

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS...

- As a last resort, trapping can be an effective method of dealing with troublesome wildlife. The most commonly used device is a live-trap which captures the animal physically unharmed. Traps should be checked twice a day (morning and evening) to replenish bait or to humanely deal with captured animals. Raccoons, opossums, beavers, fox, coyote, and skunks cannot be released off-site, they must be euthanized or released on the same property. Contact the ODNR Division of Wildlife (1-800-WILDLIFE) for additional trapping regulations.
- Do not use poisons. Poisons are illegal, inhumane and may result in secondary poisoning of raptors, wild scavengers and neighborhood pets.
- Native wildlife are legally protected. It is illegal for anyone to possess a native wild animal unless permitted by the ODNR Division of Wildlife. Wildlife rehabilitators have a permit to care for orphaned or injured wildlife

PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

Sarcoptic mange is a common disease among squirrels. The most obvious sign of mange is a hairless squirrel or a squirrel with patches of missing hair. Mange is contagious and can be passed between wild and domestic animals. Direct long-term contact is necessary for transmission, and mange is treatable with two to three injections of a parasiticide. Squirrels that eat a poor diet, such as one high in fat (Peanuts, etc.) are more susceptible to mange. Due to the large teeth typical of rodents, squirrels can inflict a nasty bite. As with all wild animals, they should never be hand-fed or encouraged to approach humans. If your pet gets into a fight with a squirrel, it should be checked carefully for bite wounds. Consult your veterinarian for further advice.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you find a wild animal and are concerned, leave it alone and call Brukner Nature Center at 937-698-6493, seven days a week, 24 hours a day.



5995 Horseshoe Bend Rd.

Troy, OH 45373

www.bruknernaturecenter.com

Brukner Nature Center is a non-profit, privately funded organization promoting the appreciation and understanding of wildlife conservation through preservation, education, and rehabilitation.

The purpose of our wildlife rehabilitation program is to educate people regarding the natural history of Ohio's wildlife, to offer help and advice when wildlife and people conflict, and to care for, rehabilitate, and release native Ohio wildlife expected to survive in their natural environment.

Living with *TREE* *SQUIRRELS*

in Miami County



Brukner Nature Center

Ohio is home to four different species of tree squirrels: gray, fox, red, and southern flying. While all species tend to be territorial of one another, they expanded their territories to become adapted to suburban neighborhoods.

LIVING IN YOUR YARD

Squirrels use two basic types of natural dens, tree cavities and leaf nests. However, they will also build nests



in attics, garages and eaves. Squirrels are active during the day foraging for their food in the early morning and late afternoon, with the exception of the southern flying squirrel, which is nocturnal. They do not hibernate during the winter, although they will become less active during inclement weather. Squirrels use two or more nests concurrently throughout the year. Females have two litters a year. The first is born between February and April, the second between August and September. If possible, consider “living with them” until the young leave the nest at 10 to 12 weeks.

PREVENTING PROBLEMS

Do not encourage squirrels by feeding them. Keep pet food and water dishes inside. Do not allow spillage to accumulate outside bird feeders. Keep grills and barbecues clean. Even small food scraps may attract squirrels. Trim tree limbs that provide access to your roof. Repair broken, weak or rotted areas on your roof, soffit and fascia. Install and maintain chimney caps before animals move into your chimney. Use welded wire on the inside of attic vents to deny access to the attic if the covers are removed.

RECOMMENDED DETERRENTS

DEN SITES

Wrap a 4-to-6-foot-wide piece of aluminum flashing around tree trunks so that squirrels cannot get a foothold on the bark. Make sure the aluminum flashing is a minimum height of 4 feet from the ground. This will deny squirrels access to the tree and your roof. This technique provides an immediate solution, but, it is recommended that you leave the flashing up for five to seven days.

Grease downspouts with a mixture of petroleum jelly and crushed pepper. Squirrels will be unable to climb the surface. This provides an immediate solution, but it is recommended that you keep the downspouts greased for five to seven days.

Squirrels are agile enough to walk on power lines and telephone lines. The techniques listed above may work to deny squirrels access to the pole to which the wire is attached. Watch the squirrels to see how they are getting to the wires to determine if these techniques will work.

Place lighting, such as bright flashlights, flood lamps or blinking strands of holiday lights, in the den. It is best to leave the lights on 24 hours a day. If this is not possible, the lights must be on during the nighttime to disturb the animal’s sleep.

Play a radio, portable alarm clock, noisy children’s toy or anything that makes noise repeatedly to have the sound on for 24 hours a day. If this is not possible, the sound must be on during the nighttime to disturb the animals sleep.

Place rags soaked in ammonia in the den for one week. Ammonia has an irritating smell over time; the ammonia will dissipate so it is important to re-soak the rags daily.

If a den site has been established in a chimney, usually on the smoke shelf in the fireplace flue, use the same techniques listed above. Lower a light down into the chimney, place a bowl of ammonia on the fireplace grate, and place a radio inside the fireplace as well. Do not try to “smoke out” the animals. They can be overcome with

smoke, and then you will be faced with physically removing them yourself.

It is important to use all the techniques at the same time in order for the deterrents to be successful. To determine if the animal has left a den site, wad up newspaper, and pack it into the den entrance. (This also helps to hold in ammonia fumes.) If the squirrel is still using the den, the newspaper will be pulled out. If after a few days the newspaper has not been disturbed, securely repair any access opening. Failure to do so may result in the squirrel or another animals moving in.

A SQUIRREL IN THE HOUSE

A squirrel that has entered a house has done so by accident. If you know the squirrel’s location, open a window or exterior door within that room, and close interior doors to limit access inside the house. If left alone, the squirrel will find the opening and leave. While a squirrel can jump from a second story window onto a grassy area without harm, a first floor exit is preferable; a squirrel should never be forced to jump from that height. If the squirrel cannot leave on its own, set a live trap/ place a trail of bait leading from one foot outside the trap into the trap, and leave it alone for a few hours. Once the squirrel is trapped, release it outside onto your property.

GNAWING ON WOOD

Mix petroleum jelly and crushed red pepper, spread the mixture on the affected area. Ammonia-soaked rags can also be effective.

RAIDING THE BIRD FEEDERS

Exclusion is always the best solution. Grease down the feeder pole with petroleum jelly or axle grease. Mix crushed pepper into birdseed to keep squirrels from eating at the feeder. The pepper will not affect the birds because they have a poorly developed sense of taste. Many squirrel deterrents are available at specialty bird-supply stores.