



“PLEASE DON’T FEED THE WILDLIFE”

Feeding of wildlife REGULATIONS of Public Nuisance By-law PH-18 see link:

<http://www.london.ca/city-hall/by-laws/Documents/public-nuisancePH18.pdf>

(summary excerpts below)

Definitions:

“**feed**” and “**feeding**” includes the regular or intermittent supply of food;

“**food**” means anything that can be consumed by an animal for sustenance, but does not include:

- (a) composting materials kept in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and by-laws;
- (b) landscaping materials or plants, trees or shrubs (including shrubs, berries on shrubs, trees, herbs, vegetables on vegetable plants, fruit on trees);

“**Nuisance Feeding of Wildlife**” means feeding or permitting the feeding of wildlife, or leaving food that is accessible by wildlife, which results in one or more of the following occurring so as to constitute a public nuisance whether occurring on public or private property:

- (a) excessive accumulation of food, including bird seed and seed casings;
- (b) excessive accumulation of wildlife feces;
- (c) unreasonable interference with the normal use and enjoyment of nearby premises;
- (d) excessive attraction of rodents (including mice or rats) or predatory wildlife (including coyotes) to the premises;.

“**wildlife**” means an animal that belongs to a species that is wild by nature

Regulations:

4.2 NUISANCE FEEDING OF WILDLIFE

- (1) No person shall engage in or permit Nuisance Feeding of Wildlife.
- (2) Subsection (1) shall not apply to:
- (a) land zoned for agricultural uses;
 - (b) a person leaving food for a an ear-tipped cap or a feral cat colony for the purposes of a trap, neuter or spay and release program approved by the City; (c) a person leaving food as bait in a trap to capture wildlife if they have the legal authority to do so.

(3) Every person who engages in or permits Nuisance Feeding of Wildlife shall immediately remove such food when directed to do so by the City, and if the person fails to do so, the City may enter upon the Premises at any reasonable time to remove the food at the person's expense. The City may recover the costs (plus interest) of removing the food from the person required to do it, by action or by adding the costs to the tax roll and collecting them in the same manner as property taxes. The amount of costs including interest constitutes a lien on the land upon the registration in the proper land registry office of the notice of lien.

***Maximum Penalty for Contravention of this By-Law is \$10,000.00
Complaints of nuisance feeding of wildlife would be received at
enforcement@london.ca or 519-661-4660***

Please see additional information of the feeding is wildlife below....

WHY YOU SHOULD NOT FEED WILDLIFE

Wildlife experts agree that feeding wildlife causes problems for the animals and discourages the feeding of wildlife for the following reasons;

- The feeding of wildlife has serious health implications for wildlife, impacts their natural hunting and foraging behaviour, and increases proximity tolerance between wildlife species, people, and property. For instance, squirrels are at risk of developing Metabolic Bone Disease if their diet consists mainly of nuts. This condition causes their bones to become brittle and break easily, and in advanced stages, is irreversible and fatal.
- The feeding of wild animals promotes an unnatural inflation in wildlife populations, may increase human wildlife encounters, and contributes to

unwanted wildlife activity. Squirrels and raccoons will take up residence in nearby attics while skunks prefer burrowing beneath sheds and decks so that they may be close to the food source. Raccoons maintain a common 'latrine' area on neighbouring properties which can become a health hazard to humans

- This unwanted wildlife activity causes frustrated area residents to take unwanted action such as trapping and relocating animals that are merely trying to take advantage of a food source
- Studies have shown that trapping and relocation causes orphaned young to die of starvation and diseases to spread, infecting healthy animal populations. NOTE: Re-location of trapped animals beyond 1km is prohibited under the Provincial Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act
- Excessive feeding of birds generates larger populations of hardier species such as pigeons, starlings, and sparrows, which compete for habitat with rarer migrant and native song bird species.
- Waterfowl naturally feed on vegetation and water insects. A nutritionally deficient diet of seed or bread will cause illness and disease. Birds may become ill from bacteria ridden food that is not consumed immediately, or increased bacteria levels in the watercourse due to large concentrations of birds and faeces. The feeding of waterfowl disrupts natural migratory behaviour and may lead to a significant decrease in their survival.
- Hand feeding puts dependant offspring of waterfowl such as ducklings and goslings at risk of separation from their parents and injury by adult birds during the feeding frenzy that ensues.
- Improperly maintained bird feeders or poor quality bird feed can cause serious health issues, increase the transmission of salmonella, botulism or other deadly bacterial infections in birds.
- Providing food for birds and squirrels often attracts a whole host of wildlife species, including rats and mice, due to the spillage of seed.
- Rodents are prey species for larger mammals such as coyote and fox, birds of prey, and domestic pets.
- Human indifference is not an appropriate response to a coyote getting comfortable around areas that people frequent. The feeding of wild canids brings wildlife and domestic pets into risk of adverse encounters. Please visit the City of London website "Coyotes Living In the City of London" for more information regarding co-existence strategies for residents.

- Wildlife must conserve energy resources to survive seasonal conditions, the demands of breeding, raising offspring, and the daily rigors of foraging. The baiting and hand feeding of birds of prey, songbirds, and other wildlife for photographs may cause birds and mammals to pursue “food rewards” from pedestrians, and motorists, using up limited energy stores. Such actions have a direct influence on wildlife mortality and bring them into conflict with humans and domestic pets. The behaviour of a “baited” owl may be mistaken as an attack by an unsuspecting pedestrian, for example. Baiting wildlife for any purpose changes their natural and healthy wariness of humans.
- The feeding of wildlife may also attract free roaming/at large domestic pets, increasing conflict and risk for resident’s dogs and cats.

Please see additional tips below to avoid wildlife conflicts.....

The City of London encourages residents to enjoy and live in harmony with our native wildlife. This can only be accomplished if we do not interfere with a wild animal’s natural instincts, behaviours and ability to forage for food. If you enjoy wildlife, a better alternative would be the planting of certain native flora that will enhance your property and attract wildlife naturally without altering their behaviour or diet.

RECOMMENDED CODES OF PRACTICE TO AVOID WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

- ✓ Store garbage, recycling, compost etc. in an area inaccessible to wildlife, or ensure that the containers are secure to prevent unauthorized entry
- ✓ Place garbage, and recycling the curb on the morning of collection as opposed to the evening before
- ✓ Remove any debris or materials from property/decks/balconies that may provide hiding or nesting sites for wild animals or rodents
- ✓ Conduct a spring and fall exterior home inspection to ensure shingles, eaves, soffit, fascia, vents etc. are in good repair
- ✓ Cap/screen roof, dryer, bathroom vents and chimney’s with secure, safety approved mesh

- ✓ Sheds, decks or any structure without a foundation should be screened below ground in a reverse L formation, (12" down, and 18" away from the structure) to prevent burrowing animals
- ✓ Cover window wells with mesh or commercial window well covers
- ✓ Trim tree branches away from the roof of your home and accessory structures, clean up nuts, fruit, berries, sheltering landscape by-products.
- ✓ Promote wildlife preservation by understanding human impacts and by appreciating the natural activities of our local wildlife from a respectful distance.