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Press Release

Warmer Weather Brings First Signs of Wildlife

Squirrel babies found in homeowner's attic, damage soon to follow

Hamilton, ON – March 9, 2010: The recent warm weather in Southern Ontario has started the spring cycle of life once again. Six baby squirrels, born only a few days ago, were found in the attic of a house in Hamilton.

The first indication of the births was a mother squirrel, missing the fur from her neck to use as nesting material, scurrying back and forth up the wall of the house. Signs of damage included a hole chewed in the dormer of the garage roof, which would now be exposed to the weather, as well as matted insulation. The homeowner was not aware of the squirrels, which were discovered when a technician was removing baby birds from the roof.

"This is actually fairly common," says Humane Wildlife Control President Bill Dowd. "When we are called out to deal with a wildlife issue, we will find another species has moved in and taken advantage of the damage caused by another animal," he added. The danger of not dealing with a wildlife problem in a home is the damage and disease caused by feces, urine, chewing and parasites.

Damage to Property and Danger to Homeowners

Squirrels and raccoons can cause significant damage to building materials, including:

- Chewing electrical wires that can be a serious fire hazard

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- Contamination of insulation from feces and urine that can lead to growth of mould and spread of diseases as well as higher energy bills
- Ripping or chewing of vents, soffit and flashing that can cause further weather damage as well as rot and decay. Birds and mice are also active this time of year and can cause damage with nesting materials in vents, chimneys and soffits.

The squirrel mother was quite aggressive when the technician approached the babies, which shows that homeowners are not advised to remove these animals themselves.

Humane Removal Works the Best

As usual, Humane Wildlife Control used its pioneering techniques to remove the squirrel babies from the roof space, place them in a heated “baby box”, and allow the mother to relocate them to alternative nesting sites. This humane method keeps the babies with their mothers, reduces stress on the animals and increases success rates. Humane Wildlife Control technicians are trained to assess each situation and determine if it’s wise to move the family or keep them intact for a few more days. Stress on the animals, location of the nest and age of the babies are all factors to consider.

Watch for Signs of Wildlife Intrusion

Different animals exhibit unique behaviours as they care for their young, but homeowners should check for the following signs of animals in the house: chewing or scurrying in the roof, attic, walls, chimney, vents or basement; damaged building materials; feces around entry holes or gathering in certain areas; and increased activity of animals around the area.

Humane Wildlife Control has been an industry leader since 1989, and has pioneered several humane removal and exclusion techniques for a wide variety of urban animals.