

# ***Wildlife & The Law***

- ◆ Relocating wildlife is illegal in Massachusetts. It is detrimental to the wellbeing of wildlife as well as the public. Unknowingly, sick animals may be transported and released in other locations, causing the spread of disease.
- ◆ Animals released in unfamiliar territory have a hard time surviving. Please never move an animal because you think it would be better off somewhere else.
- ◆ The animal may try to return to its original area and is likely to be hit by a vehicle or otherwise killed while trying to return.
- ◆ A relocated animal will have a more difficult time finding food, water, and shelter in an unfamiliar area. If those are hard to find or not available, the animal will probably die.
- ◆ If food, water and shelter are available, chances are the area is already home to other members of the same species, they will not welcome the newcomer.
- ◆ If the relocated animal is carrying a disease, it may spread that disease to other animals in the new area.
- ◆ If your area is attractive to this species and you move an individual out, others will simply move in.
- ◆ If the animal is attractive to this species and you move an individual out, other will simply move in.
- ◆ If the animal being moved has lost its fear of humans, moving it simply transfers the problem to someone else.
- ◆ If there is a problem, moving the animal does NOT address the cause of the problem. If the cause of the problem is not addressed, it will re-occur.

***Contact DFW for suggestions about preventing and resolving conflicts***

***with wildlife. (508) 389-6300 [www.mass.gov/masswildlife](http://www.mass.gov/masswildlife) Or Mass***

***Audubon 781-259-9500 800-AUDUBON (800-283-8266)***