

The Town of Oakville Features How to Choose...

# A Wildlife Control Company

## A Quick Checklist for Selecting the Right Wildlife Control Company

- Is the company insured and accredited?
- Are the employees knowledgeable about the biology, behaviour and birthing cycles of the animals in question?
- What is your first impression of the company?
- Does the company possess the manpower, skills, equipment and training to get the job done right?
- Have you discussed what techniques the company will be using?
- Will the company offer any preventative measures?
- Will the company be monitoring for any future complications?
- Is there a guarantee on the work being done?



## CHOOSING THE RIGHT WILDLIFE CONTROL COMPANY

Wildlife intrusions can often result in expensive property damage. In order to prevent, assess and repair damage you want a company that can work in a thorough and timely manner.

But wildlife control companies are not licensed by the government which means that homeowners are often subjected to poor service and inhumane treatment of wildlife, health and safety issues, short term solutions and general incompetence.

This guide is designed to help you carefully choose a wildlife control service that address wildlife intrusions and concerns in a manner that is timely, efficient, humane and safe.

### DID YOU KNOW

- There are no government regulations or licensing requirements to start a wildlife control company.
- Despite popular opinion, cage traps are not always more humane than traps that purposely kill wildlife. Animals can often be seriously injured entering and while trying to avoid or escape cages.

## Referrals

A quick glance at the phone book or an internet search will turn up many companies; some reputable, others less so. Rather than simply choosing a company with a catchy name or the cheapest rates, it is best to do a little background research.

Consult the Oakville and Milton Humane Society or other local animal welfare agencies to request a referral. Speak to trusted friends and neighbours about their experiences with wildlife control companies.

## Knowledge

To effectively remove and control wildlife, companies must have employees who are educated in birthing cycles, species behaviour, and proper handling techniques. Knowledgeable employees must also be able to ensure that no dependent offspring are overlooked. Knowledgeable staff will be able to best ensure that operations are carried out using humane methods.

To be sure that you are dealing with a good wildlife company make sure you ask plenty of questions. If handlers are unable to give you adequate responses, it is very likely that there are factors being overlooked and you will not be satisfied with the quality of service.

# A Wildlife Control Company, page 2

## Size and Scope of Company

Safe, humane, and efficient wildlife control is labour intensive, requires in-depth training, a vast knowledge base, and lots of experience. When choosing a wildlife control company, there are a number of points relating to the size and scope of the company that should be considered.

- Choose a company that specializes in wildlife control – stay away from jack-of-all-trades type of companies.
- Ensure that the company has enough staff and equipment to do the job right. Humane wildlife control is very labour intensive and requires frequent monitoring and follow ups. Companies that are too small or that only operate part time will most likely not be able to fulfill your expectations.
- It is also beneficial to check how long the company has been in existence. Well established companies will often prove to be your best bet in ensuring high quality, professional service.
- A professional wildlife control company will have staff on call on weekends, weekdays, and evenings. They will ideally be able to respond to emergencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Your first impression of any prospective company should help raise any red flags. A reputable company will provide employees with adequate training, will have proper equipment, and will promote a corporate brand using uniformed staff, logos on trucks, brochures and business cards.

## Accredited and Insured

Before settling on a wildlife control company, it is vital to verify that the company is insured with the Workplace Safety Insurance Board and Commercial Liability Insurance and accredited with the Better Business Bureau. This is important because without insurance, home owners may be liable for any accidents occurring that result in injuries to workers or in property damage. Ensure that the company employs proper training and strict safety standards.

## Techniques

Don't hire a wildlife control company until you have discussed exactly what services they will provide and the techniques that they will use. Only hire a company that will check for damage and offspring, ensure that the company intends to investigate the attic and other possible points of entry. Reputable companies will not only remove wildlife but should also offer preventative services.

Contrary to wide-spread belief, cage traps are not necessarily humane. Animals can sustain serious injuries entering or trying to escape from traps. You should inquire into the design of any device being used in removal procedures so as to ensure that operations are carried out in a way that is safe and humane.

## Guarantees

A trustworthy wildlife control company will offer you a guarantee on their work. The company should outline the specifics of the guarantee in writing. And remember, a guarantee is only as good as the company in question.

## WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE

Ministry of Natural Resources:  
Phone: (905) 713-7400  
Website: [www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca)

Or contact the Town of Oakville at:  
1225 Trafalgar Road, Oakville, ON L5H 0H3  
Phone: (905) 845-6601  
Website: [www.oakville.ca](http://www.oakville.ca)  
Email: [environment@oakville.ca](mailto:environment@oakville.ca)

Oakville Wildlife Strategy & Conflict Guidelines:  
Website: [www.oakville.ca/environment/wildlife-strategy.html](http://www.oakville.ca/environment/wildlife-strategy.html)

*Thanks to Humane Wildlife Control Inc. for providing information.*