

# Animal Control

## What are the Texas laws against animal cruelty?

The State of Texas does not tolerate animal cruelty. Texas Penal Code, Section 42.09 spells out what constitutes animal cruelty and it includes violations such as neglect, abandonment, injury, and torture, among other abuses. Follow the link below to learn more.

[State of Texas Penal Code – Section 42.09; Animal Cruelty](#)

## Where can I get an animal trap?

Contact the Shenandoah Police Department at 281-367-8952 to get an animal trap. Due to an increase in requests for animal traps, residents are allowed to keep a trap out for no longer than 14 days. Once an animal is captured in the trap, please contact the Shenandoah Police Department and the animal will be relocated.

## How can I keep raccoons out of my yard?

Raccoons have adapted to urban life over the last 50 years and they are now prevalent in towns and cities throughout North America. They are nocturnal and will eat most anything, and will often commute to reliable food sources. These food sources can include pet food and the contents of homeowners' trash containers.

Follow the link below to learn helpful tips about controlling raccoons and removing anything that may attract them to your yard.

<http://www.acmehowto.com/howto/pest/raccoons-yard.php>

## How can I keep cats out of my yard?

Domestic cats are another normal part of suburban life and they often wander the neighborhoods and climb fences. They will also dig in the yard and leave droppings, which can then be exposed to the homeowners and their children.

There are steps residents can take to discourage cats from returning to their yards. Follow the link below to learn more.

[http://www.essortment.com/hobbies/lawnpestskeepi\\_sgns.htm](http://www.essortment.com/hobbies/lawnpestskeepi_sgns.htm)

### **I have skunks in my yard. What can I do?**

Skunks are nocturnal and dig for food. They also create dens below ground. If a family of skunks have made their new home in your yard, it's not too hard to get rid of them.

If you have a skunk caught in a trap, contact the Shenandoah Police Department at 281-367-8952 and we will send a professional to relocate it.

Follow the link below for several steps you can take to encourage skunks to move on.

[http://www.nativeanimalrescue.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&catid=&id=18%3Afaq&Itemid=20](http://www.nativeanimalrescue.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&catid=&id=18%3Afaq&Itemid=20)

### **What should I do if I find a squirrel or a squirrel nest?**

Squirrels are very common in suburban, wooded areas. Never attempt to handle an adult squirrel as they are very excitable and handling causes intense stress. A stressed squirrel may bite or scratch.

Many people believe that if you touch and handle a baby squirrel and the nest, the mother squirrel will not take the baby squirrels back. This is not true. Don't worry, the mother squirrel will always take her young back, so put the nest back into a tree as close to its original location as possible.

Follow the link below to learn more about controlling squirrels in your yard.

<http://www.nativeanimalrescue.org/?p=9>