Wildlife Management Plan

JANUARY 2022

City of Burleson
Animal Services

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Urban Wildlife Management

General Overview

The population of Burleson is close to 50,000 and continues to grow every day. With this continued influx of people, there's expanding needs for more energy, water, food and space to live. This urban expansion results in fewer natural refuges for animal species. This loss of habitat is the number one reason wildlife is moving into the urban landscape. Within the City of Burleson, there are multiple species of native urban wildlife. Many citizens do not realize how common it is to see the urban wildlife in their neighborhoods or how beneficial many of these species are to the environment.

Burleson is home to various wildlife species

- Raccoons
- Skunks
- Prairie Dogs
- Opossums
- Deer
- Coyotes
- Beavers
- Bobcats
- Nutria
- Rabbits
- Snakes
- Birds of prey

The City of Burleson Animal Services department performs a myriad of tasks involving wildlife within the city limits of Burleson. These tasks can include; removing deceased wildlife, removing sick or injured wildlife (these are usually humanely euthanized or released to licensed wildlife rehabilitators for treatment), investigating exposures to possibly rabid wildlife, removing venomous snakes, relocating nonvenomous snakes, and removing wildlife from inside homes or businesses. Every situation is different, and our approach to each one is ever changing.

Coexisting with Wild Animals

The City of Burleson Animal Services does respond to service requests regarding sick or injured wildlife and those that may pose a threat to public safety, but does NOT trap apparently healthy wildlife that does not pose a threat. Animal Services also work to educate the public and provide wildlife resources to keep the public safe and preserve the wildlife and their habitats.

The City of Burleson does NOT trap apparently healthy wildlife that does not pose a threat (it is important to note that the presence of the wildlife in the community does not necessarily pose a threat to the public). The wildlife that will be trapped are High Risk of Rabies like skunks and raccoons and animals that are acting abnormally aggressive and that pose a threat to humans in residential areas. The City is their home as well and studies have shown their presence is great for mental health/wellbeing as it connects citizens to nature and most wildlife are predators of potential pest species (rodents, insects, snakes, spiders, etc.).

Burleson does not own or have control of any of the wild animals found within its boundaries, nor is the City responsible for the actions or damage caused by them. In fact, wild animals have no owners to be responsible for their actions.

Prevent wildlife from being accustomed to people by reducing human-wildlife interaction. Burleson has many parks and lush open green space, which makes an ideal environment for urban wildlife. People, either intentionally or unintentionally, have conditioned wildlife to perceive neighborhoods as sources of food, water, and shelter. As communities expanded, wildlife either moved out or adapted their behavior to allow them to survive in an urban landscape. Dens were replaced by the crawlspace under a mobile home, carcasses were replaced by the neighborhood trash cans or cat dishes, and local waterholes were replaced by birdbaths and garden pools. Humans continue to condition wildlife as pet food is left outdoors at all times even when pets were inside, fallen fruit fromtrees is left on the ground to rot, trash is left in uncovered containers, and bird feeders are filled well past what local birds can consume in a day. Large wood piles and overgrown landscaping make excellent shelter in yards. Uncapped chimneys and unrepaired holes into attics give them access to homes.

All wild animals are opportunistic and they will take advantage of the easy food, water, and shelter that people provide for them. Existence of these conditions cause animals to become habituated to neighborhoods and learn that meals and shelter can effortlessly be found within yards, trash cans, and homes. All of this leads to wildlife becoming accustomed to people and losing their fear of humans – a dangerous situation for everyone involved. Wildlife will continue to come to people's homes as long as there is food, water, or shelter there for them. Eliminating attractants will encourage wildlife to forage in areas outside of neighborhoods and eventually will lead to their understanding that there are no benefits to being in close proximity to people.

Reducing human-wildlife interactions is in the best interest of people, pets, and wild animals. In the interest of conserving wildlife, the basic point of this message is: let the

wildlife be wild. They have survived without human assistance for many generations. Feeding them will lead to them associating people with food. This can create a dangerous situation for people and pets who live in the area. Wildlife should be appreciated from afar and with respect for their ability to be independent and self-sufficient.
Native wildlife plays a vital role in the balance of the environment **such as; keeping some animals from becoming too numerous (predators), managing vegetation growth (herbivores) or providing food, and recycling organic matter (decomposers).** Respect and understanding of their behaviors ensures a balanced ecosystem.

For the safety of these wild animals and for the safety of you, your pets and your family, it is important to take steps to safeguard your home to minimize contact and potential damage. Wildlife cannot recognize natural or man-made boundaries. Creeks and greenbelts typically act as superhighways for wildlife.

Keep Wildlife Wild

- No way to eliminate wildlife
- No way to prevent new wildlife from entering city
- No way to control wildlife movement within the city
- Wildlife does not create a threat to people
- Domestic animals injure people every day – approximately 70 reported in Burleson 2021

What to Do Around Your Home and Neighborhood

- Keep wildlife wild – don't feed them!
- Do not feed pets outside or leave pet food outside
- Check your property for and eliminate potential sources of food and water
    - Clean up bird seed on the ground
    - Keep barbecue grills clean
    - Tightly cover and secure garbage cans and compost bins
    - Clean up under fruit and nut trees
    - Eliminate artificial water sources
    - Remove firewood or brush piles
- Trim brush and shrubbery near ground level
- Make sure fences are secure and close off crawl spaces under porches, decks and sheds
- Do not allow pets to roam freely around the neighborhood
- Monitor pets when outside, especially at night
- Provide secure shelters for poultry or other animals living outside

- Always follow leash laws and walk dogs on leashes 6’ or less in length
- Install motion activated sprinklers or outdoor lighting around your property

Be a responsible pet owner

- Confine
- Vaccinate
- Sterilize
- Microchip

Urban Wildlife Nuisance Abatement Strategies

Skunks

Skunks are nocturnal and they are slow and deliberate—confident they can defend themselves. They discharge musk from the anal gland, and are capable of several shots, 10 to 15 feet with accuracy. Skunks are omnivorous (eat both plant and animal foods) and prefer insects in summer, mice in winter. They usually breed in February or March, and have a seven to ten week gestation period with usually one litter per year. There are usually four to six young that stay with the female until fall. Skunks usually nest in ground burrows or crawl spaces, although spotted skunks climb and may go in attics or trees. Their home range is one to two square miles, while males may travel four to five miles during breeding season.

Damage concerns include garbage can raids, beehive damage, etc. Theydig holes in sod for worms, grubs and insects, and may live under dwellings (porches, crawlspaces, sheds) causing objectionable odors.

Skunks are a common carrier of the rabies virus. Use caution: minimize contact and keep pets at a safe distance. Always vaccinate domestic pets.

- Trapping techniques include covered cage traps (cover with canvas or blanket) for live-trapping, raw un-cracked egg, cat-food, fish or chicken for bait.
- Euthanize
- Educated property owners
    - Habitat modification (cleaning up wood piles/brush) and reducing access will help.
    - Use sheet metal or hardware-cloth to board up entry holes.
    - Vaccinate domestic pets
    - Removal of attractants

Raccoons

Despite the mischief this masked mammal can sometimes cause, raccoons play an important role in the ecosystem by serving as gardeners, pest control, and the "clean-up crew", Raccoons are beneficial to ecosystems for the distribution of plant seeds. Feeding on berries and nuts, not only on meat, raccoons then help distribute the seeds around the

areas they inhabit. Raccoons also eat carrion, or the remains of dead animals, and feast on small rodents and insects. This keeps areas clean, which in turn helps to keep pest populations in check.

Raccoons are nocturnal and are omnivorous, eating both plant and animal foods. Raccoons usually breed in February and March, and there are usually three to five young in April, May or June, and are weaned at 7to 12 weeks. Nests may be in tree cavities, ground burrows, sewers, attics, garages, etc. Their home range is 3 to 20 square miles for males, one to six square miles for females. Home ranges may be less in urban areas where there is easier access to life requirements.

Damage concerns for raccoons include exploiting bird feeders and garden crops (especially sweet corn). They are notorious garbage can raiders, and will roll sod for worms, grubs, and insects. They enter dwellings (attics, crawl spaces) for shelter in thewinter, and to raise young in the springtime, often causing damage to vents and shingles. Raccoons enter chimneys (both fireplace and furnace) and rest behind the damper in a fireplace.

- Live-trap and release (cat-food, fish, chicken for bait), marshmallows can be used toreduce non-target catches. Common entries are roof vents, louvre vents, soffit vents, construction gaps, rotten fascia boards, chimneys, and they may even rip through the roof if wood is soft.
- Harassment and to allow animal to relocate themselves
- Educate property owners
    - Removal of attractants
    - Do not feed wildlife. This increases the chance that the animal will lose its natural fear of humans.
    - Feed dogs and cats indoors and clean up after them. Water, pet food, and droppings can attract wildlife, including raccoons.
    - A leashed dog is a safer dog. When out for a walk, keep your pet leashed to greatly reduce the chance of a negative wildlife encounter.
    - Tightly cover garbage and compost bins. Open bins encourage scavenging
    - Seal potential denning locations within your home. Placing caps on chimneys and blocking outside entryways to crawlspaces, attics, and under porches will deter raccoons
    - Trimming trees back four to eight feet from structures

Squirrels

Squirrels play an important ecological role as seed and spore dispersers. Squirrels cache, or store, seeds and nuts in the soil and trees. When forgotten, these seeds and nuts sprout

into new plants and trees. Squirrels also spread mushrooms through their scat. After eating a mushroom, the spores travel through their guts unchanged, and are then dispersed throughout the forest.

Squirrels are diurnal, and usually feed on mast (fruit, nuts). Squirrels nest in tree cavities, leaf nests, attics, and have a home range of 10 to 40 acres.

Damage concerns include their chewing bark, raiding crops and bird feeders and gnawing wires. They travel power lines, short out transformers, enter dwellings for shelter and to raise young.

- Live –trap and release (bait with nuts/peanut-butter) for squirrels. Traps should be set in a line of travel outside the den. Common entries are roof vents, louvre vents, soffit vents, construction gaps, and rotten fascia boards.
- Relocate and release approximately
- Educate property owner
    - Removal of attractants
    - Do not feed wildlife. This increases the chance that the squirrel will lose its natural fear of humans and become aggressive.
    - Do not attempt to pet squirrels. They seem friendly, but are wild! Squirrel bites can cause injury and carry disease.
    - Do not move "abandoned" baby squirrels. If you find a fallen squirrel nest on the ground, the best action is to leave the nest at the base of the closest tree. The mother will search for the nest nearby.
    - Keep them out of the bird feeder. Place the feeder at least 10 feet in any direction from where a squirrel can jump to the feeder.
    - Trimming trees back 8 to 12 feet from structure.
    - Seal potential denning locations within your home. Placing caps on chimneys and blocking outside entryways to crawlspaces, attics, and under porches will deter squirrels.

Opossums

Opossums are nocturnal and have a home range of10 to 50 acres. Opossums are omnivores and are known for eating many things people consider pests like rodents and ticks. Opossums usually breed from January to July, have two litters per year, average seven young that stay in a pouch for seven to eight weeks (marsupial), then staywith the mother another six to seven weeks before weaning. Damage concerns include raids on garbage cans, bird feeders, and pet food.

- Live-trap and release (cat-food, fish, chicken). Set traps in line of travel outside den (not inside), or blind set or den set over entry hole.
- Relocate and release
    - Removal of attractants

Rabbits

Rabbits play an important role in a well-balanced ecosystem. In their natural habitats, rabbits provide ecological benefits as an important member of the food web. By consuming plants, rabbits keep plant life in check. They are also an important food source for many carnivorous predators, particularly bobcats.

Rabbits produce 3 to 4 litters of young a year, beginning in late winter and continuing into early fall. Females build a nest approximately the size of a softball, line it with fur from their bellies, and nurse their young for 2 to 3 weeks before they leave the nest. Landscaped yards provide excellent rabbit habitats, accounting for the prevalence of cottontails in most suburban and urban areas. Cottontail rabbits spend their lives in small areas of 10 acres or less. In good habitats where cottontail rabbits are firmly established, efforts to permanently reduce the rabbit population generally are not successful. Once a number of rabbits are removed, cottontails from adjacent areas move in.

Gnawing marks and twigs cut at an angle, clippings on the nearby ground and round, pea-sized droppings are signs of cottontail rabbits. During snow cover, cottontail rabbit tracks are easily identified.

- Educate public
    - Do not feed wildlife. This increases the chance that the animal will lose its natural fear of humans.
    - Keep them out of your garden. A well-constructed fence is the most effective way to protect your plants.
    - Do not move "abandoned" baby rabbits. Mothers feed babies only twice a day- at dawn and dusk. Baby rabbits found alone are typically not orphans.
    - Look before you mow. Prevent injury to baby rabbits by checking your yard carefully before you mow.
    - A leashed dog is a safer dog. When out for a walk, keep your pet leashed to greatly reduce the chance of a negative wildlife encounter.
    - Do not attempt to pet wild rabbits. They seem friendly, but are wild! Rabbit bites can cause injury and carry disease.
    - Keep them out of your garden. A well-constructed fence is the most effective way to protect your plants.

Armadillos

The nine-banded armadillo with its armored protective shell is designated as the state small mammal of Texas. This unique creature is primarily nocturnal, with a healthy appetite for grub worms and other insects and small invertebrates for nourishment. These mammals have strong, sharp claws perfect for digging and burrowing in their quest for food and shelter. Armadillos are known for having multiple burrows. They sometimes sleep up to 16 hours a day, with most of their foraging for food in the evening or early morning. Their eyesight is poor, but their well-developed sense of smell helps them hone in on food sources. Armadillos damage lawns when digging, they are sometimes thought of as a nuisance by homeowners. Armadillos are difficult to trap, and if removed will only create a vacuum effect for others to come in.

- Eliminate the presence of their food source. Beneficial Nematodes are a natural way to kill the grubs living in the soil that attract armadillos.

Prairie Dogs

Prairie dogs play an important role in the ecosystem. They serve as a food source for many predators and leave vacant burrows for other animals. Prairie dogs are strictly diurnal animals. They are most active during the cool hours of the day, when they engage in social activities such as visiting and grooming each other as well as feeding on grasses and herbs.

- Educate Public
  - Do not feed wildlife. This increases the chance that the animal will lose its natural fear of humans.
  - A leashed dog is a safer dog. When out for a walk, keep your pet leashed to greatly reduce the chance of a negative wildlife encounter.

Ducks

Waterfowl, like ducks, are an integral part of the wetland ecosystem. Their migratory movements enhance biodiversity by introducing plant, invertebrate, amphibian, and fish species from other sites.

Ducks rely on water and are found in marshes, oceans, rivers, ponds, and lakes. They are a common sight in urban settings. Ducks are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and animals. A duck's diet depends on a range of factors including species and habitat. For example, dabbling ducks tend to feed on plants and insects, while diving ducks prefer fish and crustaceans.

- Educate public
  - Do not feed wildlife
  - Do not feed crackers, bread, chips, and other human food to waterfowl. This can make them ill and cause deformities, as it does not contain the right nutrition or calories needed to stay warm or properly develop.
  - Increased population, increased spread of disease. Feeding leads to public health concerns. Too many animals in one place increases the chance of disease transmission to people and among other wildlife.
  - Do not approach or attempt to pet ducks. They seem friendly, but are wild! Duck bites can cause injury and carry disease.
  - A leashed dog is a safer dog. When out for a walk, keep your pet leashed to greatly reduce the chance of a negative wildlife encounter.

Egrets and Herons

Some egret and heron species can create a nuisance situation, but they are protected by thefederal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. However, efforts can be made through both habitat management and human management to reduce future conflicts. Otherwise, migratory birds are viewed as an asset.

- Public education campaign in the fall and spring
- Monitor for potential conflicts (February -monitor for cattle egrets potentially setting upin public areas of parks or adjacent to residential areas)
- Provide predator / harassment noise machines to areas of potential nesting
- Coordinate with local state and federal officials to address potential habitat modifications to avoid future issues

Snakes

Snakes play an important role in maintaining a balanced ecosystem. As both predator and prey, snakes form a key link in the food chain. Snakes maintain sustainable rodent populations by feeding on mice and other small rodents that may damage crops and carry disease. They also serve as a food source to many animals, like coyotes and raptors.

Remember, all creatures on this planet have a role to play. We need snakes, because without them, our local ecosystem would be out of balance

The majority of snakes found in Texas are not venomous and present little or no threat to people or pets. There are 15 different venomous snake species in Texas. All snakes are a very important part in keeping rodent and insect populations in check, and they should not bedestroyed without reason. Snakes are carnivores, meaning they eat only meat. Snakes donot have the right type of teeth for chewing, so they eat their prey whole. Snakes commonly eat rats, birds and their eggs, mice, frogs, and other small rodents.

- Public education
  - Removal of attractants
  - Proper landscape maintenance. Abate shelter by keeping brush, rock piles and woodpiles out of frequently used spaces.
  - Control rodent populations
  - Avoid ground feeding of pets or birds.
  - Block access holes

Beavers

Beavers are native to the area and create wetlands that typically have high levels biological diversity. Potential issues include pond bank excavation, tree damage and potential flooding. Issues can be addressed through habitat management and population management options.

- Look at potential water level management devices that bypass the dam (often known as a Beaver Deceiver)
- New pond construction-consider armoring the dam (cyclone fencing buried under layer of soil to restrict digging). Can also be a retrofit in problem areas.
- Consider installing protective cages around trees to prevent damage.
- Contract with professional to remove and euthanize if deemed a safety/flooding issue
- Do not relocate

Deer

Deer are considered a keystone species, meaning their existence in an ecosystem directly impacts the lives of other plants and animals. At a sustainable population, deer increase biodiversity and encourage new plant growth. Their scat adds nutrients to the soil, and their grazing allows more sunlight to reach the forest floor so smaller plants can grow.

In developed areas, deer have few natural predators and their population size can grow beyond what the land can support. When deer become overabundant, they start moving into areas that they typically evade such as suburban areas and urban green belts. Concerns include collisions with automobiles, an increase in the number of ticks which can carry pathogens dangerous such as Lyme disease, damage to landscaping, habitat degradation, poor deer health, and aggressive behavior when they lose their fear of humans. These situations are not beneficial to the deer population and become a nuisance for people in the community.

- Educate public
  - Do not feed wildlife
  - Remove attractants
  - Keep them out of your garden. A well-constructed fence is the most effective way to protect your plants. Plant deer resistant landscaping.
  - Do not move "abandoned" fawns. Mothers feed babies only twice a day at dawn and dusk. Fawns found alone are typically not orphans.
  - Do not approach or attempt to pet deer. They seem friendly, but are wild! Deer bites can cause injury and carry disease. Though rare, rutting bucks may charge approaching humans.
  - A leashed dog is a safer dog. When out for a walk, keep your pet leashed to greatly reduce the chance of a negative wildlife encounter.
  - Remain deer aware while driving. Slow down and remain vigilant, particularly at dusk and dawn.

Bobcats

Bobcats play an important ecological role. They are effective predators of small mammals, such as rodents and rabbits, helping to keep population numbers in check of these and other herbivores. Bobcats inhabit places with dense vegetation and plenty of prey. Bobcats live in dens, which can be in a tree trunk, cave, brush pile, or fallen tree. Bobcats are crepuscular- meaning they are most active during dawn and dusk. Bobcats are carnivores and their preferred food is rabbit, but they will also eat rodents, insects, birds, and even deer. The bobcat sneaks up on its prey before ambushing it with a lethal bite. A female bobcat's territory is approximately 5 square miles and a male bobcat's territory is approximately 30 square miles.

- Educate the public
  - Do not feed wildlife
  - Remove attractants
  - Feed dog and cats indoors and clean up after them.
  - Do not leave unattended dogs and cats outdoors, especially from dusk to dawn
  - Do not move "abandoned" baby bobcats. Mothers leave their babies alone while they hunt for food. Baby bobcats found alone are typically not orphans.
  - A leashed dog is a safer dog. When out for a walk, keep your pet leashed to greatly reduce the chance of a negative wildlife encounter.
  - Enclose pet birds and poultry in a secure pen or house. Properly secure domestic birds to reduce their risk of becoming prey to bobcat.

Coyotes

Coyotes play an important role in maintaining healthy ecosystems and species diversity. They are a keystone species, meaning that their presence or absence has a significant impact on the biological community. As the top carnivore in some ecosystems, coyotes provide a number of benefits including regulating the populations of rodents and of smaller predator species, such as skunks, raccoons, and foxes, which helps boost biodiversity.

Coyotes are members of the canine family and are incredibly adaptable to most habitats. For this reason, they often thrive in urban areas. Coyotes are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and animals. They have a wide-ranging diet including small mammals, birds, mice, snakes, deer, and fruit depending on seasonal availability. Coyotes live in packs consisting of around 5-6 adults and a litter of pups, but typically hunt for food alone. Location affectswhen coyotes are most active. They can be diurnal (active during the day) or crepuscular(active at dawn and dusk). However, they tend to become more nocturnal (active at night) when they live in close proximity to humans.

Coyotes are a species native to the area and do extremely well in urban areas. They are an important local predator and should be treated as such. Coyote issues are typically easily avoided, and behavior changed if dealt with in an expedient manner. Trash clean up, eliminating wildlife feeding, andencouraging patrons to use leashes will solve most coyote issues on Parks and Recreation properties. Aversive conditioning, hazing, is usually successful within 2-3 tries at changingcoyote behavior. However, if there is documented "bold with humans" (approaching people and not responding to aversive/aggressive techniques) behaviors, efforts should be madeto remove specific individuals. Due to Texas Department of State Health Servicesregulation, relocation is NOT an option with coyotes, nor should it be encouraged.

- Educate staff and public on ecological services of coyote
- Educate and encourage the leash ordinance
- Only remove when "bold with human behaviors are exhibited"
- Educate Public
    - Do not feed wildlife
    - Remove attractants
    - Do not leave pet food outside
    - Do not leave unattended dogs and cats outdoors, especially from dusk to dawn
    - A leashed dog is a safer dog. When out for a walk, keep your pet leashed to greatly reduce the chance of a negative wildlife encounter.
    - Enclose pet birds and poultry in a secure pen or house.
    - Remove fallen fruit form yards

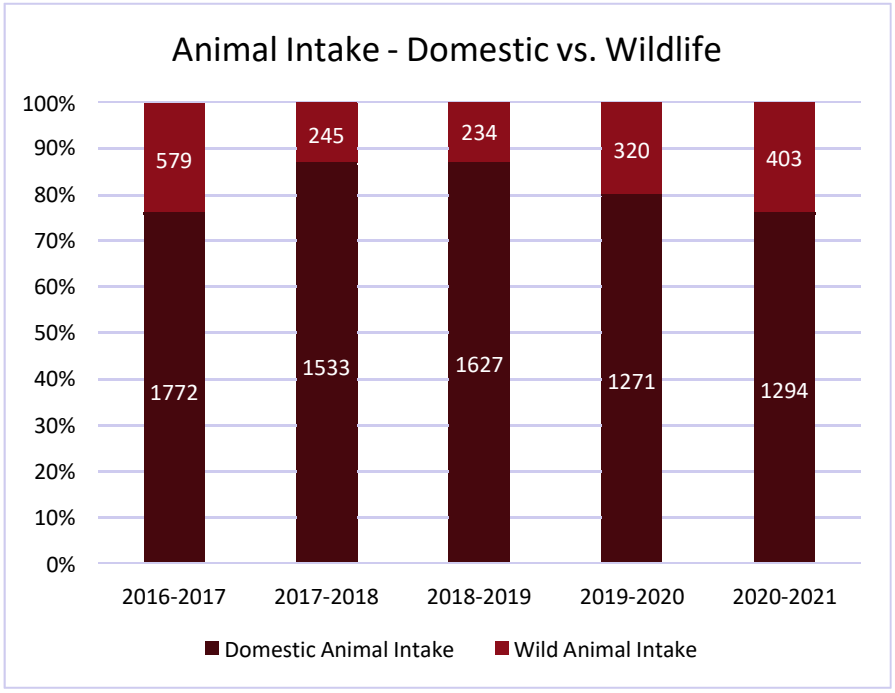
Burleson Animal Services Previous Wildlife Activity

Every situation involving urban wildlife is different, which may cause our officers to act upon their knowledge and experience to find a safe and healthy outcome. The information presented generalizes how officers and staff at Animal Services handle these situations.

Animal Intake

Every animal handled by the animal services department is recorded using our shelter management software, Pet Point. In Pet Point, each animal is assigned a number and processed as an "Intake." Even deceased animals are processed as an "Intake."

The graph below is a comparison between the total number of domestic animals (i.e., dogs, cats, livestock, etc.) and the total number of wild animals handled each year.

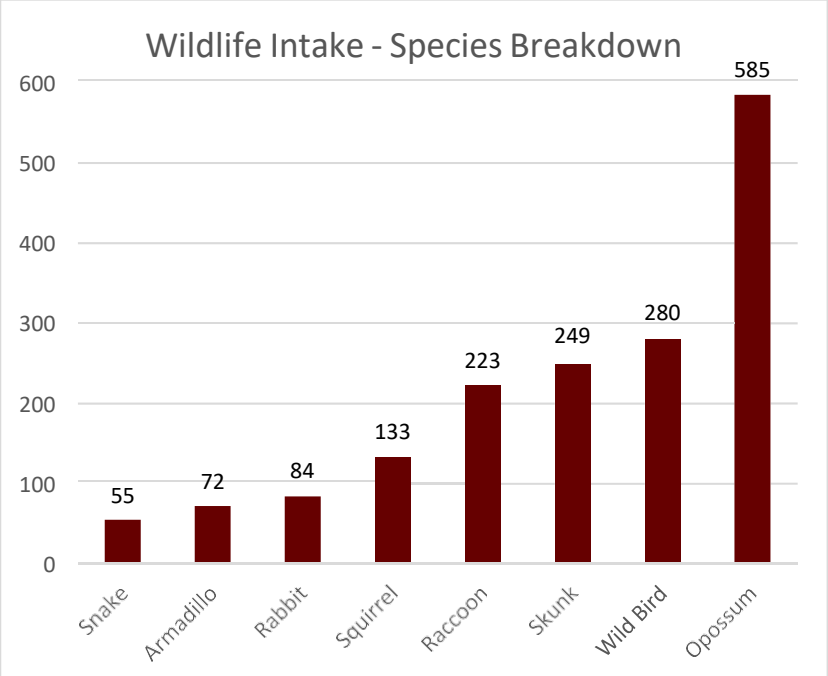


Wild animals account for an average of 19% of the total animal intakes.

Listed below are the percentages of wild animal intakes compared to the total animal intakes each year.

2016-2017	25%
2017-2018	14%
2018-2019	13%
2019-2020	20%
2020-2021	24%

The graph below represents the top eight species handled by Burleson Animal Services in the past five years.



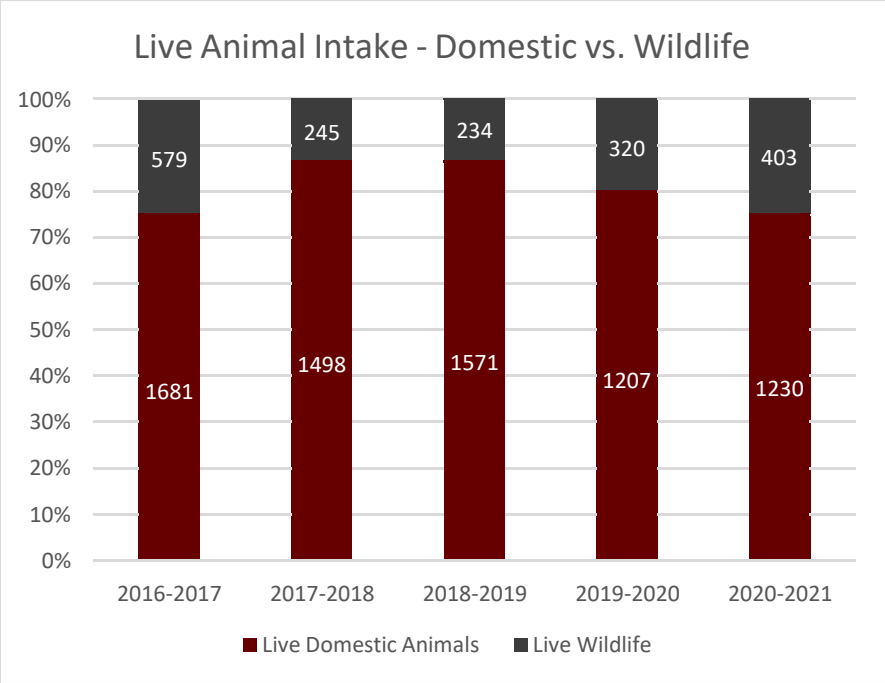
Listed below are the percentages of each species compared to the total number of wild animal intakes for the past five years.

Snake	3%
Armadillo	4%
Rabbit	5%
Squirrel	8%
Raccoon	13%
Skunk	14%
Wild Bird*	16%
Opossum	33%

*Wild Birds – this number is not typically so high. In the fiscal year of October 2016-September 2017, a large flock (172) of starlings fell out of the sky and died, accounting for about 61% of the intake number for wild birds.

When an animal intake is processed, the animal is either processed as a "Live Animal Intake" for living animals or a "Deceased Animal Intake" for deceased animals (also referred to as DOAs meaning Deceased On Arrival).

The graph below shows the total number of live domestic animal intakes vs. live wild animals.



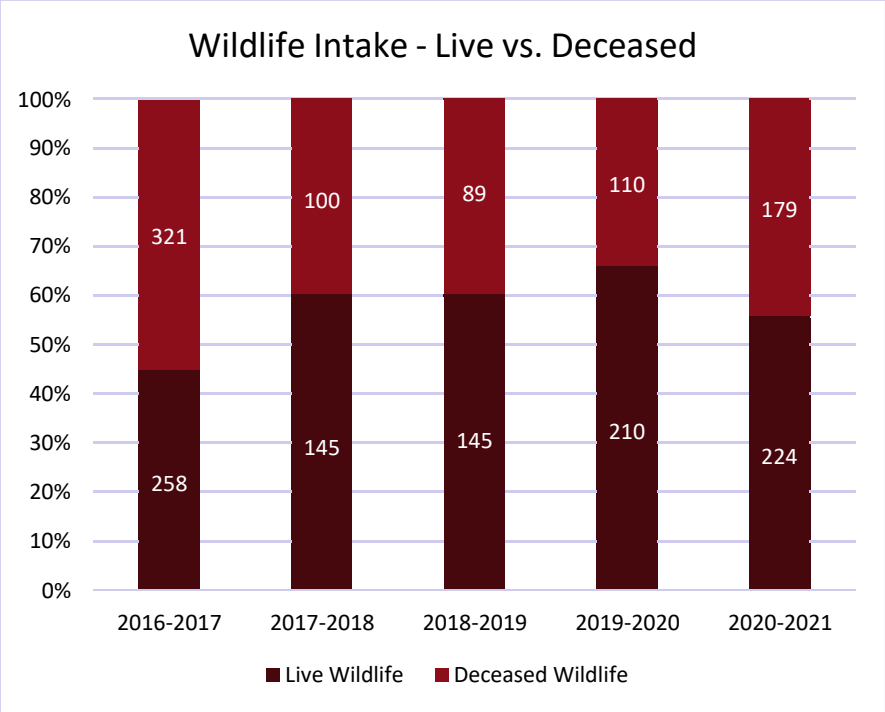
Live wild animals account for an average of 12% of the total live animal intakes.

Listed below are the percentages of live wildlife intakes compared to total live animal intakes for each year.

2016-2017	13%
2017-2018	9%
2018-2019	8%
2019-2020	15%
2020-2021	15%

Part of our role within the community is to remove deceased animals from roadways and properties. Citizens report many of these, but officers also remove dead animals while patrolling neighborhoods.

The graph below describes the number of live wildlife compared to deceased wild animals for the past five years.

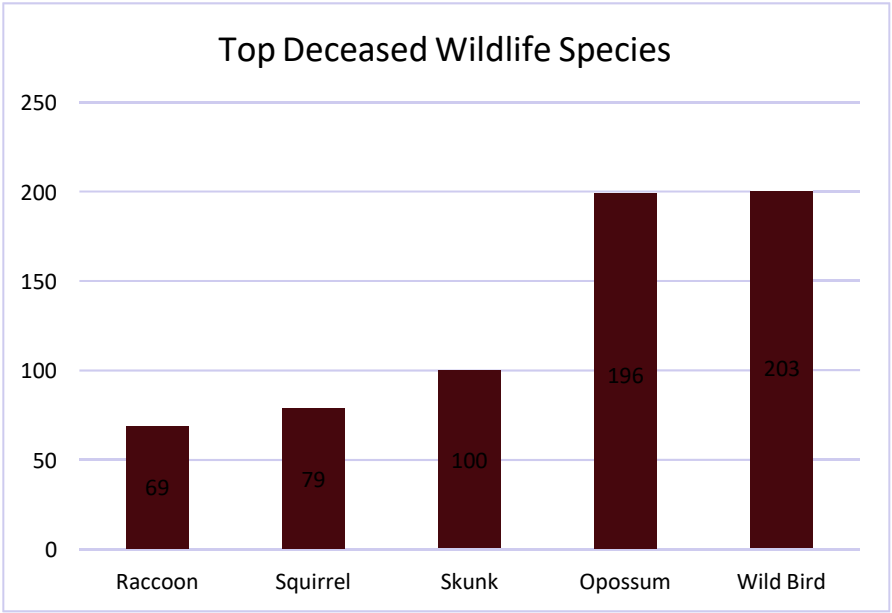


Deceased wild animals account for an average of 43% of all wildlife intakes each year.

Listed below are the percentages of deceased wildlife compared to live wildlife for each year.

2016-2017	55%
2017-2018	41%
2018-2019	38%
2019-2020	34%
2020-2021	44%

This chart shows the top five wildlife species that are deceased when picked up over the past five years.



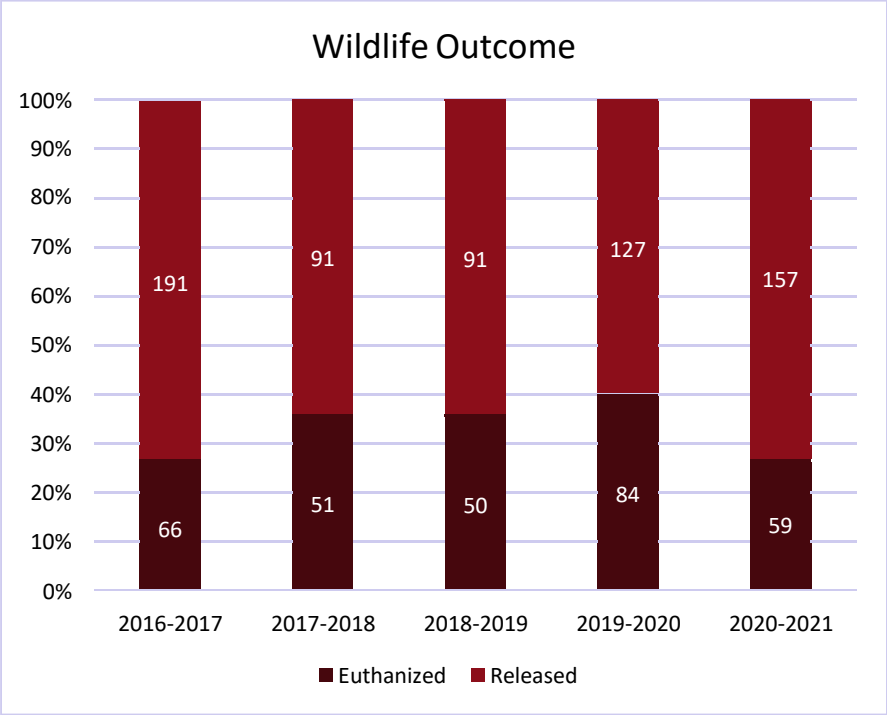
Listed below are the percentages of each species compared to the total wildlife intake.

Wild Bird*	25%
Opossum	25%
Skunk	13%
Squirrel	10%
Raccoon	9%

Wildlife Outcome

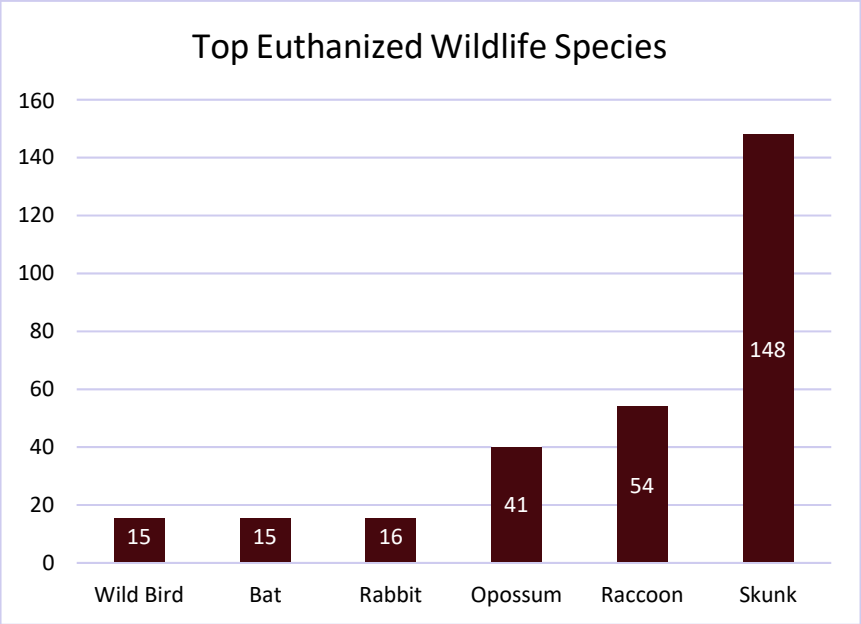
Every animal intake has a corresponding "Outcome." For wildlife, the most common outcomes are humane euthanasia or release. Released wildlife consists of wild animals released into the care of licensed rehabilitators and healthy wild animals released back into their natural habitat. Skunks are considered a "high risk" carrier of the rabies virus and account for almost half of the euthanized wildlife. The rest of the euthanized wildlife is primarily due to illness or injury.

The graph below portrays the total wildlife euthanasia compared to released wildlife.



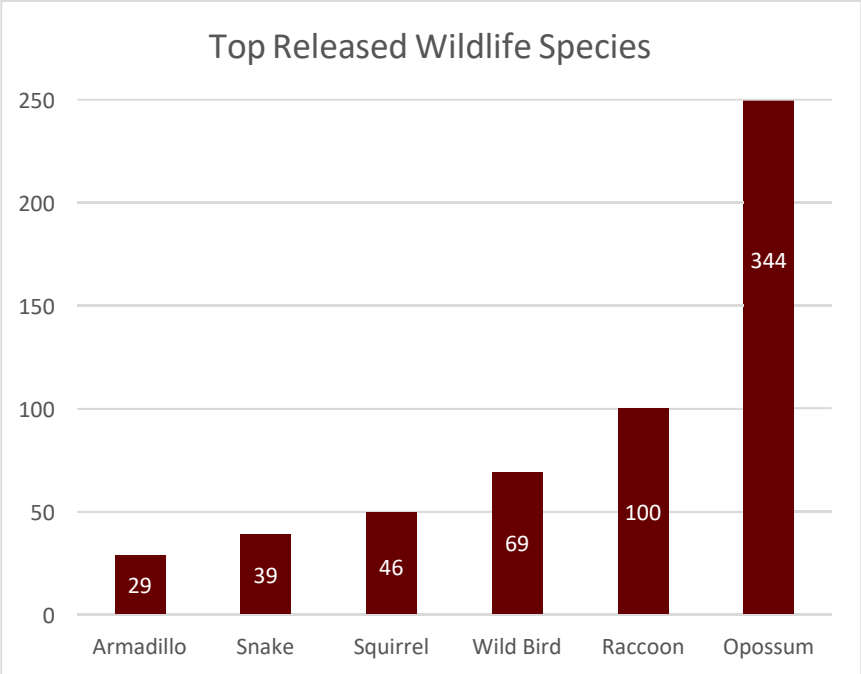
Euthanized wildlife accounts for an average of 17% of the total number of animals euthanized each year.

Released wildlife accounts for an average of 38% of all wildlife outcomes.



This graph portrays the top six species of wildlife that were humanely euthanized over the past five years.

Skunks account for 48% of all euthanized wildlife. Skunks are considered a "high risk" carrier of the rabies virus and are often humanely euthanized on the scene.



This graph portrays the top six species of wildlife that were released over the past five years.

Opossum accounts for 52% of the released wildlife over the past five years.

“Let Wildlife Be Wild”