

How to Solve a Problem with Wildlife at Your Home:

By Illinois law, a property owner or tenant needs a Nuisance Animal Removal Permit to trap and remove most species of wildlife. To determine if you need a permit, go to the Do I Need a Permit?

http://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife/solutions_permit.cfm. If a Nuisance Animal Removal Permit is necessary, you can request a permit from an Illinois Department of Natural Resources District Wildlife Biologist at:

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife/professionals.cfm>. The District Wildlife Biologist will provide guidance on appropriate trapping and disposal methods, but will not trap the animal for you. Property damage by wildlife or a threat to human health or safety by wildlife must be demonstrated before a permit will be issued. Animals that are trapped by a property owner or tenant must be released onto the property from which they were captured, relocated to another property, or humanely euthanized. If an animal is relocated, prior written permission must be obtained from the landowner of the property where the animal will be released. Animals may not be released in state, county, or municipal parks, nature preserves, or natural areas.

If you need assistance with trapping an animal, you may prefer to hire a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) to trap and remove the animal for you. By state law, NWCOs must euthanize all skunks, and raccoons must be released on the same property where they were trapped or euthanized. For a list of NWCOs in your area, go to the Find a Wildlife Professional page at: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife/professionals.cfm>.

Important Information on traps:

Spiked and Toothed Jaw Traps:

It is unlawful to use any trap with saw toothed, spiked or toothed jaws.

Deadfalls, Nets and Pit Traps:

It is unlawful to use or possess a deadfall, net or pit trap to take any protected wildlife.

Snares:

It is unlawful to place, set, use or maintain a snare unless at least half of the loop is underwater at all times. When set, the snare loop must be 15 inches or less in diameter. Snares must be constructed of cable that is at least 5/64 inch, but no more than 1/8 inch in diameter, and must be equipped with a mechanical lock, anchor swivel and stop device that prevents the snare loop from closing to less than 2-1/2 inches in diameter.

Trapping Near Dwellings:

It is unlawful to trap within 100 yards of an inhabited dwelling without first obtaining permission from the owner or tenant.

Permission from Landowner:

It is unlawful to trap furbearers on another person's property without his or her permission. This includes waters flowing over or standing on the land of another person.

Damaging Property While Trapping:

It is unlawful to destroy or damage another person's property while trapping on his or her land.