



TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
2207 LAWRENCE ROAD
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY 08648
(609) 844-7089



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Lawrence Township Health Department

Lawrence Township Animal Control Spring Wildlife

Wildlife baby season has arrived. If you see wildlife out during daylight hours, do not be alarmed. They are most likely foraging for food for their babies. Only if they appear too young to be out on their own, injured, sick or aggressive should you call us. Our job as Animal Control Officers is to educate the public about understanding the habits and habitats of wildlife. Solving unwanted encounters before they happen is our goal.

A quick reference to mammal birthing seasons is as follows:

Cottontail (rabbits)- February to October;

Chipmunks-April to May, July to August

Woodchuck (ground hogs)- May-June

Squirrels-March-May, August-Sept.

Fox-March

Raccoon-February to April

Skunk-April to June

Opossum- March-April, July-Aug.

Bats have babies usually in June

If you see wildlife in your backyard and are concerned, make noise. Bang some pots and pans to scare them off. Most animals don't like strong smells. Vinegar is a great natural deterrent.

Do not feed backyard wildlife under any circumstances. Feeding encourages wildlife to rely on human handouts that are not a part of their normal diet. They will continue to come back and become a nuisance.

- Use sturdy trash cans with secure lids.
- Do not feed your pets outside and clean up any leftovers immediately.

Lastly, trapping and relocating wildlife in New Jersey is illegal during this period. This practice provides a short-term solution, since other animals will take the place of those trapped. The conditions that attracted wildlife to begin with must be corrected. There are strict laws on the NJ Fish & Wildlife website found at <https://dep.njgov/njfw>. Trapping is prohibited for all species listed above on March 15, 2025 Statewide. Bat exclusions should only be conducted from April 1st to April 30th and August 1st to October 15th. NO exclusions from roosts should be conducted from May 1st to July 31st.



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If you need assistance with sick, injured, orphaned or abandoned wildlife, please contact Animal Control at (609) 844-7092 during regular business hours M – F, 8:30- 4:30 p.m. and non-emergency Police at (609) 896-0225. You can also contact Mercer County Wildlife Center at (609) 303-0552.

Other Resources:

Mercer County Wildlife Center: www.mercercounty.org/mcwc/mcwc.htm

Coexisting with Coyotes and Foxes:

Living with your wild Neighbors: 10 Tips for Homeowners: