



**To:** Snowmass Village Residents and Guests  
**From:** Snowmass Village Animal Services, **923-5330**  
**Topic:** **The Feeding of Wildlife**

We continue to receive reports that local guests and residents are feeding wildlife. It is important to know that feeding wildlife is against the law for many good reasons:

- ◆ Feeding Wildlife is Unhealthy for the Animal.  
Foxes, coyotes, raccoons, bears and other wildlife get sick when ingesting food that is not a part of their natural forage. Human food sources can cause digestive imbalances in wildlife species and ultimately cause a loss of weight.
- ◆ Feeding Wildlife Domesticates an Animal:  
Fed animals lose their healthy fear of humans. They will approach people, including children, and may bite someone. Fed animals may linger on decks and try to enter homes to obtain food.
- ◆ Wildlife Carry Disease  
Wildlife can carry diseases, such as rabies, which are transmittable to humans and pets. Wildlife can carry worms that are transmittable to humans and pets.
- ◆ Fed Animals Become Dependent  
Animals become dependent on regular handouts of food and then suffer when that food source is not available. Feeding wildlife draws animals closer to roadways where they are often hit by vehicles and injured or killed.
- ◆ Feeding Small Mammals can Attract Larger Predators to your Area

Local ordinances prevent the feeding of wildlife. This includes the hand feeding of animals. Violations can result in the following: 1<sup>st</sup> offense = \$50.00, 2nd offense = \$250.00, 3rd offense = Summons to court.

**Section 7-157(a). Feeding of Wildlife.**

"No person shall knowingly leave or store any refuse, food product, pet food, grain or salt in a manner which would constitute a lure, attraction or enticement of wildlife."

**Please be considerate of wild animals and allow them to forage naturally.  
Watch and photograph wild animals, but please do not feed them. Thank you.**