

City of London
Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy

Policy:

The City is committed to upholding high standards of animal welfare, including the humane treatment of wildlife. The City will strive to not interfere with wildlife and their natural processes where possible; and will strive to implement proactive and preventative measures in order to promote coexistence, and to prevent potential conflicts where possible.

From time to time, conflict between humans and wild animals arise within the City of London on City owned lands and the City will be compelled to act to protect property, human health and safety. In these circumstances, the City will strive to protect the welfare of wild animals by using humane solutions to resolve conflicts. To achieve this, the City will make all reasonable efforts to avoid displacing, injuring or killing wild animals. Lethal measures will only be used as a last resort and will employ the most humane methods available.

Trapping devices that are known to cause physical injury to animals, such as body or limb gripping traps and snares, will not be used to trap animals.

The City of London has a role in the management of urban wildlife and human/urban wildlife conflicts within the City on City owned lands. The City recognizes that the majority of wildlife management responsibilities and authority rests with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (OMNRF) specifically under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997 and the Endangered Species Act, 2007. The responsibility for prevention and resolution of wildlife conflict on private property rests with the property owner under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997. City of London owned lands and actions would be subject to this Act.

Cases of public health and safety involving the London Police Service with a wildlife conflict situation are exempt from this Policy. The London Police Service is governed by its own mechanisms and procedures under the Police Services Act (1990). The primary duty of an officer under the Act is to protect the peace 42(1). The London Police Service is obligated to assess a wildlife conflict situation and take whatever actions are necessary to protect public health and safety.

Where the City cannot resolve the conflict through all reasonable conflict resolution options identified by the City of London, such situations and the outcomes will be reported on a quarterly basis to the Community and Protective Services Committee.

Definitions:

- **“animal”** means a member of the class Aves (birds) and Mammalia (mammals), but does not include a human being; excluding rats and mice
- **“City”** means The Corporation of the City of London
- **“urban”** means within the City of London’s urban growth boundary as delineated on Schedule A of the City of London Official Plan
- **“displace”** means to physically remove an animal from the location where it resides
- **“humane”** means that a practice will not reasonably cause physical injury or undue hardship or suffering to an animal
- **“wild”** means non-domesticated
- **“conflict”** means wildlife causing damage to property or affecting public health and safety