

Feeding Wild Animals

(Not really a good idea!)

It seems like such a nice thing to do. Many believe that providing food to wildlife is good and it is helping these animals in what seems to be a very hostile environment. However, feeding wildlife is actually a bad practice that can lead to not only nuisance problems for you, but also your neighbors and possibly potentially dangerous encounters with other, uninvited animals.

The Arizona Legislature passed a law in 2006 making it illegal to feed wildlife (except birds and tree squirrels) in Maricopa and Pima Counties. That doesn't mean that feeding the geese, coots, pigeons or ducks are without consequences.

The routine feeding of wildlife causes the animals to become conditioned to and expecting to be fed. Feeding the smaller animals usually attract larger, predatory ones, such as feral cats, coyotes and in some cases mountain lions. The predators are capable of property damage, can kill your pet cat or dog, and even become aggressive towards humans.

Throwing bird seed on the ground in your backyard, the Common area or golf course will attract rodents and their predators. You and your neighbors can best help wildlife by not feeding them or providing easy access to food and water sources. Remember you could become the person responsible for creating a situation that is a real nuisance for your neighbors.

It is not neighborly to be the cause of birds leaving their droppings all over your neighbor's patio, driveway or walkway to the front door. A pair of ducks swimming away in your neighbor's pool may look cute, unless you are the one trying to scrub the bottom to remove the stains. The IronOaks HOA is currently investigating ways to reduce and manage the large number of fowl around our lakes and golf courses, which is an added expense for our community. Check out the walking paths, golf cart paths and you will see large amounts of bird droppings that are not only unsightly, but potentially unhealthy.

Should a Homeowner be the cause of a nuisance or offensive behavior, our Rule & Regulations specifically state in Article IX, Section 3.A, pages 22-23, "No unsafe, noxious, offensive, or illegal activity or odor is permitted. No activity shall be conducted on the Lot which in the judgment of the HOA Board might be reasonably calculated to reduce the desirability of the quality of living."

Remember, be a good and thoughtful neighbor!