

Are wildlife making their home in your home?

Wildlife families can sometimes be found making their homes in our homes, especially during spring and summer. If the animals are not causing damage or harm, consider letting your wild roommates hang out until autumn, when nesting season is over. Once nesting season is over, the animals will vacate on their own. Then you can make repairs to prevent the animal from returning next season.

If the animals must be removed, try gently discouraging them. Wildlife live within a certain range, and if they feel as though their nesting site has been disturbed, they will move their babies to a new place. You can deter animals from their nesting site by using a mix of unpleasant smells and sounds.

Some options include apple cider vinegar (not ammonia), lights and a blaring radio during nighttime hours. Evicting animals from buildings is very hard on wildlife, and often can lead the frightened parents to abandon their young. Seal them out before spring!

Need help? Contact a professional! Contact a company with experience in safely and humanely relocating wildlife, such as Animal Expects at (520) 531-1020.



These ringtails grew up at Tucson Wildlife Center after their mother was relocated without them.

Prevent and reduce attractants

Animals are attracted to areas with available food, water, shelter and/or cover. Problems will persist if action is not taken to remove wildlife attractants to the home. Regularly maintaining your home and yard can help reduce the number of unwanted visitors.

- **Remove all traces of food** by cleaning up fallen berries, nuts, fruits, bird seed, etc... and feed pets indoors. When feeding birds, feed small amounts at a time, clean fallen seed and bring feeders in at night. Store all food in airtight, rodent-proof containers.
- Remove garbage and secure trash cans. Wait to put trash containers out until the morning of pickups.
- Regularly maintain your yard by pulling weeds and ivy, raking leaves, mowing grass, and trimming overgrown plants. Cut tree branches three feet away from roof. Remove wood piles. Consider planting “trap crops” or crops planted specifically to attract insects to deter them from other plants. Remove insects manually with gloves.
- Protect your garden and plants by lining holes with hardware cloth or heavy wire.
- Deny mice and rats access to food in your home by sealing holes and cracks that are larger than 1/4-inch wide with hardware cloth, cement, metal and copper mesh wool. Cap your chimney!
- Use motion-activated lights in areas rats frequent, like under your car or hood.
- Build a barn owl box! A single barn owl can eat 1,000 rodents in a year! Do not build an owl box if pesticides have been used around your home.
- Build secure enclosures with tops for livestock and chickens. Elevate your chicken coop by 18 inches.

For wildlife help or emergencies, call Tucson Wildlife Center at 520-290-WILD(9453)

Tucson Wildlife Center is dedicated to the rescue, emergency medical care and rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife before return to the wild, while promoting education, habitat protection and peaceful coexistence with wildlife. Visit us online at www.TucsonWildlife.com.

As a last resort, use humane live traps to safely capture and relocate wildlife

Use Havahart live traps to safely and humanely capture small to large mammals for relocation. Traps are available in several sizes, depending on the animal you are trying to capture. You can purchase a Havahart live trap at www.havahart.com or at your local hardware store.

Tips on using humane live traps:

- **Size:** Visit [ww.Havahart.com](http://www.Havahart.com) to find the right size trap for the animal you want to capture. Havahart traps come in different sizes to ensure the animal you are looking to capture is caught safely and securely. The type of trap you use will depend on the animal you are capturing.
- **Bait:** The bait will depend on the animal you are capturing. Havahart suggests marshmallows for raccoons, cabbage for rabbits, peanuts for squirrels and canned fish for skunks or opossums. Wear gloves to avoid transferring your scent onto the bait or trap. Make sure to position your bait correctly. If you're using a trap that has one door, put the bait near the back-end, just after the trigger plate. If you are using a two-door trap, you will need to put the bait in the middle of the trap. Locate where the animal is making their home and create a trail of bait that leads to the open door of the trap. More information on www.havahart.com/how-to-bait.
- **Check the trap:** Check the trap frequently, preferably every hour, at LEAST every 6 hours. The longer that the animal is trapped, the more the animal will become anxious, scared and hungry. Ants can also start to attack the defenseless animal. Animals can injure themselves if kept in traps for long periods of time.
- **Once caught:** Once the animal is caught, keep your voice down and approach the trap slowly and cover the trap with a towel or sheet. Keep noises, radios and talking to a minimum. Transport the animal while inside the covered trap to your release site. If the animal is injured, lethargic, or covered in ants, call Tucson Wildlife Center at 520-290-WILD (9453).
- **Release:** Release live animals 1/4 mile away, or in a desert wash near prickly pear, palo verde trees, mesquite trees, agave, fruit trees and flowering cacti (for food and hydration). Once you arrive at your release site, face the trap entrance into the desert (not towards the road or your car). Uncover the trap to let the animal adjust for a few minutes to its surroundings before opening the door. Once the trap door is open, give the animal a lot of space by moving several feet away. They should run out on their own.
- **Need help? Call a professional!** Contact a company with experience in safely and humanely relocating wildlife, such as **Animal Expects at (520) 531-1020**.



Information found at: www.havahart.com/expert-how-to-tips-to-trap-animals.

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Please stop poisoning our food !

Rat poison doesn't just kill rats, but affects wildlife, humans, pets and the environment



Poisons not only kill rats and mice, but can kill wildlife that eat those animals, including owls, hawks, bobcats, mountain lions, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, other wildlife, and even domestic pets.

Rodenticides used alone or in bait boxes, herbicides, pesticides and other toxins not only directly harm wildlife, but they also build up in smaller prey and soil, and contaminate groundwater. Toxins are consumed by the rodents and insects, who are then consumed by larger predators. This causes the toxins to be transferred from prey to predator and accumulate in large amounts in animals higher up the food chain. Top predators like owls, hawks, coyotes and bobcats can become sick and even die from continued toxin exposure through the food chain.

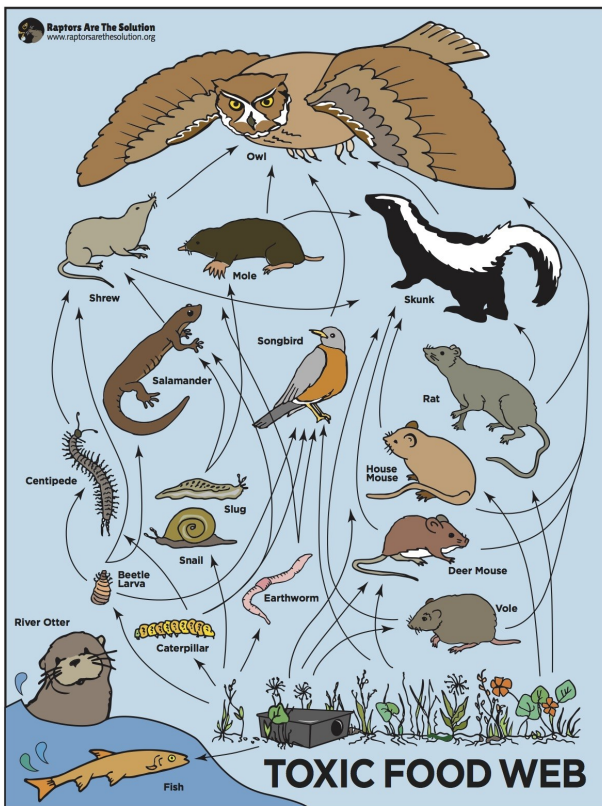
Not only can these poisons be directly toxic leading to bleeding, seizures and death, but lower levels can also impair the immune system, causing coyotes, bobcats, eagles, owls and other wildlife to be more susceptible to diseases like mange.

Alternatives to using pesticides include planting “trap crops,” crops planted specifically to attract insects to deter them from other plants, removing insects manually with gloves, and excluding insects and spiders through the use of door thresholds, weather stripping and roof vents.

Alternatives to herbicides include hand pulling weeds when ground is moist, suppressing weeds with mulches free of PVCs (polyvinyl chloride), and using netted or plastic barriers under unplanted landscaping materials such as pebbles, mulch, or stone.

Instead of rodenticides, sprinkle cinnamon in areas they frequent most. Place peppermint oil-soaked cotton balls and rags throughout infested areas (you will need to re-soak frequently). Deny mice and rats access to food in your home by sealing holes and cracks that are larger than 1/4-inch wide using hardware cloth, and store all food in airtight, rodent-proof containers. Don't leave out pet food and clean spilled birdseed.

Instead of strychnine and gas poisons, use heavy wire (or hardware cloth) to line holes for planting and to protect gardens. Sprinkle baby powder around areas rodents and rabbits frequent. Remember, desert holes made by rodents keep rain water from running off and provide moisture for plants and trees.



The Horrible Truth About Using Glue Traps, Rodent Traps and Kill Traps

Tucson Wildlife Center admits a large number of suffering animals every year that are caught in kill traps and glue traps. **Glue traps, rodent traps and kill traps cause very painful, slow, cruel deaths and often catch unintended targets like bats, small birds, reptiles, skunks, raccoons, other mammals and even pets.**

Steel jaw traps and rodent traps are excruciatingly painful, often cutting through tissue down to the bone. Wildlife will struggle for hours, sometimes days, being attacked by predators and trying to gnaw or bite off their limbs in attempt to escape before succumbing to exhaustion, dehydration, shock, exposure and death.



This Harris's hawk was rescued after flying around Tucson for several days with a steel-jaw trap attached to his leg. After being rescued by Tucson Wildlife Center, the trap was safely removed to reveal a crushed talon. After surgery and months of rehabilitation, the magnificent hawk was released back to the wild.

A venomous baby Gila monster was rescued after being found stuck on a killer glue trap. He was covered in such strong and thick glue that Tucson Wildlife Center's veterinarians had to be careful to not glue themselves to the animal they were trying to save. Eventually they were able to remove all the glue without harming the reptile and he was released.



Many of the skunks Tucson Wildlife Center rescues are caught in rodent traps. Their paws and toes can be crushed, bones badly broken and the animal often suffers for days before being found and rescued. This spotted skunk was rescued, and needed her toe removed in order to survive. Thankfully she recovered well and was still able to use her paw to forage. She was released back to the wild.

NEVER attempt to remove an animal from ANY trap on your own. For best chances of survival, call Tucson Wildlife Center and bring the animal to our 24/7 rescue, rehab and release hospital. Medical treatment is almost always needed once a trap is removed.