

Evicting Wildlife from your Attic

If you have animals in your attic, 99% of the time the animal is a mother, preparing to give birth or already nursing her young. Most mothers choose a spot to rear young during January through May and give birth 30-60 days later. Average litter sizes are 3-6. Most babies are born completely helpless, eyes still shut, barely fuzzy, and unable to maintain their own body temperature. Mom can stay with them up to 23 hours per day during the first week.

If you HEAR or SUSPECT something living in the attic, and it is NOT the DEAD OF WINTER, please assume that there are babies present! The #1 mistake that people make when trying to evict animals, is trapping Mom and 'relocating' or 'removing' her only to find babies a few days later!!! If you set a trap in your attic and catch ANYTHING – please check everywhere in the attic for babies before releasing the trapped animal.

There are many reasons to attempt to evict animals from your attic yourself:

- It's simple, effective, and low-cost to free compared to pest control companies that cost at least \$200 to take on an attic job. All you must do is make time.
- Pest control services in Kansas have rules/regulations that they must either:
 - Euthanize
 - Relocate the animal at least 10 miles from human habitation with written permission from the owner
- You will have to repair the entry holes yourself or hire another company to do that.
- You have much more incentive to do this work correctly the first time than a company who depends on your repeat business!
- Plus – It's EASY! No traps required, no bait, no heavy leather gloves, or animal handling experience.

Steps to Evicting Animals from Attics

1. Determine the species of animal that is inhabiting the attic. To do this, follow these steps.
 - A. During day light hours, pop your head up into the attic and look for areas in the attic where light is getting in. Those spots are your trouble areas.
 - B. That evening, around dusk, grab a lawn chair, a good book and sit somewhere outside where you can see those spots. If it's raccoons, you will see Mom leave sometime right after dusk. If it's squirrels, you will see Mom come HOME around dusk. If it is bats, you'll see a steady stream of them leaving every night around dusk.
2. There are three main things that animals need to survive ~ water, food and shelter. Your goal is to disrupt that cycle to get them to move on to a different location.

A. Sound ~ hook up a stereo and play deep heavy base, rock music or talk radio as LOUD and LONG as you can.

B. Smell ~ Cayenne pepper sprinkled heavily in the attic will also act as a deterrent. DO not put it on the babies or in the nest.

Ammonia ~ Soak 5-6 rags or socks in ammonia (unscented) and place in a Ziploc plastic bag, seal the bag and poke holes in the bag with a knife or fork. This allows the scent to get out of the bag. Place the bags in each corner and one in the middle or if you know where mom hangs out concentrate the bags into that area.

C. Sight ~ Put up motion detecting lights or if you have a lit attic leave the lights on 24/7. Wild animals like to feel safe and in the dark

3. PATIENCE. Usually within 48 hours mom will begin to get annoyed with the interruptions of her home. She will leave to seek out a new denning area to move her litter too. DO NOT BEGIN REPAIRS QUITE YET.

1. She can only move one baby at a time and depending on where she is moving them it may take her several days because it's a labor-intensive effort.

2.

4. REPAIR.

1. Wait 24-48 hours and then fix EVERY possible entry point in the attic except for one. Leave one hole open for them to use to get in and out just in case. Tightly stuff newspaper in the last entry hole. Leave it for another 48 hours and if it isn't disturbed seal the entry.