

Please Don't Feed the Wildlife

Feeding a wild animal at your house or cabin may seem harmless, but feeding wildlife can have serious effects for both the animals and humans.

- ▶ Human food is not made for animals. It can cause disease, mouth and throat injuries to the animal and even death.
- ▶ Feeding wildlife can make them dependent on humans as a source of food and they may become unable to survive on their own.
- ▶ Wild animals can lose their natural fear of people once they become used to humans feeding them. It puts people at risk, especially children.
- ▶ Wild animals can be unpredictable. A wild animal may see people, including children, as a threat and may attack to defend itself.
- ▶ Wild animals that become used to being near humans may have to be destroyed to ensure human safety.
- ▶ Wild animals may follow the scent of food or improperly stored garbage to a home or cabin, which can lead to damaged property. Make sure you properly store garbage and any pet food left outside.
- ▶ Getting too close to wild animals is a risk for people, because they sometimes carry diseases, such as rabies. Feeding an animal changes its normal behaviour, making it difficult to tell if it is coming close because of a disease or because it is looking for food. This can result in healthy animals being killed.
- ▶ Hand feeding a wild animal is especially dangerous because there is no guarantee that an animal knows where the food stops and your fingers begin.

Please remember, it is dangerous to feed wildlife.