

Selecting a Private Wildlife Removal Company

Before contacting a private wildlife removal company, Pickering Animal Services advises residents to contact Toronto Wildlife Centre at 416-631-0662 for tips on how to humanely solve and prevent human-wildlife conflicts. If you have already pursued the above option and the problem is still not resolved, you may want to contact a private wildlife removal company for some help. The following information will help you to choose a reliable and reputable private wildlife removal company.



Where and How do I find a good Company?

- Check local yellow pages under the Animal and Pest Control section for possible companies.
- Choose a company whose employees seem professional and knowledgeable about various wildlife habitats and behaviours.
- Speak with the employees; do they appear to care about their work, the animals involved, and the concern of the homeowner? Does the employee take the time to explain what the source of the problem is and its causes and possible solutions?
- Do they provide more than one recommendation to resolve the problem?
- Is the company willing to come to the property, examine the problem, and provide an accurate estimate?
- Choose a company that will provide you with a written estimate indicating all possible costs upfront.
- Ensure the desired company will allow full payment after the work is complete.
- Ensure that the company will provide a written guarantee for at least 6 months, preferably 1 year for both service and any equipment that was installed. You should also be supplied with a warranty from the manufacturer of certain equipment (vents, chimney caps, screens, etc..).

Live Trapping and Relocation, is it Legal?

The most common method of Wildlife Removal is live trapping and relocation. The Ministry of Natural Resources has completed a great deal of research into the impact of relocating wildlife back into our environment. Research has shown that the relocation of wildlife has resulted in premature death for both adults and their young. Relocation was also found to be a key-contributing factor for the spread of Rabies and other similar diseases.

In 1999, the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act set a mandate stating that all trapped wildlife must be released within 24 hours of capture and, must not be relocated more than 1 kilometre from its capture site.

Before choosing a wildlife company, you will want to find out the following questions pertaining to live trapping and relocation:

- **Do they live trap healthy adult/young animals? If so, where are they released?**
- **What does the company do with the animals once they are captured? If they capture young, what precautions are taken to ensure the adult and babies stay together?**
- **If the company came upon a sick/injured wildlife, what would they do, where do they take the animal?**

In most instances it is inhumane and illegal to relocate wildlife. Repairing and eliminating the attractant and re-releasing the animal where it was found is a better long-term solution for both the resident and the animal. When dealing with young, it is always best to keep the babies with their mother. This will increase their chances of survival.

As a consumer, you ultimately have the ability to choose any company you like. Pickering Animal Services suggests that you properly research the credentials, experience, and reliability of any Private Wildlife Removal Company before making a final decision.

