

## **In Milwaukee County, it's a Wild, Wild Life**

One of the best things about living in Wisconsin is the abundance of wild animals that make full-time or part-time living arrangements here. However, many area residents have encountered wild animals who have decided to take up residence with them or experience finding a sick or injured wild animal on their property and are not sure what to do.

At Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC) we get many calls every single day in regard to wild animals. Since MADACC only handles stray and abandoned domestic and companion animals it is important for Milwaukee County residents to know what to do and who to contact when a wild animal comes into their lives.

If you see a healthy wild animal in your yard or neighborhood it is best to leave it to its business. Normally, wild animals and people live in harmony without even being aware of each other. As winter approaches many wild animals look for places to hibernate or seek warm shelter in for the long cold months ahead. Before the snow comes, homeowners should check their property to look for holes in siding or other exterior surfaces, piles of brush, branches or dead wood, and other places that wild animals can take up residence in and make sure that these areas are closed off or have brush piles removed.

Problem or nuisance wild animals can only be handled by professional contractors who are licensed to capture and remove the animals (which can prove costly depending on the nature of your wild animal situation) so it is important to be proactive during as we get to the end of the year. Additionally, residents are always advised not to feed wild animals, especially coyotes who can become too comfortable around humans and deer who cause more accidents and animal related deaths than any other animal in North America.

If a resident finds a sick or injured wild animal they are urged to contact the **Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at Wisconsin Humane Society (WHS) at 414-431-6204** for assistance. WHS also has a **tip-line available 24 hours a day** where you can find more information about what to do when you encounter a wild animal. Call **414-431-6137** and follow the prompts to get the information you need.

Lastly, there are many diseases that wild animals can carry and pass on to your companion animals such as distemper and rabies. It is important to keep your pets away from wild animals and to make sure your pets have up to date vaccinations especially if you allow your pets to roam in yards or parks where there is more potential for them to be exposed to wild animals.

MADACC holds regular low-cost vaccination clinics if you are in need of getting your best friend vaccinated. Call us at 414-649-8640 to make an appointment today. Visit our website at [www.madacc.org](http://www.madacc.org) to find out about additional low-cost animal services, view animals available for adoption, and to report a lost or found companion animal.