

## Wildlife Management

Animal Control for the Borough of North Caldwell operates under the rules and regulations issued by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife. The Borough is not authorized to tend to most wildlife on homeowners' property. The Borough's Animal Control employees are not authorized to trap and relocate animals. Please note that North Caldwell Animal Control Officers and Police Officers regularly canvass Borough streets and properties for sick, mangy or deceased animals.

Should you be concerned with any healthy, sick or nuisance animals, other than cats or dogs, please consider the following measures to deter animals:

- Place ammonia-soaked rags around your property.
- Place moth balls around your property.
- Fill a metal/aluminum can with small rocks and shake it loudly to scare off animals.
- Perform the steps above on a daily basis, especially after rainfall. The animals tend to have a routine which must be broken through consistent deterrents.
- Visit [wildlifehelp.org](http://wildlifehelp.org) for more information.
- Call the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (908) 735-4513.
- Please do not call 911 to report any Animal Control issues. Appropriate Borough contacts are:
  - o Animal Control (973) 228-6410, x-132 – Monday through Friday, 8:30a-4:30p.
  - o Non-emergency Police Dispatch (973) 226-0800 during non-business hours.
- Please see the following descriptions regarding foxes and coyotes (excerpts from the Division of Fish and Wildlife website).

**Foxes** [https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/speciesinfo\\_fox.htm#management](https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/speciesinfo_fox.htm#management)

Problems associated with foxes include depredation on domestic animals, perceptions of danger to humans (healthy foxes pose virtually no danger to humans), and their potential to carry disease organisms. Foxes will prey on small livestock such as ducks, chickens, rabbits, and young lambs, but generally do not bother larger livestock. Cats may also be preyed on. Foxes often carry their prey to a secluded area or their den where it is eaten by the adults and young.

Human presence is often a deterrent to foxes. Foxes that travel into residential yards should be harassed or scared with loud noises to prevent them from becoming habituated. During the spring, disturbing a den site physically or with unnatural odors (or a natural deterrent, such as coyote urine) may prompt foxes to move to an attractive den which may be farther from yards and houses.

Foxes, especially red foxes, commonly live in close association with human residences and communities. They frequently inhabit yards, parks, and golf courses, especially areas that adjoin suitable, undeveloped habitat. Healthy foxes pose virtually no danger to humans. Foxes can grow accustomed to human activity but are seldom aggressive toward people. Expanding housing development, particularly in historically rural areas, increases the chances of interactions between humans and foxes, as well as other wildlife.

***Many homeowners do not realize that their lawn may be a more attractive habitat to foxes than surrounding mature forest. Eliminating healthy foxes is not warranted based solely on human safety concerns. People uncomfortable with the presence of foxes should remove attractants, exclude foxes with fencing and employ scaring techniques. In many cases, homeowner's perceptions of problems are unfounded and in some cases, the mere presence of a fox is perceived as a problem.***

Foxes can carry the organisms responsible for several contagious diseases such as mange, distemper and rabies. Animals that appear sick or that are acting abnormally should be avoided. The following symptoms may indicate the presence of rabies or other neurological diseases in mammals: unprovoked aggression, impaired movement, paralysis or lack of coordination, unusually friendly behavior and disorientation.

**Coyotes** [https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/coyote\\_mgt06.htm](https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/coyote_mgt06.htm)

Several preventive measures can be taken to reduce coyote-human interactions and the likelihood of continued problems with nuisance coyotes. Since coyotes are opportunistic feeders, removing potential food sources such as garbage and birdfeed will keep coyotes looking elsewhere for sustenance. Pets should not be fed outdoors.

Homeowners are also advised to keep their yards well-manicured. Coyotes feed primarily on small mammals such as rabbits, mice and voles. Backyard debris or wood piles, as well as weedy and shrubby areas, can harbor these prey animals that attract coyotes.

Coyotes can be discouraged with motion lights outside homes. Leaving radios on at night also deters them.