

Why feeding wildlife can be a danger to your family, pets neighbours, and the animal itself

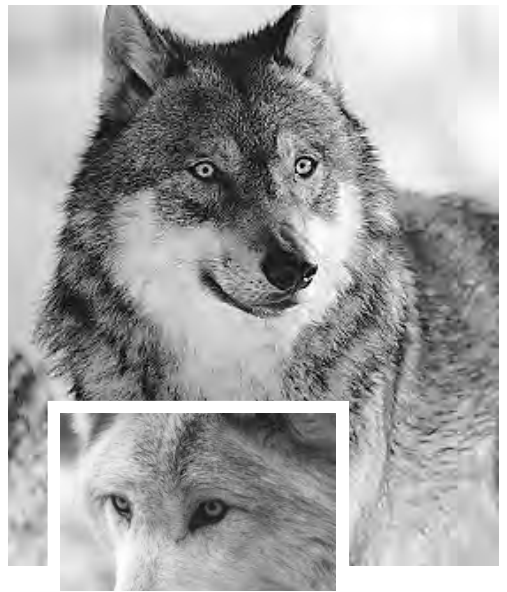
Many Yukoners enjoy opportunities to watch wild animals in their natural environment. Wildlife viewing is a special benefit of living where we do. But interacting with wildlife by feeding it can pose a danger to your family, pets, neighbours, and to the animal itself.

The saying "A fed bear is a dead bear" is true for any wild species. Providing a meal to a fox or coyote may seem like an act of kindness, but it is not – it's against the law.

If a wild animal is accustomed to eating people food, it will come to expect and seek out a meal. When wild animals become habituated to unnatural food sources they can lose their fear of humans and become bold and aggressive.

Situations like this can be dangerous to the community and usually end badly for the animal.

In some cases, wild animals that frequent residential areas can be live-trapped and relocated. But if the animal has become a nuisance and a danger to pets and people, it must be destroyed by a Conservation Officer.



You can avoid creating nuisance wildlife by not feeding wild animals. Don't attract foxes, coyotes, wolves or bears to your yard with carelessly stored garbage, compost or pet food. Protect your pets from becoming prey to a wild animal.

Take the opportunity to watch wildlife in your neighbourhood, but respect its wild nature. If a fox or coyote lingers too long, opening the door or banging a pot will often be enough to send it on its way.

Bring up the topic with your neighbours. Inform people in your community about the negative consequences of feeding wild animals.

If you suspect someone is feeding wildlife or if you see a wild animal acting aggressively, call the tip line: **1-800-661-0525** or call **your local Environment Yukon Conservation Officer**.

We can all do our part to help keep the wild in wildlife



Yukon
Environment