



Licensing of wildlife control operators

Licensing and Standards Committee – Nov. 26th, 2015

The concerns:

The wildlife control industry is one that urgently needs licensing. Although there are a few reputable, knowledgeable companies, most are not. Common problems include:

- The orphaning of countless babies by trapping and relocating their mothers (or other practices that separate families). Orphaned babies either suffer and die or are brought to wildlife rehabilitators for care; wildlife rehabilitators who are stretched thin for resources and cannot admit all the babies who need help. If admitted for care, the “orphans” created by the wildlife control industry then displace resources for true orphans i.e. babies whose mothers have been killed
- Trapping and relocating of adults (beyond the legally allowed 1km) is inhumane. Studies show that many adults who are relocated don't live long
- Animals are injured or killed regularly by inexperienced or unethical operators e.g. traps are not secured properly, so trapped, struggling animals fall off roofs
- Overcharging / charging for services that don't solve the problem. This is rampant in the wildlife control industry, as is fear-mongering in order to sell their services
- Assumption by consumers that this industry is regulated; well-intentioned people trust that these companies are reputable and experienced, which is often not the case

Why it doesn't make sense for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) to license wildlife control operators:

- The OMNR is solely responsible for provincially protected animals under the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Act. Wildlife control operators work with provincially protected, as well as federally protected and unprotected species which the OMNR has no jurisdiction over. These species include:
 - Canada geese, mallards, and American robins – federally protected
 - Rock pigeons, European starlings, crows and groundhogs – unprotected
- Wildlife control operators commonly carry out activities that are not regulated under the provincial act e.g. the use of one-way doors to exclude mothers from babies in dens and the removal of nests of baby birds from unwanted locations

Please vote today to license wildlife control operators in the City of Toronto.

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