

March/April 2018

# Springtime

## Chicago Wildlife Encounters

*Photo courtesy of Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation*

As we venture outside after our winter hibernation, we are not alone. Spring brings animals out of hiding, and many have given birth or are preparing to. All this activity means wildlife sightings become more frequent. Most animal sightings remind us that we share this city with a wealth of creatures, living side by side but rarely crossing paths. But some wild creatures are more complicated and require us to have additional information to make the best decisions for ourselves and our urban wildlife.

### Call 311

CACC will respond if you find injured or trapped wildlife, wildlife that pose an imminent hazard to public health or safety, or wildlife in your home.

Below are great tips from our friends at the University of Illinois Extension to navigate Spring encounters:

- ▶ **Young birds:** If a baby falls out of a nest and does not have a full set of feathers, put the bird back, if possible. If it has a full set of feathers and is hopping around, leave it where you found it. If the bird is injured, put it in a box and call Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation at 847-842-8000 or bring the bird to CACC and Flint Creek will pick him up from the shelter.
- ▶ **Songbirds:** They might mistake their reflection in a window for an “intruder” and hurt themselves attempting to drive it away. Cover the outside of the window with a non-reflective sheet of plastic so they can no longer see their reflections.
- ▶ **Canada geese:** Do not approach geese - they may aggressively defend a brood or nest.
- ▶ **Deer:** Apply repellents (such as garlic powder) before deer start browsing on your spring flowers (see [planetnatural.com](http://planetnatural.com) for recipes you can make at home).
- ▶ **Fawns:** Young deer may show up in unusual places. Leave the fawn where you found it and do not touch it: The female will return for her baby.
- ▶ **Baby rabbits:** Baby rabbits found in nests should be left alone - female rabbits visit only twice a day to feed the young. Keep cats and dogs away from the nest.
- ▶ **Squirrels, raccoons, and birds:** Check for openings and make repairs before one of these animals takes up residence in your attic.

For more details, visit [Web.Extension.Illinois.edu/wildlife](http://Web.Extension.Illinois.edu/wildlife). In addition, CACC rescue partner Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation offers charts on how to handle wildlife: [FlintCreekWildlife.org/Found\\_An\\_Animal](http://FlintCreekWildlife.org/Found_An_Animal).



2741 S. Western Ave.  
Cityofchicago.org

 ChicagoAnimalCareandControl



# Coyote Management

While there have been no reported coyote attacks on humans in Illinois in the last 30 years, CACC receives approximately 450 service requests each year involving coyotes. We work closely with wildlife groups to help keep residents safe and relocate the animals if necessary.

To avoid coyote encounters:

- ▶ Never hand-feed or intentionally feed coyotes
- ▶ Never feed pets outside
- ▶ Remove water sources, such as pet bowls
- ▶ Clean up fallen fruit and bird food
- ▶ Clean up around barbecue grills
- ▶ Never compost any meat or dairy
- ▶ Secure trash containers with locking lids
- ▶ Place trash outside only on the day of collection
- ▶ Trim vegetation to reduce hiding places and dens
- ▶ Restrict access around decks, sheds, or wood piles
- ▶ Enclose property with an 8-foot high fence
- ▶ Never leave pets unattended outside
- ▶ Use a dog leash that's no longer than 6 feet



**Find out more:**

**Cook County Coyote Project**  
[urbancoyotereseearch.com](http://urbancoyotereseearch.com)

## CACC EVENTS

### **Volunteer Orientations**

4/20: 5 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.

4/21: 10:30 a.m.- noon

More: [bit.ly/caccvolunteer](http://bit.ly/caccvolunteer)

### **Low Cost Vaccine, Microchip and Tag Clinic**

4/18: 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Sign up: [bit.ly/caccclinic](http://bit.ly/caccclinic)

### **Dog Training Rebates Start 4/1!**

Up to 50 dogs will be eligible for \$100 rebates after completing a basic obedience course - thanks to a generous grant to FCACC from the Bissell Pet Foundation! Applicants must sign up on adoption day to be eligible.

### **FREE Adoption Event!**

#### **Chicago Heroes for Chicago's Dogs**

4/7: Noon - 4 p.m.

Visit <http://bit.ly/caccheroesevent> for details and eligibility



## Spring is Kitten Season

Most kittens are born between April and September, and thousands arrive at CACC during the warmer months each year. The only way to reduce the number of unwanted cats is to spay or neuter them.

For litters born outside, which are often found in garages, under porches or somewhere in a yard, CACC recommends not moving the kittens for at least several hours, unless they are in immediate danger. The kittens' chances of survival drop significantly when separated from their mother, so it's better to wait and see if she returns. Mother cats might leave for hours, but usually come back.

Instead of moving the kittens, leave out canned cat food and/or kitten formula (found at most pet stores) and provide shelter as need -- a waterproof box filled with straw works best. If the kittens are still alone after several hours, or are showing signs of distress (very cold, crying, wailing, etc.), call 311 and provide an exact address. CACC will pick up the litter, treat them, and work to get them transferred to a rescue group.



### *Saving the Youngest Cats*

Without mothers, kittens under six weeks old need intensive help to survive.

- ▶ **Kittens on Deck:** Through this program, CACC expedites the transfer of kittens from the shelter to our rescue partners for care in foster homes. Learn about fostering at: [facebook.com/groups/CACCKittenOnDeckProgram](https://facebook.com/groups/CACCKittenOnDeckProgram).
- ▶ **Bottle Baby Workshops:** CACC offers a series of hands-on classes for those interested in learning to care for bottle babies.
- ▶ **Volunteers and Fosters:** CACC and our rescue partners need volunteers and fosters to take care of kittens, both at the shelter and in their homes.
- ▶ **Donate:** Help us care for these babies by donating supplies from our Amazon wish list : [amazon.com/caccwishlist](https://amazon.com/caccwishlist)
- ▶ **Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR):** The most efficient way to manage outdoor "community cats" and reduce the number of unwanted kittens is with TNR. Contact Tree House ([tnr@treehouseanimals.org](mailto:tnr@treehouseanimals.org)) on the North Side, PAWS Chicago ([feralneighborhoodcats@pawschicago.org](mailto:feralneighborhoodcats@pawschicago.org)) on the South Side, or Whiskers and Tails Foundation ([info@whiskersandtailsfoundation.org](mailto:info@whiskersandtailsfoundation.org)) on the West Side for assistance.

# Volunteer

## Help Chicago's Homeless Pets

Volunteering at CACC offers a truly rewarding experience: To help the most vulnerable pets get a chance at happiness. While it can be a challenging place to work, emotionally and physically, it provides an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the thousands of animals that end up at the shelter each year.

### Volunteers are needed to:

- ▶ Connect pets with families that will treasure them for life
- ▶ Improve shelter life through enrichment, exercise, and TLC
- ▶ Prepare pets for adoption with training and socialization
- ▶ Promote animals to rescue groups and adopters
- ▶ Inspire Chicagoans to adopt, foster, volunteer, and donate

### Volunteers roles:

**Walk and Socialize Dogs:** Provide exercise and enrichment

**Cat Enrichment:** Provide enrichment and socialization

**Matchmaker:** Introduce visitors to dogs or cats who may be a good match, based on lifestyle, experience, and resources

**Adoption Counselor:** Interview adopters and assess suitability of a match. After an adoption, review responsible pet care topics

**On and Off-Site Events:** Assist with adoption and clinic events

**Marketing and Other Opportunities:** Including social media, photo, and video

For more information and an orientation schedule, visit [bitly.com/volunteercacc](http://bitly.com/volunteercacc)

### Play with pups



### Comfort kittens



### Help them home

