



REPORT

Report Date: March 28, 2022
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: April 13, 2022
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities
FROM: General Manager of Development, Buildings and Licensing
SUBJECT: Wildlife Feeding Regulation By-law

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve, in principle, a new Wildlife Feeding Regulation By-law to prohibit people from feeding or attempting to feed wildlife and from providing, leaving, or placing attractants on any property in a manner that attracts or could attract wildlife;

FURTHER THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services to bring forward for enactment a new Wildlife Feeding Regulation By-law generally in accordance with Appendix A.

- B. THAT Council approve, in principle, amendments to the Ticket Offences By-law to make wildlife feeding a ticket offence with a stipulated fine of \$500.00;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment a by-law to amend the Ticket Offences By-law generally in accordance with Appendix B.

REPORT SUMMARY

Council directed staff to prepare for consideration a by-law to prohibit intentional wildlife feeding, provided it was legally authorized. Staff undertook a review and confirmed that under the *Vancouver Charter*, Council could enact by-laws for preventing, abating, and prohibiting nuisances and wildlife feeding that could be considered a nuisance. This report recommends that Council enact a Wildlife Feeding Regulation By-law that will prohibit wildlife feeding in Vancouver. Further, staff recommend establishing a ticket offence for violating the by-law with a stipulated fine, upon conviction, of \$500.

Wildlife feeding leads to a number of negative outcomes for the public and wildlife including public safety concerns. Complaints about wildlife feeding are currently enforced through existing by-laws, which focus on garbage and waste management as well as property maintenance standards. While the current approach allows the City to respond to the complaints about wildlife feeding, it does not address the human behaviour that leads to wildlife/human conflict in an urban environment. If approved by Council, the proposed By-law will prohibit intentional wildlife feeding and leaving attractants, acting both as a deterrent for the public and as a tool for enforcement by City staff. The proposed By-law strives for a balanced and safe co-existence with wildlife in our urban environment. When combined with the Vancouver Parks Control By-law's prohibition of wildlife feeding, a major benefit of the proposed approach is a consistent, city-wide ban on intentional feeding of wildlife.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

On March 31, 2021, Council directed staff to report back on Council's authority to prepare a by-law to prohibit wildlife feeding and encourage management of wildlife attractants as unintentional feeding sources. If authorized by the *Vancouver Charter* or other authority, Council directed staff to prepare for consideration a by-law to prohibit intentional wildlife feeding. Council further directed staff to consider and prepare amendments to the Ticket Offences By-Law to create a ticket offence for intentional wildlife feeding.

Under section 323(a) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council has the authority to make by-laws for preventing, abating, and prohibiting nuisances. As outlined below, feeding of wildlife may interfere with a person's enjoyment of property, thereby creating a nuisance, so Council has the authority to prohibit wildlife feeding as a nuisance under the *Vancouver Charter*.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT

Background/Context

Between 2016 and 2022 (up to March), the City received over 900 incident reports regarding wildlife such as complaints of feeding, sightings and aggressive attacks. The attack on over 40 people by coyotes in Stanley Park in 2021 highlighted the issue of increased wildlife/human interaction and conflict in Vancouver. While the majority of reported incidents occurred within parks, there have been reports of wildlife feeding and attacks that occurred on private property and City streets.

In order to manage co-existence with wildlife in the urban environment, it is important to understand the potential negative impacts of certain human activities that lead to changes in animal behavior and potential risks to public safety. Both intentional and unintentional feeding of wildlife is a significant factor contributing to animals becoming habituated to being fed and associating people with food sources. Unintentional feeding of wildlife occurs when people leave out unsecured garbage, waste, compost or unharvested fruits (both on trees and on the ground) that can potentially attract wild animals in urban environment who are in search of alternative food sources. Intentional feeding of wildlife occurs when people leave out food with the objective to attract and feed wildlife. Both activities can lead to a number of negative consequences and nuisances, such as:

- Increased public health concerns including spread of disease, increased rodent activity and infestation;
- Increased risk of animal/human conflict and aggressive behavior;
- Accumulation of waste, feces, and filth as a result of leaving food attractants for the animals and birds;
- Increase in numbers and migration of animals and birds within the city in search of food in urban environment;
- Property damage by rats, raccoons, birds, etc.;
- Undesirable smells and noise from animal presence/activity; and
- Habituation, loss of natural fear and reliance on human-fed food.

As a result, wildlife/human interaction creates an imbalance and changes to animal behavior, impacting one's ability to safely enjoy their spaces and, thereby, becoming a nuisance. The creation of a Wildlife Feeding Regulation By-law as outlined in Appendix A, if approved by Council, will clearly identify and prohibit the intentional feeding of wildlife feeding.

Regulation of Wildlife Feeding Under Existing By-laws

The City of Vancouver currently has several by-laws that regulate and manage garbage, waste and food refuse on private property and streets that are not specific to wildlife feeding but are currently being used to address unintentional wildlife feeding:

- Standards of Maintenance By-law - sections 4.1 (12) and 4.1 (13) specifically prohibit a person from harbouring or allowing a property to be infested with pests, and sections 21.10 (a), 21.11 and 21.12 regulate pests and garbage management at a lodging house.
 - To encourage compliance with the Standards of Maintenance By-law, should voluntary compliance not be achieved and/or the complaint needs immediate attention, staff may resolve the issue through formal letters and legal orders. Failure to comply with the Standards of Maintenance By-law may result in a referral to the City Prosecutor with a request to approve charges. If charges are subsequently laid, liability upon conviction can result in a ticket of not less than \$500.00 for each day that the offence continues.
- Untidy Premises By-law - section 6.1 also regulates garbage and waste management on private property, requiring every owner or occupier to keep the property clear of "any accumulation of rubbish, discarded material, garbage, ashes or filth". The Untidy Premises By-law does not refer to managing food sources or food waste, however, accumulation of these items may be addressed through this By-law as rubbish, garbage and/or filth.
 - To encourage compliance of the Untidy Premises By-law, should voluntary compliance not be achieved and/or the complaint needs immediate attention, staff may resolve the issue through formal letters and legal orders. Failure to comply with the Untidy Premises By-law may result in the City hiring a contractor to carry out the work as authorized under section 6(2), and invoice the cost of the work to the owner. If the costs incurred are not paid, the City will add such costs to the property tax roll for collection.
- Solid Waste By-law – Several sections of this bylaw require that the lids of garbage carts, green bins, and commercial waste containers remain closed while not in use, and that waste containers not be overfilled so as to prevent the lid from closing completely. Staff typically seek voluntary compliance through education and, if not achieved, may issue a legal order requiring compliance or issue a \$250 ticket.

- Street and Traffic By-law prohibits placement on any street or other public space of “any rubbish, sweepings, leaves, construction or demolition debris, paper, handbills, refuse or other discarded materials or things”. The stipulated fine for the offence of leaving refuse on a street is \$250.

While these by-laws regulate management of waste and garbage, they do not specifically address the issue of intentional feeding of wildlife. Under the current enforcement approach, staff respond to complaints about pests, accumulation of waste or garbage within a property, and unsightly premises by applying the Standards of Maintenance and Untidy Premises By-laws to bring those responsible for the property into voluntary compliance through awareness and education. Ensuring garbage and green bins are kept closed and are not overfilled is regulated under the Solid Waste By-law, and can be enforced through the Ticket Offences By-law, with a fine of \$250. Littering on the streets can be enforced through the Ticket Offences By-law, with a stipulated fine of \$250. Should voluntary compliance not be achieved and/or the complaint needs immediate attention, staff may resolve the issue through warning letters, legal orders, tickets (for some by-law clauses) or referral to City Prosecutor.

This report does not consider amending the existing by-laws to manage wildlife attractants as unintentional feeding sources because they are already effectively used to regulate and enforce complaints about untidy premises and property maintenance standards as well as the management of solid waste. Specifically, section 6 of the Solid Waste By-law requires all owners and occupiers to have an organic waste diversion plan but does not directly prohibit leaving out food sources as an attractant for wildlife. The Solid Waste By-law also requires that all garbage carts, green bins and commercial waste containers remain closed when not in active use and the private contractors servicing commercial solid waste containers must not cause or permit pests to enter them. Untidy Premises and Standards of Maintenance By-laws also address improper garbage and waste management on private property without directly prohibiting leaving it out as an attractant for wildlife. These by-laws focus on the outcome (waste and garbage placed or left on the street or property), rather than the action that creates wildlife/human conflict.

Other Jurisdictional Authority Regulating Wildlife Feeding

Both the federal and provincial government regulate wildlife. Provinces and Territories have jurisdiction over most wildlife within their borders, with the exception of wildlife on federal lands, such as in national parks; aquatic species such as fish and marine mammals; and migratory birds. At the provincial level, the *BC Wildlife Act* prohibits feeding of “dangerous wildlife”, which includes bears, cougars, coyotes and wolves. It does not apply to other wildlife that is more common and subject of concern in Vancouver such as raccoons and squirrels.

The *Community Charter* authorizes BC municipalities other than Vancouver to regulate wildlife through by-laws regarding animals. Several municipalities also apply the authority to regulate in relation to public health and nuisances. Under the *Vancouver Charter*, while wildlife is not mentioned directly, section 323(a) grants Council the authority to enact by-laws to prevent, abate, and prohibit nuisances in Vancouver.

The Park Board has jurisdiction to regulate all structures, programs and activities within parks. In September 2021, the Park Board amended the Parks Control By-law and the Park Board Ticket Offences By-law to better regulate wildlife feeding in parks¹. The Park Board approved a

¹<https://parkboardmeetings.vancouver.ca/2021/20210927/REPORT-ParkBoardBylawUpdates-FeedingWildlifeParks-20210927.pdf>

\$500 ticket for the offence. Park Rangers and the Vancouver Police Department enforce the by-law.

Strategic Analysis

Staff considered three options for addressing the issue of wildlife feeding in Vancouver:

- Option 1: status quo – continue to respond to complaints within the current by-law framework (Untidy Premises By-law, Standards of Maintenance By-law, Solid Waste By-law, Street and Traffic By-law). While this approach does not require additional resources, it does not directly address the concern of intentional wildlife feeding. Also, the enforcement of the by-laws is aimed at the owner or occupier of the property, which may not be the subject of complaint.
- Option 2: prohibit wildlife feeding on private property only. This prohibition would not apply to city streets, resulting in an inconsistent regulatory approach as wildlife is not bound only to private property. It may also be confusing for the public as the activity would be prohibited in some parts of the city (private land and parks through their by-law) and not in others (public land). It may also create challenges for enforcement depending on where and how the incident occurs.
- Option 3: create a by-law to prohibit intentional wildlife feeding and placing food as an attractant for wildlife, and make the by-laws enforceable by ticket information. This approach would clearly identify and prohibit undesirable behaviour and establish an enforcement tool regardless of where the wildlife is fed.

While many complaints could be responded to and enforced under the current by-laws, staff recommend a new by-law directly prohibiting wildlife feeding. The proposed by-law will clearly identify and prohibit unwanted human behaviour that leads to a number of negative consequences and risks. This enforcement approach will target the cause (human behavior of feeding wildlife) rather than the result and possible outcome of that behavior (food and waste on premises, infestation, change in animal behaviour).

Based on the 3-1-1 complaints data referencing wildlife, while the majority of wildlife feeding occurs in parks and on private property, feeding can occur throughout the city. The proposed by-law will apply to both private and public land, consistently prohibiting wildlife feeding in all areas of the city. Together with the approved Vancouver Park Board By-law, the prohibition of wildlife feeding will apply to all areas of the city. If the proposed by-law is approved by Council, staff will develop and disseminate education materials to make it clear for the public that this activity is prohibited in Vancouver.

Staff also recommends an amendment to the Ticket Offences By-law to establish a ticket offence with a stipulated fine of \$500. By creating a ticket offence, City staff will be able to directly respond to complaints of wildlife feeding. The ticket may also act as a deterrent. However, staff will first seek voluntary compliance through awareness and education.

Jurisdictional Scan

Staff conducted a jurisdictional scan of wildlife feeding regulations in other municipalities (see Appendix F). In B.C., Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, Port Coquitlam, Victoria, Nanaimo, Princeton, Tumbler Ridge, and Esquimalt have by-laws that prohibit wildlife feeding. The reviewed

municipalities rely on their authority to regulate animals, public health and nuisances under the *Community Charter* when prohibiting wildlife feeding. While the specific language of the by-laws vary between municipalities, most prohibit intentional wildlife feeding and leaving attractants in such a manner as to be accessible to wildlife. Some municipalities also prohibit other specific behaviour that can be considered unintentional feeding such as not harvesting ripened fruits (Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, Princeton) or having coops or pens accessible to wildlife (Princeton).

The ticket offences for a wildlife feeding offence in BC ranged from \$100 to \$1,000, and in Ontario and Nova Scotia the fine amount ranged from \$500 to \$5,000.

Birdfeeders

Hummingbird and songbird feeders are an important component of human interaction with birds in an urban environment and can be an essential food source for birds during times when natural food sources are scarce. They are also not considered to be the cause of wildlife/human conflict and do not pose a considerable risk to public safety. Other municipalities that regulate wildlife feeding allow birdfeeders as long as they are inaccessible to other wildlife.

None of the municipalities reviewed prohibited birdfeeders. Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, and Princeton have by-laws for prohibiting wildlife feeding that exempt birdfeeders, as long as the area was kept clean and did not attract wildlife. Port Coquitlam, as well as Brantford and London, Ontario, while not directly mentioning birdfeeders, defined wildlife feeding and attracting wildlife in such a manner that birdfeeding was not prohibited as long as the area was kept clean and did not attract other wildlife.

The BCSPCA Model Animal Responsibility By-laws recommend prohibiting feeding or providing access to food for songbirds between April and September (the period of bear activity) with the exception of liquid feeders. This seasonal restriction is not relevant to Vancouver as bears are not a common cause of concern. Therefore, staff recommend exempting hummingbird feeders and other birdfeeders from the proposed By-law as long as they are inaccessible to other wildlife provided the area is kept clean, as outlined in Appendix A.

Stakeholder Consultation

Staff consulted with the BC SPCA, BC Wildlife Federation, BC Conservation Officer Service, the Park Board and Vancouver School Board on prohibiting wildlife feeding as a nuisance in Vancouver (see Appendix C). With the exception of BC Wildlife Federation who supported an education-based approach, the stakeholders were supportive of prohibiting wildlife feeding through a by-law.

Staff consulted with Animal Control staff from several BC municipalities to discuss enforcement. The approach to enforce against wildlife feeding was similar across all jurisdictions:

- A combination of enforcement and education approaches is typically used, with warnings issued for most first time offenders
- Enforcement is typically reactive, responding to complaints from residents
- Affordability of tickets can be a challenge, especially with repeat offenders

Recommendation

Staff recommend the Wildlife Feeding Regulation By-law, as outlined in Appendix A, prohibit feeding of wildlife or leaving attractants in such a manner that might attract wildlife on any property with an exemption for hummingbird and other birdfeeders. Staff also recommend an amendment to the Ticket Offences By-Law to establish a ticket with a stipulated fine of \$500 for the violation of feeding, attempting to feed or attracting wildlife. The proposed Wildlife Feeding Regulation By-law can also be enforced by ordering compliance. The objective of the recommendations are to clearly define the prohibited behaviour that leads to wildlife/human conflict and create a ticket offence in order to protect both residents and wildlife from the negative consequences of wildlife feeding.

Proposed Compliance Strategy

The authority to enforce the By-law will be included in the Ticket Offences By-Law with a stipulated fine of \$500 for the violation of attracting or feeding wildlife.

Subject to approval of the proposed Wildlife Feeding Regulation By-law, staff will inform the public of the By-law and the associated ticket offence through the City website and City's social media channels. City staff will also disseminate information about the By-law when responding to complaints. Combined with the existing signage installed in City parks, this messaging will raise awareness and understanding of the negative impacts of wildlife feeding. Installation of signage outside of parks would require significant additional financing and staff resources.

Staff will work with 3-1-1 to improve and monitor data collection to evaluate if additional enforcement or educational resources are required. In combination with the Parks Control By-law prohibiting feeding of wildlife, this proposed By-law should reduce the number of reported incidents.

Legal

The proposed Wildlife Feeding Regulation By-law is authorized by the City's nuisance powers set out in the *Vancouver Charter*.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommend that Council approve the Wildlife Feeding Regulation By-law to prohibit intentional wildlife feeding and leaving attractants as a nuisance, as well as an amendment to the Ticket Offences By-Law to make wildlife attracting or feeding a ticket offence. While complaints about waste and garbage can be responded to and enforced through existing by-laws, intentional feeding of wildlife would be best addressed through a specific by-law targeting intentional feeding of wildlife as outlined in the Appendices A and B. It will also align with the Vancouver Park Board's By-law to prohibit wildlife feeding and accompanying ticket offence. By clearly defining and prohibiting intentional wildlife feeding behavior and establishing a ticket offence, feeding wildlife will be consistently regulated across the city and strive for a balanced and safe co-existence with wildlife in an urban environment.

BY-LAW NO. _____

A By-law to Regulate Wildlife Feeding

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, in public meeting, enacts the following:

**SECTION 1
INTERPRETATION**

Name of By-law

1. The name of this By-law, for citation, is the "Wildlife Feeding Regulation By-law".

**SECTION 2
DEFINITIONS**

2. In this By-law:

"ATTRACTANT" means food or food waste, meat, a carcass or part of a carcass of an animal or fish, compost or any other waste that could attract wildlife.

"WILDLIFE" means all amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, both native and not native to the Province, excluding any domesticated animal under the control of a human.

**SECTION 3
OFFENCES**

Feeding Wildlife

3.1 In order to avoid creating a nuisance, a person must not:

- (a) feed or attempt to feed wildlife; or
- (b) provide, leave or place an attractant on any property in a manner that attracts or could attract wildlife.

3.2 Section 3.1 does not apply to a person who feeds hummingbirds on private property or feeds other birds with a birdfeeder that is inaccessible to other wildlife, provided the area is kept clean.

**SECTION 4
ENFORCEMENT**

4.1 The Manager, Property Use Inspections and any Property Use Inspector or Street Use Inspector may issue a written order to a person directing that the person take necessary steps to comply with a provision of this By-law by a date specified in the order.

4.2 No person shall fail to comply with an order issued pursuant to section 4.1.

Stakeholder Consultations

BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA):

- There is support for bylaws to prohibit direct and indirect wildlife feeding as a nuisance;
- Efforts to educate the public on the consequences of wildlife feeding have not had enough effect, and that the activities need to be prohibited and enforced with ticket offences;
- There are different scenarios where people feed wildlife (e.g., a one-off situation where person who feeds a coyote to get a picture for social media, or a person who leaves out dog food for raccoons every day), all need to be addressed with warnings and ticket offences;
- Birdfeeders (nectar for hummingbirds or seed for other songbirds) can be allowed as long as the feeders are kept clean, wildlife proof, and do not attract an excessive number of birds.

The BC SPCA has published model animal responsibility bylaws², which include a section on wildlife feeding. These have served as a starting point for some BC municipalities which have prohibited wildlife feeding. The SPCA recommends implementing wildlife feeding and attractant management bylaws as:

- Wildlife feeding increases risks to human health and safety and neighbourhood conflicts associated with food-conditioned wildlife.
- The presence of food waste attracts unwanted wildlife that can become a nuisance through the presence of wildlife, noise, and droppings, and can lead to increased rodent activity and public health concerns.

The model bylaws define “attractant”, “songbirds”, “waste”, and “wildlife” and prohibit feeding wildlife or providing them access to food, storing attractants or waste so that it is accessible to wildlife, and attracting wildlife onto a property such that it will create a nuisance for other properties. An optional prohibition on birdfeeders between April and September is only recommended for communities with bear activity (which is not relevant for Vancouver).

BC Conservation Officer Service:

- Strong support for by-laws to prohibit direct and indirect wildlife feeding;
- That municipalities that have implemented effective bylaws and enforcement related to wildlife feeding have fewer wildlife being killed and a decrease in vermin, which has led to a decreased coyote population;
- That effective educational approaches they have seen have focused on children in schools, as well as signage emphasizing the financial implications of tickets;
- That they are challenged to enforce provincial wildlife feeding laws due to resource availability and the large geographical region they cover.

BC Wildlife Federation:

- Opposition to municipal by-laws to prohibit wildlife feeding beyond what is prohibited by the *Wildlife Act* (feeding of dangerous wildlife); they feel that enforcement under the provincial Act is more effective;
- That they prefer an education-based approach to healthy wildlife management;
- That it is important for people in urban environments such as Vancouver to have opportunities to interact with certain animals, such as birds.

² <https://spca.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/BC-SPCA-Model-Animal-Responsibility-Bylaws-Sept-2017.pdf>

Vancouver School Board:

- Support for by-laws to prohibit wildlife feeding;
- That schools have policies that don't allow staff or students to feed wildlife on school grounds, though several schools have birdfeeders on the grounds;
- Some concern that people unaffiliated with a school may leave attractants or waste; staff do a morning sweep of the grounds and clean up any significant messes.

Vancouver Park Board:

- Support for by-laws to prohibit wildlife feeding;
- Concerns that wildlife feeding can cause artificial wildlife population growth and is untidy (food, waste, feces, etc.);
- That they have concerns over enforcement of similar Parks by-laws since Park Rangers do not have the authority to compel a person to show identification.

Authority to Regulate Wildlife Feeding in BC***Provincial Jurisdiction - BC Wildlife Act***

- Sec. 33.1 prohibits feeding or leaving attractants for dangerous wildlife (only applies to cougars, bears, coyotes, and wolves)

Vancouver Charter

- Sec. 323 (a) grants Council authority to make by-laws for preventing, abating, and prohibiting nuisances.

Untidy Premises By-law

- Sec. 6(1) "Where the owner or occupier of any real property fails to remove from such property any accumulation of rubbish, discarded materials, garbage, ashes or filth, or fails to keep the said property cleared of weeds, brush, trees, or other growths, or is otherwise in breach of this By-law, the Director of Licenses and Inspections may cause a notice to be served upon the owner of the real property requiring such owner to remedy the condition within ten days".
- Ticket Offence \$250 - \$10,000

Standards of Maintenance By-law

- Sections 21.11 and 21.12 regulate garbage and waste management at a lodging house;
- Section 4.12 requires "every owner of land must keep the land, and any building or accessory building on it, in such condition that it will not afford harbourage for or become infested with pests".
- Ticket Offence \$250 - \$10,000

Solid Waste By-law

- Sections 4.2, 6.6, 9.1, and 9.2A of this bylaw require that the lids of garbage carts, green bins, and commercial waste containers remain closed while not in use, and that waste containers not be overfilled so as to prevent the lid from closing completely
- Part 6 outlines requirements for food waste management through the green cart service and requires every owner or occupier to have an organic waste diversion plan.
- Fines on conviction range from \$250 - \$10,000
- Ticket Offences \$250

Street and Traffic By-law

- City Engineer and Police Officer have authority to enforce Section 84: "No person shall deposit upon any street or other public place, any rubbish, sweepings, leaves, construction or demolition debris, paper, handbills, refuse or other discarded materials or things."
- Fines on conviction range from \$250 - \$10,000
- Ticket Offence \$250 (Ticket Offences By-law)

AUTHORITY TO REGULATE WILDLIFE FEEDING IN BC

Animal Control By-law

- Does not address feeding of wildlife

Parks Control By-law

- Section 9A of the By-law prohibits any person from feeding or attempting to feed wildlife as well as placing attractants that could attract wildlife.
- Ticket Offence \$500

BC SPCA Animal Responsibility Bylaws

Wildlife feeding and attractant management

Risks to human health and safety and neighbourhood conflicts associated with food-conditioned wildlife are municipal issues that can be addressed with enforcement warnings and fines. Bylaws are required in conjunction with public education to ensure residents understand their role in attracting wildlife and the consequences of increased wildlife habituation (e.g., expensive and ineffective deer culls).

Many species of wildlife can be unnaturally attracted to communities and human residences, leading to conflict. 7 Common examples include deer, raccoons, skunks, squirrels, gulls, crows and even seals, where feeding by residents and tourists increases habituation of wildlife. Compost, garbage, pet food and even bird feeders will attract unwanted wildlife that can become a nuisance to residents through their increased presence, noise and droppings. Further, improper waste management and wildlife feeding can lead to increased rodent activity and public health concerns.

Managing waste for, and preventing feeding of, “dangerous wildlife” (bears, cougars, wolves and coyotes) only is regulated by the Province in section 33.1 of the Wildlife Act. Thus, managing attractants for all other wildlife species is a municipal responsibility. Please note, sections 9(1)(c) and 9(3)(c) of the Community Charter require ministerial approval prior to a Council adopting a bylaw in relation to wildlife. Provision 4 below may be optional depending on the proximity of the community to bear activity.

Bylaw Adapted from District of Squamish Bylaw No. 2053, Village of Kaslo Bylaw No. 1070 and City of Kamloops Bylaw No. 3411

Definitions

“Attractant” means any substance or material, with or without an odour, which attracts or is likely to attract animals; and without limitation includes antifreeze, paint, food products, unclean barbecues, pet food, livestock and livestock feed, beehives, bird feeders, offal, improperly maintained composts, restaurant grease barrels, accumulation of fruit in containers or on the ground;

“Songbirds” means any Passerine, excludes Corvidea (e.g., crows, ravens and jays) and includes hummingbirds;

“Waste” means any discarded or abandoned food, substance, material, or object, whether from domestic, commercial, industrial, institutional or other use; and

“Wildlife” means any undomesticated free-ranging animal, exempting songbirds for the purposes of feeding.

Wildlife Feeding

1. No person shall knowingly or willingly feed any wildlife, or in any manner provide them or allow access to food or any other edible substance.
2. No person shall store any attractant or waste in such a manner that it is accessible to wildlife.

3. No person shall attract wildlife onto a property such that these wildlife create a nuisance for other properties.

4. No person shall feed or provide access to food for songbirds between April and September, exempting liquid feeders.

Jurisdictional Scan

Municipality	Wildlife feeding	Bird feeding exception	Attracting Wildlife	Exceptions / Additional Conditions	By-law	Ticket Offence	Enforcement
Coquitlam	Y	Y	Y	Owner of property cannot allow conditions that could attract Vectors Specific potential attractants prohibited (e.g., must harvest ripe fruit)	Wildlife and Vector Control	\$1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Solicitor • Assistant City Solicitor • Manager, Bylaw and Animal Control Services • Bylaw, Licensing and Animal Control Supervisor • Bylaw Inspector 1 • Bylaw Inspector 2 • Property Use Supervisor • Property Use Inspector • General Manager, Engineering & Public Works
Port Coquitlam	N	N/A	Y	Owner of property must not provide food, shelter, or breeding conditions that could lead to a nuisance caused by rats or mice	Vector Control	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vector Biologist
Port Coquitlam	N	N/A	Y	Garbage must be stored in wildlife resistant containers	Solid Waste	\$1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaw Enforcement Officers • Manager of Bylaw Services • Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Municipality	Wildlife feeding	Bird feeding exception	Attracting Wildlife	Exceptions / Additional Conditions	By-law	Ticket Offence	Enforcement
Maple Ridge	Y	Y	Y	Wildlife feeding applies only to dangerous wildlife Specific potential attractants prohibited (e.g., must harvest ripe fruit) Garbage cannot be put out until 5am on collection day	Wildlife and Vector Control	\$100-500 (feeding = \$500, attracting = \$400)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaw Compliance Officer • Director of Bylaw & Licencing Services • Environmental Planner • Environmental Technician • Manager of Bylaw & Licencing Services • R.C.M.P.
Victoria	Y	Y	Y	Feeding applies to deer, raccoons, squirrels, and feral rabbits; as well as pigeons, crows, and gulls within downtown core	Animal Control	\$125-\$350	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Control Officer • Bylaw Officer • Police Constable
Princeton	Y	Y	Y	Garbage must be stored in wildlife resistant containers and cannot be put out until 5am on collection day Specific potential attractants prohibited (e.g., must harvest ripe fruit)	Wildlife Attractant	\$150-\$500 (Feeding or attracting = \$500)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building officials • Fire inspectors • Bylaw enforcement officers
Nanaimo	Y	Y	Y	Wildlife feeding applies only to deer, raccoons, squirrels, feral rabbits, and dangerous wildlife	Animal Control	\$350	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poundkeeper • Bylaw Enforcement Officers

Municipality	Wildlife feeding	Bird feeding exception	Attracting Wildlife	Exceptions / Additional Conditions	By-law	Ticket Offence	Enforcement
Esquimalt	Y	Bird feeding is not prohibited	Y	Wildlife feeding applies only to bears, cougars, wolves, coyotes, raccoons, eastern grey squirrels, deer, and Canada Geese Attractants only applies to fruit fallen from trees or bushes	Animal Management Bylaw	\$100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Development Services • Bylaw Enforcement Officer
Tumbler Ridge	Y	Y	N	Feeding birds by hand is allowed	Animal Responsibility	\$100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace officers • Bylaw Enforcement Officer • RCMP • Animal Control Officers
Brantford, ON	Y	N (though if area is kept clean and feeder is wildlife proof bird feeding would not be prohibited)	Y	Prohibition is specific to feeding that causes animals to congregate in a manner that causes property damage	Public Nuisance	Up to \$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaw Enforcement Officer

Municipality	Wildlife feeding	Bird feeding exception	Attracting Wildlife	Exceptions / Additional Conditions	By-law	Ticket Offence	Enforcement
Waterloo, ON	Y	Y	Y	Wildlife feeding and attracting wildlife is prohibited if it causes a nuisance, which includes attracting a large numbers of wild animals or wild birds, results in a potential health or safety risk (including but not limited to the accumulation of feces), or is likely to interfere with the normal use or enjoyment of property (including through odour or noise)	Animals	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Law Enforcement Officers • Humane Society • Police Officers
London, ON	Y	N (though if area is kept clean and feeder is wildlife proof bird feeding would not be considered "nuisance feeding")	Y	Nuisance feeding of wildlife is prohibited, which is defined as feeding or leaving out food which results in one or more of the following: excessive accumulation of food, excessive accumulation of wildlife feces, unreasonable interference with the normal use and enjoyment of nearby premises, or excessive attraction of rodents or predatory wildlife	Public Nuisance	Up to \$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Law Enforcement Officer • London Police Service
Halifax, NS	Y	Y	N	Feeding of birds and wildlife is not permitted if it creates a nuisance	Respecting Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership	\$200-\$5000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Officer • By-law Enforcement Officer • Special Constable (appointed pursuant to the Police Act)