



# City of Medford

## BOARD OF HEALTH

City Hall - Room 311  
85 George P Hassett Drive  
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

Telephone  
(781) 393-2560  
FAX: (781) 393-2562  
TDD: (781) 393-2516

MaryAnn O'Connor  
Director  
Board of Health

### Wildlife & Private Property

Unfortunately Municipal Animal Control Officers are prohibited from removing nuisance wildlife. Most pest control companies don't have the required permits to deal with nuisance wildlife, either. And it is against the law to relocate wildlife, therefore, you have two options:

1. You or your landlord can hire a Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife licensed PAC (Problem Animal Control) Agent to exclude (seal off area so that the animal cannot get back in) OR to remove and euthanize the animals (it is illegal to transport and remove wildlife unless it is euthanized). Here is a description of a PAC Agent:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/fish-wildlife-plants/pac-agents-districts.html>

Here is information on finding a humane PAC agents from the MSPCA:

[https://www.mspca.org/animal\\_protection/humane-solutions/](https://www.mspca.org/animal_protection/humane-solutions/)

Here is a list of all PAC Agents licensed by MDFW: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-problem-animal-control-agent>

You should call a few PAC agents as their prices and services vary. Many will have a 1 year warranty.

2. You could harass or "haze" the animals into leaving your property. Here is some information on preventing conflicts with wildlife from MSPCA: <https://www.mspca.org/intruderexcluder/> from MDFW: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/massachusetts-wildlife-library> and from HSUS: [https://www.humaneworld.org/en/animal-care-resources?keywords=&field\\_resource\\_category\\_target\\_id=668](https://www.humaneworld.org/en/animal-care-resources?keywords=&field_resource_category_target_id=668)

If it is denning in an enclosed area such as under a shed or porch, placing a radio on a talk radio station can help to drive it away. You also can purchase Coyote or Fox urine at many hardware stores, and spray this in the area. You should spend as much time as possible outside. This will get human scent on the outdoor area and the sight and sound of people will encourage the animal to move along. Sprinkle flour on the ground outside the hole to see tracks and seal the hole when the animal has left. If the hole is left open another animal will eventually move in. Motion sensing water sprinklers available online, pinwheels, shiny streamers and other means of annoying wildlife can help, but must be moved periodically so that the animal doesn't become used to the devices.

Gardens, compost and trash bins can attract animals. Make compost inaccessible to animals, spray gardens with a mixture of cayenne pepper powder and water (be sure to rinse well before eating) and wash out trash bins with bleach and secure with bungee cords. And ask neighbors to take these steps as well.