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# Animal Control Service Bulletin



**The  
Illinois Department of  
Natural Resources  
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(217) 782-6384**

The Village of  
**EVERGREEN  
PARK**



Hours:  
M, 9am-8pm;  
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T, Th, F, 9am-5pm

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Village of Evergreen Park  
Animal Control Department

9418 S. Kedzie Ave.

## **Raccoon and Opossum**

### **PRESENCE**

The State of Illinois is reporting record-breaking numbers of both raccoons and opossums in more than five counties, Cook County being one of them this summer/fall season.

Due to a very warm winter, both species may have anywhere from two to four litters (approximately four babies per litter).

The average population of raccoons and opossums in our county is 9-45 per square mile, with FALL population estimates as high as 98-101.

The IDNR has specific regulations regarding the trapping and removal of both these protected “fur-bearing” animals.

The Village of Evergreen Park is doing its absolute best to accommodate residents with “critter” complaints and still follow the state and county rules and regulations. We ask for your patience and assistance during this busy season.

IDNR advises homeowners:

- Do not encourage raccoons by feeding them
- Keep pet food and watering dishes indoors, especially at night
- Keep trash containers in your garage until pickup day. Containers stored outside should have the lids secured with elastic shock cords available at most hardware stores.

- Use bird feeders equipped with gravity-operated treadles to prevent access by squirrels and raccoons. Do not allow spillage to accumulate. If necessary, switch to niger (thistle), safflower, or other bird foods less attractive to mammals. Install commercial chimney caps before animals move in.
- Install hardware cloth (1/2” x 1/2” mesh) inside attic vent and fan openings
- Repair broken, weak, or rotted areas on your roof, soffit and fascia.
- Trim tree branches that provide squirrels and raccoons easy access to your roof.
- Before hiring an animal control specialist, verify that they have a valid permit issued by DNR.

The village is working off of a list to accommodate residents, depending upon individual needs.

Residents may want to reference the following websites to better understand the issues already mentioned:

1. Learn more about raccoons by visiting the Fur Hunting and Trapping In Illinois website, [www.dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildlife](http://www.dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildlife).
2. The brochures “Keeping Wildlife Out of Your Home” and “Nuisance Raccoons In Urban Settings” are available from the DNR Clearinghouse at [dnr.clearing@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.clearing@illinois.gov)

Information on nuisance wildlife control also is available at the Center for Wildlife Damage Management at [www.wildlifedamage.unl.edu](http://www.wildlifedamage.unl.edu).

Landowners should check state regulations before proceeding; some methods, recommended by the Center for Wildlife Management, while legal in some states, are not legal in Illinois.

We highly recommend that residents hire a wildlife exterminator if their problem is severe, or if immediate action is needed.

The Village will provide names of exterminators upon request.

Thank you for understanding, and for your cooperation.