

**People for the Ethical
Treatment of Animals'
(PETA)
Domestic Animals and
Wildlife Rescue &
Information Department**

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Introduction

- The single greatest challenge we face in fighting cruelty to animals is changing people's perception of animals.
- Each year, millions of animals are killed because they are considered "pests."
- When animals wander into our homes, communities and cities, we can and should do everything possible to coexist, but when necessary, gently evict them without resorting to violence.

Beavers



Natural History

- Beavers are the largest rodents in North America
- They are best known for their trademark flat tail and their ability to modify their habitat by building dams and impounding water to create ponds
- They are herbivores and typically feed on the inner bark of woody plants, as well as leaves, shoots, and aquatic plants
- In autumn, beavers create a winter food supply by sinking large branches in mud close to their lodge, called “caches”
- They mate for life and have 2 to 4 kits every spring

Beavers in an Urban Environment

- Beavers were nearly driven to extinction and are making a comeback
- Although beaver/human interactions take place primarily in rural, urban, and suburban flood plains, beavers are well adapted to live in and around any aquatic habitat
- Beavers prefer to live in isolation, but since they are nocturnal, they will tolerate to presence of humans
- An increase in man-made lakes in residential areas and parks has also contributed to the beavers' ability to thrive in urban and suburban environments

Common Conflicts with Beavers

- The two most common problems caused by beavers are:
 - The flooding that results from dam building
 - The damage and destruction of trees used for food and building materials

Solutions to Common Conflicts with Beavers

- **Tolerance** Beavers are keystone species and are responsible for establishing and maintaining wetlands
- **Flooding** A variety of anti-flooding devices can be installed to prevent beavers from blocking culverts
- **Tree damage** Either homemade and/or commercially available tree guards and repellents can prevent beavers from damaging trees

How to Protect Landscaping

- **Cylindrical cages will protect valuable trees.** Use hardware cloth or sturdy 2 x 4 inch welded wire fencing. Fences should be about three feet high leaving 6 inches of space between the tree.
- **Coating tree trunks with a sand-paint mixture will also prevent beaver gnawing.** Use 8 ounces of fine sand (30 mil, 70 mil or mason sand) to one quart of oil or latex paint. Stir often and paint trunks about four feet high. The paint can be clear or color-coated to match the trees.

Cylindrical Cages



Beaver Deceivers





























Conclusion

Because we are "developing" so much land, wildlife is forced to live in closer proximity to humans. At the very least, we owe it to these animals to compensate for their loss by doing all we can to co-exist peacefully.

