

Help keep your neighborhood healthy and nuisance-free

- Don't feed raccoons, squirrels, pigeons and crows. These animals can find food on their own. Feeding them leads to overpopulation and causes disease to be spread.
- Educate others why it is important not to feed them.
- Keep garbage cans covered.
- Don't leave pet food outside.
- Refrain from feeding birds. Bird seed will attract nuisance animals and rats.
- It is against the law in King County to create conditions that can provide a food source for rodents. (KC BOH code Chapter 8.06)
- Enjoy wildlife from a distance. These animals are not domestic pets!



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RESOURCES

Living with Wildlife Series

produced by the WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/living/index.htm>

Directory of wildlife control operators

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/nuisance/nwco.html>

PAWS Wildlife Center

Phone: 425-787-2500 ext 817

www.paws.org/about-wildlife-center.html

How to clean up a raccoon latrine

www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/diseases/raccoons.aspx

Prevent rodent infestations

www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/rats.aspx

King County rodent regulations, Code Title 8

www.kingcounty.gov/health/BOH

Public Health

Seattle & King County



Public Health-Seattle & King County
Environmental Health Services
Zoonotic Disease Program

206-263-9566

Available in Alternate Formats.



IF YOU CARE DON'T FEED US

Feeding wildlife can cause

- Property damage
- Disease risks
- Rat and mouse problems
- Noise disturbance
- Wild animal bites to you or your pets
- Community litter
- Neighbor disputes



Neighborhood nuisances & disease carriers

Rats & Mice
Raccoons
Pigeons & Seagulls
Crows
Eastern Grey Squirrels



Feeding wildlife is unhealthy for your neighborhood!



Birds

- Wild birds can spread diseases to each other and to people.
- Wild birds can carry biting mites that may infest homes.
- Excess bird seed can attract rodents.
- Build up of pigeon or seagull feces can be slippery, smelly, visually unpleasant and cause property damage.
- Large flocks of birds create a noise nuisance for neighbors.

Eastern Grey Squirrel

- Eastern Grey Squirrels are not native to Washington.
- They are a nuisance and cause property damage by nesting in attics of homes and buildings.
- Prevent squirrel problems by not providing a food source. Eliminate bird feeders when squirrels are a nuisance.

Rats & Mice

- Rodents carry diseases and pests, and can cause property damage.
- Rodents are attracted by pet food, bird seed, chicken food, tree fruit, garbage, and dog droppings.
- Prevent rodents by plugging holes in buildings and sheds, removing wood piles, and covering garbage cans.
- Don't feed the birds and don't put pet food outside.

Raccoons in the Neighbor's Garden

Raccoon droppings in Mrs. King's garden

Mrs. King found a pile of animal droppings at the base of a tree near her garden. While talking with her neighbor about it, he said raccoons use that area as a "latrine," or a place where many raccoons regularly go to the bathroom. The neighbor had been feeding raccoons on his porch for a year. He was surprised to learn that Mrs. King's little dog had been attacked by a raccoon and needed emergency vet care and stitches.

Mrs. King was alarmed to learn that the droppings were from raccoons. As a nurse she knew that raccoon feces carried roundworm eggs. The roundworm eggs could be in her garden soil presenting a risk to her and her young grandson, too.

A neighbor's cooperation helps support a healthy environment

Mrs. King told her neighbor about the hazards that feeding raccoons created. Her neighbor had not been aware of diseases spread by raccoon feces and that feeding raccoons makes them lose their natural fear of people and turn aggressive.



Raccoon droppings are cat-sized & may contain seeds and partially-digested berries.

He stopped feeding the raccoons and they eventually left the neighborhood for an area where they could find food in the wild. Mrs. King paid a wildlife control expert to remove the contaminated soil so she could safely garden and let her grandson play in the yard. Her dog was now safe, too.

Raccoon Risks

- Raccoons accustomed to humans often become aggressive and unafraid.
- People and pets can be attacked and bitten; small pets may be killed.
- Raccoon urine spreads the disease leptospirosis which affects people and can be fatal in dogs.
- Their feces spread a dangerous roundworm egg that is especially hazardous for children.
- Raccoon "latrines" contaminate soil, making it unsafe for play or gardening.

Prevent Raccoon Problems

- **Do not feed raccoons!** They can find food on their own.
- Cover garbage cans securely.
- Properly maintain your compost pile.
- Secure your home so that raccoons can't nest in your attic or crawlspace.
- Secure your pet door so they can't come in your house.



When raccoons are infected with roundworms, their droppings can carry millions of eggs that survive in soil for years.



Swallowing roundworm eggs (on contaminated produce or dirty fingers) can result in serious illness.