

# How To Help Wildlife And The Environment

All wildlife needs habitat – a space to find food, water, shelter, and have young. Unfortunately, habitat is disappearing due to human development or is being polluted, but you can help! Improving conditions for wildlife to thrive also improves the quality of the environment for us! Here's how you can help:

## Stop using rat poison

Please don't use poison, it is a poor choice long-term if the attractants and shelter are not removed. Rat and mouse proof your house by closing off entry points, removing food attractants such as outdoor pet food, fruiting plants left unpicked, or messy bird feeders. There is no wildlife safe poison, many owls and other predators get secondary poisoned from eating contaminated rodents. Glue traps are no safer!



## Use window decals, UV filters, or shade screens

Window strikes are one of the leading causes of injury to birds. Many die directly on impact from the hit, others break bones, become temporarily paralyzed and require intensive rehabilitation. Help prevent this by using specialized UV products. Find decals in our giftshop.

## Keep cats indoors or on leash

Outdoor cats have a devastating affect on wildlife. Cats are a non-native threat which means our native wildlife have not adapted to counteract this predator. Not only do cats kill wild animals, they also take and eat food that other natural predators would normally hunt and consume. For your cats safety and benefit please consider other options such as found here: <https://catiospaces.com/>

## Keep Dogs on leashes in undesignated areas

Keep your dogs on leash in natural habitats and where wildlife are nesting. Loose animals can disrupt wildlife and some can kill nestlings or harass the parents. Dogs can also be injured by wildlife. Please take your dog to designated off leash areas.

## Replace or flag barbed wire fence



Wildlife can get caught in barbed wire fences. This can cause severe damage to bone, skin and blood vessels. Please consider flagging to enhance the vision of the fence so wildlife can avoid it. Removing wire or barbs can prevent injury.

## Switch to non-lead fishing weights and ammunition

Lead poisoning is another leading cause for wildlife to become ill or die! Lead is a soft metal that fragments when it hits a target or is ingested accidentally by wildlife. You can prevent this from happening by switching to non lead alternatives for hunting and fishing. See more at [www.huntingwithnonlead.org](http://www.huntingwithnonlead.org)



## Plant native plants

Native plants are better suited at providing food and shelter year round for species that depend on them. These plants usually also require less care and water than ornamentals. Insects that call native plants home provide food and help keep the balance in nature.

## Don't keep them as pets or rehab them yourself!

Even though wildlife may be cute they are certainly not cuddly! Every year, we receive some sad cases of raptors that have been held captive whether the intention was to be kept as pets or to 'help' get them better. Delayed rehabilitation can make the chance of a successful recovery slim. Bones can begin to heal in a wrong position, and wounds can turn deadly. If you want to help care for wildlife, volunteer for a rehabilitation center.



## Don't litter. Recycle!

Do you throw apple cores or banana peels out of your car so you don't have to drive around with it? Did you know that doing so will attract mice and other animals to the sides of the road and in turn that attracts large predators to the roads edge? This increases the chance of raptors being hit cars. Also make sure fishing lines, lures, hooks, nets, and plastic six-pack holders are disposed of properly because they can cause wildlife to become tangled and trapped. Just because it is out of sight does not mean the garbage is gone for good. Make sure to recycle plastics, metals, toys, and electronics at Return-It Depots.

## Leave no trace

Wherever you go, take only pictures and leave only footprints – Leave animals and plants where you find them. Informative shopping – Purchasing items made from wild animal parts encourages the illegal trapping and killing of threatened or endangered animals