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Our Wild Neighbors

# Wildlife & Your Pet

Encounters between wildlife and domestic pets occur every day. In many cases, such encounters are accidental and no harm is done. But in others, serious injuries or even death, could be the tragic result. A few simple steps go a long way towards preventing just such encounters.

## Threats to wildlife...

### ...How your pet may harm a wild animal.

Domestic cats and dogs evolved from natural predators that depended on their hunting skills to survive. They still possess those instincts even though they no longer require them for survival.

Attacks on wildlife may lead to any of the following situations:

- Punctures and lacerations
- Infection
- Creation of orphans by separating infants from their mothers
- Critical stress, over-exertion, over-heating
- Loss of much needed energy stores
- Disturbance of, or removal from, habitat
- Pursued into unsafe areas such as roads, parking lots, and exposed terrain
- Transfer of diseases or parasites
- Death

## Threats to your pet...

### ...How wild animals may harm your pet.

Wild animals usually flee when threatened but may stand their ground to protect a mate, offspring, or territory. Even a passive encounter may result in more than you bargained for.

Attacks on your pet may lead to any of the following situations:

- Punctures and lacerations
- Infection
- Pursued into unsafe areas such as roads, deep or fast moving water, etc.
- Transfer of diseases or parasites
- Substantial veterinary costs
- Death

**Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC)**

**Box 68 Madden AB T0M 1L0 (403) 946-2361 [www.aiwc.ca](http://www.aiwc.ca)**