



# *Animal Care of Davis County*

---

1422 East 600 North – Fruit Heights, Utah 84037  
Telephone: (801) 444-2200 – TDD: (801) 451-3228 – Fax: (801) 444-2212

## Animal Care of Davis County Position Statement: Raccoons

It is the position of Animal Care of Davis County (ACDC) that, at every opportunity, our agency will work to educate the public regarding humane and responsible co-existence and care of wildlife, to include education on the benefits and resources for co-existing with raccoons in our community, and effective methods to humanely deter and exclude these animals from homes, structures and targeted areas. It is the position of ACDC that indiscriminate euthanasia of healthy raccoons **fails to serve commonly held goals of community animal management and protection programs and, as such, is a misuse of time and public funds and should be avoided.**

- **Removal has the potential to increase raccoon populations and impact:** The haphazard euthanasia of individual raccoons is not population management. Euthanasia of raccoons without concurrent control of the food source has been linked to paradoxical increases in raccoon populations by as much as 200%.
- **Euthanasia fails to resolve the inciting factors for nuisance situations:** if raccoons are simply euthanized, community members may not be motivated to identify and remedy factors such as open garbage containers that may be attracting raccoons. Management programs that leave raccoons where they are have been associated with significant reductions in nuisance complaints.
- **Euthanasia of healthy, free roaming raccoons reduces capacity to respond to critical community needs:** Historically, raccoons have made up over 1,500 dispatched calls every year to our Animal Control Officers. This has left us with decreased response times to priority calls such as dogs at large, neglect or cruelty cases and dog bites. In addition, we are less able to provide appropriate care and outcomes for those animals that do require sheltering (such as sick and injured animals, those whose owners can no longer keep them, and animals that have been neglected or abused).

Impounding healthy raccoons is not the best way to provide services to these raccoons and the residents in the area in which the raccoons are found. ACDC advises community members to take proactive steps to divert the euthanasia of healthy raccoons while learning to live beside our wild neighbors.