



Addressing the Issue of Wildlife Feeding



Heather Gurewitz
Associate Planner



Issue:

The feeding of wildlife including ravens and ground squirrels has negative impacts on the environment, public health, and the potential to be a public safety hazard.



Feeding Wildlife

It's hard to resist feeding the wildlife but please don't - for their health and your safety.

Their Health

The native animals who live here, including ducks, geese, squirrels, racoons and other wildlife, need nature's diet to be healthy. Human food is "junk food" for wildlife. Well-intentioned handouts may cause disease like "Angel Wing" and obesity, injury and even death for the animals. Providing unnatural food encourages wildlife to congregate in large numbers, leading to territorial fighting, attacks by predators and being hit by cars. Animals you feed today may be killed as "pests" tomorrow. Don't harm wildlife with your kindness...help them remain healthy, safe and free.

Your Safety

Native animals who eat human food.....

- May bite, scratch or threaten park visitors.
- May come into conflicts with your pets.
- May spread disease.

**FED WILDLIFE IS DEAD WILDLIFE.
IF YOU CARE, DON'T FEED!!**

Feeding Wildlife is illegal in the City of Huntington Beach, the County of Orange, the State of California and in all Federal Parks. Huntington Beach Municipal Code: 13.48.075 Feeding of Wildlife on City Property Prohibited. **Punishable by Fine.**



@MelissaMurals

What are the current and future impacts?

- Environmental damage to fed wildlife and other bird populations
- Spreading of disease among animals, pets, and potentially humans
- Creates aggressive behavior from wildlife
- Unaddressed, may require severe actions in the future.



Potential Ways to Address Issue

- California Code of Regulations Title 14 Section 251.1
- Create a City Ordinance
- Install signage & interpretive panels in city parks
- Develop and implement public education campaign

