

## NEED MORE HELP WITH A WILDLIFE PROBLEM?

If you believe you have a wildlife problem, a San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District technician can inspect your property and provide recommendations for wildlife exclusion and control.

San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District technicians are NOT able provide trapping or wildlife exclusion on private property. If you need these services, San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District can provide information on selecting a wildlife trapper or pest control operator.

**District services are free to residents of San Mateo County. To request services:**

**Call (650) 344-8592  
or visit [www.smcmvcd.org](http://www.smcmvcd.org)**

## San Mateo County Mosquito & Vector Control District

Protecting Public Health since 1916

The San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District is an independent special district devoted to safeguarding the health and comfort of the citizens of San Mateo County through a planned program to reduce mosquitoes and other vectors of disease.

### OUR SERVICES

for San Mateo County Residents

**Mosquito Surveillance & Control**

**Mosquito Fish Delivery**

**Tick Identification & Education**

**Insect Identification & Education**

**Rodent Inspections & Surveys**

**Yellowjacket Control**

**Public Education**

**Vector-Borne Disease Surveillance**



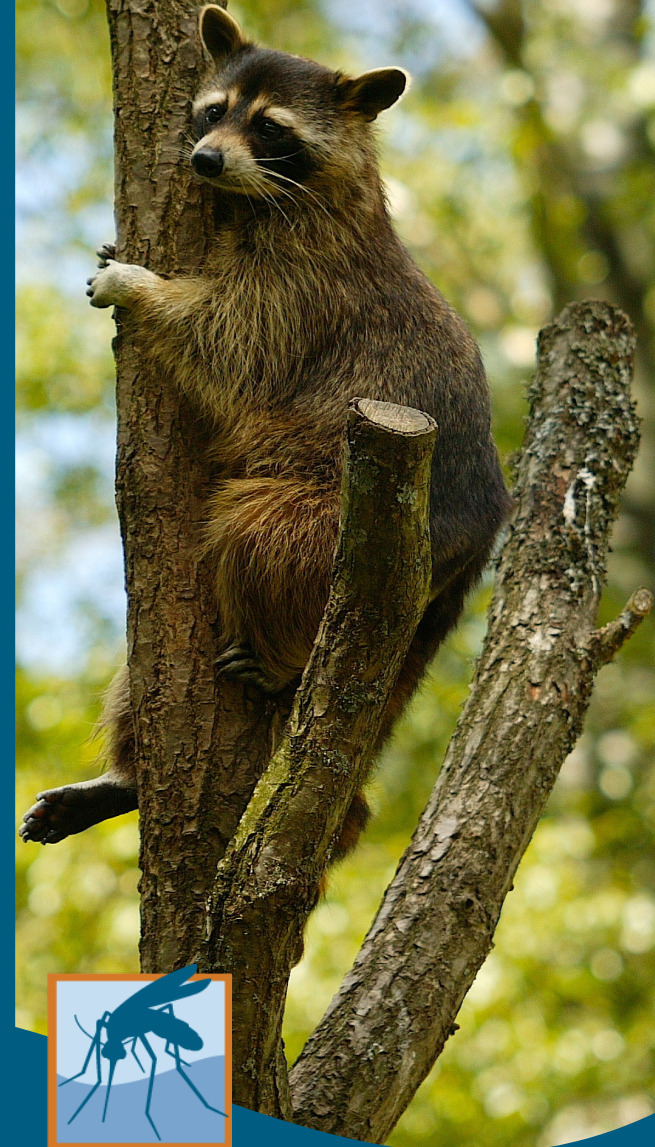
SAN MATEO COUNTY  
MOSQUITO & VECTOR  
CONTROL DISTRICT

(650) 344 - 8592  
1351 Rollins Road  
Burlingame, CA 94010

Monday-Friday  
8a.m. to 4:30p.m.  
[www.smcmvcd.org](http://www.smcmvcd.org)

# LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

SAN MATEO COUNTY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT



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## YOUR WILD NEIGHBORS

Wild animals are a natural part of the environment in San Mateo County, and can often be seen passing through yards and gardens as they go about their daily lives. Getting to know your wild neighbors will help keep your family, your pets, and wildlife safe and healthy. These are some of the most common species seen in urban and suburban neighborhoods.

### RACCOONS

Raccoons will eat almost anything, but urban and suburban raccoons often feed on garbage and pet food. Raccoons frequently den under homes or in attics.

### OPOSSUMS

The opossum is about the size of a house cat, with gray fur and a bare, pink tail. Although some people think opossums look like large rats, they are actually marsupials – like kangaroos.

### COYOTES

Most coyotes avoid humans and are rarely seen. However, some coyotes may become bold. Humane 'hazing' techniques can help them regain their natural fear of humans.

### DEER

Deer are welcome visitors for many property owners, but may sometimes cause damage to gardens and other landscaping. They can easily jump over most fences.

### SKUNKS

Skunks are small black and white animals. They are not usually aggressive, but when threatened may spray a very unpleasant-smelling substance. Skunks may den under porches or homes.

## ANIMALS CAN CARRY DISEASE

Animals can carry diseases that can make people and pets sick. You can reduce your risk by avoiding contact with live or dead animals, their dens, and their droppings.

Raccoon feces can contain the eggs of a parasite called **raccoon roundworm**. If you have a raccoon latrine on your property, please contact the District for safe cleanup instructions.

**Rabies** infections in humans are very rare, but are almost always fatal if not treated. If you have been bitten or scratched by a wild or stray animal, or if you have had any contact with a bat, please consult a health professional immediately.

## SHARING ISN'T CARING

Wild animals that lose their fear of people can become a nuisance, damage property, or even injure people or pets. Never encourage wildlife to linger around human residences by feeding or by allowing access to food sources, including garbage, pet food, bird feeders, or fallen fruit.

Wild animals may visit your property looking for a handout, but they don't really need help from humans to find food. In fact, animals that associate people with food may become aggressive toward people or pets, putting both their and our safety at risk.

Animals that are fed by humans are also likely to congregate in large numbers, leading to increased disease transmission between animals and from animals to people.

## SOLVING WILDLIFE PROBLEMS

Trapping and relocating individual animals is not usually a good solution to problems with wildlife. When one animal is removed, another will quickly move into its territory and take up residence.

Instead, residents should make their property inhospitable to wildlife by removing attractants such as food, water, and shelter. You should trim vegetation, secure trash cans, bring in pet food and water bowls, and pick up fallen fruit. It is also helpful to use chimney caps and other methods to keep wildlife from accessing attics, crawl spaces, and other areas of buildings.

If animals have already taken up residence on your property, it may be necessary to seek help from a professional wildlife trapper to remove them. Please be aware that the animal must be released on your property or humanely euthanized. It may also be possible to use noise or other disruptions to encourage animals to leave your property. You can try noise, motion-activated lights, or sprinklers to discourage wildlife from getting comfortable in or around your home.

Once the animal has been removed, it is important to seal off all access points to prevent it or other animals from re-entering, and to remove any other attractants that may be drawing wildlife to your property. During spring and summer, animals may have offspring in their dens. Before sealing off access to a structure, you should always ensure that all animals have moved on. It may be necessary to give an animal several nights to relocate its offspring.