



Living With Wildlife

Safety Tips for Westchester Residents

Village of Westchester

Established 1925

NEVER FEED WILDLIFE

Feeding causes animals to lose fear of humans and leads to dangerous encounters

Red Foxes

- Generally shy, avoid humans
- Den under decks/sheds in spring
- Screaming at night = mating
- Will move on by late summer

Coyotes

- Most active at dawn & dusk
- Keep small pets supervised
- 'Haze' if too close - be loud
- Eat 1,800+ rodents per year!

White-Tailed Deer

- Peak danger: Oct-Dec (mating)
- If you see one, expect more
- Don't swerve - brake firmly
- Never feed - causes aggression

Raccoons

- Use locking lids on trash
- Can carry rabies - never touch
- Secure pet doors at night
- Cap chimneys to prevent entry

Skunks

- Warning: stamping, raised tail
- Back away slowly - you have time
- Great natural pest control
- Eat grubs, insects & rodents

Opossums

- Eat 5,000+ ticks per season!
- Very unlikely to carry rabies
- Leave them alone - beneficial!
- 'Playing dead' is involuntary

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A COYOTE OR FOX:

- **Make yourself appear large** — stand tall, wave arms
- **Make loud noises** — yell, clap, use a whistle
- **NEVER RUN** — back away slowly while facing the animal
- **If it doesn't retreat** — throw small objects toward (not at) it

WILDLIFE-PROOF YOUR PROPERTY

- Use trash cans with locking lids
- Bring pet food indoors at night
- Remove fallen fruit from yard
- Seal openings under decks and sheds
- Cap chimneys with commercial caps

PROTECT YOUR PETS

- Supervise pets outdoors at dawn & dusk
- Keep cats indoors - they kill songbirds
- Walk dogs on short leashes
- Keep rabies vaccinations current

ILLINOIS LAW: Coyotes, foxes, skunks, and other mammals are protected under the Illinois Wildlife Code.

It is illegal to harm or kill these animals without a permit from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

CONTACTS & RESOURCES

Police Non-Emergency
(708) 345-0060

ABC Humane Wildlife Control
(847) 870-7175