

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE: KEEPING WILDLIFE OUT OF YOUR
ATTIC...CHIMNEY...GARAGE...SHED.....**

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OFFERS SIMPLE TIPS
TO PREVENT CONFLICTS WITH WILDLIFE THIS WINTER**

WASHINGTON (November 16, 2005) - Temperatures are quickly dropping and, according to The Humane Society of the United States, homeowners can take a few minutes this weekend to prevent conflicts this winter with wildlife. These simple steps can help people avoid unwanted visitors like raccoons, birds, skunks, and squirrels who may seek shelter in chimneys, attics, garages and sheds during the cold weather.

According to wildlife expert Dr. John Hadidian, director of urban wildlife programs for The HSUS, "People do not usually do a pre-winter inspection of their home and don't tend to think about it until after a raccoon or squirrel has already made a warm home in the attic or chimney."

Safely removing the animals once they are present is more complicated than taking a few simple, preventative steps that can keep them out. The last weekends in November are optimal for people to do a quick check inside and outside the home to avoid wildlife conflicts this winter.

"If homeowners are pro-active now, they will not have to be reactive and have an animal removed later," Hadidian said. "We encourage people to put this on their bi-annual to-do list along with changing the batteries in their smoke detectors."

QUICK TIPS from The HSUS on keeping wildlife from making your home, their home:

- * Chimney cap: check the chimney to make sure there are no birds or other animals present and then install a chimney cap (Santa can still magically get through).
- * Avoid climbers: trim all branches away from your house to limit access for climbing wildlife.
- * Clean sweep: clean up any debris - especially leaf piles -around the house foundation.
- * Attic alert: inspect your attic closely with a flashlight to see if any signs of animal presence are there. Then turn off the light and look for any light leaking in from outside to show you potential entry spots that need to be treated.
- * Roof check: look around for any loose vent screens, warped siding or holes on your roof and be sure to repair them.

- * Don't trash wildlife: secure trash containers with bungee cords, ropes, or weights.
- * Compost attraction: cover or secure compost piles. Never compost meat scraps.
- * Inside appliances: look behind major appliances in the kitchen, laundry room, and anywhere that pipes enter your house. Spaces around these pipes are common entry points for animals.
- * Clog the holes: If there is no sign of animals, caulk small holes, staple hardware cloth over larger holes or make a permanent repair. Fill holes around pipes with copper wire mesh and use expanding foam on cracks and along leaky windows and doors. This will also save you money on your next heating bill.

If after this inspection, animals are still finding their way inside your home, visit www.wildneighbors.org <<http://www.wildneighbors.org/>> for additional tips and for information on humane methods to encourage animals to leave.

The HSUS Wild Neighbors(tm) Program promotes non-lethal means for resolving conflicts between people and wildlife and cultivates understanding and appreciation for wild animals commonly found in cities and towns. On the web at www.wildneighbors.org <<http://www.wildneighbors.org/>>.

The HSUS is the nation's largest animal protection organization with 9.4 million members and constituents. The HSUS is a mainstream voice for animals, with active programs in companion animals and equine protection, wildlife and habitat protection, animals in research and farm animals and sustainable agriculture. The HSUS protects all animals through education, advocacy, litigation, investigation, legislation and fieldwork. The non-profit organization is based in Washington, DC and has regional offices across the country. On the web at www.hsus.org <<http://www.hsus.org/>>.

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Promoting the Protection of All Animals

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