

TOWN OF VIRDEN

Policy & Procedures Manual

Reference	Classification Policy
Subject Wildlife	Pages 5
Authority Chief Administrative Officer	Amended Dates:
Approved April 28, 2026	Index

Purpose

The purpose of this wildlife policy is to promote safe, respectful, and sustainable coexistence between residents and wildlife within the municipality. This policy aims to reduce human-wildlife conflict, protect public safety, and support the conservation of native species in accordance with Manitoba legislation.

Objective

To establish clear procedures for addressing wildlife-related concerns within the municipality. This includes guiding staff and residents on appropriate resources to wildlife encounters, reducing potential risks to public safety and property, and promoting humane and environmentally responsible practices for wildlife management.

Policy

The entire policy is outlined in the following pages.

Wildlife Policy

The following policy outlines how wildlife is addressed within the Town of Virden. This policy is intended as a guideline and shall outline proper procedures and processes for wildlife management in the Town of Virden.

1. Guiding Principles

- Wildlife is a natural and valued part of the local environment.
- Human safety is the top priority in all wildlife related situations.
- Prevention and education are the most effective tools for managing wildlife interactions.
- Wildlife should not be fed, harassed, or intentionally attracted.
- The municipality works in partnership with provincial authorities, recognizing that wildlife is under provincial authority.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All residents, property owners, and visitors within the municipality.
- Municipal lands, infrastructure, and operations.
- Common and urban rural wildlife species (e.g., beavers, deer, coyotes, foxes, waterfowl, small mammals).

3. Legislative Context

This policy aligns with applicable Manitoba legislation, including:

- *The Wildlife Act of (Manitoba)*
- *The Environment Act (Manitoba)*
- *The Animal Care Act (Manitoba)*

The Province of Manitoba retains primary authority over wildlife management, including enforcement and relocation of wildlife.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Town of Virden

- The Town of Virden will be responsible for the handling of wildlife issues on any and all lands owned by the Town. It will be at the sole discretion of the Town on how these matters will be dealt with while in accordance with any current provincial or federal legislation.

- Will provide public education on wildlife safety and prevention, primarily through a website information page.
- Manage attractants on municipal property (e.g. garbage, parks, composting areas).
- Respond to general wildlife inquiries and direct residents to appropriate provincial resources.
- Coordinate with Manitoba Conservation and Climate when intervention is required.
- Implement by-laws where appropriate.
- Will determine a level of service in managing its lands for wildlife that is appropriate for the Town budget and operational capacities.

Province (Manitoba Conservation and Climate)

The Province is responsible for:

- Wildlife enforcement and protection.
- Handling dangerous wildlife situations.
- Issuing permits and managing relocation or destruction of wildlife where necessary.

Residents and Property Owners

Residents are expected to:

- Avoid feeding wildlife (intentional or unintentional).
- Secure garbage, compost, and other attractants.
- Maintain properties in such a way that reduces unwanted interactions with wildlife (fencing, netting, reducing shelter opportunities).
- Report dangerous wildlife to appropriate authorities.
- Respect wildlife and maintain safe distances.

5. Wildlife Interaction Guidelines

Do not feed wildlife

Feeding wildlife:

- Increases aggressive behavior.
- Creates dependency.
- Attracts other wildlife and predators.

Encounters with Wildlife

If you encounter wildlife:

- Stay calm and keep your distance.

- Do not approach or attempt to handle the animal.
- Keep pets leashed and under control.
- Report aggressive or dangerous behavior immediately.

6. Responses to Wildlife Issues

Non-Emergency Situations

Examples:

- Wildlife sightings.
- Animals accessing garbage.
- Minor property disturbances.

Response:

- Public education and prevention guidance.
- Referral to provincial resources if needed.

Emergency Situations

Examples:

- Aggressive wildlife.
- Threats to human safety.
- Injured large animals in public areas.

Response:

- Contact Manitoba Conservation or emergency services.
- Municipality may assist depending on situation.

7. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with:

- Provincial legislation.
- Emerging wildlife issues.
- Best management practices.

8. Contact Information

For wildlife concerns:

- Non-emergency: Municipal Office.
- Dangerous Wildlife: Manitoba Conservation.
- Emergency: 911