Unlike people or pets, wild animals are not vaccinated against disease. Wildlife may carry diseases that make humans sick.

- Rabies
- Roundworm
- Murine Typhus

Wildlife Carry Disease

Feeding increases wildlife numbers. When animals gather to feed, the chance of them spreading diseases to each other increases.

Feeding Increases Disease

Feeding areas also increase the risk of people and pets getting fleas, ticks and other parasites carried by wildlife. Fleas and ticks can transmit disease to you, your family, and your pets.

Santa Clara County Vector Control District
1580 Berger Drive
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Download our App by scanning this code

Updated 9/15
Feeding Wildlife Puts Animals in Danger
People may mean well when feeding birds and wildlife, but their “handouts” will harm the animals by changing their behavior.

Feeding makes animals less fearful of people. Due to their lack of fear wildlife may wander on to:
- Streets
- Parking lots
- Construction Sites

Wild animals startle easily and may become aggressive. They react by attacking (biting or scratching) when people or pets get too close.

Human & Wildlife Conflicts
Wildlife accustomed to people are more likely to cause property damage by chewing on wires or opening holes in structures to get inside.

Wild animals who damage property or threaten human safety may have to be trapped and killed. Moving and releasing problematic wildlife is illegal, since they often die within days due to stress, hunger, thirst, or fights with other wildlife.

Human and Pet Food Makes Wildlife Sick
Animals have special diets that cannot be met with regular pet food or our own foods.

The best foods for wildlife are those they can find in nature. Feeding by humans causes them to stop looking for their normal food.

To prevent accidental feeding:
- Feed pets indoors and do not leave pet food out
- Keep garbage covered and clean/clear it as often as possible
- Clean up spilled food from bird feeders

Don’t leave food or water outside