

# 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](http://www.TucsonWildlife.com).