

Educational Information Regarding Iredell County Animal Services vs. Wildlife

Iredell County Animal Control Officers respond to Wildlife problems ONLY when any of the following problems occur:

- Wildlife is found in living quarters
- Wildlife has been injured or killed by you or your animal(s)
- Wildlife has bitten a person or animal (if you or your pet have been bitten contact ICAS, if your animal has a current Rabies vaccination- get the animal revaccinated within 5 days)
- Wildlife showing signs of potential rabies
 - [Rabies](#) Rabies is a viral disease that affects the nervous system of mammals. In the last stages of the disease, the virus moves from the brain into the salivary glands and saliva. From there the virus can be transmitted through a bite or by contact with mucous membranes (nose, mouth, and eyes). The incubation period for the disease is variable: between 2 weeks and 6 months. Rabies is almost always fatal once symptoms occur. Changes in behavior are common in rabid animals: nocturnal animals are seen during the day, animals are not afraid from humans, become aggressive, attack other animals or people without provocation, may have paralysis of the limbs or throat, or just lay down. Any

mammal can get rabies, including humans, dogs, cats, cows, and horses.

It is the sole duty of NC Wildlife to deal with any remaining issues with Wildlife. If you wish to remove Wildlife from your property using a humane trap or any other device or method to do so please call NC Wildlife or contact a NC Wildlife Damage Control Agent. (Listings can be found at www.ncwildlife.org under the Coexisting with Wildlife link.) If you choose you may purchase a humane trap at most of your area Farm and Garden Outlets, however ICAS (Iredell County Animal Services) cannot remove or relocate the wild animal. ICAS responds to domestic animal problems throughout the county according to the Statutes of NC Laws and Iredell County Ordinances. ICAS is not permitted to deal with Wildlife population. NC does not permit ICAS to test specimens without contact.

Below are brief solutions to the conflicts between Wildlife and people as the human population increases and encroaches on wildlife habitats sending the animals out in search of food and shelter:

- Secure garbage in containers with tight-fitting lids
- Don't feed or try to pet wild animals
- Protect your pets by keeping them inside, leashed, or inside a fenced area
- Install fencing to protect unsupervised animals

- Feed pets indoors or remove food when your pet is finished eating outside
- Keep bird feeding areas clean (try to use feeders that do not spill excess seed on ground-small animals are attracted to seed-large animals are attracted to small animals)
- Close off crawl spaces that can be used for nesting
- Cut back brushy edges in your yard that can provide cover to wild animals
- Clean fallen fruit from around fruit trees

For more humane solutions to deal with Wildlife problems see www.ncwildlife.org or call (919)707-0040.

Talk to your neighbors, and pass this information along since your good efforts could be futile if neighbors are purposely or unintentionally providing food and/or shelter for Wildlife.