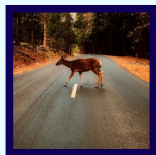


WINTER ANIMAL SAFETY TIPS



Darkness and critters don't mix well. Animals like to roam in the dark. With less daytime hours, be extra alert for animals crossing the road in early morning and at dusk. Also, keep a very watchful eye on your pets.



Animals hide in your car for warmth. A mouse crawling out from under your hood and onto your windshield can spook you and cause an accident. Cats also like to take shelter on engine blocks and in wheel wells. Avoid letting your car sit unused for long lengths of time to fend off critters. Also, before starting your car, check underneath it and lift/knock on the hood or honk the horn to help wake them up. *(Not immediately starting your car can give them time to move.)*



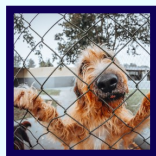
Your car is not the only sanctuary. Mice, rats, racoons, possums, strays, insects, etc. also invade spaces like garages, sheds, attics, porches, and basements. In addition to seeking a home, they go through great lengths to look for food. Keep food in just your kitchen. If you buy in bulk and use places like your garage for extra storage, try plastic tote boxes with sealed lids.



When feeding your pets... Try to feed them inside only. Leaving their food outside will most likely attract scavengers. Also, having strict feeding schedules helps remind them that you have enough food for them and that they do not need to wander off in search for it elsewhere.



Being tidy works wonders. Have regular garbage pickup, frequent all areas of your property regularly, clean weekly, and use plastic tote boxes for storage instead of cardboard to help keep rodents away. *Note: Be cautious with rodent poisons and traps, especially if you have pets and/or children.*



Do a maintenance check. Does your fence need repaired? How are those garage windows looking? What about your crawl space door on the outside of your house—is it secure?



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