

Pets and Wildlife

Cats kept indoors avoid exposure to disease and predators. Free-roaming cats and small dogs can become part of the food chain, with consequences for both pets and wildlife. (Indoor cats live an average of five years longer than free-roaming cats!) Dogs should be kept in fenced yards, on leash, or under direct control to minimize these consequences.

Keep vaccinations for dogs and cats current to minimize the risk of disease transmission between domestic and wild animals, and people. Rabies and other diseases are present in wild animals throughout Contra Costa and Alameda counties. Your veterinarian can give you more information about preventing problems from encounters between pets and wildlife.

And, Finally...

We hope that this guide shows that living with wildlife is not much of a burden. Most of what works to keep wildlife populations healthy is common sense. Please help.

- Keep creeks clean. If you are aware of pollutants such as oil, pesticides, pool water, yard clippings or other man-made pollutants entering local creeks, inform your cities' public works departments, the Contra Costa Clean Water Program (1-800-NODUMPING), Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program (510-670-5543), or the California Office of Emergency Services (1-800-852-7550).
- Save water. Reducing residential and business water use relieves the intense pressure on our water resources posed by our growing population. For example, use native plants that do not require heavy watering, and use a broom instead of the hose when sweeping around your home or work.
- Visit local parks and creeks. There is probably high quality wildlife habitat not far from your home. Getting to know the region's animals is a pleasure and shows the value of our efforts to conserve and restore wildlife.