

Coexisting with Wildlife

To coexist is to live in harmony with each other.

We can coexist with wildlife and avoid conflicts by learning about the animals that live near our homes. When we understand their needs, we can avoid creating situations where people and wildlife are in conflict with each other.

Keep pets safe from wildlife, and keep wildlife safe from pets.

The best way to keep pets safe from wildlife, and to keep wildlife safe from pets, is to know what kinds of wildlife are around and to keep pets under control. Dogs that encounter porcupines sometimes find themselves with a painful mouthful of quills—not to mention the effects on the porcupine! If skunks feel threatened, they may defend themselves by spraying a strong-smelling oily substance to fend off danger. This leaves both dog and owner with a stinky reminder to stay away.



Keep pets leashed, fenced or indoors.

There are more than 60 million pet cats in the United States. Studies have shown that housecats that roam outdoors are responsible for killing all kinds of small animals, including birds, mice and even salamanders. Nationwide, pet and feral cats kill hundreds of millions of animals each year.

For more information:

www.dec.ny.gov/23.html DEC's Animals, Plants, Aquatic Life

www.dec.ny.gov/animals/261.html DEC's Wildlife Health

www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7005.html DEC's Nuisance Species - Handling Problems with Wildlife

www.dec.ny.gov/animals/74763.html DEC's Feeding Wildlife - A Wrong Choice

www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/index.html American Bird Conservancy's "Cats Indoors" webpage

www.defenders.org/living-wildlife/living-wildlife-101 Defenders of Wildlife - Living with Wildlife 101

www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/feed_wildlife.html Humane Society of the United States, "Four Reasons Not to Feed Wild Animals"

<http://tv.hww.ca/video/watch/2> Canadian Wildlife Federation's Hinterland Who's Who "Living with Urban Wildlife" webisode

Kids' Easy-to-Create Wildlife Habitats by Emily Stetson (Williamson Books, Nashville, TN, 2004)

New York State Watchable Wildlife Guide by Watchable Wildlife, Inc. (Adventure Publications, Inc., Cambridge, MA, 2012)

Watching Nature: A Beginner's Field Guide by Monica Russo (Sterling Publishing Co., New York, 1998)