

Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry

# City of Oshawa

## Co-Existing With Coyotes

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# Provincial Legislation

*Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997* provides the legal basis for acting in defense of property, and provides for:

- Harassment, capture or killing of wildlife causing, or about to cause damage, using certain methods
- Allowing the use of an agent to act on the property owner's behalf
- Setting limits on the relocation/release of wildlife causing damage
- Municipalities may compensate hunters/trappers acting in situations involving wildlife predation/property damage

## **Regulations:**

Define management tools that can be used by others to address conflict

- Protection of property methods
- Hunting and trapping – lawful methods
- **Municipal bylaws may impact on FWCA**

# Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997

Ontario's FWCA does not give the Crown ownership of wildlife, but allows the Ministry to manage and promote the conservation of wildlife in Ontario by regulating the activities of people as they affect wildlife (e.g. laws related to hunting, possession, buying and selling, harassment, etc.)

# What can I do? Under the law...

A person can harass, capture or kill wildlife on their own land, if they believe on reasonable grounds wildlife is damaging or about to damage property (*Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*, s. 31)

A person can use an *agent* to do these things. The following classes of agents apply to the protection of property:

- Members of the property owner's immediate family
- Persons whose business is primarily wildlife removal/control if they harass or capture wildlife, then release (if it is capable of being released) – i.e., commercial wildlife removal company
- OSPCA employees
- Municipal animal control employees
- Licensed trappers – harass, kill or capture
- Licensed hunters – to harass or kill wildlife, but not capture it

# What I cannot do, under the law...

No person shall trap wildlife/domestic animals using a body-gripping trap, unless used in accordance with the regulations and;

- Holds a trapping licence, or
  - Is a farmer/member of the farmer's immediate family
  - Is a farmer defending his property (except from birds)
  - Uses the trap in a part of Ontario where it is permitted.
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- Body-gripping trap use subject to municipal by-laws
  - Firearm discharge prohibited by municipal by-laws
  - Wildlife cannot be released on private land expect with the landowner's permission

**Use of poisons or adhesives is strictly prohibited**

# NDMNRF's Role

The Ministry helps landowners and municipalities deal with problem coyotes by providing:

- information on recommended best practices and animal control services
- appropriate agency referrals
- information necessary to obtain authorizations related to protection of property
- fact sheets

Provincial legislation provides direction to individuals, or their agent, on removing animals that are destroying or about to destroy their property.

The Ministry manages coyote populations through setting of hunting/trapping seasons and limits. (Currently there is no closed season and no limits for coyotes in the majority of southern Ontario).

**The Ministry does not provide direct coyote control.**

For more information, please visit:

**[Preventing and managing conflicts with coyotes | ontario.ca](#)**

Questions:

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