

Adding Chapter 7.18 to Prevent the Feeding of Wildlife in the City of Fort Bragg

HEATHER GUREWITZ, MCRP

ASSOCIATE PLANNER

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT





"If wild animals have access to human food and garbage, unnatural foraging behavior can begin. Wildlife venturing into neighborhoods puts both people and animals at risk. Wildlife become susceptible to vehicle strikes, pesticide poisoning, injury from other wildlife, and disease. Public safety may be compromised."



California Fish and Wildlife, Keep Me Wild





- City made a commitment to minimize environmental impacts of the coastal trail.
- Increase in raven populations and disruption of squirrel wildlife through feeding.











- ▶ The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) :
 - "too many animals in one place increases the chance of disease transmission to people and among other wildlife
 - ravens negatively affect the recovery of sensitive, threatened, and endangered species, including snowy plovers
 - can be carriers of West Nile virus (WNV)
- ▶ Disease(s) (e.g. salmonellosis) spread through bird feeders and birdbaths killed songbirds in CA, OR, and WA this past spring.





- Wildlife means any non-domesticated species of animal <u>including but</u> <u>not limited to</u> coyotes, deer, wild turkeys, foxes, skunks, raccoons, possums, squirrels, ducks, geese, ravens, crows, and gulls.
- Feeding wildlife on public and private land would be prohibited
- Includes the negligent feeding of wildlife (e.g. open garbage)
- ▶ Bird feeders (except turkeys) are legal but must be kept in manner that does not attract other animals or cause potential harm to birds through the spread of disease.

New Signage



- Local Audubon will fund 1-2 interpretive signs
- City will install no feeding signs along coastal trail and as needed on other City properties.
- Additional Park Rules Sign at the Alder St. Entrance







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

Surf City HB Hentisten leads

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.



Public Education

FORT BAPAGG

- Press Release
- Work with local schools to create media content & educate
- Article in the City Buzz
- Website content on urban/wildlife interface



NEWS
No results found.

EVENTS
No results found.

green belts and natural open space areas. These areas are attractive to a wide variety of wildlife including common, rare and protected species.

Living with Wildlife

Having wildlife live so close to home provides a great opportunity to watch and enjoy our fellow Earthlings. However, urban wildlife can also create problems when they eat our fruits and vegetables or damage our homes or landscaping. Here are some general preventive measures to help reduce conflict with wildlife.

- Do not feed wildlife. Feeding wildlife may not seem like a big deal, but it is the primary cause for conflict. Supplemental feeding encourages them to stay closer to your home, causes them to become less fearful of humans, and may reduce their health. Wild animals are capable of finding their own food.
- Do not feed pets outside. If you must, be sure to immediately remove any uneaten portion.
- Keep small pets indoors at night, Large predators such as coyotes and great-horned owls view small pets as potential food
- Secure pet doors during late evening and night hours.
 Nocturnal species such as raccoons will readily enter cat doors in search of food.
- Protect backyard chickens by using a <u>predator proof coop</u>.
- Search for, repair or otherwise seal any holes, loose boards or gaps around the perimeter of your house so that wildlife cannot enter. Mice can squeeze through a hole or gap that's