

# Shelter Mentorship program: **Wildlife**

Millions of wild animals are killed each year due to real or perceived conflicts. These conflicts can often be solved with simple advice given over the phone. Our Wild Neighbors program equips animal shelters with the tools needed to respond to inquiries from the public about wildlife humanely and effectively. This mentorship runs twelve months and includes up to \$15,000 in grant funding.



## **Wildlife conflict resolution training**

The Humane Society of the United States has over 40 years of experience providing animal care and control professionals with the knowledge, skills and tools needed to address human-wildlife conflicts. We help animal shelters expand their mission to include the wild animals in their community, by offering trainings to shelter staff on such topics as solving problems with species from squirrels to bears, reuniting and reneating orphaned wildlife, wild animal capture and handling, and more.

## **Making it easy to save more lives**

When calls from the public about conflicts with wildlife are met with trap-and-removal efforts or referrals to nuisance wildlife control operators, the outcome is often deadly for the animal. Many shelters want to incorporate wildlife into their mission to help animals, but with limited resources and competing demands, it can seem like an insurmountable challenge.

Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for you to help the wild animals in your community. We encourage phone advisement when responding to inquires from the public about wildlife conflicts, reserving field dispatch for situations that meet certain criteria. Our [Humane Wildlife Conflict Resolution guide](#) provides word-for-word scripts that can be read verbatim to the caller for common conflicts with wildlife. Most calls take only 5-7 minutes and can lead to staff and public satisfaction, as well as reduced animal suffering. A win for all!



## **Data collection and management**

Collecting data provides invaluable insight on where to spend your limited time and resources to achieve the greatest impact for animals.

Together, we'll create a system for tracking incoming inquiries from the public about conflicts with wildlife – the nature of the conflicts, species involved, location, etc. – as well advice given. Having this information will paint a broader picture of what's happening with the wildlife in your community and allow you to assess your role in the prevention and reduction of wild animal suffering. This information can aid in building relationships with other partners in your community such as wildlife rehabilitators or law enforcement and can be used to solicit grant funding or donations from the public.



To find out more information or to apply for a Shelter Mentorship visit  
[humanepro.org/mentorships](https://humanepro.org/mentorships)

