

Frequently asked questions

What if I see wildlife in my yard?

Healthy wildlife, by their very nature, will instinctively avoid contact with humans. If they do not run away do not approach them. They may be cute but wild animals should always be left alone.

If animals that are primarily nocturnal, like raccoons and foxes, are out during the day, does that mean they are rabid?

No, all animals will forage for food as needed. Even animals that are primarily nocturnal will come out during the day if they're hungry or if they are feeding their young.

Wildlife is eating my plants, destroying my yard, or causing a nuisance. What are my options?

You can contact the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at (866) 318-2401 or visit their website at ncwildlife.org.

I am interested in becoming a licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator. How do I go about that?

Check the Wildlife Rehab website for a list of upcoming classes. Wildliferehabinc.org.

Frequently asked questions

An animal has gotten into my house, what do I do?

If the animal is in the living area of your home (not a basement, attic, crawl space, garage, etc) you can call Animal Services at (336) 703-2480 and select option 1.

There is a deceased animal in the roadway. Who do I call?

If it is on a road inside the City of Winston-Salem call City Link at (336) 727-8000. If it is on a road outside the city limits, but still in Forsyth County call the NC Department of Transportation at (336) 896-2350.

**Never touch a deceased animal with your bare hands.*

My dog/cat killed wildlife. Should I be concerned about rabies?

You need to contact your veterinarian regarding whether a rabies booster vaccine is necessary, as well as contacting Animal Services at (336) 703-2480 and select option 1. Do not throw the deceased animal away until you have spoken with an officer.

Frequently asked questions

What should I do if I find an abandoned baby animal?

There is a good chance it is not abandoned and the mother has simply gone to look for food. Rabbits, for example, only feed their young twice per day and stay away from the nest most of the time. Leave the baby alone and observe it from a distance or check back later. If the baby appears in distress or injured or if the mother has not returned after a period of time contact Wildlife Rehab at (336) 785-0912.

I see a wild animal that has been hit by a car, but is still alive. Who should I call?

Call your local law enforcement non-emergency number. In the city limits of Winston Salem call WSPD (336)773-7000. In the city limits of Kernersville call Kernersville PD (336) 996-3177. Anywhere else in the county call FCSO (336) 727-2112.

Although wildlife can be cute, and certainly fun to watch, we need to remember that they can also be unpredictable and carry diseases.

DO NOT feed wildlife. This can attract them to an area where they can become a problem and can also cause issues as they become dependent on humans for food rather than finding it themselves.

DO NOT touch or pet wildlife. We've all seen the "selfies" with animals on social media, but this is NOT a good idea for both humans and wildlife as either could easily be injured.

DO make sure your pets have a current rabies vaccine. It is state law and also best practice.

DO keep dogs on a leash, away from wildlife, and keep cats indoors. One domestic animal can decimate a local wildlife population within a matter of weeks if left unchecked.

Contact Information and Resources

NC Wildlife Resources
Commission (statewide)

(866) 318-2401

Wildlife Rehab (Forsyth County)

(336) 785-0912

Forsyth County Sheriff's Office
Animal Services Division

(336) 703-2480

Wildlife Issues and Concerns



**Forsyth County Sheriff's Office
Animal Services Division
5570 Sturmer Park Circle
Winston-Salem, NC 27105**

Phone (336) 703-2480

Fax (336) 661-6414

Email: animalservices@fcso.us