



# Rabbits

June 2017

Calgarians have the privilege of enjoying a large variety of wildlife throughout the city, including rabbits. Domestic rabbits can be differentiated from wild rabbits by the variety of colours and sizes. Domestic rabbits are not protected by any of Alberta's wildlife laws.



Left: a wild hare. Right: a domestic rabbit.

## Issues with rabbits

While they are cute, rabbits can cause damage to personal property. They like to eat vegetation which can include shrubs, plants or gardens on private property. They can also cause damage to vegetation in park spaces.

Rabbits have an impact on the population of predators – if the population of rabbits increases there will also be an increase in the population of predators such as grey horned owls or coyotes.

## What can I do to avoid issues with rabbits?

Like all wildlife in the city, there are some things residents can do to avoid problems:

- Do not feed rabbits. Feeding feral rabbits creates a dependency on this food source; this disrupts the natural cycle of wildlife and their ability to co-exist in our natural urban settings.
- Keep garbage in tightly closed and secured waste disposal bins. Overflowing or easily accessible garbage can attract wildlife.
- Keep landscaping tidy. Overgrown grass can provide food and/or habitat.
- Restrict access to your yard, put up fencing to keep them out of your property.
- If you see a baby hare or rabbit on its own do not go near it, it is normal for the parents to leave their babies alone for hours at a time.

### Under the **Community Standards Bylaw**:

8. (1) No owner or occupier of a Premises shall allow on the Premises, the accumulation of:
- (a) any material that creates unpleasant odors;
  - (b) any material likely to attract pests;

Bylaw officers have the ability to enforce on citizens leaving food out which would attract pests (this would include citizens feeding rabbits directly). Fines begin at \$200 for violations to this Bylaw.

### Under the **Parks and Pathways Bylaw**:

17. No Person shall:
- (e) pester, feed or otherwise interfere with any animal in a Park.

Bylaw officers have the ability to enforce on citizens who feed wildlife in a City Park. Fines begin at \$200 for people found in violation of this Bylaw.