

WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

W
D
M
S

ACCESS

Where does the conflict occur?



JURISDICTION & ROLE

Who has authority and responsibility?



PRIVATE



COMMERCIAL



PUBLIC

INSPECTION & SPECIES

What evidence and species are involved?



CONSTRAINTS & METHODS

What limits apply and what options are appropriate?



OUTCOME

The goal is a sustainable resolution.

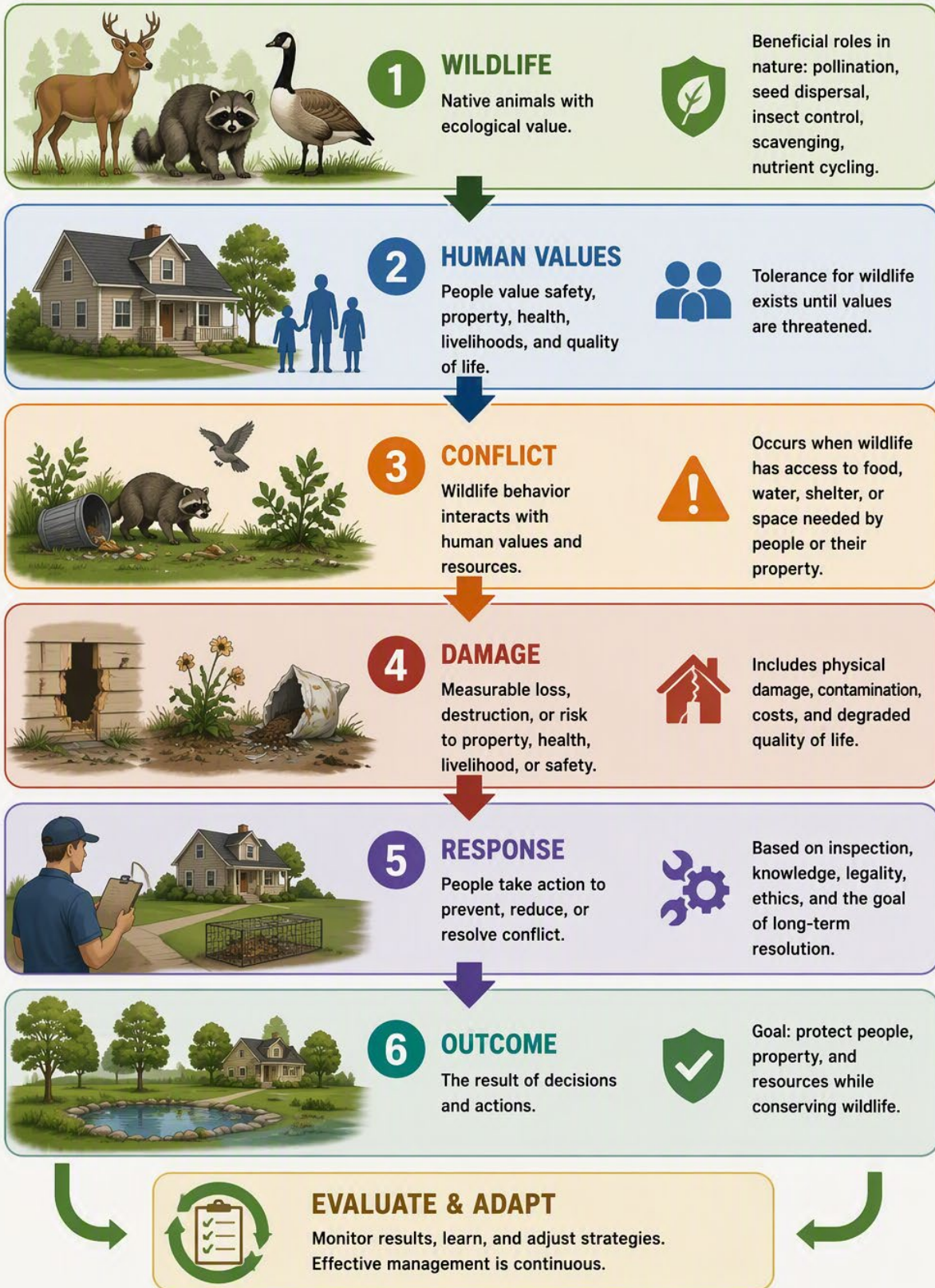


CONFLICT RESOLVED.
PEOPLE, PROPERTY & WILDLIFE IN BALANCE.

**A DECISION-BASED FRAMEWORK
FOR WILDLIFE CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT

A SYSTEM OF RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



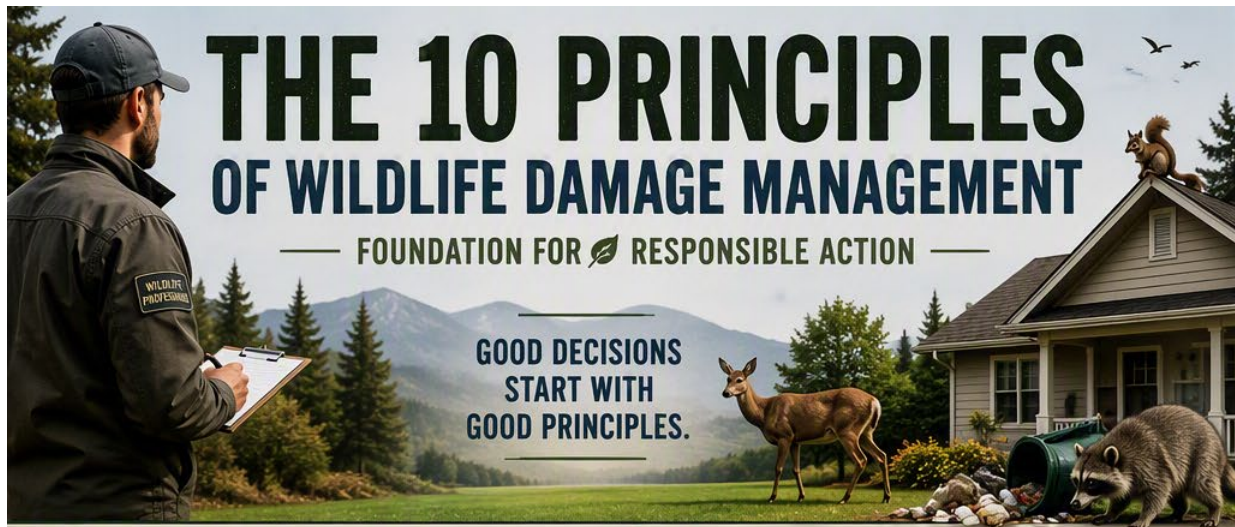
UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIP. MANAGE THE CONFLICT. RESPECT THE LIFE.

INTEGRATED WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT THE STRATEGY SEQUENCE

Use the least intrusive, most effective steps first. Address the cause, not just the animal.



SUCCESS = RIGHT PROBLEM, RIGHT METHOD, RIGHT TIME, RIGHT RESULT
Think ahead. Act responsibly. Protect property and wildlife.



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1 WILD ANIMALS ARE NOT AUTOMATICALLY PESTS.
Wildlife has a right to exist. They play important roles in healthy ecosystems. Respect life.


- 

2 WILDLIFE CAN BECOME UNWANTED WHEN CONFLICT OCCURS.
Conflict happens when wildlife and humans compete for resources or space.


- 

3 PREVENT DAMAGE AND FUTURE PROBLEMS.
Prevention is the most effective, humane, and cost-effective approach.


- 

4 SET PROPER OBJECTIVES.
Reduce damage using methods that are low-risk, cost-effective, humane, and legal. Define success realistically.


- 

5 IDENTIFY THE WILDLIFE AND THE DAMAGE CORRECTLY.
Accurate identification leads to the right decision. Use evidence, not guesses.


- 

6 UNDERSTAND WILDLIFE BIOLOGY AND HABITAT.
Know their needs, behaviors, seasons, and habitats. Understand why they are using the site.


- 

7 USE MULTIPLE STRATEGIES IN THE PROPER ORDER.
Start with prevention, exclusion, and habitat modification before considering removal.


- 

8 ACCEPT THAT SOME CONFLICT IS INEVITABLE.
Complete elimination of all conflict is unrealistic. Management means balance and tolerance.


- 

9 RESPECT PUBLIC ATTITUDES ABOUT WILDLIFE.
Our actions reflect on the profession. Act ethically, communicate clearly, and earn public trust.


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10 EDUCATION AND REGULATION BUILD COMPETENCY AND PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR.
Knowledge, training, and regulation ensure skilled, responsible wildlife damage management.



MANAGE DAMAGE. PROTECT WILDLIFE. PREVENT FUTURE PROBLEMS.

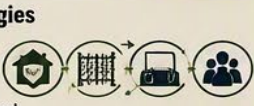


THE FOUNDATION OF WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT

→ PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE OUR PURPOSE. DECISIONS THAT GUIDE OUR ACTIONS. ←

THE 10 PRINCIPLES OF WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT (WDM)

Our purpose and professional responsibilities.

- Wild animals are not automatically pests.**
They have a right to exist and play important roles in healthy ecosystems. 
- Wildlife can become unwanted when conflict occurs.**
Conflict begins when wildlife and human needs or values cannot coexist. 
- Prevent damage and future problems.**
Prevention is more effective and humane than reacting to damage. 
- Set proper objectives for IWDM.**
Objectives should be realistic, measurable, and focused on long-term solutions. 
- Identify the wildlife and the damage.**
Correct identification leads to the right decisions and effective solutions. 
- Understand wildlife biology and habitat.**
Knowledge of behavior, needs, and habitat explains why wildlife are present. 
- Use multiple strategies in the proper order.**
Start with prevention and exclusion, then move to population control if needed. 
- Accept that some conflict is inevitable.**
Zero conflict is unrealistic. Our goal is to manage conflict to an acceptable level. 
- Respect public attitudes about wildlife.**
Our actions affect how the public views wildlife and our profession. 
- Education and regulation build competency and professional behavior.**
Knowledge, training, and adherence to laws and ethics protect wildlife, people, and the profession. 

BRIDGING PURPOSE TO ACTION

WDM PRINCIPLES EXPLAIN WHY.

WDMS PRINCIPLES GUIDE HOW.



Understand the conflict



Apply knowledge and authority



Choose responsible actions



Achieve lasting solutions

THE 10 PRINCIPLES OF THE WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (WDMS)

Guiding axioms for professional decision-making.

- Conflicts occur within systems.**
People, wildlife, property, and the environment are connected. Manage the system, not just the symptom. 
- Every conflict has causes.**
Identify and understand the causes before selecting actions. 
- You cannot solve what you do not understand.**
Gather information, observe, and verify before deciding. 
- Methods determine outcomes.**
The right method applied correctly leads to success. The wrong method creates more problems. 
- Actions have consequences.**
Every action affects wildlife, people, property, pets, non-target species, and the environment. 
- Behavior follows resources.**
Food, water, shelter, and access drive wildlife behavior. 
- Treat causes before symptoms.**
Address the underlying causes first to prevent recurrence. 
- Prevention is more effective than repeated control.**
Design solutions that make the site resistant to future problems. 
- Decisions are based on evidence, authority, and competency.**
Use facts, follow laws, and stay within your training and capability. 
- Success is measured by sustained conflict reduction.**
The goal is long-term resolution that protects wildlife, people, and property. 

MANAGE DAMAGE. ✂ PROTECT WILDLIFE. ✂ PREVENT FUTURE PROBLEMS.



KNOWLEDGE



JUDGMENT

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



ETHICS



STEWARDSHIP

→ Good principles lead to good decisions. Good decisions lead to lasting solutions. ←

SAFETY IS A DECISION PROCESS

The Professional Wildlife Control Safety Model

1

HAZARD

Hazards exist whether or not someone is hurt by them.

Animals, disease sources, damaged wiring, weak structures, extreme heat, power lines, vehicles, loaded traps, and more.



2

EXPOSURE

Exposure is how, when, and to what extent you come into contact with the hazard.

Exposure changes with proximity, duration, environment, movement, visibility, animal behavior, structure condition, temperature, and the way the work is done.



3

CONTROL

Controls reduce risk before and during the work. Use the control hierarchy:

- Eliminate the hazard
- Reduce exposure
- Protect with PPE
- Modify the method
- Delay the work
- Stop work if necessary



4

DECISION

Decide whether to:

- Proceed
- Modify the method
- Delay the work
- Stop work

If effective controls are not available, do not continue.



5

EXECUTION

Perform the work in a controlled way. Stay alert. Conditions change. Re-evaluate exposure and controls as the job unfolds.



6

OUTCOME

Evaluate the outcome. Did your controls work? Was the job completed safely and legally? Was the result acceptable for the customer, the wildlife, and the property?



HAZARD → EXPOSURE → CONTROL → DECISION → EXECUTION → OUTCOME

Recognize the hazard. Evaluate exposure and controls. Make the right decision. Execute safely. Evaluate the outcome.

PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT CREATES SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES.

HAZARD IS MORE THAN THE ANIMAL

Wildlife control operators face hazards from many directions.
Good field judgment means seeing the whole picture.



1. WILDLIFE HAZARDS

- Bites, scratches, disease
- Damage to wiring, vents, and structures
- Nesting that can cause fires or block vents
- Animal behavior and defense of young



Wildlife can threaten people, property, health, and safety.



2. ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

- Severe weather, heat, cold, wind
- Rough terrain, streams, trees, embankments
- Water, rocks, trash, sharp objects, needles
- Heat stress and frostbite



Weather, terrain, and hidden items can create serious risk.



3. SOCIAL HAZARDS

- Public attitudes vary
- Vandalism to vehicles
- Theft of traps and equipment
- Protect your property and reputation



People and public conditions can create risk.



4. STRUCTURAL HAZARDS

- Weak or damaged framing, rotten wood
- Protruding nails, splinters, broken materials
- Hidden structural problems
- Damaged or unseen electrical lines
- A routine job can become dangerous inside a building



Structures can hide hazards that cause falls, injury, or electrocution.



5. EQUIPMENT HAZARDS

- Ladders can cause falls
- Body-gripping traps require training
- Power tools and low-quality tools can fail
- Improperly set traps can injure the wrong animal or people



Tools and equipment can cause injury or capture the wrong target.



6. TRANSPORTATION HAZARDS

- Crashes, traffic violations, fatigue
- Poor vehicle condition, remote access
- ATVs, boats, and other vehicles add rollover, drowning, and impact risks
- Poor parking and unsecured loads



Getting to and from the job can be one of the biggest risks.



THE ANIMAL IS OFTEN ONLY ONE PART OF THE RISK.

Recognize all hazards. Evaluate exposure. Apply controls. Make the right decision.

HEAT STRESS IN AN ATTIC

Recognize it. Control it. Get out safely.

1

ENTERING THE ATTIC

Risks begin as soon as you enter.



Heat builds quickly



Limited ventilation



Dust and insulation



PPE increases heat load



Attic temperatures can exceed 120°F.

TEMPERATURE RISING



2

EXPOSURE INCREASES

The longer you stay, the more risk you take.



Sweating and fluid loss



Breathing hot, dusty air



PPE traps heat



Fatigue sets in



WARNING SIGNS

- Heavy sweating
- Rapid heartbeat
- Headache
- Nausea
- Weakness

3

DANGER SIGNS

Stop work at the first signs of trouble.



Dizziness or light-headedness



Blurred vision



Loss of balance



Confusion



Fainting or collapse



HEAT EXHAUSTION

Can lead to
HEAT STROKE
a life-threatening emergency.

**GET OUT.
COOL DOWN.
GET HELP.**

4

CONTROL THE RISK

Smart controls prevent injury and save lives.



Hydrate early and often



Improve ventilation



Take frequent breaks



Recognize symptoms early



Stop work if needed



GOOD PRACTICES

- ✓ Stay hydrated
- ✓ Use ventilation when possible
- ✓ Work in shorter periods
- ✓ Watch your symptoms
- ✓ When in doubt, get out!

RECOGNIZE SYMPTOMS BEFORE EXPOSURE BECOMES INJURY.



Plan ahead.
Know the risks.



Hydrate.
Take breaks.



Ventilate
when possible.



Listen to your
body.



Work smart.
Go home safe.

PPE IS IMPORTANT, BUT IT IS ONLY ONE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

EXPOSURE CHANGES EVERYTHING

The hazard may be the same. Your exposure is what changes the risk.



LOW EXPOSURE

Raccoon in a cage trap on the ground.



Distance is greater



Short duration



Clear visibility



Animal is contained



Lower risk of bites, scratches, or disease



RISK LEVEL

LOW



Exposure is low with distance and containment.



MODERATE EXPOSURE

Carrying the cage through the yard.



Distance is reduced



Longer duration



Movement increases risk



Animal can lunge or strike the trap



Higher risk of bites, scratches, or disease



RISK LEVEL

MODERATE



Exposure increases as distance and movement increase.



HIGH EXPOSURE

Carrying the cage down a ladder.



Very close proximity



Extended duration



Limited visibility and footing



Animal movement can unbalance you



High risk of bites, scratches, falls, and other injuries



RISK LEVEL

HIGH



Exposure is highest when close to hazards with movement, height, and compromised balance.

THE HAZARD STAYS THE SAME. EXPOSURE CHANGES.



HAZARD

(stays the same)



EXPOSURE

(changes)



RISK LEVEL

(changes)



YOUR DECISION

(makes the difference)

Recognize exposure. Apply controls. Make the right decision.

COMPETENCY MATTERS

LEGAL DOES NOT ALWAYS MEAN SAFE

Safe work must remain within operator competency.



WITHIN COMPETENCY

Trained. Prepared. In control.



BEYOND COMPETENCY

Unprepared. Improvising. At risk.



LADDER & ROOF ACCESS

- Proper ladder angle and setup
- Tie-off secured
- Three points of contact
- Fall protection when needed



LADDER & ROOF ACCESS

- Wrong ladder angle
- No tie-off
- Overreaching
- No fall protection on a steep roof



ATTIC & CONFINED SPACES

- Uses respirator
- Two light sources
- Checks structure
- Works within limits
- Knows when to stop



ATTIC & CONFINED SPACES

- No respiratory protection
- Poor lighting
- Ignores hazards
- Works too long
- Pushes past limits



ANIMAL HANDLING

- Uses tools for distance
- Proper trap and equipment
- Protects self and animal
- Knows animal behavior



ANIMAL HANDLING

- Handles without proper tools
- Inadequate gloves
- Higher risk of bites and disease
- Animal stressed and defensive



TRANSPORT & EQUIPMENT

- Vehicle maintained
- Equipment secured
- Plans the route
- Avoids distractions
- Arrives safe and ready



TRANSPORT & EQUIPMENT

- Poor maintenance
- Loads not secured
- Rushed schedule
- Distracted driving
- Higher chance of crash



JUDGMENT & DECISION

- Assesses hazards
- Knows limitations
- Makes good calls
- Seeks help when needed
- Works another day



JUDGMENT & DECISION

- Ignores red flags
- Overestimates skill
- Takes shortcuts
- Does not seek help
- Creates risk for self, others, and property



WORK WITHIN YOUR TRAINING. USE THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT.

ASK FOR HELP. MAKE THE SAFE CHOICE.



PROFESSIONALS PROTECT PEOPLE, PROPERTY, AND WILDLIFE—BY STAYING WITHIN THEIR COMPETENCY.

CONTROL HIERARCHY

CHOOSE THE RIGHT CONTROL TO REDUCE RISK

Use the highest level of control that is practical for the job.

1
ELIMINATE



Remove the hazard entirely.
Eliminate the need to enter or expose yourself to the hazard.



EXAMPLE

- Inspect from the ground with a camera or pole instead of entering the attic.
- Use a lift instead of risky ladder work.

2
REDUCE



Reduce exposure by changing conditions or the environment.
Lower the chance, distance, time, or severity of exposure.



EXAMPLE

- Secure ladder with tie-offs.
- Use a towline to raise tools and lower traps.
- Improve lighting and ventilation.
- Limit time in the attic.

3
PROTECT



Use PPE to protect against the remaining risk.
PPE is the last line of defense, not the only solution.



EXAMPLE

- Respirator for dust and insulation.
- Gloves for handling animals and debris.
- Eye protection, long sleeves, and knee pads.

4
MODIFY METHOD



Change the way the work is done.
Use a safer approach that reduces exposure and improves control.



EXAMPLE

- Lower trapped animals with a towline instead of carrying down a ladder.
- Use catch poles instead of direct handling.
- Lay boards across joists for safe footing.

5
DELAY



Postpone the work until conditions improve.
Waiting may reduce risk and improve outcomes.



EXAMPLE

- Severe weather.
- Extreme heat.
- Poor visibility.
- Lack of needed assistance or equipment.

6
STOP WORK



If the hazard cannot be controlled, stop work.
This is a correct professional decision.



EXAMPLE

- Unstable structure.
- Electrical hazard.
- Excessive heat and no ventilation.
- Beyond operator competency.



PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT MEANS USING THE RIGHT CONTROL.
ELIMINATE. REDUCE. PROTECT. MODIFY. DELAY. STOP.
Use the highest level of control that is practical to achieve a safe, humane outcome.

LADDERS AND ELEVATED WORK

SAFE SETUP. SMART CLIMBING. SECURE OUTCOMES.

LADDERS ARE ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS TOOLS IN WILDLIFE CONTROL.

Risk comes from the mix of fall potential, setup, footing, weather, what you carry, and what's around you—including power lines.



1 CHOOSE THE RIGHT LADDER

Use Type I or Type IA ladders for industrial work.

6' – 8'
STEPLADDER
(Attic access)



14' – 18'
ONE-STORY
STRUCTURES



28' – 32'
TWO-STORY
STRUCTURES



! If a ladder puts you in more exposure than the job is worth, change the method. Consider a mechanical lift.

2 INSPECT BEFORE EVERY USE

Do not use a damaged ladder.



✓ Replace parts only with manufacturer-approved components.

3 CHECK THE AREA BEFORE SETUP

Look up, around, and below.

- ⚠** Power lines
- ⚠** Tree limbs
- ⚠** Roof edges
- ⚠** Holes or drop-offs
- ⚠** Soft or uneven ground
- ⚠** Debris or obstacles
- ⚠** Traffic or moving vehicles



Ladders taller than 16 feet may take two workers to place safely.



4 PROPER ANGLE & HEIGHT

Follow the 4:1 rule and extend 3 feet above the roof.



5 SAFE CLIMBING PRACTICES



- ✓** Maintain three points of contact.
- ✓** Climb slowly and face the ladder.
- ✓** Do not carry heavy or bulky items.
- ✓** Use a tool belt, towline, or have items handed to you.
- ✓** Never carry a caged animal down a ladder. Lower it with a towline.

6 ANCHORING & KICK-OUT PREVENTION

Secure the base. Prevent kick-out.

- 1** Vehicle bumper close to the base.
- 2** Anchor a 2 x 4 behind ladder on decks or wood surfaces.
- 3** Use long stakes in soil. Call Dig Safe® first.
- 4** Base must be flat, level, and secure. Stabilize if ground is uneven.
- 5** Inspect equipment frequently. Replace damaged parts. Replace lanyards and harness after a fall.
- 6** Pad ropes so they do not chafe against roof edges.
- 7** Avoid electrical hazards. Use fiberglass ladders near power lines. Ask an electric company to shield wires.



LADDER ACCESSORIES



TIE-OFFS
Secure ladder to gutter spikes or solid points.



STABILIZERS
Widen contact. Reduce side-to-side movement.



FALL PROTECTION
Use rope, lanyard, and harness on steep roofs or platforms. Get proper training.



LADDER STRAPS
Help keep base from kicking out.

LADDER TRANSPORT

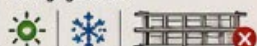


Use good ladder racks. Secure ladders before every trip.

LADDER STORAGE



Store indoors, off the ground, protected from weather. Store by themselves—nothing on top. Follow manufacturer storage guidance.



STEPLADDER SAFETY



- ✓** Open fully and lock before climbing.
- ✓** Stand only on steps meant to be stood on.
- ✗** Never stand on the top two steps.



Never use a step ladder while it is folded closed.



PLAN A SAFE CLIMB. EXECUTE WITH CONTROL. COME DOWN SAFELY.

- Inspect the ladder and the area.
- Use the right ladder for the job.
- Set up securely—base and top.
- Maintain three points of contact.
- Do not carry—use a towline.
- If conditions change, stop and reassess.

GOOD SETUP PREVENTS MOST FALLS. RUSHING, POOR SETUP, AND IGNORING CONDITIONS CAUSE INJURIES.

TECHNICIANS MANAGE EXPOSURE, NOT DISEASE.

PROTECT YOURSELF. PROTECT OTHERS.
MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS.



AIRBORNE
DUST &
DROPPINGS



ANIMAL
CONTACT /
BITES



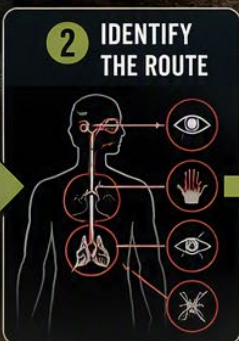
VECTOR
BITES



CONTAMINATED
EQUIPMENT
& SURFACES



HAND-TO-
MOUTH
EXPOSURE



THE ANIMAL MAY CARRY RISK.
EXPOSURE HAPPENS THROUGH THE WORK.



ASSESS RISK



USE PROTECTION



PREVENT CONTAMINATION



MAKE SAFE DECISIONS

PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT. PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE. RESPONSIBLE ACTION.

DISEASE IS EXPOSURE

TECHNICIANS MANAGE EXPOSURE, NOT DISEASE



1 ENVIRONMENT

Wildlife, waste, water, nesting, roosting, carcasses, vector habitat, soil, dust, and contaminated materials.



ROOSTS & GUANO



WASTE & FOOD



VECTORS



NESTS & BURROWS



2 EXPOSURE ROUTES

- Inhalation (dust, spores, aerosols)
- Direct contact (urine, feces, saliva, blood)
- Bites & scratches
- Indirect contact (contaminated objects)
- Vector-borne (ticks, mosquitoes, fleas)
- Mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth)



INHALATION



CONTACT



BITES & SCRATCHES



VECTORS



MUCOSAL EXPOSURE



3 PROTECTIVE ACTIONS

- PPE: gloves, respirator, eye protection, coveralls, footwear
- Hygiene: handwashing, no eating/drinking, decontamination
- Equipment: proper tools, trap covers, disinfectants
- Vaccination: rabies pre-exposure (as advised)
- Avoid unnecessary contact



GLOVES



RESPIRATOR



EYE PROTECTION



COVERALLS



4 MODIFIED EXECUTION

- Use least-risk effective methods
- Reduce dust and aerosols
- Ventilate when possible
- Wet cleanup, don't sweep or vacuum
- Work in teams—watch each other
- Follow labels, laws, and best practices



WET & DISINFECT



VENTILATE



TRAP COVERS



ISOLATE AREA



5 COMMUNICATION

- Inform clients about risks and actions
- Explain why certain methods are used
- Coordinate with health officials when needed
- Document findings and actions
- Clear, simple, and honest communication prevents problems



CLIENT COMMUNICATION



HEALTH AUTHORITIES



DOCUMENT ACTIONS



TEAM COORDINATION



6 STOP WORK

- If risk is uncontrolled
- If exposure occurs
- If you are not properly protected
- When laws or restrictions apply
- When the situation exceeds your ability or authority

STOP, REASSESS, AND GET HELP



REASSESS THE SITUATION



CONTROL THE EXPOSURE



GET HELP IF NEEDED



RESUME WORK ONLY WHEN SAFE

COMMON DISEASE CONCERNS IN WILDLIFE WORK



Rabies (bites, scratches, saliva)



Roundworm (fecal contamination)



Histoplasmosis (inhalation of spores in droppings)



Hantavirus (inhalation of aerosols)



Lyme Disease (tick bite)



West Nile Virus (mosquito bite)

KEY REMINDERS

- ✓ You can't see, smell, or taste many hazards.
- ✓ PPE and good practices protect you and others.
- ✓ Clean environments reduce disease risk.
- ✓ Your goal: Safe people, healthy wildlife, responsible outcomes.



WILDLIFE DISEASES IN THE FIELD

COMMON RISKS • BASIC VECTORS • KEY CAUTIONS

DISEASE	COMMON WILDLIFE SOURCES	BASIC VECTORS / EXPOSURE ROUTES	MAIN CONCERNS (SYMPTOMS / EFFECTS)	KEY CAUTIONS FOR WCOS
 RABIES Viral	 Bats, raccoons, foxes, skunks, coyotes, other mammals	 Infectious Bites, scratches, saliva contact w/ mucous membranes or broken skin	- Fever, headache - Weakness, anxiety - Confusion, agitation - Paralysis - Fatal once symptoms appear 	 Assume any mammal could be rabid. Avoid contact. Report exposures immediately.
 ROUNDWORM (Baylisascaris procyonis) Parasite	 Raccoon feces (also skunks, other carnivores)	 Ingested eggs from feces-contaminated soil, sand, or objects	- Larval migration in body/tissues - Neurological damage - Can be severe or fatal 	 Never touch feces with bare hands. Wear gloves. Wash thoroughly.
 HANTAVIRUS Pulmonary Syndrome Viral	 Deer mice, white-footed mice, cotton rats, other rodents	 Inhalation of aerosols from urine, feces, or nesting materials	- Fever, muscle aches - Cough, shortness of breath - Can progress to respiratory failure 	 Do not disturb nests or droppings. Ventilate area. Wear respirator.
 HISTOPLASMOSIS Fungal	 Bird or bat droppings in attics, barns, caves, old buildings	 Inhalation of spores from disturbed dust or droppings	- Flu-like symptoms - Cough, chest pain - Fatigue, fever - Can be severe in some people 	 Do not sweep or vacuum dry droppings. Wet down first. Wear respirator.
 LYME DISEASE Bacterial	 White-tailed deer (support ticks), small mammals	 Tick bite (Black-legged tick)	- Fever, headache - Fatigue - Bull's-eye rash - Joint pain 	 Use tick repellent. Check for ticks. Remove ticks properly.
 WEST NILE VIRUS Viral	 Birds (amplifying hosts), mosquitoes	 Mosquito bite	- Fever, headache - Body aches - Rarely: severe neurological illness 	 Eliminate standing water. Use insect repellent.
 SALMONELLOSIS Bacterial		 Contact with feces, handling, poor hygiene	- Diarrhea, fever - Stomach cramps - Nausea, vomiting 	 Wash hands. Avoid contact with feces.
 PSITTACOSIS Bacterial	 Birds (pigeons, parrots, etc.)	 Inhalation of dust from feathers or droppings	- Fever, chills - Cough, headache - Pneumonia-like symptoms 	 Wear respirator. Avoid disturbing droppings.

IMPORTANT FIELD CAUTIONS



WEAR PPE
Gloves, eye protection, respirator as needed.



ASSUME RISK
Any wild animal could carry disease.



WASH UP
Thoroughly wash hands and exposed skin.



VENTILATE
Improve air flow in confined or enclosed spaces.



DISINFECT
Clean and disinfect tools and equipment after use.



DISPOSE SAFELY
Handle waste, carcasses, and droppings properly.

WHEN IN DOUBT



Stop work.



REPORT
Report to health officials or supervisor.



DOCUMENT
Document exposures and actions.



KEY TAKEAWAY

Manage exposure, use protective actions, and follow best practices to protect yourself, your clients, and the wildlife you work with.

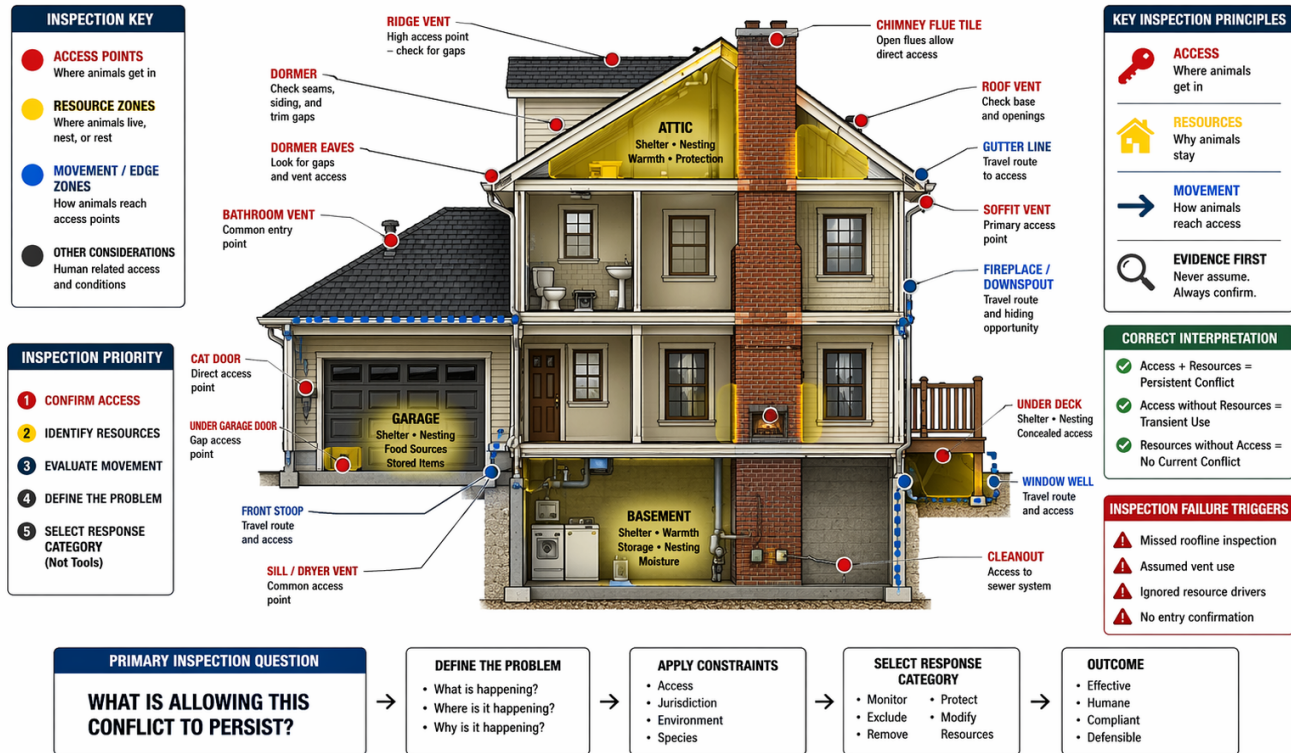


PRESUME EXPOSURE – PROTECT YOURSELF

Your safety is the first step in resolving human-wildlife conflict.

STRUCTURAL INSPECTION MODEL – ACCESS + RESOURCES

WHAT IS ALLOWING THIS CONFLICT TO PERSIST?



WDMS-INS-001

THE DUAL INSPECTION MODEL

WILDLIFE CONFLICT = ACCESS + ATTRACTION

Every inspection must evaluate two connected components.
Failure to evaluate both results in incomplete or temporary solutions.

STRUCTURAL CONDITIONS

How are animals getting in and using the structure?



ROOFLINE GAPS
Openings, damaged shingles, ridge gaps



SOFFITS & EAVES
Missing or damaged soffits, gaps, chewed areas



VENTS & OPENINGS
Unscreened or damaged vents, utility openings, chimney gaps



FOUNDATION GAPS
Cracks, holes, gaps at foundation, joints, and penetrations



INTERIOR USE
Attics, wall voids, ceilings, dropped soffits



CRAWLSPACES
Access points and use of crawlspaces and substructures



MOVEMENT PATHWAYS
Runs, trails, rub marks, scat, grease marks, entry points

ACCESS & USE

- Entry Points
- Structural Weaknesses
- Interior Use
- Movement Pathways

INSPECT BOTH EVERY TIME

SITE RESOURCES

What is supporting and sustaining wildlife?

FOOD SOURCES

Feed, grain, garbage, pet food, crop residue, insects or prey



WATER SOURCES

Standing water, leaks, livestock water tanks, troughs, drainage areas



SHELTER & COVER

Vegetation, woodpiles, debris, junk, unused structures, burrows, insulation



HUMAN CONTRIBUTIONS

Improper waste management, open access, feed storage, pet food outdoors



PRIMARY INSPECTION QUESTION

What is allowing this conflict to persist?

ATTRACTION & SUPPORT

- Food
- Water
- Shelter
- Human Contributors



ACCESS FOUND + RESOURCE FOUND

= LONG-TERM SOLUTION

Address both how animals get in and what keeps them there.



INSPECT BOTH. SOLVE IT RIGHT. KEEP IT SOLVED.

Complete inspections lead to lasting results and satisfied clients.



ACCESS FOUND + RESOURCE IGNORED

= PROBLEM RETURNS

Animals will return if food, water, shelter, or other attractants remain.

FIND HOW THEY GET IN + FIND WHAT KEEPS THEM THERE = SOLVE THE CONFLICT FOR GOOD



SIGNS OF WILDLIFE PRESENCE



WILDLIFE LEAVES EVIDENCE. GOOD INSPECTORS READ THE SIGNS.

Wildlife leaves evidence of presence, use, and movement. Reading these signs is part of problem definition, not guesswork.

Interpret all signs in context with species behavior, site conditions, location, timing, and other supporting evidence.

As experience grows, the combination of inspection findings and client information helps you narrow likely species, estimate activity, and identify where animals are most active.

The following examples show common signs and how they support inspection decisions.

1 VISUAL SIGHTING



One of the easiest ways to identify the species, if you can trust the observer. Daytime sightings of nocturnal animals may indicate young, high population, or shortage of food. Watch at dusk or dawn to see where bats enter or leave.



2 SOUNDS



Listen for squeaks, growls, cries, hisses, chitters, screeches, gnawing, clawing, scampering, and climbing inside walls, above ceilings, between floors, or beneath cabinets. Learn to distinguish adults from young.



3 ODORS



Smell droppings, urine, or body oils. With experience, you can distinguish a house mouse odor from a rat. Skunks are obvious, but woodchucks and raccoons also have distinct scents.



4 DROPPINGS



Found along runways, near shelters, in piles near entry holes, or in other high-use areas. Fresh droppings are shiny and often soft. Old droppings are dry, lighter, hard, and crumble easily. Wear gloves.



5 URINE



Use a UV light (blacklight) — urine glows blue-white. In regular light, look for staining or discoloration on building materials in attics or crawl spaces. Can indicate raccoons, flying squirrels, or large bat colonies.



6 NESTS & FOOD CACHES



Found when cleaning garages, attics, basements, closets, and storage areas. Rats, squirrels, and other rodents often store food in attics.



7 ENTRY SITES



The location, size, and condition of holes, cracks, gaps, and loose siding are important clues to the species involved.



8 BURROWS



Woodchucks, chipmunks, moles, voles, and Norway rats dig burrows. Raccoons and skunks use existing burrows. Location, size, entrances, and nearby objects help identify species.



9 LEFTOVERS



Remains of a meal near a den can help identify the animal. Rabbit fur, bones, feathers near a den may indicate a fox or coyote. No prey remains may indicate an herbivore such as a woodchuck.



10 RUNS



Look for smooth or worn trails next to walls, along fences, under bushes or buildings. Inside buildings, trails may be well-polished and free of dust. Insulation trails are common.



11 SMUDGE MARKS



Dark, greasy marks where the animal rubs against surfaces during travel. Look on pipes, beams, walls, and the outside edges of holes.



12 TRACKS & CLAW MARKS



Find footprints, tail marks, or wing prints in dust, sand, soil, or snow. Use tracking dust (chalk powder or talc) if needed. Look for claw marks on wood, trees, or in dust. Photograph and label for future reference and client education.



13 HAIR, FEATHERS, SHED SKINS



Find tufts of hair, feathers, or shed snake skins in attics, baseboards, or other areas. With practice, these signs can help identify species.



14 GNAWING



Look for wood chips, tooth marks, holes, shredded fabrics, frayed wires. Some wildlife gnaw to enlarge an entry. Tooth marks help identify mice, rats, or squirrels.



15 PETS BECOME EXCITED



Cats or dogs may whine, sniff, scratch, or stare at walls or other spots when they hear or smell rodents.



16 ACCESS ROUTES



Identify how animals may reach a building: trees, utility lines, chimneys, downspouts, porches, open garages, etc. Different species use different routes.



17 FENCE LINES



Walk fence lines and look for damage or openings. Check for gaps under fences. Trees and vegetation can create access routes.



KEY TAKEAWAY

No single sign tells the whole story. Use multiple signs together and interpret them in context to identify the species, level of activity, and the best course of action.



OBSERVE



INTERPRET



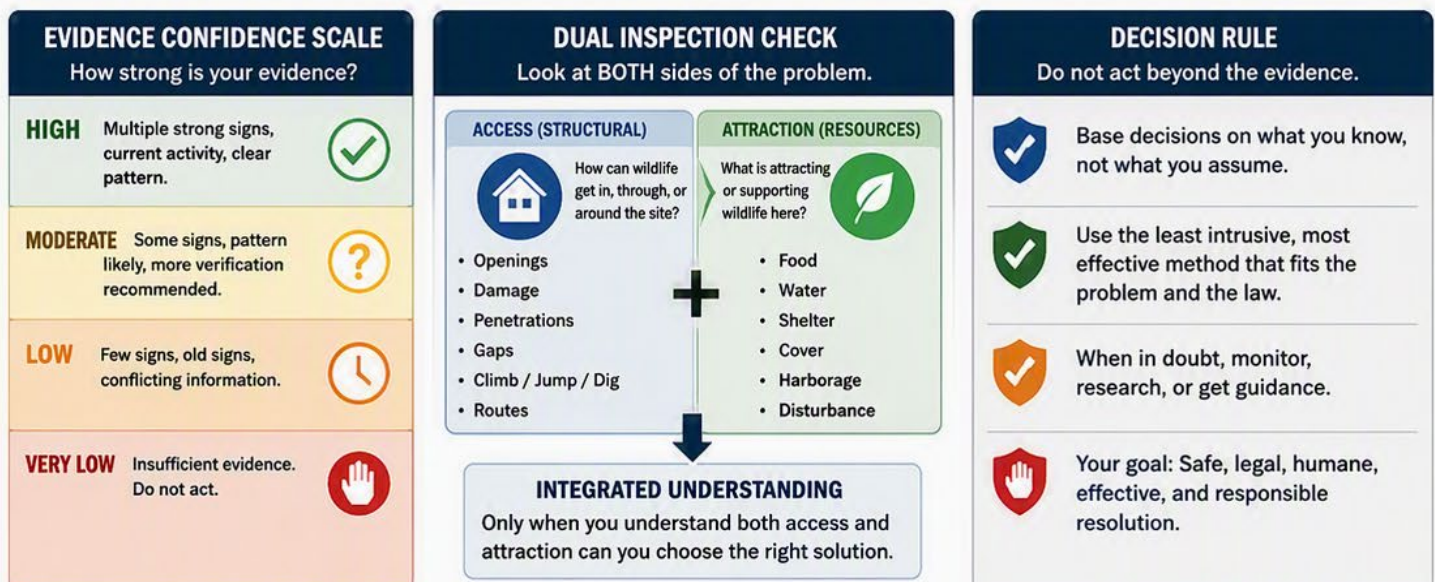
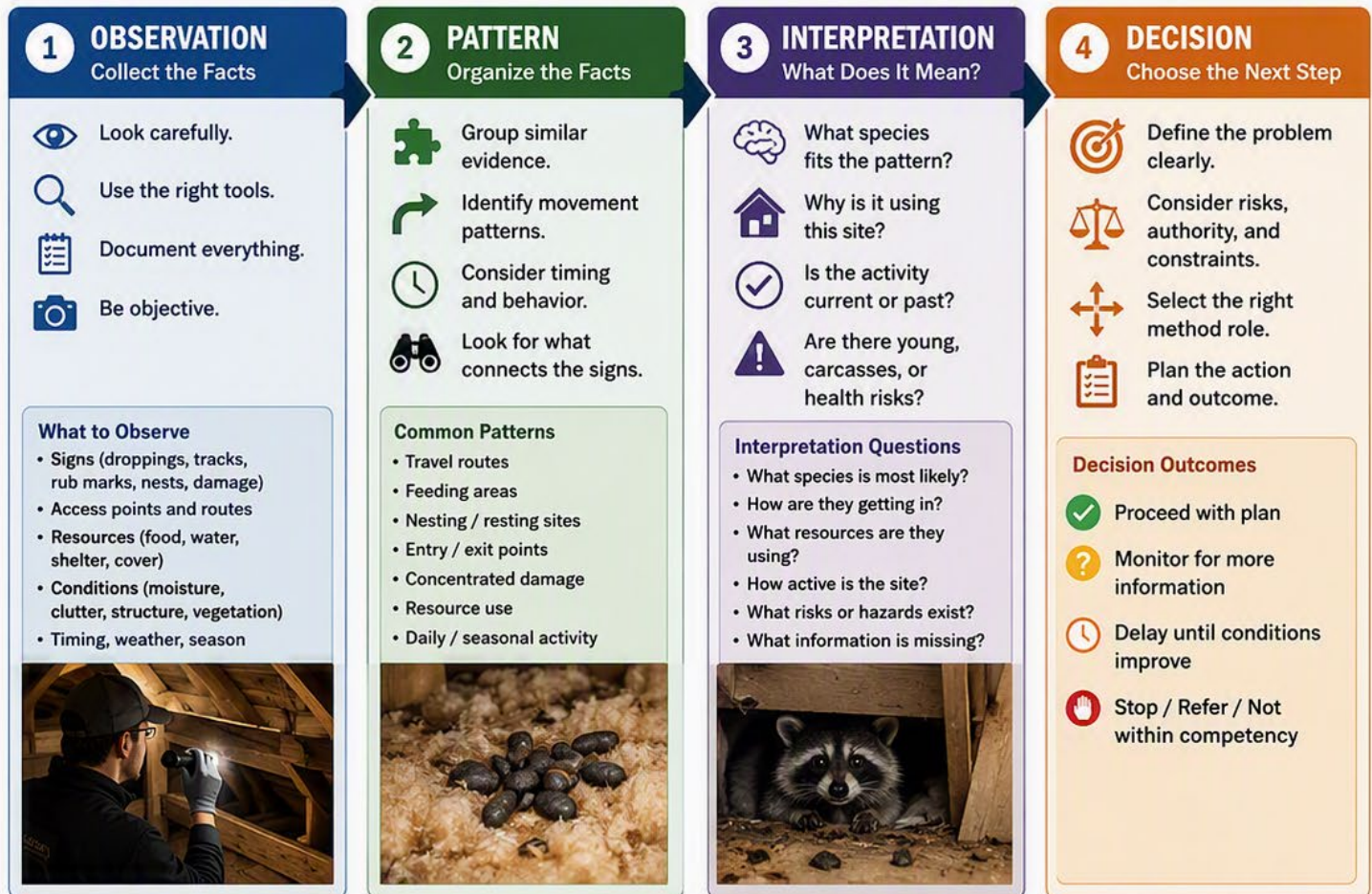
CONFIRM



ACT

INSPECTION DECISION SEQUENCE

Move from what you see → to what it means → to what you do.



REMEMBER: Better inspections lead to better decisions.
Better decisions lead to better outcomes.



INTERIOR SITE INSPECTION: WHAT TO FIND AND WHERE TO LOOK

Confirm animal use, activity level, access routes, damage, contamination, and resources inside the structure.

INSPECTION PRINCIPLES

- ✓ Decide if entry is necessary, safe, and within your competency.
- ✓ Use PPE and two light sources.
- ✓ Know how you will exit before you go in.
- ✓ Avoid disturbing contamination unnecessarily.
- ✓ Connect interior findings with exterior evidence.
- ✓ Document what you find.

COMMON EVIDENCE



SAFETY HAZARDS

- ⚠ Weak framing / floors
- ⚠ Damaged wiring
- ⚠ Dust / mold / spores
- ⚠ Parasites / insects
- ⚠ Sharp objects / nails
- ⚠ Low visibility
- ⚠ Heat / confined space
- ⚠ Limited exits

TOOLS THAT HELP



QUESTIONS TO ANSWER

- ❓ Is the animal using the structure now?
- ❓ Where is activity concentrated?
- ❓ What species is most likely involved?
- ❓ Where are they entering, traveling, resting, or feeding?
- ❓ Are young, carcasses, parasites, or contamination present?
- ❓ What safety concerns affect inspection and action?
- ❓ What must be documented?

ATTIC

- Eaves • Vents • Soffits
 - Roofline gaps • Chimney
 - Insulation disturbance
 - Droppings • Nests • Odors
 - Stains • Rub marks
 - Exposed wiring • Heat
 - Weak joists • Nails
- Look before you step.
Confirm safe footing.

ROOFLINE ACCESS POINTS

- Ridge vents • Gable vents
- Soffit gaps • Fascia gaps
- Roof-to-wall transitions
- Chimneys • Deteriorated materials
- Damaged shingles

WINDOWS & WALL PENETRATIONS

- Gaps around windows / doors
- Pipe penetrations • Wiring
- HVAC lines • Dryer vents
- Exhaust vents • Utility openings
- Air leaks • Chewed materials

UPPER FLOORS / CEILINGS

- Ceiling voids • Wall voids
- Drop ceilings • Light fixtures
- Pipes / chases • Attic hatches
- Sounds • Stains • Odors

MAIN LIVING AREAS

- Baseboards • Corners
- Cabinets • Pantry • Closets
- Behind appliances • Sinks
- Food sources • Droppings
- Tracks • Gnawing • Odors
- Listen at night.

GARAGE / UTILITY AREAS

- Storage • Food • Pet food
- Spills • Clutter • Shelves
- Vehicles • Boxes • Tools
- Water heaters • Wiring
- Entry gaps • Odors

CRAWL SPACE

- Low clearance • Moisture
 - Droppings • Tracks • Nests
 - Chew marks • Stored items
 - Plumbing leaks • Vents
 - Insulation • Sharp objects
- Know your exit route.
Do not crawl beyond visibility.

FOUNDATION ACCESS

- Cracks • Gaps • Weep holes
- Utility penetrations • Vents
- Crawl space doors • Grates
- Burrows • Chew marks
- Soil contact with wood

BASEMENT / BELOW-GRADE

- Sill plates • Doors • Windows
- Floor drains • Pipe penetrations
- Water • Sump pits • Mold
- Storage • Old boxes • Shelves
- Droppings • Gnawing • Odors

EXIT STRATEGY



CONNECT INTERIOR FINDINGS WITH EXTERIOR CLUES



DECISION CHECKPOINT



SAFE?
Are hazards controlled and conditions safe enough to continue?



NECESSARY?
Can I answer the question without entering further?



WITHIN COMPETENCY?
Do I have the training, tools, authority, and physical?

IF ANY ANSWER IS NO — MODIFY, DELAY, OR STOP.

A GOOD INSPECTION PROTECTS PEOPLE, PROPERTY, AND WILDLIFE.



SITE INSPECTION

FIND THE EVIDENCE • UNDERSTAND THE CAUSE • CHOOSE THE RIGHT RESPONSE

INTERIOR INSPECTION

Confirm animal use, activity level, access routes, damage, contamination, and location.

- ✓ Is the animal currently using the structure?
- ✓ Where is activity concentrated?
- ✓ What evidence supports the suspected species?
- ✓ Is the sign fresh, old, uncertain, or mixed?
- ✓ Where are animals entering, traveling, nesting, resting, or feeding?
- ✓ Are there young animals, carcasses, parasites, or contamination concerns?
- ✓ Are there safety hazards that require modifying, delaying, or stopping?
- ✓ What findings must be documented for the customer and for method selection?

Connect interior findings with exterior evidence. If unclear, gather more evidence before acting.

THE INSPECTION PROCESS



OBSERVE
Look for signs inside and outside.



INTERPRET
Identify patterns and what they mean.



DECIDE
Is entry necessary? Is it safe? Within your competency?



ACT
Inspect safely. Gather evidence. Avoid unnecessary disturbance.



EVALUATE
Document findings and choose the next step.

EXTERIOR INSPECTION

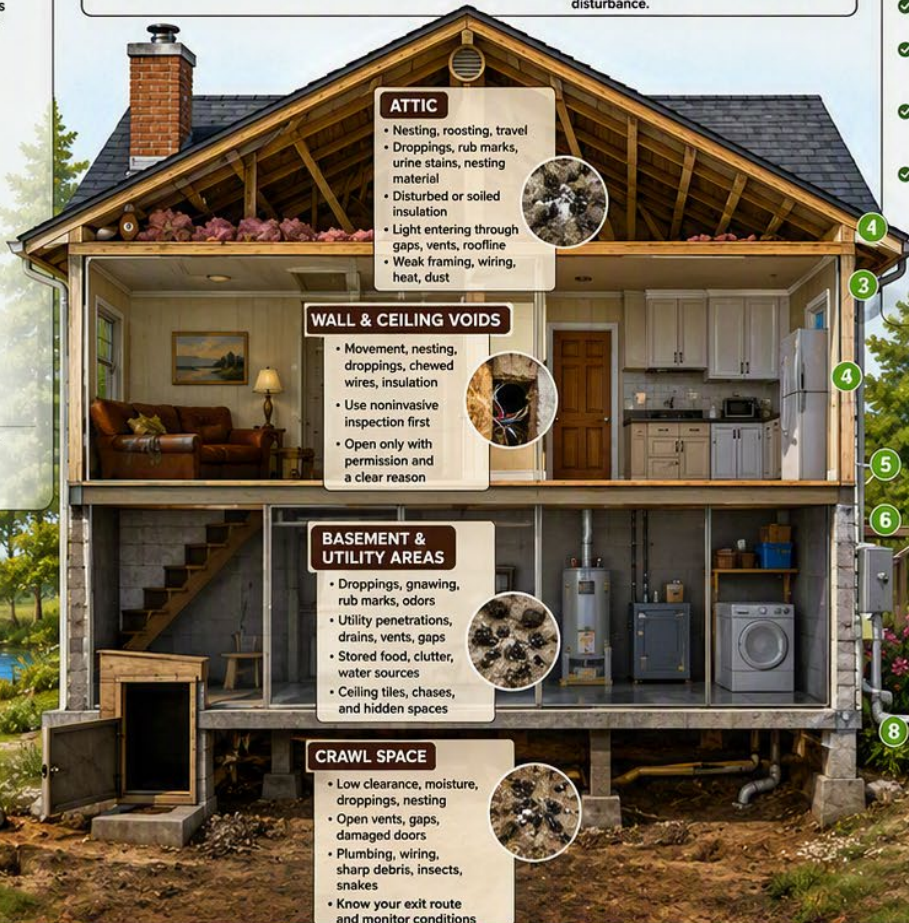
Identify access points, resources, habitat, and conditions that support wildlife.

- ✓ Look for all potential entry points
- ✓ Note food, water, shelter, and cover
- ✓ Check landscaping, structures, and clutter
- ✓ Look for burrows, runways, trails, nests, and feeding areas
- ✓ Observe surrounding habitat and travel corridors
- ✓ Use binoculars, scopes, cameras, and customer information

Exterior findings guide where to focus interior inspection.

COMMON EXTERIOR ACCESS POINTS

- 1 Roofline gaps
- 2 Soffits & fascia
- 3 Vents & louvers
- 4 Chimneys
- 5 Windows & doors
- 6 Siding gaps
- 7 Utility penetrations
- 8 Foundation gaps
- 9 Crawl space doors
- 10 Damaged screening
- 11 Decks & porches
- 12 Burrows & holes



ATTIC

- Nesting, roosting, travel
- Droppings, rub marks, urine stains, nesting material
- Disturbed or soiled insulation
- Light entering through gaps, vents, roofline
- Weak framing, wiring, heat, dust

WALL & CEILING VOIDS

- Movement, nesting, droppings, chewed wires, insulation
- Use noninvasive inspection first
- Open only with permission and a clear reason

BASEMENT & UTILITY AREAS

- Droppings, gnawing, rub marks, odors
- Utility penetrations, drains, vents, gaps
- Stored food, clutter, water sources
- Ceiling tiles, chases, and hidden spaces

CRAWL SPACE

- Low clearance, moisture, droppings, nesting
- Open vents, gaps, damaged doors
- Plumbing, wiring, sharp debris, insects, snakes
- Know your exit route and monitor conditions

INSPECTION TOOLS

- High intensity flashlight + backup light
- Headlamp
- Mirror
- Borescope / Scope
- Moisture meter
- Binoculars / Camera
- PPE: gloves, respirator, eye protection, coveralls
- Ladder & safety gear

KNOW THE HAZARDS



Contaminants (droppings, urine, insulation, mold)



Parasites & vectors (fleas, ticks, mites, roundworms)



Poor air quality (dust, spores, ammonia)



Structural hazards (weak framing, unstable surfaces)



Electrical hazards (wiring, outlets, service panels)



Heat, poor lighting, limited exits

CONTROL HAZARDS

- Use appropriate PPE
- Use two light sources
- Limit time in hazardous areas
- Avoid disturbing contamination
- Keep exits clear
- Stop or modify if conditions change

WORK WITHIN YOUR COMPETENCY



Within = Proceed

At the Edge = Get Help

Beyond = Stop / Refer

MYSTERY SITUATIONS: GET MORE EVIDENCE BEFORE ACTING

1 USE MONITORING TOOLS



Trail cameras or motion cameras confirm species, timing, and movement.

2 USE TRACKING MEDIA



Flour, chalk, talc, or sand can reveal tracks and travel routes. Protect from weather and disturbance.

3 USE OPENING MARKERS



Lightly mark questionable openings. If undisturbed, confidence increases.

4 USE BAITED MONITORING CAREFULLY



Use traps only when legal and appropriate to confirm species and presence.

5 GET CUSTOMER OBSERVATIONS



Ask for time, location, sounds, whether, and patterns. Clear instructions produce better evidence.

6 RETURN UNDER BETTER CONDITIONS



Use snow, rain, dust, or dusk/dawn conditions to reveal signs and movement.

DECIDE WITH EVIDENCE



Proceed, monitor, or stop. Do not act beyond the evidence.



INSPECT SMART. INSPECT SAFE. MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON EVIDENCE.

METHOD SELECTION CHECKPOINTS

A decision process for selecting the right method for the right reason.

Effective wildlife control begins with understanding the problem and ends with achieving the desired outcome. Use these checkpoints in order to confirm that the selected method is appropriate, legal, safe, and achievable.

If any checkpoint cannot be satisfied, do not force the method—adjust the plan, combine methods, get help, or do not proceed.

HOW IT WORKS

✓ Answer "Yes"
Move to the next checkpoint.

✗ Answer "No"
Use the response options and reassess.

🔄 Reevaluate
Conditions may change; repeat as needed.

1



INSPECTION CHECKPOINT

What did the inspection establish?

- Problem and damage verified
- Access points identified
- Activity pattern understood
- Site conditions assessed

YES

NO

2



SPECIES CHECKPOINT

What is the target animal doing?

- Species correctly identified
- Behavior and habits understood
- Physical abilities considered
- Life stage and season considered

YES

NO

3



METHOD-ROLE CHECKPOINT

What role must the method perform?

- Prevention (keep animals out)
- Behavior modification (change behavior)
- Removal (reduce or remove animals)
- Specialized response (unique situations)

YES

NO

4



CONSTRAINT CHECKPOINT

What limitations apply?

- Legal and regulatory requirements
- Safety considerations
- Environmental and site limitations
- Public, non-target, and ethical concerns

YES

NO

5



COMPETENCY CHECKPOINT

Can I apply this method correctly?

- Authority to use the method
- Proper tools and equipment
- Training and hands-on skill
- Ability to perform humanely and safely

YES

NO

6



OUTCOME CHECKPOINT

Will this deliver the desired outcome?

- Expected result is clear
- Follow-up actions manageable
- Success can be measured
- Outcome is lawful and humane

YES

NO



SELECT METHOD(S) AND IMPLEMENT

Document the plan, apply the method(s) as intended, and monitor results.



EVALUATE OUTCOMES

Was the desired outcome achieved?
Adjust and continue as needed.

IF ANY CHECKPOINT CANNOT BE MET

Do not force the method.
Choose a professional response.



MODIFY METHOD

Change the approach to address the limitation.



COMBINE METHODS

Use additional methods to achieve the objective.



DELAY ACTION

Wait for conditions to change or for additional information.



TRANSFER RESPONSIBILITY

Refer to another professional or agency.



DO NOT PROCEED

Reject the method if it cannot be performed safely, lawfully, and humanely.

REMEMBER

Wildlife conflicts are rarely solved by a single method. Most successful programs use multiple methods in combination and adapt based on results.



WILDLIFE CONTROL METHOD GROUPS

A system for understanding methods by their purpose and how they address wildlife conflicts.

GROUP	PURPOSE	METHODS INCLUDED	EXAMPLE SITUATIONS
1  ACCESS CONTROL METHODS (Prevent Entry or Access)	Prevent animals from reaching people, structures, resources, or protected areas by blocking or restricting access and movement.	1.1 Exclusion 1.2 Fencing 1.3 Physical Barriers	- Animals entering attics, sheds, or crawl spaces - Wildlife accessing gardens or crops - Preventing damage to buildings or equipment
2  OCCUPANCY CONTROL METHODS (Remove from Occupied Sites)	Encourage or direct animals to leave occupied structures or sites before permanent prevention is completed.	2.1 One-Way Doors 2.2 Eviction Devices	- Animals living in attics or wall voids - Nuisance wildlife under decks or in outbuildings - Preparing a site for exclusion
3  RESOURCE MANAGEMENT METHODS (Reduce Supporting Resources)	Reduce or eliminate food, water, shelter, nesting sites, or other resources that attract wildlife or allow conflict to continue.	3.1 Habitat Modification 3.2 Sanitation	- Removing food sources or attractants - Reducing shelter, cover, or nesting sites - Improving site conditions to deter wildlife
4  BEHAVIORAL MODIFICATION METHODS (Change Animal Behavior)	Change animal behavior or discourage continued use of an area through conditioning, disturbance, or aversion.	4.1 Hazing and Frightening 4.2 Repellents	- Discouraging birds from ledges or roofs - Protecting gardens, lawns, or stored products - Redirecting animals from problem areas
5  POPULATION MANAGEMENT METHODS (Reduce or Remove Animals)	Reduce animal numbers or remove individuals from a population when necessary to achieve management objectives.	5.1 Trapping 5.2 Shooting 5.3 Toxicants 5.4 Fertility Control	- Removing animals causing significant damage - Managing overabundant or invasive species - Situations where prevention alone is not enough
6  DIRECT INTERVENTION METHODS (Direct Handling or Specialized Response)	Involve direct interaction with animals and are used in specialized situations requiring advanced skill, equipment, or authority.	6.1 Direct Capture 6.2 Specialized Methods	- Injured or orphaned wildlife response - Removal from confined or hazardous locations - Situations requiring specialized equipment or agency coordination



MOST CONFLICTS REQUIRE MORE THAN ONE METHOD. Methods work best when selected and combined based on inspection findings, species behavior, site conditions, legal and safety constraints, operator competency, and the desired outcome.

The material is not the method — Exclusion is the method.

Select materials by species, opening, substrate, weather, function, and pressure



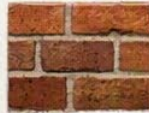
Pressure



Opening Size



Wood



Brick Concrete



Rain & Snow



Inspection

Structural barriers and sheet materials



Reinforced Concrete



Mortar-Filled Bricks



Galvanized Metal



Aluminum Flashing



Kick Plate



Screening, mesh, and hardware cloth



Airflow



Drainage



Mesh Size



Clogging!
Lint, Snow, Ice



Sealants, fillers, and backing materials



Caulk & Sealant



Backer Rod



Copper Mesh



Steel Fill Fabric



Expanding Foam!
Needs Backing!
In Chew Areas

Fasteners and attachment systems



Screws & Washers



Anchors



Staples & Clips



Hinges & Frames



Final Inspection

Exclusion: Craftsmanship, Outcomes, and Failure Clues

Craftsmanship: complete, tight, durable

- ✓ Secure Mesh & Flashing
- ✓ Sealed Vent
- ✓ Tight Screws with Washers
- ✓ Airflow Maintained
- ✓ Drainage Clear

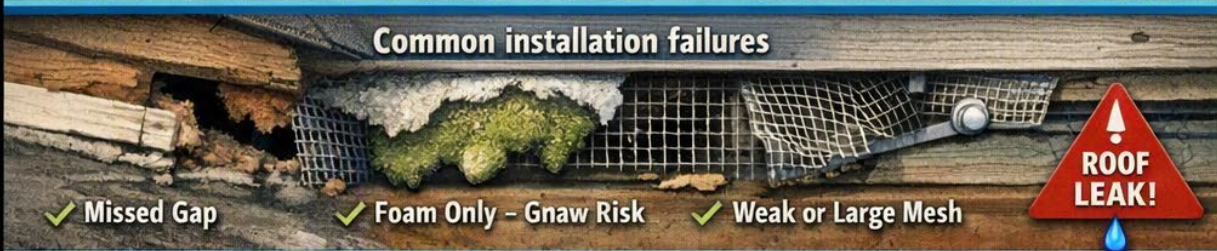


Common installation failures

- ✓ Missed Gap

- ✓ Foam Only - Gnaw Risk

- ✓ Weak or Large Mesh



Outcome: access stopped, function preserved

- ✓ No Tracks or Chewing

- ✓ Barrier Intact



Monitor after repair

- ✓ Check with Flashlight
- ✓ Bent Mesh Gap

- ✓ Inspect Tracks & Soil
- ✓ Clogged Vent or Ice

- ✓ Test Loose Fasteners



Diagnose before adding more material

- ☐ Selection Failure

- ☐ Procedure Failure

- ☐ Material Failure

- ☐ Performance Failure

Wrong Method?

Closed Too Soon?

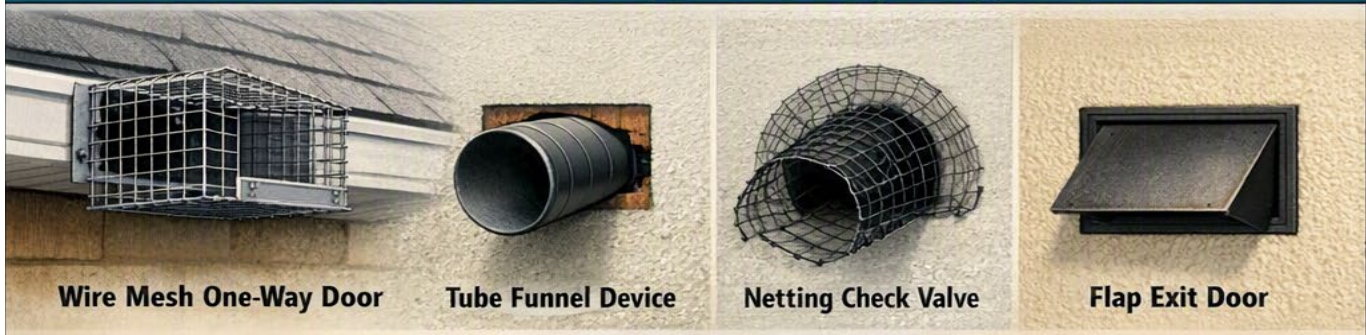
Material Defeated?

Incomplete Work?



ONE-WAY DOORS AND EVICTION DEVICES

Match device to species and opening



Control alternate openings



Monitor before final closure



Remove device, close permanently

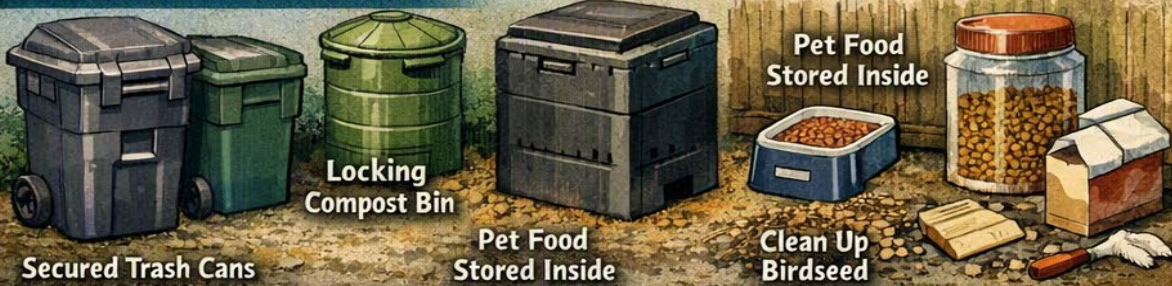


Resource Management Methods

Find the resource holding wildlife



Remove or secure attractants



Reduce cover and site support



Monitor and maintain



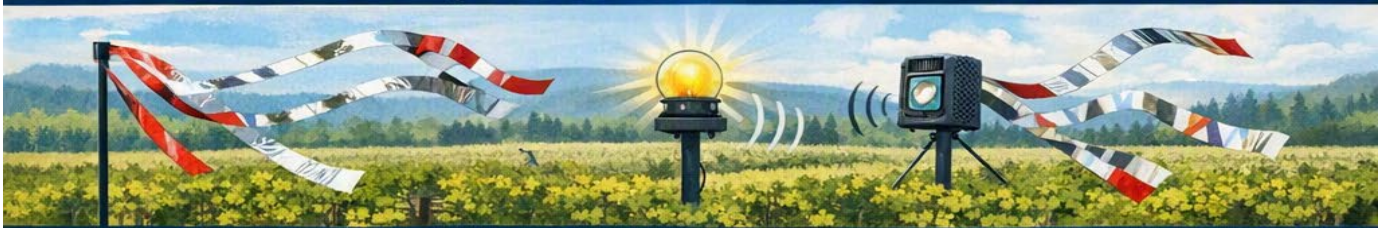
**The resource is the reason animals stay.
Change the resource, then verify the response.**

Behavioral Modification Methods

Protect the crop by interrupting site use



Use dynamic audio-visual stimulation



Change Locations

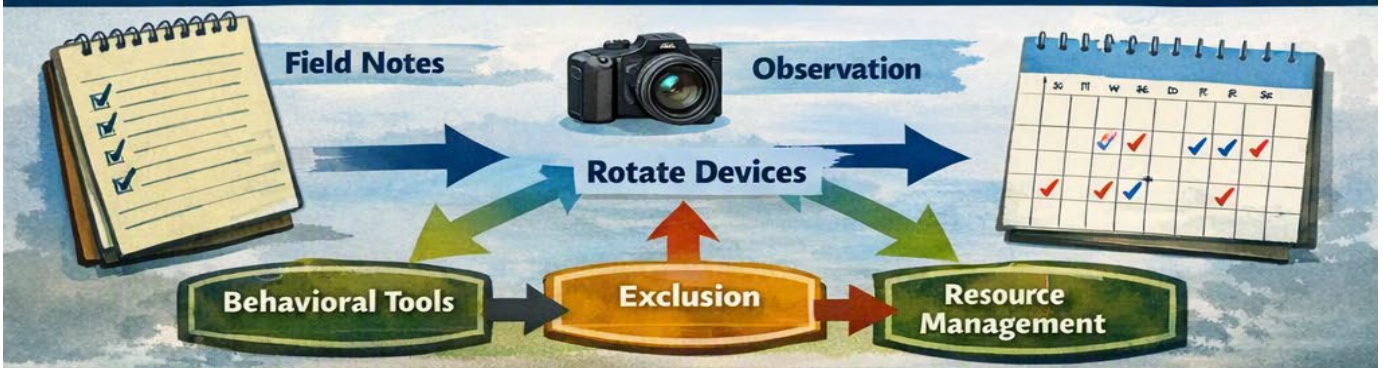


Timer Settings

Habituation: response fades over time



Monitor, rotate, combine

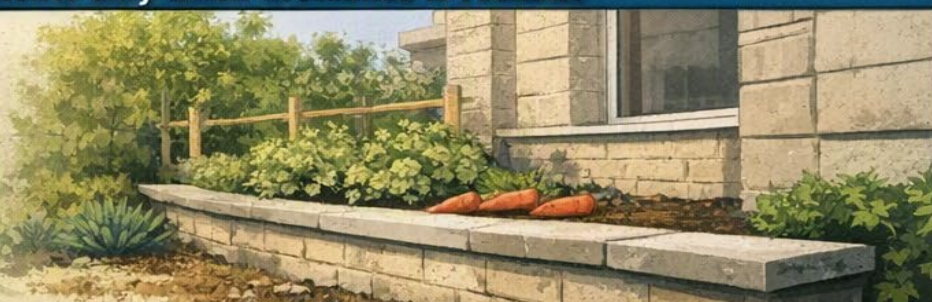


Behavior change often fades unless the resource, access, or site condition is also managed.

Repellents Management Methods

Use repellents only when avoidance is realistic

- ✓ Target Species
- ✓ Target Behavior
- ✓ Treated Surface / Resource
- ✓ Available Alternatives
- ✓ Weather Conditions
- ✓ Read the Label
- ✓ Non-Target Risk?



Match the repellent type to the behavior

Taste Repellent

Tactile Repellent

Odor Repellent



Oral / Feeding ✓

Touch / Roosting 🖐

Smell / Area Use ⚠

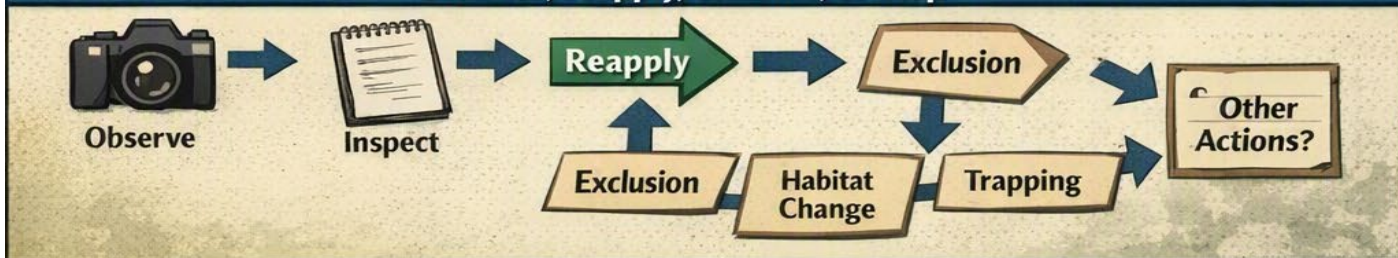
Apply by label and document



Watch for failure signs



Monitor, reapply, combine, or stop



A repellent product is only a material. The method is the decision to change behavior and verify the response.

TRAPPING STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES

Effective trapping is a process of informed decisions, professional skill, and responsible action at every step.

PROFESSIONAL PRINCIPLES



LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Know and follow all federal, state/provincial, and local laws.



ANIMAL WELFARE

Use traps and techniques that minimize pain, injury, and stress.



NON-TARGET PROTECTION

Use traps, sets, and locations that reduce risk to people, pets, livestock, and non-target wildlife.



DOCUMENTATION AND RECORDS

Keep accurate records of sets, catches, checks, disposition, and observations.



OUTCOME FOCUSED

Address the conflict driver. Removal alone does not solve the problem.

1

KNOW THE SPECIES

- Identify species
- Understand behavior
- Life stage and season
- Legal status
- Site conditions



2

SELECT THE RIGHT TRAP

- Match trap to species
- Match trap to objective
- Consider site and access
- Consider non-target risk
- Consider trap check requirements



3

BUILD THE APPROPRIATE SET

- Choose location
- Blind, positive, or baited set
- Use baits and lures
- Stabilize and anchor
- Guide and blend



4

MONITOR AND ADJUST

- Check traps as required
- Evaluate captures and non-target activity
- Maintain equipment
- Adjust location, set, or bait as needed



5

MANAGE THE OUTCOME

- Confirm capture
- Ensure safety
- Determine legal options
- Handle humanely
- Release, relocate, dispatch, or transfer as appropriate



6

EVALUATE RESULTS AND PREVENT RECURRENCE

- Was the target removed?
- Were non-targets avoided?
- Was the method effective?
- Did conditions change?
- Is additional exclusion a need?



RESEARCH AND STANDARDS GUIDANCE

U.S. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP)



U.S. state wildlife agencies, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service support research and BMP programs that evaluate traps for:

- Effectiveness
- Selectivity
- Animal welfare
- Practical field use

CANADIAN APPROACH — AIHTS



The Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) emphasizes matching trap designs to specific species and capture objectives. Trap suitability depends on species biology, intended outcome, and demonstrated performance.

THE COMPLETE TRAPPING PICTURE



INSPECTION
Understand the problem and the animal.



DECISION
Select the right trap and plan the set.



APPLICATION
Place and set the trap correctly.



MONITORING
Check and adjust as needed.



OUTCOME
Manage captures lawfully and humanely.



EVALUATION
Resolve the conflict and prevent recurrence.

Trapping is one method — applied professionally from start to finish.

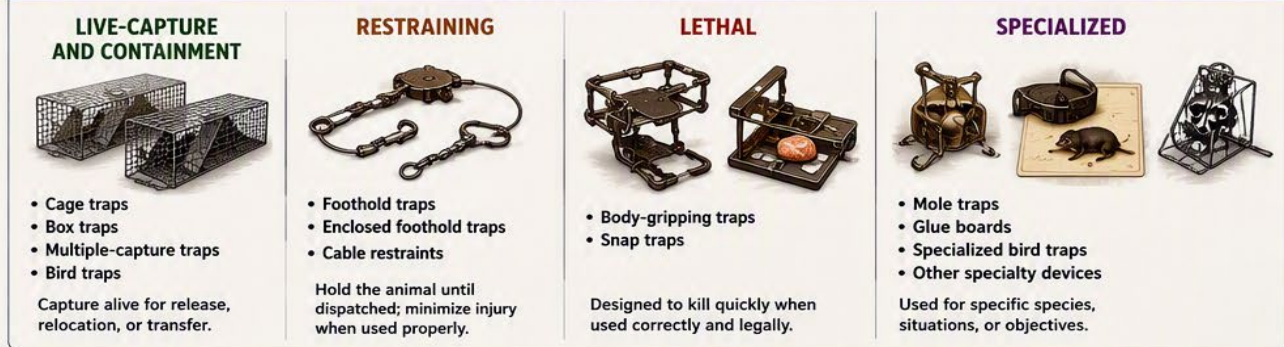
TRAPPING: A PROFESSIONAL METHOD

Trapping is not just setting a trap. It is a decision-driven process that begins with the problem and ends with a lawful, humane outcome.

WDMS TRAPPING FRAMEWORK



TRAP CATEGORIES AT A GLANCE



SET TYPES



NON-TARGET AVOIDANCE



POST-CAPTURE DECISION PATH



KEY PRINCIPLES OF PROFESSIONAL TRAPPING



Trapping is a professional method that requires knowledge, skill, judgment, and responsibility at every step.

**RESPONSIBLE TRAPPING.
EFFECTIVE RESULTS.**

SHOOTING AS A WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT METHOD

Firearms are valuable tools when used lawfully, safely, and responsibly.

FIREARMS AND CONSERVATION



Hunting is a tradition, a management tool, and a major source of conservation funding.



License fees, excise taxes, and conservation organizations support habitat conservation, research, and wildlife programs.



Many wildlife professionals are hunters, trappers, landowners, farmers, and outdoor stewards.



This chapter does not focus on hunting, recreational shooting, sport shooting, or general firearms ownership.

It focuses on the use of shooting as a wildlife damage management method and as a specialized tool for resolving specific wildlife conflicts.

THREE DISTINCT APPLICATIONS

1. HUNTING

Population Management, Recreation, Conservation



- Harvest wildlife for food, recreation, and culture
- Manage wildlife populations
- Support conservation through license fees and excise taxes
- Examples: deer, rabbits, muskrats, waterfowl, squirrels, etc.



2. WILDLIFE CONTROL SHOOTING

Conflict Reduction, Predator Control, Property and Agricultural Protection



- Reduce or prevent wildlife damage or threats
- Protect livestock, crops, property, or public safety
- Used in rural, agricultural, and some open settings when lawful
- Examples: coyotes killing livestock, feral hogs, agricultural bird damage, beaver flooding, etc.



3. DISPATCH

Humane Outcome Following Capture or Restraint



- Provide humane death for animals captured, restrained, or injured
- Used when other options are not appropriate or allowed
- Requires training, equipment, and site control
- Examples: trapped raccoons, snared coyotes, injured animals, euthanasia cases, etc.



DECISION BEFORE SHOOTING



Is it lawful?



Is it necessary?



Is the site safe?



Is the shot humane?



Can the outcome be managed?



If any answer is NO, choose another lawful and safer method.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS



Legal Authority and Regulations



Public Safety and Exposure



Backstop and Line of Fire



Species ID and Target Identification



Operator Skill and Training



Equipment and Ammunition



Carcass Access and Disposition Plan



Animal Welfare and Humane Use



- ✓ The firearm is a tool.
- ✓ The objective determines its use.
- ✓ Firearms must be used under legal and safety constraints.
- ✓ Firearms rarely resolve long term wildlife conflicts by themselves.



TOXICANTS: A REGULATED DECISION SYSTEM

The product is the smallest part of the decision.



KEY REMINDERS



START WITH INSPECTION
Confirm the species, extent of activity, and the root causes of the conflict.



EXHAUST REDUCED-RISK OPTIONS
Exclusion, sanitation, habitat modification, repellents, and other methods first.



INTEGRATE AND FOLLOW UP
Toxicants do not solve the problem if access, food, or shelter remain.

TOXICANTS CAN REMOVE ANIMALS, THEY DO NOT REMOVE:

ACCESS



Openings allow new animals.

FOOD



Available food attracts animals.

WATER



Water sources sustain animals.

SHELTER



Shelter and cover provide safety.

HUMAN BEHAVIOR



Human actions create attractants.

TOXICANT DECISION FILTER

Answer every question.
If ANY answer is NO, STOP.



1. LEGAL?

Is the use legal for the species and site?

↓ YES



2. AUTHORIZED?

Do you have the license, certification, or permit required by law?

↓ YES



3. APPROPRIATE?

Is this the right method for this problem, site, and situation?

↓ YES



4. EXPOSURE CONTROLLED?

Have you reduced primary and secondary exposure to an acceptable level?

↓ YES



5. ENVIRONMENT PROTECTED?

Will water, soil, habitat, and non-target wildlife be protected?

↓ YES



6. DEFENSIBLE?

Can you justify and document this decision professionally?

↓ YES

PROCEED

Use only as directed. Monitor, document, and follow up.

ANY NO = STOP

Use a different method, refer, or correct conditions first.

When in doubt, slow down, seek guidance, or refer.



CORRECT THE CAUSES. PROTECT PEOPLE, PETS, WILDLIFE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT.
USE TOXICANTS ONLY WHEN THEY ARE LEGAL, APPROPRIATE, AND DEFENSIBLE.

BIOLOGICAL AND FERTILITY CONTROL

SPECIALIZED METHODS FOR LONG-TERM POPULATION MANAGEMENT

Not a first response. Used only when inspection findings and authority support long-term, evidence-based population or reproduction goals.



WHEN CONSIDERED

- ✓ Population-level or repeated nesting problems
- ✓ Long-term management goal
- ✓ Other methods alone are not adequate
- ✓ Authority, permits, and monitoring are available

NOT APPROPRIATE WHEN

- ✗ Immediate damage or safety risk
- ✗ Simple access or attractant problem
- ✗ Lack of authority or permits
- ✗ Results cannot be monitored

EXAMPLES OF BIOLOGICAL & FERTILITY METHODS



PREDATOR INFLUENCE

Encourage natural predators with habitat, perch poles, or nest boxes. Effects vary and are not a stand-alone solution.



NEST MANAGEMENT

Egg adding, oiling, or puncturing may prevent hatching in some species. Requires permits and trained personnel.



FERTILITY CONTROL

Contraceptives or fertility inhibitors may reduce reproduction over time. Usually requires research or veterinary involvement.



IMMUNOCONTRACEPTION

Vaccines or immunological methods that reduce fertility. Emerging technology. Specialized authorization and monitoring required.



BIOLOGICAL SUPPRESSANTS

Use of pathogens, parasites, or other organisms to reduce populations. Highly specific. Requires research, permits, and ecological evaluation.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

SPECIALIZED AUTHORITY



These methods usually require permits, agencies, veterinarians, or research oversight.

TIME & EXPECTATIONS



Results take time. Set realistic goals and communicate clearly.

NON-TARGET PROTECTION



Assess risks to wildlife, pets, livestock, and ecosystems. Protect them first.

MONITORING IS ESSENTIAL



Measure effectiveness. Adjust methods. Document outcomes. Report as required.

ETHICS & STEWARDSHIP



Use only when justified. Consider animal welfare, public values, and ecosystem effects.

AUTHORITY CHECKLIST

- ✓ Permits and approvals in hand
- ✓ Landowner or agency consent
- ✓ Product registration and legal use
- ✓ Qualified personnel or licenses
- ✓ Monitoring and reporting plan
- ✓ Communication plan in place

INTEGRATE WITH PRACTICAL METHODS



EXCLUSION

Block access. Prevent new problems.



HABITAT MODIFICATION

Change habitat. Reduce carrying capacity.



SANITATION

Remove food, water, and shelter.



DISCOURAGE

Discourage use of the area.

LONG-TERM SUCCESS



Integrated approach works best.

IMPORTANT WARNING



Biological and fertility control are not substitutes for correcting immediate problems. They are long-term management tools that require science, authority, patience, monitoring, and integration. Do not promise fast results.

USE THE RIGHT TOOL. FOLLOW THE LAW. PROTECT WILDLIFE. PROTECT PEOPLE. PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. DOCUMENT EVERYTHING.

DIRECT CAPTURE & RESTRAINT

HANDS-ON CONTROL WHEN TRAPS ARE NOT THE BEST ANSWER

Selected only when the animal is visible, accessible, controllable, and creating a condition that requires immediate response.



WHEN IT FITS

- Animal is visible or predictably located
- Contained in a room, well, garage, chimney, warehouse, or enclosure
- Injured or immobile animals
- Single-visit removal opportunity
- Public exposure requires immediate control



DO NOT USE WHEN

- Animal is too dangerous or stressed
- Escape routes cannot be controlled
- Operator lacks skill or equipment
- Species requires special authority
- Outcome cannot be managed lawfully

KEY PRINCIPLE

CONTROL THE SITUATION. THEN THE ANIMAL.



CONTROL THE AREA

Block escape routes. Remove bystanders and pets.



ASSESS THE RISK

Confirm species, behavior, condition, and hazards.



SELECT THE TOOL

Match tool to species and setting.



WEAR PPE

Protect yourself and the animal.



RESTRAIN SAFELY

Use only enough pressure and time as needed.



TRANSFER SECURELY

Move promptly to a secure container or location.



COMPLETE OUTCOME

Disposition, release, agency referral, or dispatch.

REMEMBER



Your safety first. Then the animal. Then the outcome.



Minimize restraint time and stress.



Support the body. Avoid twisting or hanging.



Keep the public away.



Have a lawful disposition plan before contact.

COMMON DIRECT-CAPTURE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

CATCH POLE



Loop over head (and front leg for cats). Minimize restraint time.

CAT GRASPER



Vise-grip style tool. Good for small animals and hard-to-loop situations.

HOOP NET



Deep net and proper angle to capture. Avoid swinging.

THROW NET



For birds or small animals. Practice for accurate, humane capture.

SNAKE TONGS



Use gently. Excess pressure can injure the snake.

SNAKE HOOK



Helps pin and control the head before grasping behind jaws.

TRANSFER CAGE



Secure, escape-proof container for safe transfer or transport.

PPE ESSENTIALS



Gloves, eye protection, respirator (as needed), and protective clothing.

ALWAYS CONSIDER



Animal condition



Escape routes



Public exposure



Legal authority



Disease risk



Outcome plan

WHAT NOT TO DO



No bare hands



No chasing



No twisting or hanging



No prolonged restraint



No animal display

SELECTION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Species identified
- ☐ Animal location is accessible
- ☐ Escape routes can be controlled
- ☐ Site is safe for operator and animal
- ☐ Public/pets can be kept away
- ☐ I have the right tool for the job
- ☐ PPE is appropriate
- ☐ Legal authority confirmed
- ☐ Outcome plan in place
- ☐ Documentation available

DIRECT-CAPTURE PROCESS



1 PREPARE THE SITE

Close doors. Block openings. Remove pets and people.



2 ASSESS ANIMAL

Species, behavior, health, and stress level.



3 SELECT TOOL

Choose the tool that provides control.



4 APPROACH SAFELY

Calm, slow, and from a safe angle.



5 RESTRAIN CAREFULLY

Only as tight and as long as needed.



6 TRANSFER SECURELY

Move quickly to container or location.



7 COMPLETE OUTCOME

Release, transfer, referral, dispatch, or other lawful action.

KEY OUTCOMES



Safe control of animal



No avoidable injury



No escape into worse location



Completed lawful outcome



Site conditions addressed

COMMON RISKS & FAILURES



Wrong tool for species



Poor site control



Excessive force or time



Lack of body support



Escape during transfer



No lawful disposition plan



Public interference



Injury to animal or operator



Incomplete documentation

FINAL STANDARD

Direct capture and restraint should be controlled, brief, humane, and legal. Use the least intrusive tool that provides safe control, minimize stress, complete the outcome lawfully, and correct the conditions that caused the conflict.



PLAN FIRST. CONTROL THE RISK. THEN THE ANIMAL. ALWAYS.

REMEMBER

Not every problem requires hands-on capture. When in doubt, use monitoring, trapping, exclusion, or consult a qualified professional or agency.

DIRECT CAPTURE & RESTRAINT

CONTROL THE ANIMAL. PROTECT PEOPLE. COMPLETE THE OUTCOME.

Selected only when the animal is visible, accessible, controllable,
and creating a condition that requires immediate hands-on response.

WHEN IT FITS

- Animal is visible or predictably located
- Contained in a room, well, garage, chimney, cage, or other confined area
- Injured or immobile animals need help
- Single-visit removal opportunity exists
- Public exposure requires immediate control

DO NOT USE WHEN

- Animal is too dangerous or stressed
- Escape routes cannot be controlled
- Operator lacks skill, tools, or authority
- Species requires special authority
- Lawful outcome cannot be managed

THE DIRECT-CAPTURE PROCESS



STOP AND REASSESS IF THE ANIMAL ESCAPES PARTIAL CONTROL, BECOMES MORE STRESSED, OR CONDITIONS BECOME UNSAFE OR UNLAWFUL.

REMEMBER

- Your safety first. Then the animal. Then the outcome.
- Minimize restraint time and stress.
- Support the body. Avoid twisting, hanging, or excess pressure.
- Keep the public and pets away.
- Know your legal authority and disposition plan before you start.

COMMON DIRECT-CAPTURE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

CATCH POLE	CAT GRASPER	HOOP NET	THROW NET	SNAKE TONGS	SNAKE HOOK	TRANSFER CAGE	PPE ESSENTIALS
Loop over head (or over head and front leg for cats). Minimize restraint time.	Vise-grip style tool. Good for small animals and hard-to-loop situations.	Deep net and proper angle to capture. Avoid swinging.	For birds or small animals. Practice for accurate, humane capture.	Use gently. Excess pressure can injure the snake.	Helps pin and control the head before grasping behind jaws.	Secure, escape-proof container for safe transfer or transport.	Gloves, eye protection, respirator (as needed), and protective clothing.

ALWAYS CONSIDER

- Species & animal condition
- Escape routes & access
- Public exposure
- Legal authority & permits
- Disease & injury risk
- Outcome plan
- Documentation prepared

GOOD HANDLING PRINCIPLES



WHAT NOT TO DO

- No bare hands
- No chasing
- No twisting or hanging
- No prolonged restraint
- No public display or posing
- Site safety

SELECTION CHECKLIST

- ☒ Species identified
- ☒ Location is accessible
- ☐ Escape routes can be controlled
- ☒ I have the right tool for the job
- ☒ PPE is appropriate
- ☐ Legal authority confirmed
- ☐ Outcome plan in place
- ☐ Documentation prepared

WHEN TO REFER OR STOP

- Animal too dangerous or highly stressed
- Lack of tools, training, or authority
- Public safety cannot be controlled
- Species requires agency, vet, or specialist support

KEY OUTCOMES

- Safe control of animal
- Minimal injury & stress
- No escape into worse location
- Public protected
- Lawful outcome completed
- Site conditions addressed

PLAN FIRST. CONTROL THE RISK. THEN THE ANIMAL. ALWAYS.



COMMON RISKS & FAILURES

- Wrong tool for species or size
- Poor site control / escape
- Excessive force or restraint time
- Lack of body support
- Public interference
- No lawful disposition plan
- Injury to animal or operator
- Incomplete documentation

REMEMBER

A quick, controlled capture with a clear outcome plan protects people, reduces animal stress, and resolves the problem responsibly.

OTHER SPECIALIZED METHODS

Used Only When Ordinary Methods Are Not Enough

Beyond exclusion, trapping, repellents, and direct capture, some situations require special authority, specialized equipment, or agency coordination.

KNOW YOUR LIMITS. GET THE RIGHT HELP. DOCUMENT EVERYTHING.

WHEN TO CONSIDER SPECIALIZED METHODS

-  Unusual or highly dangerous species
-  Disease or public-health emergencies
-  Large-scale or high-risk situations
-  Protected species with special rules
-  Controlled drugs or chemical delivery
-  Research or agency programs
-  Hazardous access (confined space, height, water)
-  Complex equipment or capture systems
-  When ordinary methods cannot safely or lawfully resolve the problem

THE SPECIALIZED-METHOD DECISION PROCESS



KEY PRINCIPLES

-  **AUTHORITY FIRST**
Never act without legal authority and proper permits.
-  **KNOW YOUR ROLE**
Do only what you are trained, equipped, and authorized to do.
-  **COORDINATE & COMMUNICATE**
Work with the right people and keep clear communication.
-  **PROTECT LIFE**
Minimize stress, injury, and unnecessary suffering.
-  **DOCUMENT & REPORT**
Good records protect people, wildlife, and your professionalism.
-  **PREVENT RECURRENCE**
Address access, food, shelter, and habitat conditions.

SPECIALIZED-METHOD EXAMPLES (NOT ROUTINE FIELD METHODS)

CHEMICAL IMMOBILIZATION

Remote delivery (baits, blowpipes, darts) using controlled drugs. Requires permits, veterinary or agency authority, and recovery capacity.



NET GUNS & LARGE CONTAINMENT

Used for birds or mammals in large or open areas. Requires training and agency approval.



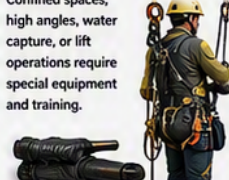
AGENCY-ONLY & PERMIT-LIMITED WORK

Federally protected species, disease response, or hazardous animals often require agencies.



HAZARDOUS ACCESS OPERATIONS

Confined spaces, high angles, water capture, or lift operations require special equipment and training.



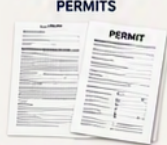
RESEARCH & FERTILITY CONTROL PROGRAMS

Population or reproductive management under research protocols and agency oversight.



REPRESENTATIVE SPECIALIZED-METHOD MATERIALS

AUTHORIZATION / PERMITS



COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT



CONTAINMENT PANELS



REMOTE-DELIVERY SYSTEMS



PPE & SAFETY GEAR



RECOVERY & TRANSPORT



DOCUMENTATION & REPORTING



COMMON FAILURE MODES

- ✗ Acting without authority or permits
- ✗ Mistaking equipment access for competence
- ✗ Underestimating public exposure or risk
- ✗ Poor coordination with agencies or specialists
- ✗ Exceeding assigned role or training
- ✗ Incomplete recovery or disposition planning
- ✗ Missing documentation or reports

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

- ✓ Proper authority and role confirmed
- ✓ Site controlled and public protected
- ✓ Qualified personnel involved
- ✓ Animal welfare protected
- ✓ Outcome completed or transferred
- ✓ Recovery, disposition, and reports completed
- ✓ Supporting methods applied to prevent recurrence

WHEN TO STOP OR REFER

- ⚠ Authority unclear or unavailable
- ⚠ Risk is too high for your training or equipment
- ⚠ Public exposure cannot be controlled
- ⚠ Animal cannot be handled safely or humanely
- ⚠ Specialized equipment or drugs required
- ⚠ Outcome responsibilities cannot be met
- ⚠ Agency or specialist support is required

REMEMBER

-  Specialized methods are not simple tools. They are responsibility-heavy decisions.
-  When in doubt, stop. Coordinate. Refer.
-  The professional choice is always the safe, legal, and ethical choice.

THE RIGHT METHOD, THE RIGHT PEOPLE, THE RIGHT AUTHORITY, THE RIGHT OUTCOME.

Use specialized methods wisely. Use supporting methods always.

OUTCOMES AND POST-METHOD RESPONSIBILITIES

A method is not complete until the outcome is managed lawfully, safely, humanely, and responsibly.

THE METHOD CONTINUUM

Every action leads to an outcome. Every outcome creates responsibilities.

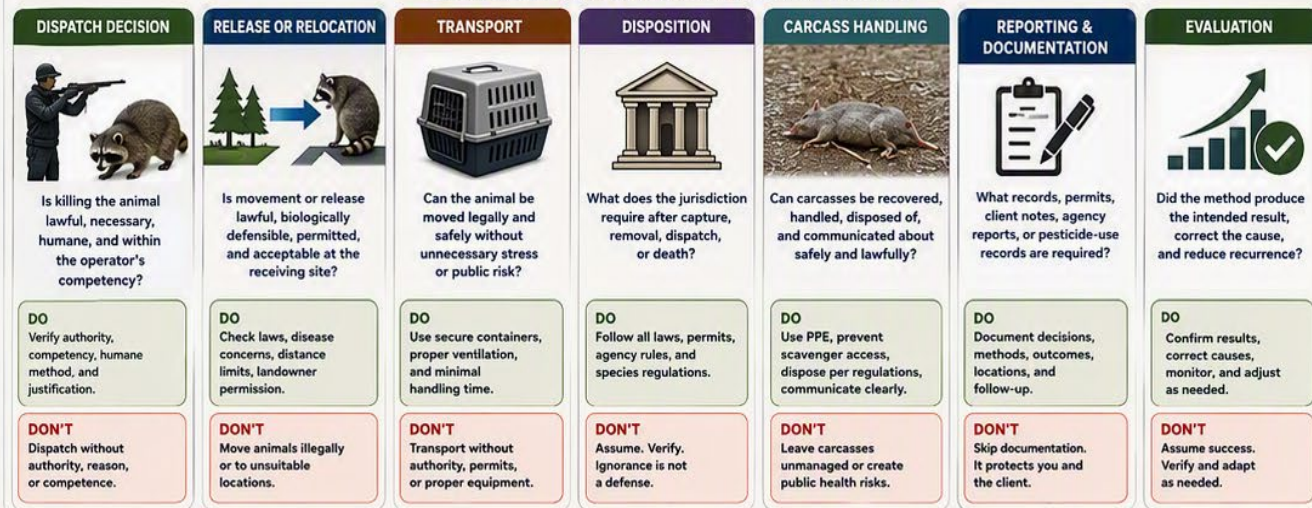


PLAN BEFORE YOU ACT

- ☒ Can I manage the likely outcome?
- ☒ Do I have legal authority?
- ☒ Is the method humane and safe?
- ☒ What are the non-target risks?
- ☒ What happens afterward?

IF YOU CANNOT MANAGE THE OUTCOME, DO NOT USE THE METHOD.

POST-CAPTURE AND POST-ACTION DECISION PATHWAYS



OUTCOME INTEGRATION: THE CAUSE MUST BE ADDRESSSED



COMMON OUTCOME FAILURES

- Using a method without planning the outcome
- Ignoring access, food, water, or shelter
- Improper or illegal release or relocation
- Failure to control non-target exposure
- Not recovering or disposing of carcasses
- Missing documentation or reports
- Repeating the same method expecting a different result

SPECIALIZED METHOD EXAMPLES (MAY REQUIRE AGENCY, VETERINARY OR RESEARCH AUTHORITY)



REMEMBER

- Specialized methods are not routine field methods.
- They require authority, training, equipment, and coordination.
- When in doubt, stop and transfer or consult.
- Documentation and communication protect everyone.

WHEN TO STOP OR REFER

- You lack authority or competence.
- Public safety cannot be controlled.
- The animal is too dangerous or stressed.
- The outcome cannot be managed lawfully.
- Specialized equipment or drugs are required.

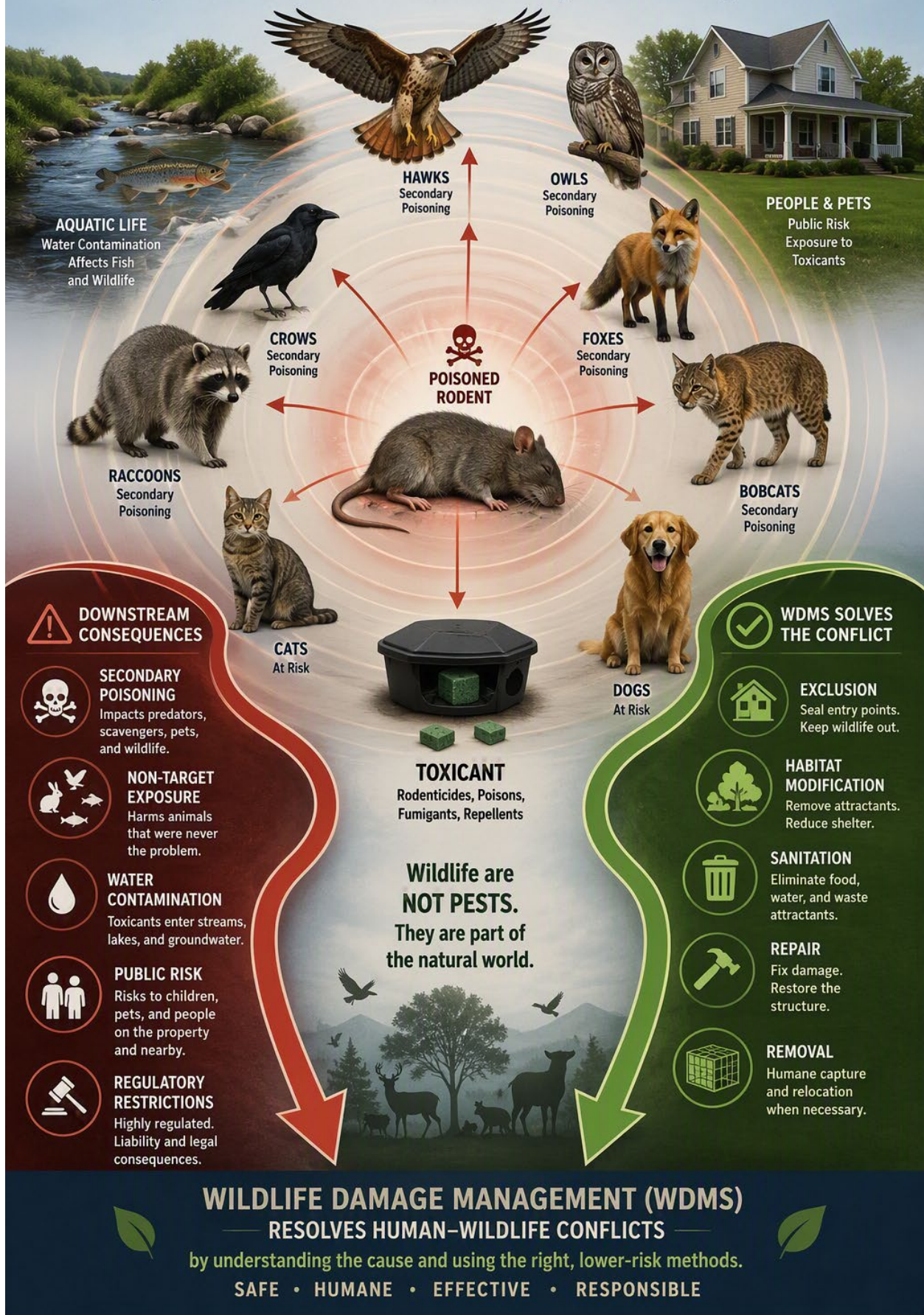
THE PROFESSIONAL DECISION

- Knowing your limits is a professional strength.
- The correct decision may be to refer, delay, or coordinate rather than act.
- Responsible decisions protect people, animals, property, and your reputation.

SPECIALIZED METHODS EXPAND POSSIBILITIES—BUT ONLY WITH THE RIGHT AUTHORITY, TRAINING, AND SUPPORT.

Plan it. Verify it. Coordinate it. Document it. Do it right.

— Every Toxicant Decision Extends Beyond the Target Animal —



THE LABEL IS A DECISION TOOL

READ THE LABEL.
MAKE THE
RIGHT DECISION. 

IF THE LABEL SAYS NO, THE ANSWER IS NO.

1 TARGET PEST?

Is the species listed?



2 SITE APPROVED?

Is the product labeled for this location?



3 WEATHER OK?

Wind? Rain?
Site conditions?



4 HAZARD LEVEL?

What is the signal word?

CAUTION

WARNING

 DANGER

5 RESTRICTED USE?

Certification required?



THE LABEL ANSWERS THE QUESTIONS

-  READ BEFORE YOU BUY
-  READ BEFORE YOU MIX
-  READ BEFORE YOU APPLY
-  READ AFTER APPLICATION

PESTICIDE PRODUCT

ACTIVE INGREDIENT: XX.X%
Other Ingredients: XX.X%
TOTAL 100.0%

FOR USE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THIS LABEL AND APPLICABLE LAW.

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN



DANGER



See below for additional Precautionary Statements
and Directions for Use.

FIRST AID

- Have the product container or label with you when calling a poison control center or doctor, or going for treatment.
- IF ON SKIN OR CLOTHING: Take off contaminated clothing. Rinse skin immediately with plenty of water.
- IF IN EYES: Hold eye open and rinse slowly and gently with water for 15-20 minutes.
- IF SWALLOWED: Call a poison control center or doctor immediately for treatment advice.
- IF INHALED: Move person to fresh air. If person is not breathing, call 911 or an ambulance, then give artificial respiration, preferably by mouth-to-mouth, if possible.

PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS

HAZARDS TO THE ENVIRONMENT

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

...

EPA Reg. No. XXXX-XX EPA Est. No. XXXX-XX-XX Net Contents: 1 lb

6 PPE REQUIRED?

What protection is required?



7 REENTRY LIMITS?

When can people safely reenter?



8 STORAGE & DISPOSAL?

How must it be stored?
How must it be disposed?



REASONS TO REJECT TOXICANT USE

-  Wrong species
-  Wrong site
-  Protected wildlife present
-  Cannot control access
-  Non-target risk too high
-  Weather restrictions
-  Safer alternative available
-  Label restrictions apply
-  Legal boundary issues

THE LABEL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE



It tells you
what you
CAN do.



It tells you
what you
CANNOT do.



It keeps you
legal and
defensible.



It protects
people, pets,
and wildlife.



It protects
the
environment.

READ THE LABEL AT EVERY DECISION POINT

1 BEFORE YOU PURCHASE



Compare products.
Confirm it is legal for the
pest and site. Make sure
you have the proper
equipment and PPE.

2 BEFORE YOU MIX



Confirm required PPE,
preparation steps,
and all legal
directions.

3 BEFORE YOU APPLY



Confirm site, timing, weather,
equipment, PPE, and
surroundings still allow
lawful and safe use. Review
what to do if there is a spill,
exposure, or other problem.

4 AFTER APPLICATION



Clean equipment and PPE.
Store product properly.
Follow label directions
for leftover product and
empty containers.

PROFESSIONALS DON'T USE A TOXICANT UNTIL THE LABEL CONFIRMS:

-  LEGAL
-  APPROPRIATE
-  SAFE
-  DEFENSIBLE

READ IT. UNDERSTAND IT. FOLLOW IT. IT'S THE LAW. IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.



READ THE LABEL.
PRACTICE PROTECTION.
MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION.



LIMITED TOXICANT CATEGORIES IN WILDLIFE CONTROL



Toxicants are a limited tool. Use only when lawful, necessary, and responsible.

TYPES OF PESTICIDES



Chemical
Repellents



Toxicants
(Baits)



Avicides



Frightening
Agents



Fumigants

The pesticide types most relevant to vertebrate damage management include chemical repellents, toxic baits, avicides, frightening agents, and certain fumigants. In practice, however, toxicant use in wildlife control is centered mainly on rodents and a small number of bird-control situations. These categories represent a limited part of the broader wildlife control framework. In each case, the professional question is not simply how a product works, but whether its use is lawful, necessary, and responsible under the circumstances.

RODENTICIDES



Rodenticides are the primary toxicant system used in vertebrate pest control, and they can be effective when used correctly under lawful conditions. Even so, they remain regulated pesticides with significant human, environmental, and non-target risks. Their importance in rodent control does not make toxicants broadly applicable to wildlife control as a whole. Most wildlife problems still require non-chemical solutions such as exclusion, sanitation, habitat modification, trapping, or removal.



Anticoagulant rodenticides are important from a decision-making standpoint because their delayed action and persistence can create direct exposure and secondary exposure risks. Some have antidotes, but that does not reduce the need for caution. The relevant question is not whether the product can work, but whether it can be used without creating unreasonable risk at the site.



The greatest risk when using toxic baits is poisoning non-target animals. If pets, livestock, children, protected wildlife, or other non-targets are likely to encounter the product or poisoned rodents, reassess whether rodenticide use is appropriate at that site.



A rodent that has consumed an anticoagulant has concentrated levels of that compound in its body, especially in the liver, for several days. A predator or scavenger that eats poisoned rodents may receive a high dose of the toxicant. This can lead to impaired clotting of the blood and death. Brodifacoum and diphacinone are toxic, particularly to dogs, and have relatively long biological half-lives.

THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES REFLECT PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY WHEN RODENTICIDES ARE CONSIDERED:

- ✓ Do not use rodenticides where children, pets, livestock, or other non-targets are likely to contact the bait or poisoned animals.
- ✓ If a rodenticide is justified, choose the lowest-hazard lawful option that will meet the management objective.
- ✓ Use required containment, security, and monitoring measures to minimize direct and secondary exposure.
- ✓ Use toxicants as part of an IWDN program only when lower-risk methods have failed, are impractical, or will not meet the management need.

CHEMICAL REPELLENTS

Chemical repellents may appear to be lower-risk options, but they still require careful judgment and label compliance. In some settings they can support wildlife damage management with fewer consequences than lethal toxicants. Even so, improper or excessive use can harm non-target wildlife, create sanitation problems, or violate the label.



Taste repellents can affect non-target animals and disperse them from the treated area. Some taste repellents are formulated as fogs or are placed in surface drinking water. These pesticides may disperse all target and non-target animals from an area. Evaluate the potential effects on non-target wildlife before using repellents. Just because a pesticide is not lethal does not justify harming non-target wildlife.

FIGURE 6



Anticoagulant toxicants can harm more than the target rodent. Non-target animals may be exposed by eating bait directly or by feeding on poisoned rodents. Pets, scavengers, raptors, and other wildlife can all be affected.

- ✓ Use tamper-resistant bait stations.
- ✓ Follow label directions.
- ✓ Inspect stations regularly.
- ✓ Remove spilled bait and carcasses.
- ✓ Document bait placement.
- These steps reduce non-target risk.

TOXICANTS (BAITS)



Toxic baits can be effective in some authorized settings, but they are not a primary wildlife control method. They should be considered only when the target species, site, and product are specifically authorized and when problem-solving methods such as exclusion, sanitation, habitat modification, or removal are not sufficient to meet the management objective.

When a toxic bait is used, the operator is responsible for more than simply placing a product.



Minimize access
by non-target
animals



Prevent
contamination
of the site



Retrieve
carcasses when
required or prudent



Remove uneaten
bait as directed



Maintain control
of the treatment
area

Secure bait stations reduce the risk of non-target ingestion by keeping bait contained, protected, and available only to the target animal. Loose bait can expose pets, children, birds, and other wildlife. Always use labeled products, place bait in tamper-resistant stations, anchor stations when needed, inspect them regularly, and remove spilled bait or carcasses promptly.



Some products require bait stations or other containment measures to reduce exposure to children and non-target animals. Follow all label requirements exactly. In this module, the emphasis is on legal and safe decision-making; any product-specific placement or operational details must come from the product label and applicable law.



When bait stations are used, they should be placed, secured, inspected, and maintained in accordance with the product label and site conditions. The purpose is accountability: you must know where toxic material is located, whether it remains protected from non-target access, and whether conditions at the site have changed.



Inspection is part of responsible decision-making. If the treatment is not meeting the objective, if non-target risk increases, or if site conditions change, reassess the plan rather than simply continuing toxicant use.



Inspection intervals, replenishment, and follow-up actions must be based on the product label, site conditions, and the need to maintain control over toxic material.



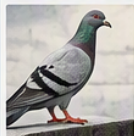
Federal restrictions on rodenticides have tightened over time in response to child safety concerns, non-target poisonings, and secondary exposure risks, particularly for second-generation anticoagulants. Applicators should expect rodenticide requirements to continue evolving and should verify current restrictions before use.



Acute rodenticides raise additional concerns because they may act quickly, may have no antidote, and can create severe consequences from a single exposure event. Their speed of action does not make them preferable. It makes site selection, legal compliance, containment, and non-target risk assessment even more important.



SLOW-ACTING TOXICANTS - AVICIDES



Avicides can be effective in narrow, lawful situations, but they are limited to a small portion of bird-control work and sit at the margins of most wildlife control practice. They are highly restricted pesticides with limited legal uses, significant public sensitivity, and serious risks to non-target birds and other animals.

When avicides are used lawfully, the applicator remains responsible for monitoring the site, retrieving dead birds when required or prudent, maintaining sanitation, and preventing additional hazards to people, domestic animals, and scavengers.

WHEN AVICIDES ARE USED, THE FOLLOWING PRACTICES HELP REDUCE NON-TARGET RISKS:

1. Verify that the target species is correctly identified and that protected or non-target birds will not be exposed.
2. Use timing and site control measures only as allowed by the label and only when they reduce, rather than increase, non-target risk.
3. Remove and dispose of dead birds and uneaten bait as required.
4. Monitor the site and stop the program if unacceptable risk to non-target animals develops.



CHEMICAL FRIGHTENING AGENTS



Chemical frightening agents for birds are not low-risk tools. Because they can cause severe distress in target animals and may be toxic to birds, mammals, and people, they require careful legal and ethical review, attention to toxicity information, and readiness to respond appropriately if exposure occurs. Even non-lethal objectives do not remove the responsibility to avoid unnecessary suffering or preventable harm.



TOXICANTS (FUMIGANTS)



Gas cartridges and moisture-activated fumigants can be effective in some narrowly defined situations, but they are exceptional rather than central methods in wildlife control. They are among the highest-risk toxicants used in vertebrate control programs.

Many are restricted use pesticides, and some uses may require additional permits or jurisdictional authorization. Because the potential for injury, environmental harm, and misuse is high, trained wildlife control operators approach fumigants with exceptional caution, disciplined decision-making, and a strong presumption in favor of safer alternatives when those alternatives can meet the objective.

WHEN FUMIGANTS ARE CONSIDERED, STRICT SAFETY AND LABEL COMPLIANCE ARE ESSENTIAL.

PRECAUTIONS FOR USING GAS CARTRIDGES



Read the label carefully and follow it exactly. With fumigants, small mistakes can create immediate and severe consequences.



Gas cartridges present both fire and inhalation hazards. Never use them near combustible materials or under structures where fire is a risk.



Avoid breathing the fumes.



THE BOTTOM LINE:

Toxicants are a limited part of the wildlife control toolbox. Use only when lawful, necessary, and responsible.



LEGAL



NECESSARY



RESPONSIBLE



ACCOUNTABLE



HUMANE



BE GOOD TO THE WILDLIFE. BE GOOD TO THE PUBLIC. BE ACCOUNTABLE. COMPETENT DECISIONS. HUMANE OUTCOMES. PROFESSIONAL RESULTS.



HUMANE DISPATCH: THE DECISION CHAIN

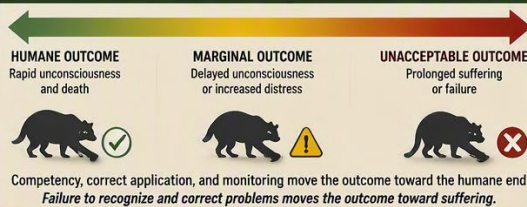
Every decision before dispatch shapes the animal's experience and the final outcome.
Competency, monitoring, and correction protect against unnecessary suffering.



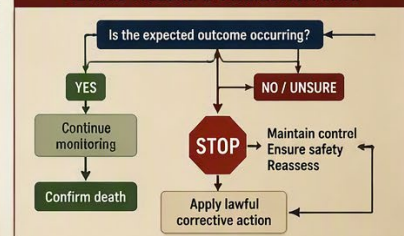
FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE METHOD SELECTION

- Animal species, size, and condition
- Level of control and restraint
- Legal authority and jurisdiction
- Operator competency and training
- Equipment suitability and reliability
- Environmental conditions
- Public exposure and safety
- Ability to monitor and confirm
- Corrective options available
- Disposition and disposal requirements

METHOD OUTCOME SPECTRUM



METHOD FAILURE & CORRECTION GATE



MAKE COMPETENT DECISIONS. MINIMIZE SUFFERING. FOLLOW THE LAW. PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. BE ACCOUNTABLE.

HUMANE DISPATCH: SELECTING THE METHOD

A method is acceptable only when the animal, law, conditions, equipment, and operator competency align.



COMPETENT DECISIONS. MINIMIZE SUFFERING. FOLLOW THE LAW. PROTECT THE PUBLIC. PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. BE ACCOUNTABLE.

Commercial
compressed CO₂

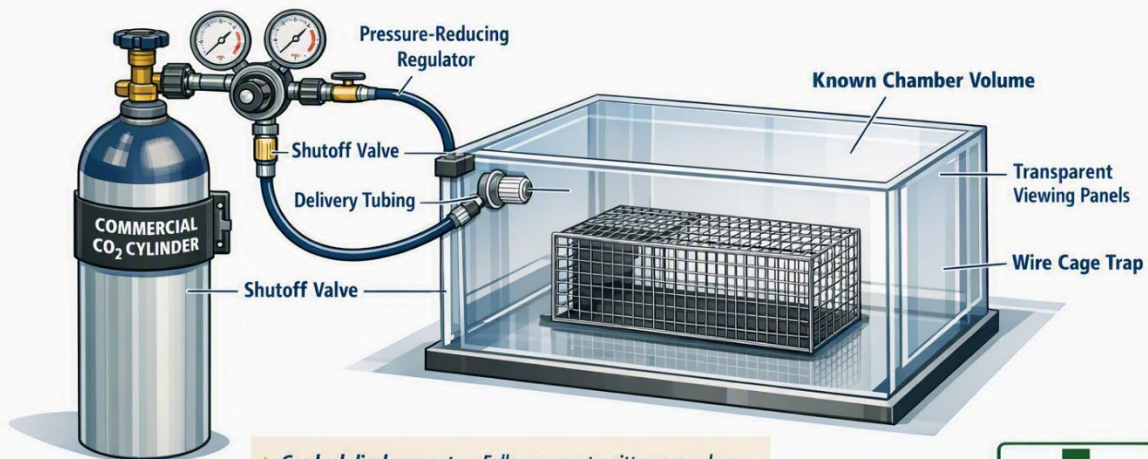
Pressure-reducing
regulator

Validated
flow meter

Known
chamber
volume

Continuous
observation

Gradual displacement —
Follow current written procedure



- ▶ *Gradual displacement — Follow current written procedure*
- ▶ *Do not prefill with a conscious animal*
- ▶ *Maintain ventilation and cylinder safety*
- ▶ *Corrective method prepared*
- ▶ *Confirm death before handling or disposal*



The chamber is a controlled system. Every component affects the outcome.

WILDLIFE CARCASS DISPOSAL: SIMPLE CHOICES. RESPONSIBLE OUTCOMES.

You have a responsibility after dispatch.

Protect public health. Follow the law. Respect the environment.

1

START HERE

What controls
the carcass?



WAS TESTING
REQUIRED?



Rabies or
disease
concerns?

✓ **YES**
Follow agency
or health
department
direction.

✗ **NO**
Go to next
question.

IS THE ANIMAL
PROTECTED?



Protected species
or permit limits?

✓ **YES**
Follow agency
permit conditions.
May require
surrender.

✗ **NO**
Go to next
question.

WERE CHEMICALS
USED?



Injectable drugs,
anesthetics, or
toxicants?

✓ **YES**
Follow drug
label and
regulations.
Disposal may be
restricted.

✗ **NO**
Go to next
question.

DOES LOCAL LAW
RESTRICT DISPOSAL?



County, city, or
zoning limits?

✓ **YES**
Follow local
rules for disposal
and transport.

✗ **NO**
Go to next
question.

DOES LANDOWNER
PERMISSION APPLY?



Permission for
burial or on-site
disposal?

✓ **YES**
Follow permitted
methods and site
requirements.

✗ **NO**
Use off-site
options.



DECISION PRINCIPLE

Disposal is part of your
professional responsibility.

Your decision protects
public health,
the environment,
your client, and
your profession.

2 CHOOSE A LEGAL, ACCEPTABLE DISPOSAL OPTION

Select the option allowed in your location and situation.

1



APPROVED LANDFILL

Most widely accepted
option. Check facility
rules before transport.

- Animal remains usually accepted
- May require bagging or labeling
- Follow facility requirements



2



INCINERATION / CREMATION

Use a permitted facility
or service.

- Required in some cases (disease, research, sensitive situations)
- Do not open burn
- Verify facility acceptance



3



RENDERING (WHERE AVAILABLE)

Licensed rendering
facility.

- Common for livestock and large animals
- Not available in all areas
- Follow facility requirements



4



BURIAL (WHERE LAWFUL)

Allowed only where
legal and permitted.

- Private property only with permission
- Must not contaminate water or soil
- Follow local health and zoning rules
- Burial depth and site restrictions may apply



5



AGENCY COLLECTION OR TRANSFER

May be required for
certain situations.

- Large animals
- Protected species
- Disease investigations
- Public safety incidents



3 DO NOT USE THESE METHODS – THEY ARE ILLEGAL OR UNACCEPTABLE



DO NOT DUMP
OR ABANDON

Never leave carcasses
on roadsides, public land,
or other people's
property.



DO NOT DISPOSE
IN WATER OR DRAINS

Rivers, lakes, wetlands,
culverts, or storm drains
are illegal and harmful.



DO NOT BURN
IN OPEN PITS

Open burning is illegal in
most areas and creates
health and fire hazards.



DO NOT BURY
IMPROPERLY

Shallow graves, wetlands,
floodplains, or near wells
may contaminate water
and violate the law.



DO NOT USE
UNAPPROVED
CONTAINERS

Do not place remains in
household trash or
unapproved containers
without permission.



4 UNCERTAIN? STOP.



If you are unsure what
is allowed, contact your
wildlife agency, public
health department,
or local authorities
before disposing.

KEY REMINDERS



FOLLOW THE LAW

Know wildlife, firearm,
transport, disease, and
disposal regulations.



PROTECT PEOPLE AND PETS

Use gloves. Prevent
scavenger access.
Avoid public exposure.



PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Prevent groundwater,
soil, and water
contamination.



DOCUMENT

Record species,
method, disposition,
date, and location as
required.



TRANSPORT RESPONSIBLY

Contain remains
securely. Follow
vehicle and transport
rules.



YOUR ACTIONS REFLECT YOU

Competent decisions.
Humane outcomes.
Professional results.

Capture creates responsibility. Handling manages responsibility. Dispatch may complete the animal outcome. Confirmation verifies the outcome. Disposal manages the remains responsibly. Evaluation completes your responsibility.

PROFESSIONALISM

IS COMPETENCY MADE VISIBLE

Care in decisions. Skill in action. Responsibility in every outcome.



CUSTOMER

We earn trust.

- Listen respectfully
- Explain clearly
- Set realistic expectations
- Protect their interests



WILDLIFE

We act with respect.

- Understand behavior
- Minimize stress and harm
- Use appropriate methods
- Honor the life we affect



PROPERTY

We protect and preserve.

- Prevent damage
- Use effective solutions
- Respect the site
- Leave it better



COMMUNITY

We are part of it.

- Protect public safety
- Follow laws and regulations
- Consider neighbors
- Build public trust

MANY ROLES ONE STANDARD

Anyone can act professionally. The standard is the same.



Homeowner



Farmer



Government Employee



Wildlife Rehabilitator



Contractor



Wildlife Control Operator

I REPRESENT MORE
THAN A COMPANY.
I REPRESENT A STANDARD.
MY NAME IS ON EVERY DECISION.

FIVE PILLARS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE



INSPECTION

Look before you assume.

- Gather facts.
- Define the problem.



COMMUNICATION

Explain before you recommend.

- Be honest.
- Share what is known and what is not.



DECISION MAKING

Choose based on evidence.

- Match the method to the problem, the law, and the risk.



METHOD EXECUTION

Do the work correctly.

- Use the right tools.
- Apply skill and care.
- Minimize risk and harm.



ACCOUNTABILITY

Stand behind the outcome.

- Evaluate the result.
- Document the work.
- Make it right if needed.

DIFFERENT THINGS. DIFFERENT PURPOSES.



COMPETENCY
The ability to do the work correctly.



CERTIFICATION
Recognition that a standard of competency has been met.



LICENSING
Legal authority to perform specified actions.



AUTHORITY
Permission to act within the law.



ROLE
Responsibility and function in the situation.



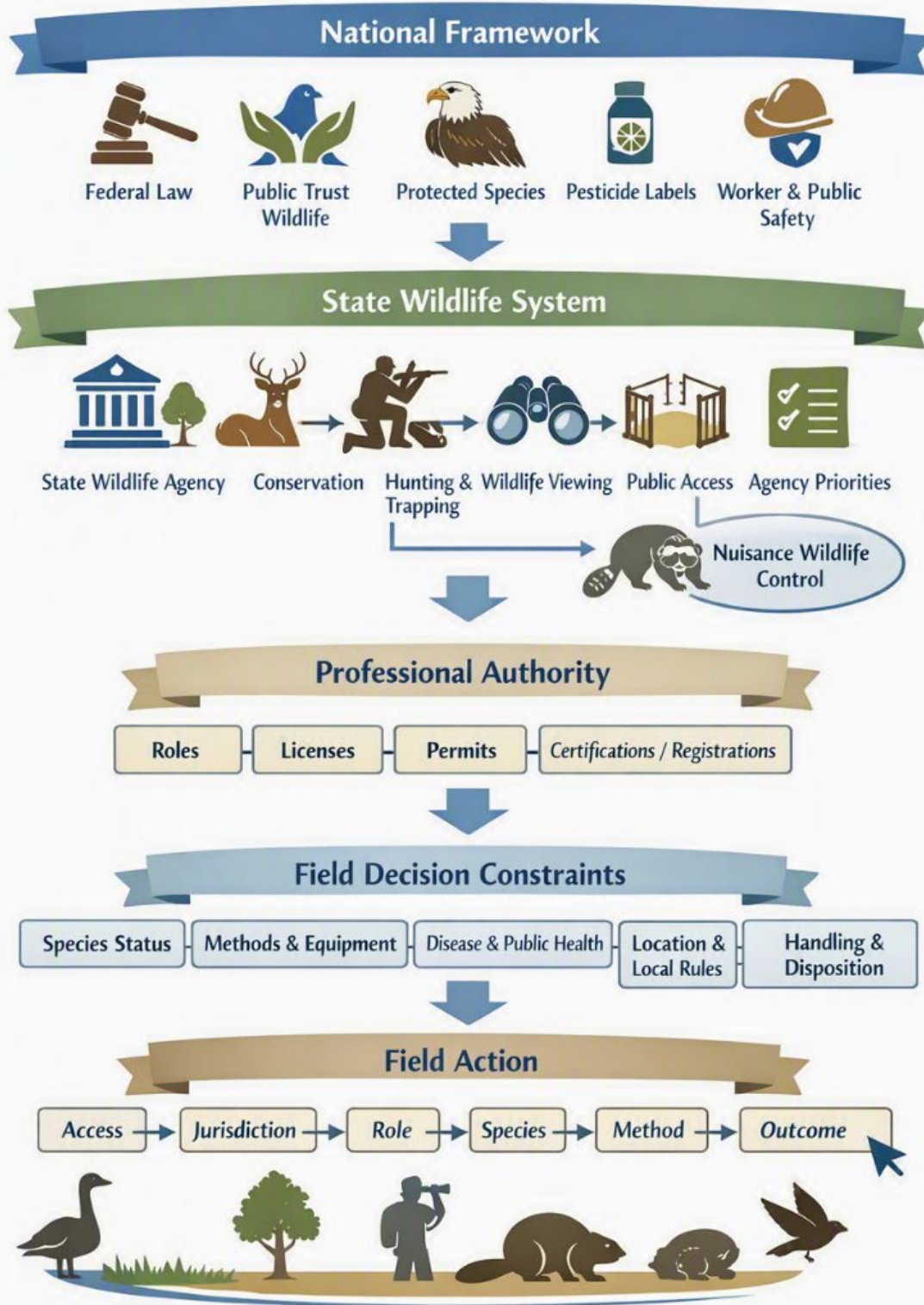
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS ARE NOT CREATED BY A BADGE, LICENSE, VEHICLE, TITLE, OR CERTIFICATE.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS ARE DEMONSTRATED THROUGH COMPETENT ACTION.

Respect the customer. Respect wildlife. Respect property. Respect the community. Respect your profession. Respect your name.

GOOD PRACTICE IS DOING THE WORK RIGHT. PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IS DOING THE RIGHT WORK. *Every time.*

How National and State Wildlife Law Connect



THE LEGAL FILTER

Every Wildlife Control Decision Passes Through Six Filters



WILDLIFE CONFLICT PATTERNS OVERVIEW

Field decisions begin with recurring patterns, not species lists.

PATTERN CATEGORY	REPRESENTATIVE ANIMALS	SHARED ABILITIES	COMMON SIGNS YOU MAY SEE	METHODS THAT FIT THE PATTERN	COMMON CONSTRAINTS VERIFY BEFORE ACTING
COMMENSAL RODENTS Small, fast, adaptive, food-driven	 House Mouse Norway Rat	 • Small entry points • Gnawing • Rapid reproduction • Food & water driven	Droppings Gnaw marks Rub marks Runways	Exclusion Sanitation Trapping Limited Toxicants	Pesticide regulations Non-target exposure risk Food sources Structural access
COLONIAL ROOSTING WILDLIFE Group roosting, seasonal occupancy	 Bats Swallows	 • Use existing openings • Return to roosts • Maternity periods • Sensitive to disturbance	Guano Rub marks Squeaks Evening exit activity	Exclusion One-way Doors Timing Habitat Modification	Protected species Maternity timing restrictions Migratory bird protections Permit requirements
MESOPREDATORS Intelligent, strong, opportunistic	 Raccoons Skunks	 • Climb • Dig • Open lids • Adapt to people • Den or nest	Tracks Scat Damage Den / Nest sites	Exclusion Attractant Removal Trapping Habitat Modification	Rabies vector concerns Relocation restrictions Transport limitations Public safety
BURROWING WILDLIFE Digging specialists, undermine & displace	 Woodchuck Voles	 • Dig complex burrow systems • Soil displacement • Undermine structures • Hidden activity	Burrow holes Soil mounds Tunnels Vegetation damage	Exclusion Habitat Modification Trapping Limited Toxicants / Fumigants*	Ground stability Water / drainage concerns Non-target exposure Site access
BIRDS Mobile, flocking, nesting & roosting	 Canada Goose Pigeons	 • Fly / migrate • Flock • Nest / roost • Use human structures	Droppings Feathers Nests Noise	Exclusion Harassment Habitat Modification Timing	Migratory bird law Nest / egg protection Permit requirements Public tolerance
LARGE HERBIVORES Large range, strong, impact vegetation & property	 Deer Elk	 • Browsing • Strong / jump • Travel long distances • Seasonal movement	Browsing Tracks Damage Scat	Fencing Habitat Management Repellents Harvest Where Lawful	Hunting regulations Landowner rules Public safety Permits
AQUATIC WILDLIFE Water-dependent, protected in many situations	 Beaver Ducks	 • Use water • Build / dam • Feed in groups • Cause shoreline damage	Dams Lodges Bank damage Droppings	Exclusion Flow Devices Habitat Management Harassment	Protected species Waterway permits Dams & flooding liability? Seasonal restrictions

THE WDMS DECISION CYCLE



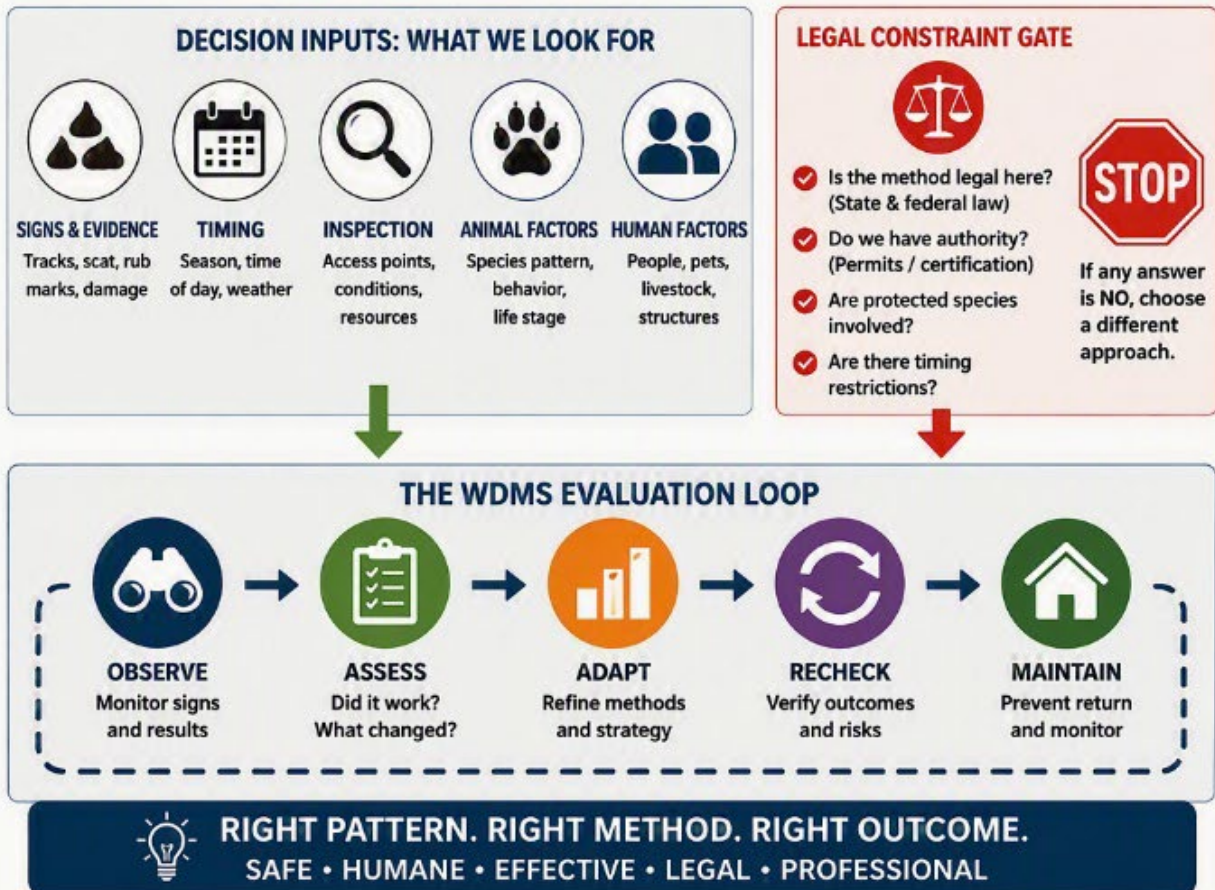
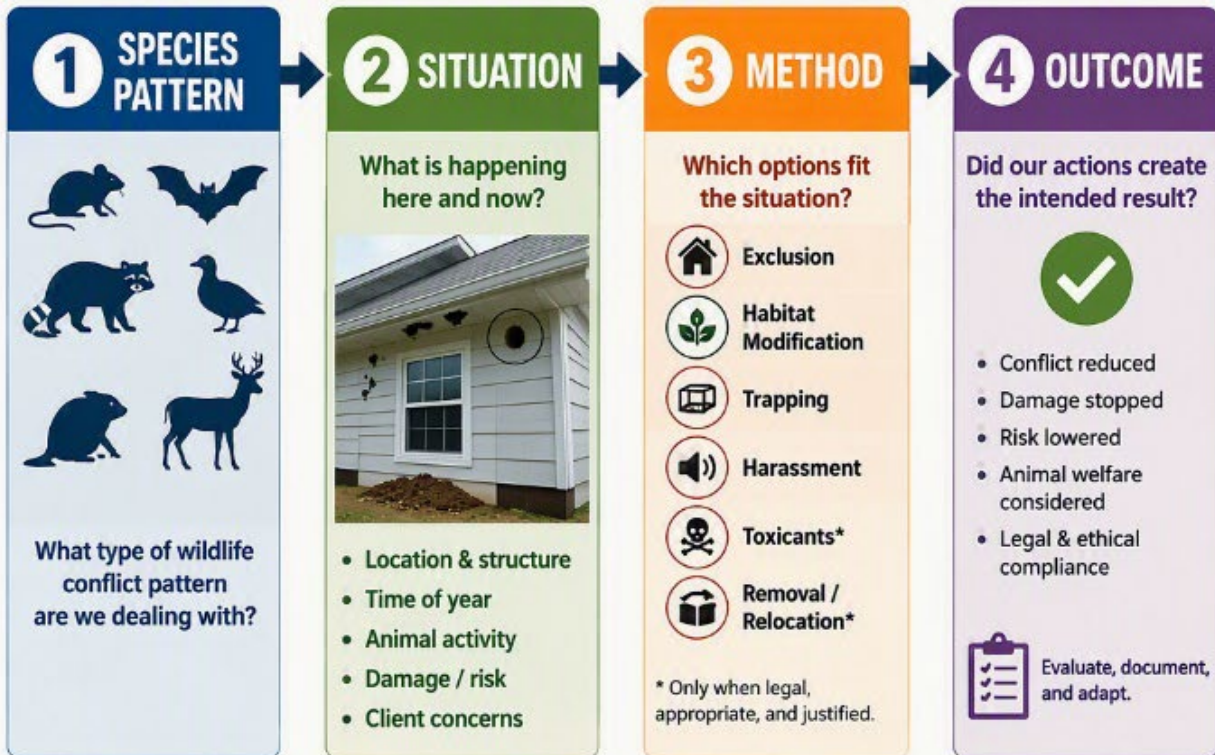
PROFESSIONAL WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT IS PATTERN-BASED, OUTCOME-FOCUSED, AND RESPONSIBLE.
 KNOW THE PATTERN • CHECK THE LAW • USE THE RIGHT METHOD • EVALUATE THE OUTCOME

KEY PRINCIPLES

- ✓ Match method to pattern
- ✓ Verify legal constraints before acting
- ✓ Use the least-risk, effective approach
- ✓ Protect people, property, non-target wildlife, and habitat

SPECIES PATTERN → SITUATION → METHOD → OUTCOME

THE WDMS DECISION SEQUENCE FOR EVERY WILDLIFE CONFLICT



COMMENSAL RODENTS

SMALL GAP ACCESS + RESOURCES + REPRODUCTION = PERSISTENT CONFLICT



WHO ARE THEY?

House Mouse, Norway Rat, Roof Rat

Live with people.
Thrive on our food, water, shelter, and structures.



WHAT DRIVES THE PROBLEM?



ACCESS
Tiny gaps lead inside

+



RESOURCES
Food, water, and shelter

+



REPRODUCTION
Fast breeding populations

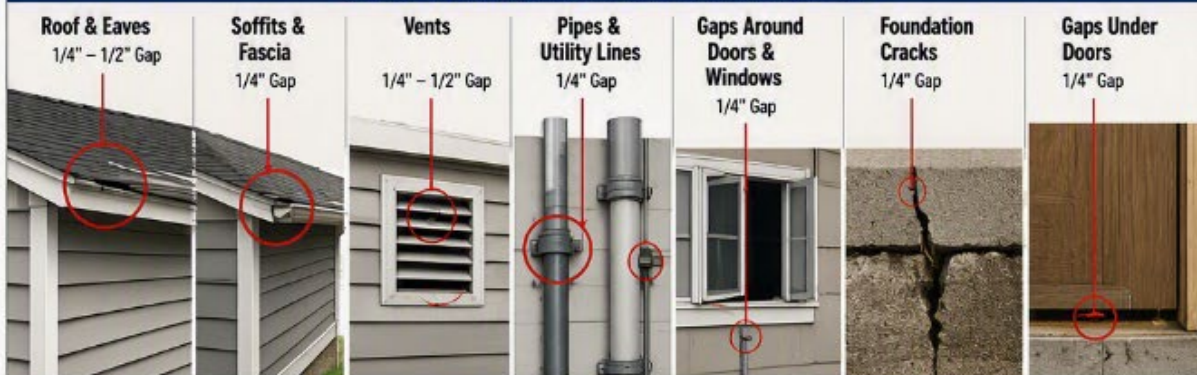
+



RETURN
If anything remains, they return

ELIMINATE ONE OR MORE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM

COMMON ENTRY POINTS (THEY ONLY NEED A SMALL GAP)



SIGNS OF ACTIVITY (LOOK FOR PATTERNS)



RESOURCES THAT ATTRACT RODENTS



MONITORING INDICATORS



BEST PRACTICE APPROACH

- 1 **INSPECT** – Find access and activity.
- 2 **ELIMINATE RESOURCES** – Food, water, shelter, sanitation.
- 3 **EXCLUDE** – Seal gaps 1/4" or larger.
- 4 **MONITOR** – Confirm control.
- 5 **MAINTAIN** – Keep it that way.

KEY TAKEAWAY



**RODENTS DON'T NEED MUCH.
YOU MUST DENY THEM EVERYTHING.**



Hazards:
Disease, contamination, property damage, fire risk from gnawing.

COLONIAL ROOSTING WILDLIFE

GROUPS. TIMING. OPENINGS. GET IT RIGHT.

RUSHED ACTION CAN TRAP YOUNG, CAUSE SUFFERING, AND CREATE MORE PROBLEMS.

WHO THEY ARE

BATS • SWALLOWS • STARLINGS



COLONIES
Many animals using the same roost.

RETURN
They come back to the same places.

COMMON ROOST SITES



EVENING ACTIVITY

Watch at dusk.
Where they leave is where they enter.



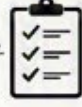
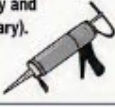
EVIDENCE OF A COLONY

DROPPINGS / GUANO	CLUB MARKS	NOISE	ODOR	STAINING	NEST MATERIAL
					
Piles or staining below exit holes and in roosts.	Oily dirt marks around openings.	Squeaks, rustling, scurrying when disturbed.	Strong, musty, odor in roost areas.	Urine staining on surfaces below roosts.	Feathers, twigs, grass, nesting.

TIMING IS CRITICAL

EARLY SEASON SPRING (Before Young Are Born)	MATERNITY SEASON LATE SPRING – MID SUMMER (Young Cannot Fly)	YOUNG FLEDGE LATE SUMMER (Young Can Fly)	FALL / WINTER LATE FALL – WINTER (No Young Present)
			
EXCLUSION OK Seal all openings. No young present.	DO NOT EXCLUDE Young will be trapped and die.	EXCLUSION OK Young have left. Time to evict.	EXCLUSION OK Seal all openings. Monitor.

THE EXCLUSION PROCESS

- FIND ALL OPENINGS**
Inspect inside and outside. Identify the primary exit. 
- INSTALL ONE-WAY DEVICE**
Allows animals to leave, but not return. 
- WAIT & VERIFY**
Leave in place 3–7 days. Confirm all animals have left. 
- SEAL ALL OPENINGS**
Permanently seal every opening (primary and secondary). 
- MONITOR & MAINTAIN**
Verify results. Watch for new activity. 

KEEP IT OUT

 Seal gaps > 1/4"	 Use screens & caps	 Repair soffits, fascia & vents	 Reduce insects around lights	 Trim trees near roof
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RISKS OF RUSHED ACTION

 Young die in the structure	 Bats enter living spaces	 Health risks increase	 Repeat problems & higher costs
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PLAN. TIME IT RIGHT. EXCLUDE HUMANELY. SEAL COMPLETELY. VERIFY ALWAYS.
PROTECT PEOPLE. PROTECT WILDLIFE. SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

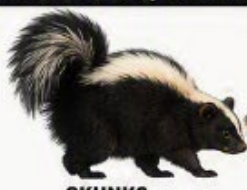


MESOPREDATORS & ADAPTABLE GENERALISTS

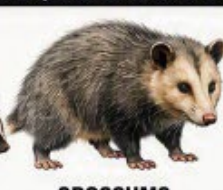
SMART. OPPORTUNISTIC. RESOURCEFUL.
THEY FIND FOOD, SHELTER, AND ACCESS—THEN THEY RETURN.



RACCOONS



SKUNKS



OPOSSUMS



FOXES



COYOTES

WHAT ATTRACTS THEM

FOOD	WATER	SHELTER	DEN SITES	EASY ACCESS
Garbage, pet food, feed, compost, fallen fruit.	Pet bowls, leaks, pools, livestock waterers.	Decks, sheds, brush, wood piles, rock piles, clutter.	Under decks, sheds, porches, rock piles, culverts, burrows.	Unsealed openings, pet doors, gaps, climbable paths.

HOW THEY GET IN

ATTICS	CHIMNEYS	CRAWLSPACES	WALL VOIDS
Roof gaps, soffits, vents, eaves.	Uncapped or damaged chimneys.	Open foundations, vents, loose lattice.	Damaged siding, utility gaps, loose trim.

SIGNS OF ACTIVITY

TRACKS	DROPPINGS	SCATTERED FUR & DEBRIS	NOISE
COMMON SIGNS = ACTIVE PROBLEM			

DEPENDENT YOUNG? STOP!

Check before acting.			
KITS	STRIPES	JOEYS	PUPS
Removing parents can cause suffering and may be illegal. Know the timing.			

PLAN DISPOSITION BEFORE YOU ACT

ASSESS SITUATION	LEGAL & ETHICAL	CHOOSE DISPOSITION	DOCUMENT	EVALUATE OUTCOME
 Species, behavior, damage, risks, legal status.	 Know what your state allows. Get authority when required.	 • Exclusion • Relocation / Release • Rehabilitation • Euthanasia (when necessary)	 Record findings, actions, and outcomes.	 Did the solution work? If not, reassess.

EXCLUSION IS THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION

Seal all gaps > 1/4 inch	Screen vents & openings	Cap chimneys & flues	Repair soffits, fascia, & trim	Trim trees & climb paths

PREVENTION = LESS CONFLICT

Secure trash	Remove pet food	Manage shelter	Reduce attractants	Maintain barriers



SMART CONFLICT SOLUTIONS PROTECT PEOPLE. PROTECT PROPERTY. PROTECT WILDLIFE.
INSPECT. PLAN. EXCLUDE. MONITOR.



BURROWING & GROUND-DWELLING WILDLIFE

WHAT YOU SEE ABOVE GROUND IS ONLY PART OF THE PROBLEM.

COMMON SPECIES



GROUNDHOGS



MOLES



VOLES



GOPHERS



MUSKRATS

REMEMBER



Not all animals that use burrows create them. Raccoons, skunks, foxes, snakes, and others may use existing burrows.

WHAT YOU SEE ABOVE GROUND

ROUND HOLE



2-4+ inches

OVAL HOLE



3-6 inches

MULTIPLE HOLES



Active system

SPOIL PILE



Fresh soil means activity

SHALLOW RUNS



Worn trails in vegetation

UNDERGROUND REALITY



Tunnels connect burrows, feeding areas, nesting chambers, and escape routes.

WHERE PROBLEMS OCCUR

LAWNS & YARDS



Undermines structures

FOUNDATIONS



Damages irrigation

GARDENS



Destroys fences

FARMS & FIELDS



Harms crops, ornamentals

DAMS & LEVEES



Creates road, driveway hazards

ROADS & DRIVEWAYS



Causes erosion & flooding

NON-TARGET WARNING

Burrow treatments can harm non-target animals and the environment.



PETS



WILDLIFE



LIVESTOCK



BENEFICIALS

Always confirm species before using any control method.

METHOD-FIT CHOICES



EXCLUSION
Fencing, barriers, hardware cloth.



HABITAT MODIFICATION
Remove brush, debris, food, standing water.



TRAPPING
Live traps, baited mechanical traps.



AVERSION/REPELLENTS
Scent, taste, or tactile deterrents.



TOXICANTS / FUMIGANTS*
Limited, site-specific, follow label and law.

* Use only when legal, appropriate, and after other methods fail.

FOLLOW-UP IS CRITICAL



Monitor activity after treatment.



Inspect for new holes or runs.



Correct causes of attraction.



Maintain exclusion repairs.



Reassess and adjust as needed.



Successful control = No current activity. No new damage.

KEY TAKEAWAY



IDENTIFY the animal.



ASSESS the system.



CHOOSE the right



IMPLEMENT correctly.



EVALUATE the outcome.

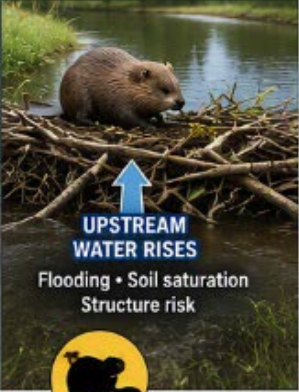
UNDERSTAND THE SYSTEM.
SOLVE THE PROBLEM.
PREVENT THE RETURN.



AQUATIC AND WATER-ALTERING WILDLIFE

WATER MOVEMENT • STRUCTURES • BANKS • DOWNSTREAM EFFECTS

THEIR ACTIONS CHANGE WATER. YOUR DECISIONS SHOULD PROTECT MORE THAN YOUR PROPERTY.

DAMS Change water level and flow.  UPSTREAM WATER RISES Flooding • Soil saturation Structure risk	CULVERTS Blocked or damaged by wildlife.  BACKWATER PONDING Road & driveway damage risk	BANK DENS Undermining weakens banks and structures.  BANK FAILURE Erosion • Property loss Water quality impact	VEGETATION CUTTING Alters cover, stability and habitat.  LOSS OF COVER & STABILITY More erosion More conflict
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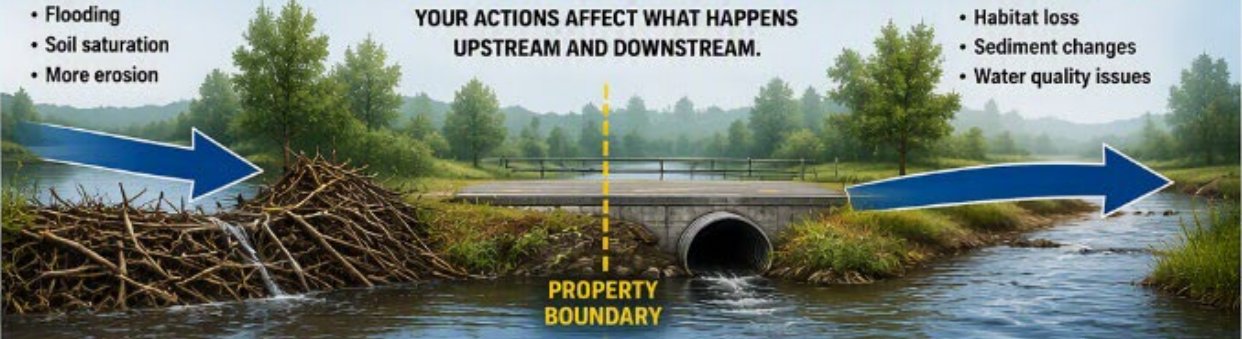
UPSTREAM EFFECTS

- Higher water levels
- Flooding
- Soil saturation
- More erosion

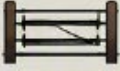
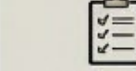
WATER DOES NOT STOP AT THE PROPERTY LINE.
YOUR ACTIONS AFFECT WHAT HAPPENS UPSTREAM AND DOWNSTREAM.

DOWNSTREAM EFFECTS

- Lower water levels
- Habitat loss
- Sediment changes
- Water quality issues



LOOK FOR SIGNS				
LODGES / DAMS  Sticks, mud, and ponded water	BURROWS / DENS  Openings in banks or near water	CHEWED TREES  Fresh cut marks and fallen trees	SLIDES / RUNS  Worn paths from water to den	TRACKS & SIGN  Footprints, tail drags, and scat

CHOOSE METHODS THAT FIT THE SITUATION					
EXCLUSION  Protect structures and vulnerable areas	HABITAT MODIFICATION  Remove attractants Modify vegetation Improve drainage	FLOW DEVICE PROTECTION  Protect culverts and water control structures	LIVE TRAPPING*  When legal and appropriate	FERTILITY CONTROL*  Consider only as part of an approved plan	DISPOSITION PLANNING  Have a legal, humane plan before action

*Check state regulations and permits.



THINK BEYOND YOUR PROPERTY.
CHANGES YOU CAUSE CAN CREATE PROBLEMS FOR OTHERS.
BE RESPONSIBLE. BE LEGAL. BE PROFESSIONAL.



BIRDS BY CONFLICT BEHAVIOR

MATCH THE PATTERN. SOLVE THE PROBLEM. PROTECT PEOPLE & WILDLIFE.

1. NESTING

PARENTS PROTECT
YOUNG & NEST



COMMON CONFLICTS

- Nests on structures
- Noise, droppings
- Property damage

METHOD APPROACH

- Exclude before nesting
- Remove attractants
- Modify habitat

CAUTION

Do not remove nests
with eggs or young.
May require permits.



2. ROOSTING

GATHER IN GROUPS
TO REST



COMMON CONFLICTS

- Buildings, trees, docks
- Noise
- Heavy droppings

METHOD APPROACH

- Exclude roost sites
- Limit roost attractants
- Haze / harassment

3. FEEDING

SEEK FOOD
SOURCES



COMMON CONFLICTS

- Crop & fruit damage
- Spilled grain / feed
- Garbage & food waste

METHOD APPROACH

- Remove food sources
- Change feeding access
- Use exclusion / barriers

4. FLOCKING

MOVE IN GROUPS
OVER LARGE AREAS



COMMON CONFLICTS

- Crops, turf, ponds
- Aircraft & vehicle risk
- Large accumulations

METHOD APPROACH

- Habitat modification
- Hazing / harassment
- Exclusion / barriers

DISPLACED FLOCKS

May damage neighboring
areas or move the problem.
Plan before acting.



5. SCAVENGING

OPPORTUNISTIC
CLEAN-UP



COMMON CONFLICTS

- Garbage areas
- Food waste
- Public nuisance

METHOD APPROACH

- Secure garbage
- Remove food waste
- Use barriers / netting

LEGAL & ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY



**MANY BIRDS ARE
PROTECTED BY
FEDERAL LAW.**

Know the rules.
Get permits if required.



**DO NOT DISTURB
NESTS WITH EGGS
OR YOUNG.**

Check before acting.



**FOLLOW STATE
& LOCAL
REGULATIONS.**

Rules vary by location
and species.

KEY TAKEAWAY



Identify the behavior pattern.



Inspect & confirm the site.



Choose the right method.



Evaluate results & adapt.



**RESPONSIBLE ACTION
PROTECTS PEOPLE,
PROPERTY, AND BIRDS.**

LARGE WILDLIFE AND AGENCY COORDINATION

SIZE • POWER • PUBLIC RISK • LEGAL AUTHORITY

WHEN IN DOUBT, COORDINATE.
PROTECT PEOPLE. PROTECT WILDLIFE. PROTECT YOURSELF.

**STOP
THINK
CHECK
CALL**

HIGH-CONSTRAINT WILDLIFE

DEER / ELK



Large home ranges
Vehicle collisions
Crop & landscape damage

MOOSE



Very large & powerful
Unpredictable
High public risk

BLACK BEAR



Strong & adaptable
Food conditioned
Property damage

OTHER LARGE MAMMALS



Coyotes, mountain lions,
boars, etc.
Risk varies by species

WHY COORDINATION IS THE PROFESSIONAL METHOD

- ! Public safety is at risk
- ! Legal authority is required
- ! Special permits may be needed
- ! Wrong action can cause harm or liability

PUBLIC RISK IS REAL



UNPREDICTABLE
BEHAVIOR



VEHICLE
COLLISIONS



PEOPLE & PETS
AT RISK



ATTRACTED TO
HUMAN RESOURCES



STRUCTURAL &
AGRICULTURAL DAMAGE

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSE FLOW



1. OBSERVE
Assess species,
behavior, &
situation



2. CHECK LAW
Know what is legal.
Confirm authority
and jurisdiction.



3. CONTACT AGENCY
Coordinate before
taking action.



4. FOLLOW DIRECTION
Use approved
methods only.



5. DOCUMENT
Record observations,
actions, approvals,
and outcomes.

WHEN TO CALL

- Large or dangerous wildlife involved
- Public safety may be affected
- Uncertain species or legal status
- Special permits may be required
- Any time you are unsure



AGENCIES TO CONTACT



- State Wildlife Agency
- Law Enforcement
- Local Animal Control
- Health Department (if disease risk)

WHAT MAY BE REQUIRED

- Permits
- Licensed personnel
- Specific methods
- Seasonal restrictions
- Public safety plan
- Transport protocols



REMEMBER

**COORDINATION IS NOT A DELAY.
IT IS THE RIGHT PROFESSIONAL ACTION.**

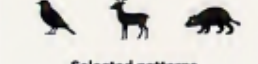
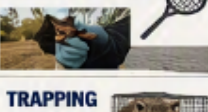
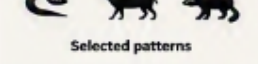
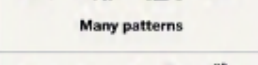
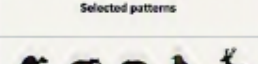
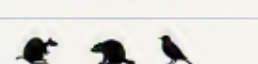
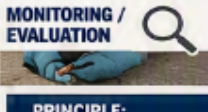
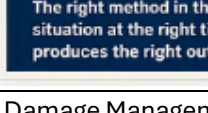


**YOUR DECISION TODAY PROTECTS PEOPLE,
WILDLIFE, AND YOUR PROFESSIONAL FUTURE.**



METHOD PATTERNS ACROSS GROUPS

Methods are roles in a decision—fit depends on species pattern, site, time, law, and competency.

METHOD ROLE	WHAT IT DOES	USED BY THESE PATTERNS	KEY CONSIDERATIONS	COMMON FAILURES	EVALUATION
NO ACTION / TOLERANCE  	Accepts low-risk situations where intervention is not needed or not allowed.	 All patterns	- Low risk - Temporary activity - Protected species - Cost vs. benefit	 Acting because of pressure, not evidence.	 Conflict remains low and acceptable.
CLIENT EDUCATION 	Helps clients understand causes and take actions that prevent conflict.	 All patterns	- Clear communication - Link actions to outcomes - Set realistic expectations	 Giving general advice not tied to the site.	 Client actions reduce attractants and conflict.
SANITATION / ATTRACTANT REDUCTION 	Removes food, water, shelter, and other attractants.	 Most patterns	- Identify all resources - Maintain consistently - Address human behaviors	 Removing animals but leaving attractants.	 Resources reduced, conflict declines.
HABITAT MODIFICATION 	Changes site conditions to make the area less attractive or usable.	 Many patterns	- Change conditions that attract - Consider non-target effects - Long-term focus	 Cosmetic changes that do not alter use.	 Site conditions support the management goal.
EXCLUSION / BARRIERS 	Physically prevents access to structures, food, or sensitive areas.	 Most patterns	- Find all openings - Match materials to pressure - Time it correctly (maternity, nesting)	 Closing visible openings while others remain or trapping animals inside.	 Structure sealed, no reentry, conflict resolved.
HARASSMENT / FRIGHTENING 	Uses sound, movement, visuals, or other disturbance to change behavior.	 Selected patterns	- Species specific - Persistent and well-placed - Know where animals may move	 Moving the problem elsewhere.	 Use changed without new problems.
REPELLENTS 	Makes the site less palatable, comfortable, or attractive.	 Selected patterns	- Temporary solution - Requires maintenance - Works best with other methods	 Viewing repellents as a permanent fix for access problems.	 Damage reduced to acceptable level.
DIRECT CAPTURE 	Physically captures an animal without an unattended device.	 Selected patterns	- Assess risk first - PPE and containment - Know legal disposition	 Attempting when risk, skill, or authority is insufficient.	 Animal safely contained and
TRAPPING 	Captures animals using traps or capture devices.	 Many patterns	- Correct device and placement - Check requirements - Plan disposition before capture	 Using trapping instead of solving the root cause.	 Capture effective, no non-target harm, legal
TRANSPORT / RELEASE / TRANSLOCATION 	Moves animals after capture according to legal options.	 Selected patterns	- Know legal options - Animal condition - Risk of disease and failure	 Capturing first, then deciding what to do.	 Disposition lawful and appropriate to the situation.
DISPATCH / LETHAL CONTROL 	Humanely kills animals when lawful, necessary, and justified.	 Selected patterns	- Authority and law - Humane methods - Carcass handling - Documentation	 Using lethal control as a substitute for diagnosis.	 Problem solved with minimal legal compliance.
TOXICANTS / FUMIGANTS 	Uses toxic substances where lawful and appropriate.	 Limited patterns	- Label compliance - Non-target prevention - Carcass management	 Relying on chemicals instead of fixing the problem.	 Use lawful, monitored, and controlled.
MONITORING / EVALUATION 	Tracks results and verifies whether the goal was achieved.	 All patterns	- Use indicators - Follow up - Adjust as needed	 Leaving before outcome is known.	 Outcome matches management goal.

PRINCIPLE:
The right method in the right situation at the right time produces the right outcome.



ALWAYS VERIFY:

- Legal authority
- Timing / life stage
- Operator competency
- Safety & non-targets
- Planned disposition

LEGAL CONSTRAINT SPECTRUM

Level of verification, authority, and documentation increases as risk, status, and public impact increase.

INCREASING LEGAL CONSTRAINT

 COMMON NUISANCE SPECIES Widely adaptable species causing common conflicts.	 REGULATED METHODS Methods or products are regulated.	 GAME & FURBEARERS State-managed wildlife with season and bag limits.	 DISEASE-RESPONSE SITUATIONS Public health risk or exposure is present.	 PROTECTED SPECIES Federal or state protection limits or prohibits take or harassment.	 THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES High legal risk. Strict federal protections may apply.	 AGENCY-DIRECTED WILDLIFE Management directed by wildlife agency or authority.
 EXAMPLES House mice Norway rats Starlings Pigeons	 EXAMPLES Rodenticides Fumigants Tooth-holding traps Glue products	 EXAMPLES White-tailed deer Raccoons Coyotes Foxes	 EXAMPLES Rabies exposure Sick or injured wildlife Vector control events	 EXAMPLES Migratory birds Bald eagles Hérons Woodpeckers	 EXAMPLES Indiana bat Gray bat Northern long-eared bat	 EXAMPLES Black bears Moose Elk Mountain lions
✓ Verify local rules and ordinances ✓ Standard exclusion, habitat modification, sanitation, trapping ✓ Standard documentation	✓ Verify product label ✓ Confirm certification/licensing ✓ Follow label and site restrictions ✓ Maintain treatment records	✓ Verify state regulations ✓ Check season, bag limits, and methods ✓ Permits may be required ✓ Document take and disposition	✓ Follow health department directions ✓ Reporting may be required ✓ Transport and testing rules apply ✓ Chain of custody documentation	✓ Verify federal and state law ✓ Permits often required ✓ Avoid take, harassment, or disturbance of nests/roosts ✓ Detailed documentation required	✓ Federal permits required ✓ Agency consultation required ✓ Habitat (roosts, caves, hibernacula) protected ✓ Take is prohibited without authorization	✓ Agency authority required ✓ Operator acts under agency direction ✓ Special safety and transport protocols ✓ Detailed reporting and documentation

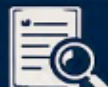
VERIFY FIRST. ACT LEGALLY. DOCUMENT EVERYTHING.

 IDENTIFY THE SPECIES & THE SITUATION	 CHECK STATE AND LOCAL REGULATIONS	 CONFIRM YOUR AUTHORITY AND PERMITS	 CHOOSE THE LEGAL, LOWEST-RISK METHOD	 DOCUMENT ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES	 EVALUATE & ADAPT YOUR APPROACH
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WHEN IN DOUBT, CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE AGENCY.
PROTECT PEOPLE. PROTECT WILDLIFE. PROTECT YOURSELF.

LAWS CHANGE. VERIFICATION IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.



FINAL FIELD CHECKPOINT

