

## **A Message from the Reading Board of Health:**

**As the weather becomes warmer, the local wildlife and rodent population may become more active.**

**Below is a list of things you can do to control and eliminate the wildlife and rodent population in your area**

### **Animal Proof Your Home By Following These Simple Guidelines:**

1. Use sheet wire mesh and sheet metal frame on openings that are located on vents and windows. These materials will prevent wildlife and rodents from gnawing and regaining entry into your house.
2. Metal guards should be used around pipes and wires. Be sure to seal entries carefully so that they will be secure.
3. Basement floor and foundation entries must be repaired with concrete. Wood should not be used to seal off entries found in these locations. Rodents are able to gnaw through wood.
4. Seal all holes in walls with plaster.

### **Get Rid Of Harborages**

**Harborage provides homes for wildlife and convenient places for them to nest and breed**

1. Abandoned cars: If the vehicle is on private property the owner of the property must remove it
2. Abandoned buildings: Should be adequately boarded.
3. Abandoned appliances: (Washing machines, stoves and old refrigerators) should not be stored on the property. They should be removed and properly disposed of.
4. Rubbish & Garbage: all rubbish and garbage must be stored in rodent proof containers with tight fitting covers. All dumpsters should be kept closed and prevented from overflowing. **Remove all source of water that would be accessible to wildlife.**
5. Tall grass and weeds: should be kept short enough to prevent rodents from nesting and hiding.
6. Stacks of lumber: provides comfortable places for rodents to nest and breed. To prevent this, stacks of lumber should be neatly stacked 12 to 18 inches above the ground and spaced away from walls or fences.

### **Other guidelines:**

1. Remove all uneaten pet food after pet has eaten. Do not leave pet food containers outside.
2. If you observe wildlife activity, do not continue to use bird feeders, bird baths or feed birds in other ways.