

Important Contacts for Rabies and Wildlife Control Information:

1) Rabies Emergency:

Local or State Police () - -
Local Animal Control Officer () - -
Local Health Official () - -

2) Domestic Animal Exposure:

- **CT Dept. of Agriculture**
Animal Control Division (860) 713-2506
State Veterinarian (860) 713-2505
*Remember to vaccinate your pets/livestock!
Gloves *should always be worn* prior to handling an exposed or suspect animal.

3) Human Exposures:

- **CT Dept. of Public Health** (860) 509-7994
*After hours and weekends (860) 509-8000

4) Wildlife Behavior/Rabies (general info):

- **CT DEEP Wildlife Division** (860) 424-3011
E-mail: deep.wildlife@ct.gov
Website: www.wildlifehelp.org
- **DEEP Emergency Dispatch** (860) 424-3333
*In some cases, DEEP Environmental Conservation Police may be available to respond if there has been an exposure or a suspect animal is aggressively threatening people, pets, or livestock.

5) Rabies Testing:

- **Dept. of Public Health**
CT Virology Lab, Rocky Hill (860) 920-6500
(Animals that have exposed humans)
- **UCONN Animal Diagnostic Lab:**
(Animals that have exposed pets/livestock or sick animals with no known exposure history)
(860) 486-3738

6) Center for Disease Control and Prevention CDC:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/index.html>



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Important Client Notification
Approved Nonlethal & Lethal Control Options

As required by CT law, section 26-47 (b) (3). NWCOs must provide clients written notification of options, nonlethal and lethal, for resolving common nuisance wildlife problems:

Nonlethal

- **Do Nothing:** Some wildlife problems are minor, requiring simple education on species habits and damage prevention. Enhancing the public's knowledge and tolerance of select activity in their area is sometimes the best practice.
- **Cultural Practices/Habitat Modification:** To reduce attracting unwanted animals into yards or homes, it is recommended to *not* feed wildlife. Other preventative measures include securing garbage, maintaining buildings, removing clutter, mowing high grass/removing brush, and closing garage and pet doors. *If* wild birds are fed, please do so responsibly.
- ***Repellents/Frightening Techniques:** May be used to evict animals denning in or around buildings, disperse bird flocks, or discourage wildlife from encroaching into yards. This may involve the use of noise, lights, odors, decoys, objects, and alarms. *The commercial use of any repellent requires a state pesticides license.
- **Exclusion/Animal Proofing/Fencing:** One-way doors and bat cones/check valves may be used to evict animals residing in attics, soffits, roofs, or under buildings. This method is not recommended during birthing periods when young are immobile. Following eviction, repairing chewed holes, sealing gaps, capping chimneys, and animal proofing crawl spaces with hardware cloth buried underground will prevent recurring problems. Fencing (including electric fencing) to protect gardens, pets, poultry, and livestock will prevent or reduce most conflicts with wildlife.
- **Live Trapping:** May be recommended to remove problem animals causing property damages or health and safety threats. Properly sized cage traps, tagged with the trapper's name must be checked once per day. Trapped animals must be released or euthanized within 24 hours. Rabies Vector Species (RVS)— raccoons, skunks, and foxes can only be released on site. **Note:** Trapping of certain species (i.e., foxes, coyotes, beaver, fisher, muskrat, mink, and otter) requires issuance of a special permit.

Lethal

- **Kill Trapping:** Smooth wire traps set in accordance with CGS Sec. 26-72 and the Regulation of State Agencies 26-66-5 may be used. Traps, tagged with the trapper's name, should be placed in locations inaccessible to pets and people, and daily checked.
- **Shooting:** The use of firearms is permitted only where safe and when in compliance with all state or municipal firearms restrictions. NWCOs must be certified as completing the DEEP Conservation Education/Firearms Safety (CE/FS) firearms course.

Information for Connecticut's
Home & Business Owners:

**NUISANCE WILDLIFE
CONTROL PROGRAM,
RABIES, &
CLIENT NOTIFICATION**



Connecticut Department of
Energy and Environmental
Protection



Bureau of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division

NWCO Program

In 1985, the Connecticut Legislature established a license for **Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators (NWCO)**. Though *not* DEEP employees, their activities are governed by DEEP regulations, policies, and procedures.

Licensed NWCOs must complete a comprehensive training course and pass a state exam. They can advertise services and charge fees for the purpose of controlling nuisance wildlife problems. However, some decisions *must be* negotiated beforehand between you and the NWCO.



It is recommended that you:

Determine the nature of the problem

With the NWCO's assistance, identify the offending species, the number of animals involved (if possible), and describe the extent and types of damage.

Determine which methods will be used

Ask the NWCO to recommend possible methods of control, the estimated costs, and the advantages and disadvantages of each method.

Establish the conditions which will constitute a solution to the problem

Let the NWCO explain how much, if not all, of the problems he or she expects to be able to resolve within the limits of his/her methods and abilities.

Establish a fee or rate of payment

The DEEP does not regulate rates charged for NWCO assistance. Such payments should be agreed upon ahead of time between you and the company you want to hire. Fees charged may vary between individual companies.

Rabies Facts

Rabies is a fatal viral disease primarily found in bats and wild carnivores, such as raccoons, skunks, and foxes — also referred to as **rabies vector species (RVS)**. It can also infect unvaccinated cats, dogs, livestock, and other mammals, like woodchucks and deer.

The following symptoms may indicate the presence of rabies, distemper, or other disease in mammals:

- **Unprovoked aggression**
- **Impaired movement, difficulty walking**
- **Unusual vocalizations**

Rabies is found in the saliva of infected animals and is transmitted primarily through a bite. It can also spread when saliva or central nervous system tissue (brain, spinal cord) enters an open wound or mucous membranes (eyes/nose/mouth). Anyone exposed to a suspect rabid animal should thoroughly wash wounds and immediately contact your doctor and follow their instructions, or seek emergency medical treatment. If a pet or livestock is exposed to a rabid animal, the incident should be reported to a veterinarian and the town **Animal Control Officer (ACO)**.

Suspect rabid wild animals that expose people or pets/livestock should be captured and dispatched, generally by local police or animal control —without damaging the brain. Rabies testing for human exposures is done at the State Dept. of **Public Health (DPH)** Virology Lab and coordinated through your local health director or district. Domestic animals are handled by the UCONN lab for a fee. Suspicious wildlife euthanized due to safety threats that did not expose people/pets/livestock do not need to be analyzed, but could also be brought to the UCONN Animal Diagnostic Lab.

Curbing populations of RVS to control rabies is not feasible, nor is there a current plan for a vaccination program. *Eliminating* food attractants (bird feeders, garbage, pet foods, and compost, etc.) and animal proofing homes (by installing chimney caps or sealing off openings under decks and sheds) will help reduce nuisance related conflicts with and alleviate concerns about encountering rabid animals.

Nuisance Wildlife Control & Conflicts Involving Rabies Vector Species (RVS)

Homeowners are strictly prohibited from trapping and shooting wildlife outside regulated seasons, unless the animal has been actively causing property damage or is an obvious threat to public health and safety. If this course of action is taken under such circumstances, you must still comply with state trapping laws and local firearms restrictions.

Relocation of rabies-vector species (raccoon, skunk, and fox) is prohibited under Connecticut General Statutes Section 26-47(b) and 26-57. This restriction is necessary to prevent human-assisted spread of this disease and is an important component of the state's nuisance wildlife control program.

The trapping or removal of rabies-prone species by a NWCO is encouraged *only* if the animal is causing property damage, appears to be sick or diseased, or is posing a public health and safety threat.

Strongly recommended alternative controls include eviction from buildings using harassment or one-way doors, followed by animal proofing and eliminating wild animal access to food and shelter.

Reporting Complaints

Because private business is being conducted, the DEEP is not liable for any actions taken by a NWCO. However, if you have evidence that a NWCO has acted in an unsatisfactory or unethical manner, you are urged to report such actions in writing to:

**Bureau of Natural Resources/Wildlife Division
CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127
Attention: Geoff Krukar**

