

Wildlife Update
28 October 2016

October and November typically begins dispersal time for most wildlife. Animals born in the spring are either urged by their parents to leave and find a home of their own, or they're pushed away by the parents. Calls will start coming in (they already have) regarding wildlife in backyards, roaming in the streets or hit by cars.

There have been calls regarding coyotes and foxes. One red fox has a lame right rear leg, but I've been unable to capture it. Two coyotes went after someone's dog yesterday as well. With the leaves falling, there is less obstruction and wildlife is easier to see, so more sighting calls may come in as well. Most will assume there is a population increase, but that isn't the case.

Recommendations for some calls:

| CALL | RESPONSE |
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| There's a fox/coyote in my backyard | Normal for this time of year. Keep your pets inside and try to scare it away |
| I saw a coyote/fox/coon/skunk in "broad Daylight" | Being out in the day doesn't always mean they're sick or rabid |
| There's an animal in my trash barrel | Kick the barrel over and it will leave on its own. (Call me if they refuse) |
| There's a dead animal on my lawn (property) | Home owner's responsibility; bag and trash it (if dog or cat, call the ACO) |
| A wild animal attacked my dog/cat | Instruct owner to take pet to veterinary hospital. A strong effort should be made to euthanize the wild animal and test for rabies (do not shoot the head) |
| There's an animal stuck in my chimney | Call ACO or Animal Rescue League |