

Into the Wild Humane Wildlife Control Services, LLC
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Client Fact Sheet: Referral for Humane Wildlife Control Services

As a small, family owned and operated company, we sometimes find it necessary to refer Clients to other wildlife control companies due to competing priorities. To date, we have yet to identify local operators that meet our definition of 'humane'. Ethically, we cannot refer Clients to operators that we do not feel practice humane wildlife control. We feel it is our responsibility to wildlife and our Clients to provide you with honest information about choosing humane services. There are several common misconceptions regarding what is and is not humane. This Fact Sheet was developed to arm you with information you should be aware of prior to choosing an alternative operator.

Keep in mind that you may be able to handle the conflict yourself, humanely. We offer consulting services to assist you in determine the appropriate methods and materials that should be used on a case-by-case basis. The methods and materials used vary by species and location of the wildlife. Refer to the Humane Society's publication, *How to Find Products to Resolve Wildlife Conflicts*, available online at www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/products_resolve_wildlife_conflicts.html. Should you need additional help, contact us for an estimate on DIY consultation.

What methods are inhumane?

Regardless of what a wildlife control operator may say in defense of the methods they use to resolve wildlife conflicts, there are humane alternatives for all situations. Our research has identified many wildlife control operators that advertise being 'humane' but use methods that we do not consider to be humane. Whether such operators are simply not knowledgeable about humane methods or are intentionally misleading prospective clients, we can't say.

Inhumane methods include:

- Poisons
- Glue traps
- Trapping and relocation (See *Scrap the Trap When Evicting Wildlife: Trapping and relocating isn't the best option*, The Humane Society of the United States)

The use of live animal traps, contrary to popular belief, rarely ends well for wildlife.

**Relocation is a death sentence for wildlife $\geq 80\%$ of the time;
species and population are factors.**

Think about the animal in a trap. It is scared and will do anything, including injuring itself, to get out. Now consider the relocated animal. Does it know where to find food in this territory? Is this location appropriate habitat for this particular species? Is the animal likely to be an intruder to other animals? Will those animals defend their territory?

An operator that does not consider these things is not humane.

What is non-lethal wildlife control?

"Non-lethal wildlife control is an increasingly popular way to manage human-wildlife conflicts without killing and, in most cases, without relocating the wild animals. It is the most effective means of reducing and/or eliminating problems, because it addresses causes—that is, what attracted the animal to become an unwanted guest in the first place." ~Humane Society of the United States.

Eviction and exclusion is the most common humane method used in wildlife conflicts, meaning the animals are evicted from the property or building in questions and prevented from returning. The specific methods to both evict and exclude depend on a number of factors including species, location, whether young are present or are potentially present, entry/exits used and potential locations for entry/exit.

Hiring an alternative operator

Be somewhat cautious of operators that advertise themselves as pest control operators; ask if they use pesticides or poisons.

Look for operators whose primary service is wildlife control.

Be sure the operator is addressing the cause of the problem, not just a quick solution. Wildlife living in your attic is there because there are entry/exit points. The area needs to be sealed to prevent future wildlife problems. If these repairs are not mentioned, the operator may be looking for repeat business.

Ask questions!

The operator must provide an on-site assessment in order to identify the full scope of the problem and develop an accurate estimate. Ask for written estimate after the assessment.

During the on-site visit, the Humane Society of the United States recommends asking operators to identify:

- The animal(s) using the structure.
- All of the entry points as well as any potential entry points.
- Whether or not offspring are present.
- How the answers to the above questions were determined.

During assessments, we take photos of entry/exit points, damage, and signs of wildlife, including nest material and feces as long as conditions allow for clear photos. Our clients can review our photos as evidence and they are included as part of our written report services. **Ask your operator ahead of the assessment if photos can be taken.**

Request details about how the operator will resolve the conflict and how the animal(s) will be treated.

Will the animal be killed, and if so why and how? **Ask for alternatives!**

Ask about the possibility that young will be orphaned or abandoned. **If so, ask for alternatives!** Verify species specific information by looking up the species natural history from credible sources online. Interim solutions to prevent access to your living quarters can be implemented to avoid unnecessary harm due to weather and birthing seasons.

If young are present, ask how they will reunite families before they are released on your property. Keep in mind parents of young trapped inside a structure can cause significant damage trying to reach young.

Verify that young are old enough to travel with parents. If not, ask that the operator do the following:

- Ask the operator to bring the entire family to a wildlife rehabilitator
- Get the name and phone number of the rehabilitator so you can verify placement.
- *Please* ask the operator to give the rehabilitator a donation to help pay the expenses of providing safe shelter until the young are old enough to travel with their parents. ITW HWCS, LLC donates a portion of its relocation fee to the specific rehabilitator that will be caring for animals we bring them. While we are rehabilitators ourselves, we cannot care for all animals identified through our wildlife control services. We also know it is a struggle to pay for the care of wildlife in need, and every dollar helps save more animals.

- The operator should provide rehabilitator with your name, address and phone number not only for their state reporting requirements but also so they can ensure the animals are eventually released to their native territory, on or nearby your property.

Once the operator can assure you that all animals are out of the structure, remaining entry points should be sealed immediately to prevent further intrusions.

Ask what specific methods, materials and/or devices will be used to evict and exclude. For example, will the operator remove the animals by hand or install a device such as a one-way door?

Make sure your money is well spent on long-term solutions. The operator should provide a one-year guarantee of their work.

Ask for a copy of the operator's NYSDEC issued Wildlife Nuisance Control Operator license.

If you are still unsure about the operator, ask for references from previous clients. Use caution in reading references from the operator's website. It is best to speak with previous clients. Keep in mind, these references may or may not be aware of humane wildlife control methods and they may or may not care about the humane treatment of wildlife.

For additional help finding alternative wildlife control operators, ask other local wildlife rehabilitators, the local humane society, shelters or your veterinarian. Ask these references **how they have determined that the operator uses humane wildlife conflict methods.**

Again, we apologize that we are unable to accommodate your wildlife control needs at this time. We wish you and the critters good luck!

~Peace~