

Deterrents

For Problems with...

Raccoons/Opossums

Keep garbage pails inside garage until pick up day.
Use bungee chords, tie downs or weights on lids.
Stop feeding pets outside/remove excess food.
Use raccoon-proof bird feeder/pick up dropped seed.
Trim trees and cut vegetation away from residence.
Use fake snakes to deter raccoons from an area.
Utilize chemicals to kill grubs in lawn.
Place a light and radio in the attic.
Keep pet doors closed at night.
Use chemical deterrents that contain coyote urine.
Place screens on top of koi/fish ponds.
Accept a small percentage loss of fruit from trees.
Pick up fallen fruit.
Use metal guards on base of tree to stop climbing.

Squirrels

Purchase a plastic owl to deter squirrels from area.
Use squirrel-proof bird feeder/pick up dropped seed.
Trim trees and cut vegetation away from residence.
Use chemical deterrents that contain coyote urine.
Use metal guards on base of tree to stop climbing.
Cover PVC pipes and electrical wires with a soft insulation material to discourage chewing.

Armadillos

Utilize chemicals to kill grubs in lawn.

PORT ST. LUCIE ANIMAL CONTROL

If the information provided by this guide does not help you with your nuisance wildlife problem and you would like to explore the option of trapping, please contact a state licensed trapper found in your local phone book or online at www.myfwc.com and click on the wildlife link.

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NUISANCE WILDLIFE GUIDE

ALTERNATIVES TO TRAPPING

Presented by:



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Introduction

Nuisance Wildlife is defined as wildlife that causes or is about to cause property damage, presents a threat to public safety or is causing an annoyance within, under or upon a building.

For many years, the City provided a trapping/relocation service to its citizens for many types of nuisance wildlife. When a citizen had a problem with nuisance wildlife, the Animal Control Division set a trap, caught the animal(s) and relocated it to habitat elsewhere in the City...problem solved. However, pursuant to the rules put into effect as of July 1, 2008, by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the City can no longer relocate these types of animals off premises. Animals can only be relocated elsewhere on the same property. Therefore, the City's trapping/relocation program has been rendered ineffective for most of our citizens because most of them live on ¼ acre lots. While the City's trapping/relocation program is no longer an option in most cases, the Animal Control Division is still committed to helping our citizens with nuisance wildlife and, to this end, has assembled this guide.

For sick or injured wildlife contact Port St. Lucie Animal Control by dialing 9-1-1 and request that an officer respond. Baby animals found alone are not always orphaned by their parents. Rabbits leave their young in holes lined with fur and only visit their babies in the early morning and late evening to avoid predators. Many species of baby birds leave their nest prior to being able to fly and the parents are normally close by. If you believe you have an orphaned animal call our office at 772-871-5042 for assistance.

Common Nuisance Animals

Armadillos

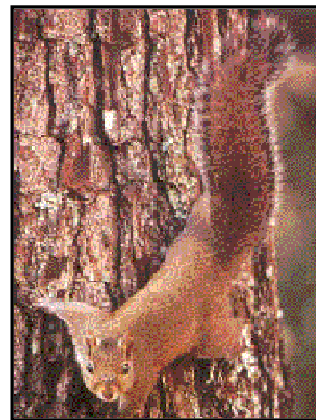


The nine-banded armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*) is an odd looking mammal covered with armored plates, and is about the size of a cat.

They are not native to Florida, but are now common over most of the state. They like forested or semi-open habitats with loose textured soil that allows them to dig easily. They eat many insects, other invertebrates, and some plants. They most often feed at night and have very poor eyesight. To reduce armadillo damage to your lawn, keep watering and fertilization to a minimum. Moist soil and lush vegetation bring earth worms and insect larvae to the surface of the soil. Armadillos can sometimes be enticed to move by watering areas adjacent to the damage site. They can also be excluded from small areas with fencing at least 2 feet high and with the bottom buried at least 18 inches.

Squirrels

Squirrels occur in woodland and urban areas, especially near oaks and hickories, and are active during the day, and often feed on the ground. Squirrels can cause problems by chewing on plants, tree bark and ornamentals as well as plastic items, like electrical wiring, insulation or even wood siding. It is often impossible or impractical to eliminate the source of their chewing.



Raccoons

The raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) is about the size of a small dog, and is most notable for its black mask and bushy ringed tail. Raccoons are common throughout the state and occur everywhere there are trees. They are omnivorous, feeding on fruits, plant material, eggs, crustaceans, small animals, and garbage. They usually become active in the late afternoon and throughout the night. Problem raccoons are usually the result of chronic feeding by humans. Wild raccoons accustomed to being fed will generally lose their natural fear of humans and seek to move closer to their food source.



Opossums

Florida's only marsupial is the Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*). Opossums are about the size of a house cat, have long naked tails and small ears. They occur throughout the state in virtually all habitats. They are common in residential and suburban areas, and are most active at night. Opossums are attracted to virtually any type of available food, including garbage, pet food, or cultivated fruits and vegetables.