



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Options for Mitigating Human-Wildlife Conflict in Toronto

Date:	May 8, 2015
To:	Licensing and Standards Committee
From:	Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Cluster B\MLS\LS15013

SUMMARY

Licensing and Standards Committee requested Municipal Licensing and Standards to report on how the City monitors its urban wildlife populations and identify best practices to reduce the negative impact of wildlife on public health, safety, and private property. Staff were also requested to report back on options for how the City can control exploding wildlife populations, particularly raccoons.

The report outlines the rules and regulations that govern wildlife in Ontario and outlines the roles that different individuals and organizations play in mediating conflict between humans and wildlife. It also reviews different approaches to wildlife management and highlights best practices based on a scan of other jurisdictions, expert advice and literature review.

Research and best practice indicate that governments/municipalities ought to focus on addressing the human behavioural contributors to urban wildlife issues rather than implement programs that attempt to control wildlife populations. Experience thus far demonstrates that education efforts and, where necessary, enforcement related to human conduct, may be a more successful long-term solution to human-wildlife conflict versus a cull or wildlife sterilization program, which are either difficult to implement in urban environments, cost prohibitive, or unsuccessful in controlling wildlife populations.

The report concludes with a series of actions the City can take to strengthen its role in public education related to wildlife conflict prevention, and provides for consideration a number of by-law amendments that may be necessary to address the human behavioural contributors to nuisance wildlife situations.

City Planning, Toronto Public Health, Solid Waste, Transportation Services, 311 and Parks, Forestry and Recreation, and Toronto Zoo were consulted in preparation for the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards recommends that

1. Licensing and Standards Committee endorse the creation of the Inter-Divisional Working Group on Urban Wildlife led by Municipal Licensing and Standards and include relevant City divisions, agencies and boards to strengthen public educational efforts related to wildlife conflict prevention and identify emerging practices in urban wildlife management
2. Licensing and Standards Committee direct the Inter-Divisional Working Group on Urban Wildlife to develop a comprehensive strategy for mitigating human-wildlife conflict in the City of Toronto
3. Licensing and Standards Committee direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to explore the feasibility of a by-law that prohibits the feeding of wildlife on private property

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact expected from this report beyond what has already been approved in this year's budget. The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

August 18, 2014, Licensing and Standards Committee requested that the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards report back to Committee on options available to control exploding wildlife populations in the City.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.LS30.4>

June 27, 2013, Licensing and Standards Committee requested the City Manager to report on the extent to which the City monitors its urban wildlife populations; to report on initiatives in other jurisdictions to reduce the adverse effects of urban wildlife, including property damage and risks to public health; and to request recommendations to adapt those initiatives to the City of Toronto.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.LS22.3>

November 5, 1999, the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) presented Toronto Public Health's Wildlife Strategy to the Board of Health, which included a response to the prevention and control of raccoon rabies.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2000/agendas/committees/hl/hl000221/it005.htm>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Wild animals are part of Toronto's landscape. Over the years, urban development has displaced many wild animals from their natural habitat and as a result, a number of them such as raccoons, squirrels, geese, deer and coyotes have adapted to living closer to people in order to survive. This, combined with the increased naturalization of much of our parkland, has greatly increased the potential of human wildlife interactions. Although most of the interactions between residents of Toronto and wildlife are positive, sometimes these interactions can have an adverse impact on public health, safety and private property.

COMMENTS

To understand the issues related to negative human-wildlife interactions and identify solutions, staff reviewed applicable laws and contacted relevant government agencies, City divisions and non-governmental organizations to learn about their role and responsibilities. Staff also conducted a comprehensive review of relevant literature, consulted subject matter experts and scanned North American and European cities to identify best practices in urban wildlife management.

Municipal Licensing and Standards also commissioned Ipsos Reid to conduct research among a representative sample of Toronto residents regarding their experience with wildlife. The research was conducted in December 2014 and was facilitated through an online questionnaire. The results of the questionnaire are found in Attachment 1.

Causes of Human-Wildlife Conflict

To better understand the nature of human-wildlife conflict, Municipal Licensing and Standards consulted scholarly articles and subject matter experts at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Toronto Wildlife Centre (TWC) and local universities. These sources explain that although human-wildlife interactions are inevitable in urban spaces, there are attractants such as food and shelter that increase the risk of conflict. Some of these attractants include:

- Intended/unintended feeding of wildlife. Food left in yards for domestic animals or birds can attract nearby wildlife species.
- Overflowing or carelessly stored garbage can attract raccoons, coyotes and small rodents such as mice and rats.
- Properties that are not well maintained, including overgrown grass that can act as a habitat for different types of wildlife.
- Areas that wildlife may use as dens, such as sheds, wood-piles or under decks.

These factors increase the proximity of wildlife to humans, which in turn increases the risk of negative interactions. Furthermore, activities such as the regular feeding of wildlife are frequent non-threatening interactions for the animals, which can decrease their behavioural fear response to the presence of humans.

Based on the research, the main concerns with human interactions with urban wildlife include:

- *Property Damage & Nuisance*

The most frequent complaint and the greatest impact to the public as it relates to urban wildlife, are instances resulting in property damage to homes/sheds/garages due to wildlife seeking shelter, as well as the disruption of garbage bins, compost and digging up of grassed areas due to wildlife seeking food. This animal behaviour often results in financial impacts to the homeowner as he/she seeks methods to displace the wildlife and/or to repair damage that has resulted.

Wildlife issues also surge at predictable times of the year. A high level look at general wildlife inquiries from 311 illustrate that calls significantly increase during the spring and summer months. From early spring until mid-summer, many homeowners must contend with raccoons, squirrels, and skunks searching for warm and safe environments to bear and raise their young. Coyote sightings are more common in the winter months due to the lack of foliage in parks and ravines and because the animals expand their hunting area in search for food.

- *Public Safety*

Some residents of Toronto have raised safety concerns regarding the close proximity of coyotes to residential areas. This was most apparent in local media accounts of the recent negative encounters between coyotes and pets in Toronto and surrounding municipalities including Hamilton.

Coyotes however, are rarely a threat to people. Research indicates that an average of 2.4 people per year were scratched or bitten by coyotes in Canada, compared to 460,000 dog bites that occur per year (Statistics Canada, 2009). In the last decade, there has been no reported instance of coyotes biting people in Toronto. Nevertheless, the close proximity of these animals increases the risk for negative encounters and requires monitoring.

- *Health Hazards*

Wildlife has the potential to carry and transmit serious diseases but rarely do these diseases actually affect people. Usually close contact with the infected animal (such as a bite) or contact with their feces or urine is required for the disease to be passed from wildlife to a person.

The most relevant wildlife diseases include:

Rabies: Rabies is a viral infection of the brain and nervous system that is spread by the bite of an infected animal. Rabies has been controlled in Toronto in all animals but bats. Treatment with vaccine after a bite from an infected animal is very effective

in preventing illness from rabies. In Toronto, the last case of locally contracted rabies by a human was in 1931.

Illnesses affecting the digestive system are common and often caused by organisms found in wild animals (Salmonella, E. Coli, Giardia, etc.). These illnesses are passed to people through animal feces usually through contaminated food or water. Hand washing, water treatment and proper food preparation are important ways to prevent getting sick from these organisms.

Raccoon Roundworm: is an intestinal parasite found in raccoon feces that can cause a severe infection of the brain in people. This is a very rare disease, which affected one child in Toronto in 2005, and was the first known case of the disease in Canada. No other cases have been reported in Toronto.

Data from Toronto Public Health suggests that the risks to public health from animal transmitted diseases are very low and stable. At present, the City's approaches to monitoring and management of diseases appear sufficient and effective.

Wildlife Population in Toronto

Due to the high availability of suitable shelter, habitat and food, densities of animals such as raccoons are much higher in urban and suburban environments than in rural and natural environments. These factors may also be responsible for the population growth of certain wildlife species. Unfortunately, no official count exists for the current population of wildlife in Toronto, including raccoons. The latest research is from the late-1980s, which estimates a mean of 7 to 12 raccoons per square kilometre for all of Toronto, with as high as 100 raccoons per square kilometre in some areas.

It is also important to note that there are a number of natural and man-made factors that limit wildlife populations. Every year, wildlife animals die from diseases such as canine distemper, parvovirus and parasitic infections. They also become casualties of human activities such as vehicle collisions. As a result, Toronto Animal Services picks up an average of 8,000 wildlife cadavers per year, most of them raccoons (4,000 cadavers/year).

For trends in the City's wildlife field responses, see graphs in Attachment 2 and Attachment 3 of the report. The City of Toronto monitors its wildlife population by tracking these field responses as well as the number of 311 calls.

Roles & Responsibilities Related to Wildlife in Toronto

The following section highlights the various roles of governmental and non-governmental agencies in mitigating and/or responding to conflict between humans and wildlife in Toronto.

Property Owners

Neither the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, nor the City responds to routine human-wildlife conflicts on private property. Prevention and response to conflicts is the responsibility of property owners.

According to the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*, 1997, a property owner has the right to harass, kill or capture wildlife if he/she believes, on reasonable grounds, that wildlife is damaging or is about to damage their property. The Act also outlines important restrictions on the type of actions property owners can undertake in response to wildlife conflict. In harassing, killing or capturing wildlife, it is illegal to cause the animal unnecessary suffering, use poisons and adhesives or use lethal traps without a trappers licence. Hunting with a firearm is also not an option for property owners in Toronto because the discharge of firearms is not permitted under the Municipal Code.

On the other hand, property owners can use certain deterrents such as ammonia-soaked rags to harass wildlife as well as live-traps to capture and remove nuisance wildlife from their property. The captured animal however, cannot remain in the live-trap longer than 24 hours and must be released within 1 kilometer of the capture site, according to the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*.

Residents of Toronto can also seek the assistance of a wildlife control operator or licensed trapper to address wildlife conflict on their property. For more information on the rules and regulations governing human-wildlife conflict, please see Attachment 4.

Wildlife Control Operators

Wildlife control operators play a key role in working with homeowners to apply practical solutions to human-wildlife conflicts. When responding to wildlife issues, they will take one of three approaches (or a combination thereof):

- No Trapping: Some operators will not trap animals except as a last resort. Their preferred approach is to let the animal exit the structure on its own and prevent it from re-entry. This can be accomplished by installing a one-way door at the access point, a wildlife prevention skirt, or a chimney cap.
- Live Trapping: Some operators and individual property owners will trap and release animals using various types of live traps. Provincial regulation requires animals to be released within 1 km of the capture site.
- Lethal Trapping: Some operators will use lethal trapping or live trapping in combination with euthanasia. The *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* and its accompanying Regulations identify acceptable methods of trapping and euthanasia.

Many wildlife operators also provide home repair services to prevent future wildlife conflicts. Operators that use one-way doors and live-traps do not require a licence from any level of government.

Province of Ontario: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

The province is the main level of government responsible for wildlife in Ontario. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is the key agency that develops policy related to wildlife management and enforces the laws and regulations of the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, including the licensing and monitoring of trappers and hunters.

The Ministry is also available to provide advice on wildlife management to local municipalities and uses its website as the main tool to educate the public on how to co-exist with urban wildlife.

Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

The Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is responsible for protecting animals including wildlife from inhumane treatment. The Agency may enforce any law pertaining to the prevention of cruelty to, and the welfare of, animals under the *Ontario SPCA Act, 1990* as well as the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*. SPCA inspectors respond on a complaint basis to issues concerning the humane treatment of wildlife, including illegal relocation.

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) is another government agency that plays a role in responding to wildlife conflict, mainly on TRCA lands. The main purpose of the agency is to enhance and protect the natural environment from the impact of urban development. When human-wildlife conflicts occur, the TRCA often coordinates its response with the City of Toronto such as in the case of installing coyote sighting signage in parks that are managed by Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

City of Toronto

The City's current responsibilities for the prevention and resolution of human-wildlife conflict lie primarily in three areas: on its own property, in the immediate protection of public health and safety, and in the provision of public information on human-wildlife interactions. Various divisions in the City of Toronto play a role in mitigating conflict between residents and wildlife either through education, landscape planning and/or enforcement.

1) Solid Waste

Solid Waste has launched a next generation green bin, which is anticipated to commence implementation in the next two years. The new green bins are intended to be more wildlife resistant, focusing not only on the latch, but also on how the bin is designed. The Solid Waste website also contains information on extra precautions people can take to

protect their green bin, such as discouraging people from putting out their bins the night before.

2) Municipal Licensing and Standards

Toronto Animal Services

Toronto Animal Services (TAS) has assumed responsibility for responding to wildlife that are found sick, distressed and/or

injured. These field responses are provided 24 hours per day, all year long. On average, Animal Care and Control Officers undertake an average of 11,000 wildlife field responses per year.

TAS Wildlife Field Responses (2014)	
Cadavers	7,952
Injured/Distressed	2,817
Services/Education	22
Total Activities	10,769

TAS has created an online form for the public to report coyote sightings and an online map to display the sighting data in an effort to monitor the coyote population of Toronto. The purpose of this initiative is to identify areas for investigation before possible conflicts emerge. Staff investigate an area with prominent wildlife activity for possible attractants such as people feeding coyotes. The map also generates public awareness about where the possibility of encountering a coyote may be more prevalent in the city of Toronto.

TAS also educates the public on how to prevent human-wildlife conflict through its website. The website provides information on common wildlife species and tips for prevention of human wildlife conflicts such as how to wildlife-proof your home and other deterrents. Residents of Toronto are often referred to the website when they call 311 or advised to hire a wildlife control operator.

In March 2015, TAS worked together with City Planning, Solid Waste, Urban Forestry, and Toronto Public Health to organize four open houses on co-existing with wildlife in the city. The open houses took place in areas of Toronto that experience significant wildlife complaints: South Etobicoke, the Beaches, Scarborough and North York. Residents were invited to attend and ask staff for advice on how to resolve human-wildlife conflict. Staff from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Toronto Wildlife Centre and the Canadian Association for Humane Trapping, also participated in the open houses.

By-Law Enforcement in Parks

Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS) responds to complaints related to individuals feeding wildlife in public parks, which is prohibited under Chapter 608, Parks, Subsection 608-36.

By-Law Enforcement Related to Private Property

MLS also enforces property standards by-laws, which compel property owners to maintain their property in an appropriate condition. Well-maintained homes and properties play an important role in limiting the sources of available shelter/dens for urban wildlife. These by-laws are described in Attachment 4.

3) Toronto Public Health

Despite the low risk of rabies in Toronto, the Health Hazard Investigation Unit at Toronto Public Health (TPH) manages a rabies prevention program because the consequences of this infection can be severe. The program is primarily focused on animal-human rabies exposure. Veterinarians, police officers and health professionals are required to report animal bites to TPH, which then supervises the isolation of the dog or cat. The Healthy Environments Program provides the rabies prophylaxis vaccine to the medical practitioner upon their request for the immunization of the resident, if needed.

TPH investigates other communicable diseases between animals and humans, such as raccoon roundworm. There have been zero raccoon round worm investigations in the past three years.

4) Parks, Forestry, and Recreation

One of the main wildlife issues in parks involves conflicts between park visitors and waterfowl - Canada Geese, Mute Swans, and Ring-billed gulls. The faeces of these birds can create slip and fall hazards on sports fields, running tracks, boardwalks etc. To manage goose populations, PFR partners with the Toronto and Regional Conservation Authority (TRCA) to oil geese eggs or relocate the birds from parks with exceptionally high numbers. For other wildlife issues, PFR contracts the service of wildlife control operators, such as in the case of Riverdale Farm where raccoons become a nuisance in the spring.

Urban Forestry plays a role in managing interactions between wildlife and humans, particularly through community engagement and the implementation of projects that allow people to enjoy and recreate within the natural environment in a safe and responsible way. They lead initiatives such as the Community Stewardship Program that allows staff to work closely with volunteers to generate public awareness about how to interact with the natural environment, including urban wildlife.

Urban Forestry also collaborates with owners of ravine properties to help them reduce their impact on abutting natural areas, through responsible landscaping, proper debris storage and the removal of wildlife attractants. Currently, staff are working with stakeholders from Moore Park Ravine to develop a land-owner resource guide for ravine properties, which will be shared city-wide.

5) Transportation Services

In some municipalities in Canada, wildlife such as deer and moose have a significant impact on motorists. According to Transportation Services, no specific actions have been undertaken to address wildlife conflict on Toronto roads because wildlife are an infrequent case of vehicular collisions in the city (5-10 collisions per year). This pales in comparison to the 151 collisions that take place in Toronto per day due to "road user error," including drivers not yielding the right of way or completing turns improperly. Toronto Planning: Environment Unit

8) City Planning: Environmental Planning

City Planning through the Environmental Planning section strives to promote sustainable development and environmental protection in Toronto as set out in the policies of the Official Plan. An important component of this objective is mitigating the impact of urban development on natural areas, including wildlife habitats, by creating implementation tools and protocols to guide new development.

One example of such a tool is the "Bird Friendly Development Guidelines," which offers a comprehensive list of strategies to make new and existing buildings less dangerous to migratory and other birds. The guidelines were developed with the participation of architects, developers, property management corporations, bird advocacy groups, and City staff. Other initiatives under discussion include a protocol on how to incorporate wildlife passages into normally scheduled road constructions and resurfacing.

The Environment staff also work to raise public awareness about the diversity of wildlife species that inhabit Toronto. As part of its Biodiversity Booklet Series, staff worked with numerous internal and external partners to develop the "Mammals of Toronto" guide for residents. The booklet was released in 2012 and includes detailed and easy-to-access information about the most common wildlife found in Toronto as well as advice on living with wildlife in an urban setting. 10,000 copies of the guide were disseminated across the city and they are available at Toronto Public Library locations as well as the City Planning and Toronto Animal Services' websites.

Non-governmental Organizations

Non-governmental organizations also play an important role in managing interactions between residents of Toronto and wildlife. Groups like Coyote Watch Canada have offered valuable insight in the development of approaches and policy related to coyotes. Another important organization is the Toronto Wildlife Centre (TWC), which is a registered charity that educates the public about living with wildlife, as well as provides medical care, rehabilitation and rescue to wildlife in distress. The Centre provides educational resources for thousands of members of the public each year, and handles over 30,000 phone calls on their Wildlife Hotline designed to inform the public on a wide variety of wildlife-related issues. Staff and volunteers perform wildlife rescues all year long, as well as rehabilitate and heal sick, injured and orphaned wildlife animals at their veterinary hospital and wildlife rehabilitation centre. In 2014, Animal Services staff transferred 96 wildlife animals to the Toronto Wildlife Centre.

For more information, visit www.torontowildlifecentre.com

Urban Wildlife Management: Jurisdictional Scan and Best Practices

To learn about the options available for managing wildlife populations in urban areas, staff at Municipal Licensing and Standards undertook:

- A scan of wildlife management strategies in similar municipalities,
- A literature review of relevant research,
- Interviews with subject matters from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Toronto Zoo, York University and Toronto Wildlife Centre

The research indicates that the most sustainable solution to human-wildlife conflict is focusing on prevention through public education supported by the enforcement of bylaws that regulate human activities such as the feeding of wildlife. Education on preventive measures that restrict wildlife access to food, water and shelter will not only decrease negative human-wildlife interaction, it will shrink the carrying capacity of wildlife in Toronto's urban environment and accordingly, their population.

Methods applied for managing wildlife populations that have been directed at controlling animal populations through culling, sterilization and/or relocation have proven ineffective, cost-prohibitive or, unsuitable for urban environments. Culling in particular could give rise to additional liability concerns depending on how the cull was implemented. These could include claims for damage to property and injuries to persons that might occur in the course of the hunting or trapping. For these reasons, City staff are *not* recommending any interventions that are directly aimed at reducing or controlling wildlife populations.

For a more detailed discussion of these approaches and scan of best practices in other municipalities, please see Attachment 5.

Options for Mitigating Human-Wildlife Conflict in Toronto

In line with best practices, staff have outlined the following options for managing urban wildlife populations and reducing human-wildlife conflict in the City of Toronto.

Development of Strategy for Mitigating Human-Wildlife Conflict

In recent years, cities such as Ottawa (2013) and Oakville (2012) have developed comprehensive and integrated strategies that address the role of urban wildlife from diverse perspectives, including concerns for wildlife habitat preservation and the reduction of human-wildlife conflict.

The City of Toronto currently lacks such a comprehensive strategy. The last mention of a municipal approach to wildlife was in a 1999 Toronto Public Health report, which briefly focused on wildlife in the context of rabies prevention (for more information on this

report, please see Attachment 4). Preparation of this report also revealed that there was confusion among staff, stakeholders and the public about the roles and responsibilities related to wildlife, applicable laws and regulations and what processes are in place to deal with the most common wildlife conflict situations.

City of Toronto may wish to direct staff to develop a strategy for mitigating human-wildlife conflict tailored to the needs and realities of Toronto in consultation with partner agencies and other stakeholders. A wildlife strategy for the City of Toronto should:

- Identify practices to prevent human-wildlife conflict
- Support broader efforts to protect wildlife habitats and conserve biodiversity
- Outline a clear process for responding to specific wildlife conflict situations
- Educate staff and the public on wildlife, including existing rules and regulations
- Recommend further actions to improve urban wildlife management in Toronto

Education & Awareness

Based on educational programs in other cities, staff have identified a number of actions to strengthen the educational role of the City of Toronto as it relates to human-wildlife conflict. Efforts should be focused on pro-active educational approaches that are tailored to property owners/tenants such as seasonal campaigns based on the most common wildlife activities in the fall, winter, spring and summer. Topics should include: how to wildlife-proof homes, how to hire a wildlife control operator and what are the rules governing responses to wildlife conflict on private property.

Some municipalities like the City of Vancouver have also established networks among different agencies and non-governmental organizations to share resources, coordinate messaging and improve public education related to urban wildlife.

The City of Toronto could establish an inter-divisional committee on urban wildlife with key staff from Divisions, whose operations either interact or have an impact on urban wildlife including, Toronto Animal Services, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, City Planning, Toronto Public Health and Solid Waste. The Committee could focus on the following goals:

- share resources (i.e. information material),
- organize public educational efforts,
- identify emerging practices in urban wildlife management,
- establish partnerships with non-governmental wildlife organizations,
- inform the development of the City of Toronto's Wildlife Strategy

Optional Enforcement Tools

Wildlife Feeding By-law

Municipalities such as Niagara Falls, Hamilton and Mississauga have enacted by-laws prohibiting the feeding of urban wildlife on private property as an essential part of their

wildlife management strategy. Feeding doesn't only increase the risk of negative interactions between people and wildlife; it also reduces the fear of humans in animals.

As previously mentioned, the City of Toronto bans the feeding of wildlife in parks under Chapter 608, Subsection 36 and can exercise its property standards by-laws to ensure residents keep their properties free of conditions that may attract wildlife.

The City of Toronto may wish to consider the development of a Wildlife Feeding By-law that would be directed at individuals engaged in the advertent and inadvertent feeding of urban wildlife on their private property. Any such by-law should exempt the leaving of food to capture nuisance wildlife or, for a colony of feral cats that are registered with the City's trap, neuter/spay and release program. The enforcement of the by-law should be accompanied by an educational campaign to inform the public about the negative impact of feeding wildlife.

Amendments to the Waste Collection By-Laws

Some jurisdictions, particularly in Western Canada such as West Vancouver and Kamloops, have implemented waste by-laws prohibiting leaving garbage at curbside overnight. The rationale behind these by-laws is to prevent wildlife particularly large mammals such as bears and deer from having access to food sources. In most of these jurisdictions, enforcement of the by-laws is coupled with a strong educational program to ensure compliance and greater public awareness about wildlife attractants.

The City of Toronto may wish to amend the waste collection by-laws to prohibit residents from setting out garbage overnight. Currently, Chapter 844, Waste Collection, Residential Properties requires garbage and organic material to be set out at the collection point no earlier than 8:00 PM on the day before collection and no later than 7:00 AM on the day of collection.

Possible Recommendations:

1. Direct staff to explore the feasibility of amending the current waste collection by-laws to prohibit overnight placement of garbage at the collection point, before collection day

Prevention & Urban Development

The Oakville and Ottawa Wildlife Strategies have also highlighted the need for wildlife-proofing guidelines for residential and commercial development processes similar to the City of Toronto's "Bird Friendly Development Guidelines." Although municipalities are limited in their ability to impose requirements on private land development, opportunities exist to work collaboratively with homeowners and developers to reduce human-wildlife conflict. Guidelines or protocols can be prepared on how to incorporate wildlife proofing measures in home construction (e.g. chimney screens, eliminating openings under decks/porches).

Information could also be provided to residents in new developments that outline potential urban wildlife conflicts and appropriate responses, especially if a development is likely to experience ongoing wildlife issues as a result of adjacent parkland areas, natural corridors, or other habitat preservation areas within the general community.

Possible Recommendations:

1. Develop guidelines for residential and commercial development processes that promote wildlife-proofing measures in new building construction and the development of “owner awareness packages” to reduce post-construction conflicts between wildlife and residents

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Ipsos Reid Survey Results, December 2014

Attachment 2: Toronto Animal Services’ Wildlife Field Responses, 2009 - 2014

Attachment 3: Map of Toronto Animal Services’ Wildlife Field Responses Per Ward, 2014

Attachment 4: Summary of laws, policies and regulations related to human-wildlife conflict in Ontario

Attachment 5: Challenges and opportunities of different wildlife management approaches

Attachment 6: Scan of urban wildlife management practices in other municipalities

Attachment 7: Summary of roles and responsibilities related to urban wildlife in Toronto