
Vertebrate Nuisance Control

References: *Agricultural Pests Act* RSA 2000, c A-8
 Wildlife Act RSA 2000, c. W-10
 Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act RSA 2000, c E-12

Policy Statement

Vertebrate Nuisance control is a shared responsibility between Landowners, the Province of Alberta, and Strathcona County. The prevention, control, or destruction of Vertebrate Nuisances will be undertaken as effectively as possible with due consideration for human safety and municipal liability. Nuisance Pests identified under provincial legislation that are not included in this policy may be controlled by the Landowner or Occupant.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish specific Vertebrate Nuisance control protocols to meet Strathcona County's legislated responsibilities associated with Vertebrate Nuisance control issues.

Definitions

Landowner - the registered owner under the *Land Titles Act* (R.S.A. 2000, c L-4), as the owner of the land.

Occupant - a person occupying or exercising control over or having the right to occupy or exercise control over land.

Vertebrate Nuisance - specifically refers to a beaver, coyote, skunk, squirrel, ground squirrel (also referred to as a gopher), pocket gopher, or muskrat.

Guidelines

Strathcona County will provide an awareness program and an emergent issues program for residents about Vertebrate Nuisance control. In all cases, control of Vertebrate Nuisances will be undertaken humanely by utilizing generally accepted techniques approved by the provincial and federal governments.

Beaver Control

Beaver control may be undertaken by a Landowner or by the County. A right-of-entry agreement the County and a Landowner will be obtained prior control measures by the County on non-County lands, or by a Landowner on County lands. Approved control measures include eradicating the beaver, or breaching the beaver dam.

Coyote Control

Coyote control may only be undertaken once a County inspection has revealed sufficient evidence of predation, and must utilize generally accepted and approved control techniques.

A right-of-entry agreement the County and a Landowner will be obtained prior control measures by the County on non-County lands, or by a Landowner on County lands.

Control measures must be completed by the Landowner or a person authorized by the Landowner, must be completed subject to any federal or provincial requirements, and must be completed where there are no personal or property safety issues.

Skunk Control

Skunk control may only be undertaken by the Landowner by trapping the skunk in a live-capture trap. Strathcona County will provide live-capture traps at a cost, and will remove trapped skunks.

Squirrel Control

Squirrel control may only be undertaken by the Landowner by trapping the squirrel in a live-capture trap. Strathcona County will provide live-capture traps at a cost. Trapped squirrels must be relocated by the Landowner.

Other Vertebrate Nuisance Control

Ground Squirrel, Pocket Gopher and Muskrat Control on County property may be completed only by Strathcona County.

Strathcona County will provide information and recommendations on control techniques for all other nuisance animals but will not carry out control measures.

General

All procedures must comply with the *Agricultural Pests Act*, the *Wildlife Act*, and the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, all as amended, repealed or replaced from time to time.

Policy Record

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