



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
**PROTECTION**  
of Fur-Bearing Animals

179 W. Broadway  
Vancouver, BC, Canada V5Y 1P4

Telephone: 604-435-1850  
Fax: 604-435-1840

fbd@furbearerdefenders.com  
**furbearerdefenders.com**

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## Let wildlife be wild this summer

*The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals offers tips for visitors and residents*

**TORONTO** – Enjoying nature is part of the quintessential Canadian summer. But it's important to teach visitors – and remind residents – how to respect the wild animals that also want to enjoy summer.

“In the summer months we typically hear numerous stories of wildlife conflict that could have easily been prevented,” said Michael Howie, spokesperson for The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals. “It can range from tourists getting too close to wildlife in national parks to residents feeding animals and creating potentially dangerous situations in cities. And in every case, a bit of education can go a long way.”

The national wildlife protection group offers the following simple tips to help keep wildlife wild, and help everyone enjoy a safe summer:

**Do not feed the animals:** Feeding wild animals, either intentionally or unintentionally, can open the floodgates of conflict situations.

“Putting out nuts for chipmunks or breadcrumbs for birds may not seem like a big deal,” Howie explains, “but the increased presence of chipmunks can increase the presence of animals who predate upon them, such as feral cats, foxes, coyotes and birds of prey, and not everyone wants these animals in their backyards.”

Cleaning up our own food waste or spill from bird feeders, feeding pets indoors and reporting neighbours who feed wildlife can prevent serious conflict from occurring.

**Let wildlife be wild:** Disney has taught us that wild animals are cute and cuddly, but it's important that we respect their individual natures and avoid interfering in their day-to-day lives. Keep a distance and consider using binoculars or photographic equipment for a more up-close experience.

**Follow local customs:** Particularly important for visitors to a new area is to learn the “do's and don'ts” of wildlife viewing. Plants and animals which are at-risk or endangered don't wear signs, and sensitive ecosystems aren't always fenced off. This is just as important for Canadians abroad as it is for those visiting Canada. Visitors – be they international or just from down the road – should take a moment to learn about the environment they're visiting and what the local customs are.

“By respecting wildlife and letting our furry neighbours be wild, we can all enjoy a wonderful, safe summer,” said Howie.

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**CONTACT:**

Michael Howie, Spokesperson  
Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (The Fur-Bearers)  
289-776-7775  
michael@furbearerdefenders.com