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Press Release

Spring Babies Arrive Early in Spite of Weather Raccoon and squirrel babies found on same day

Hamilton, ON – March 12, 2009: In spite of a colder-than-normal winter up until a few weeks ago, wildlife babies were found in Guelph and Cambridge Monday. In fact, for the first time in company's 20 year history, a litter of raccoon and squirrel babies were found on the same day. Baby squirrels were also found in Montreal on Wednesday, which usually has a later spring than southern Ontario.

The two-week-old raccoon babies were found in a triplex in Guelph, which was a surprise to the homeowners. The four newborn squirrels were found in a multi-unit housing complex in Cambridge. They had gained entry through an opening in a new steel roof, had chewed some electrical wires and had started to chew through the drywall into a bedroom. Both wildlife families were removed safely and have been relocated by their mothers to new nesting/den sites.

"The lesson here," says Humane Wildlife Control President Bill Dowd, "is that both homeowners had wildlife issues in the past and both litters were in the process of creating significant damage." Nesting material, chewing, urine and feces can all contribute to structural damage, mould and contamination.

Humane Removal Works the Best

As was the case with both of these wildlife calls, Humane Wildlife Control used its pioneering techniques to remove the babies from the roof/attic space, place them in "baby boxes", and allow the mother to relocate them to alternative nesting/den sites. This humane method keeps the babies with their mothers, reduces stress on the animals and increases success rates. Humane Wildlife Control

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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.

Damage to Property, Danger to Homeowners Can be Significant

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

- Chewing of electrical wires that can be a serious fire hazard
- 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

The raccoon mother was quite aggressive when technicians approached her and the babies. Homeowners are not advised to remove animals themselves. A twenty-pound raccoon or squirrel with sharp teeth and claws can be significant threats, especially in confined spaces and guarding their babies. And the defence mechanism of skunk mothers can be smelled for weeks!

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.