring in pet food and water bowls, and pick up fallen fruit. It is also helpful to use chimney caps and other methods to keep wildlife from accessing attics, crawl spaces, and other areas of buildings.



SAN MATEO COUNTY
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CONTROL DISTRICT

If wild animals have already taken up residence on your property, it may be necessary to seek help from a professional wildlife trapper to remove them. It may also be possible to use noise or other disruptions to encourage animals to leave your property.

Once the animal has been removed, it is important to seal off all access points to prevent it or other animals from re-entering, and to remove any other attractants that may be drawing wildlife to your property.

During spring and summer, animals may have offspring in their dens. Before sealing off access to a structure, you should always ensure that all animals have moved on. It may be necessary to give an animal several nights to relocate its offspring.

San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District

(650) 344 - 8592
1351 Rollins Road
Burlingame, CA 94010

Monday-Friday
8a.m. to 4:30p.m.

www.smcmvcd.org