

Squirrel

Many species of wildlife are found in Cook County. They are year round residents of our county and for the most part are welcomed visitors to our properties. Sometimes wildlife end-up in places that, are not safe for them or for the people or pets that may come in contact with them.

The first step in dealing with wildlife is to take steps to prevent many of the most common problems involved with wild animals around our homes. Sometimes a problem will need a solution when it cannot be prevented.

Squirrels are excellent climbers and jumpers. This animal is active during the daylight hours. They have a reputation as unwelcomed guests at birdfeeders. In urban areas they have been known to cause damage to property by chewing their way through siding or somehow gaining access to attics. The most effective way to control squirrels is by making sure your home does not have areas that they can use to enter the attic.

Helpful Hints

- Keep garbage stored in secured cans with tightly fastened lids.
- Close garbage dumpster lids each night to prevent wildlife from falling into dumpster.
- Check chimney caps and attic vents to repair any holes.
- Check the sides of your home to repair any access points.
- In spring, squirrels move into attics to den and raise their babies. Check the outside of your home for any holes or openings and make repairs.

This happens from February – May.

- In fall squirrels are looking for a warm place to spend the winter and will seek shelter in attics.
- A strong smelling substance such as household ammonia-soaked rags may persuade the squirrel to leave an attic because of the strong smell.
- If a squirrel is loose in a home it is by accident and that squirrel wants to leave the area. Close interior doors to limit movement and open a window. The animal should find its way out if left alone.
- If you put a bright light or radio in the attic it may temporarily discourage the squirrels from using the area, but this will only work for a short while. You must fix the area or areas of entry.
- Sometimes it may be necessary to trap the animal for removal from an area. In this case you will need the assistance of a nuisance wildlife control operator to trap and remove the animal. There is usually a fee associated with this service.
- In Illinois, squirrels are protected by law. If an individual wants to trap a squirrel you will need to call the Illinois Department of Natural Resources District Wildlife Biologist to request an animal removal permit. This type of permit comes with very specific regulations

that you as the permitted trapper must follow.

- For additional information check the website University of Illinois Extension – Living With Wildlife in Illinois (<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife>)



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