

Wildlife

Fact Sheet: Squirrels



Squirrels prosper in suburban areas due to their supreme agility and adaptability. Gray squirrels are active during the day, and flying squirrels are nocturnal. Squirrels are high-strung animals; they like to live in open and free spaces, and will behave erratically when trapped in an enclosed living space.

***FUN FACT:** Squirrels have two litters a year: in early spring and in the late summer/early fall. If squirrels are heard scampering in an attic at those times of year, it's most likely a mother with her babies.

- **Squirrels Circling or Falling Over:** Squirrels are very susceptible to a parasite called roundworm (which creates rabies-like symptoms that affects the brain). This condition is fatal and is not treatable in people or in squirrels.

PEOPLE - PARTICULARLY CHILDREN - SHOULD BE KEPT AWAY AND THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER SHOULD BE CONTACTED

- **Squirrels digging in yard:** Squirrels need to bury nuts so they have a food source for the winter. Their digging of shallow holes won't damage the lawn; it's just a temporary issue.

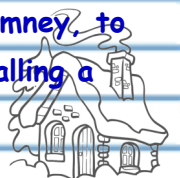
SELF-HELP OPTION: Cayenne pepper or similar repellants that contain capsaicin can be sprinkled on digging areas for prevention of digging.

- **Squirrels in House Interior (LIVING SPACES):** Squirrels that are inside houses will run everywhere looking to escape but will run away from the doors and windows.

SELF-HELP OPTION: If the squirrel does not find its way out through the doors and windows, call the PATERSON ANIMAL CONTROL for assistance.

- **Squirrels in Chimney:** A squirrel in a chimney most likely will have fallen in and cannot get out. Squirrels can get anxious because they are stuck and just want help getting out.

SELF-HELP OPTION: Put a thick rope down the flue, secured to the chimney, to help the squirrel climb out. To prevent this from happening again, properly installing a chimney cap will help.





- * **Special Note of Flying Squirrels:** Flying squirrels are small and people rarely get the chance to see them. They are about 9 inches long from the tip of their nose to the tip of their tail. They have bulgy, shiny black eyes, a flat tail and loose skin that extends from the front legs to the hind legs. This helps them "fly" or glide. They are nocturnal and very sociable animals.



- **Squirrels raiding bird feeder:** Squirrels may be attracted by bird feeders.

SELF-HELP OPTION: There are many bird feeders that are specialized (like baffle feeders) that are available to deter squirrels. The pipe must be at least 15 in. long and 4 ft. off the ground to prevent the squirrel from climbing over or jumping to it.

- **Baby Squirrels:** Baby squirrels that are by themselves are most likely lost from their mothers. They could have fallen out of the nest or strayed from their family.

SELF-HELP OPTION: Before doing anything, give the mother a chance to reclaim her baby and leave the squirrel in direct vicinity of the tree that is nearby as long as he is not injured (wait an entire day; by the next morning call the **PATERSON ANIMAL CONTROL**)

*If it is cold outside, or the animal isn't fully furred, they'll need a heat source, such as a hot water bottle or hand warmer. Place a piece of soft fabric between the animal and the heating device and check to make sure both stay warm.

*If a baby squirrel is following other people or trying to climb on a person, this indicates a juvenile baby squirrel who lost its mother and needs to be taken to a wildlife rehabilitator.



***If you trap a squirrel, the only thing an Animal Control Officer can do is release it back on your property depending on the situation. Make sure a wood board is placed underneath the trap. RESIDENTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR AN ANIMAL THAT IS CONTAINED IN A TRAP. An outside wildlife service can help remove the squirrel from the area humanely (A fee may be involved). ***

Any other questions?

Visit www.humanesociety.org/squirrels for more information.

Or call the Paterson Animal Control at 973-881-3640.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

