

# NUISANCE ANIMALS: SQUIRRELS

Squirrels can be a great source of entertainment and a beautiful part of nature, but when they invade our homes and garage, it can quickly become a different story.

If you want to have some fun with squirrels try this trick! If you have a deck and a fishing pole and some peanuts in a shell you'll be set. Tie the peanut to the fishing line (make sure there are no hooks or anchors on the line) and using the fishing pole, dangle it over the edge of your deck, the squirrels love it, and it can provide hours of entertainment to watch them go after the peanut.

## FACTS

There are over 365 species of squirrels in seven families. The most common in Orono are tree, grey or red squirrels.

## Health Issues / Concerns

Carriers of fleas and parasites.

Can and will bite humans! Never try to feed them by holding food between your fingers.

## Activity

Squirrels are most active in the winter when the mating season begins. Babies are then born in the early spring; a second litter can occur in mid-summer.

They are most active 2-3 hours after sunrise and 2 hours before sunset. Squirrels do sleep at night.

## What Attracts Squirrels?

- Garbage
- Garbage cans
- Pet food
- Bird food
- Warm places like garages or attics

## Squirrels Have Been Known to Nest in These Places

- Automobiles
- Chimneys
- BBQ Grills
- Under Porches
- Attics
- Garages

*i "Squirrel Place", Squirrel Place Website, Squirrel Control.*

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## TIPS

The best form of squirrel control is prevention! This includes proper sanitation and maintenance of your home and yard.

### Long Term Solutions

- Purchase feeders or nest boxes for the squirrels.
- Move bird feeders 20+' from the house.
- Close all garbage cans; enclose if possible.
- Keep BBQ grills clean and covered.
- Place grids on your flower pots.
- Cage all vegetable plants.
- Fix any exposed wires or rubber hoses; they like to chew on them.
- Close or seal off any holes, openings or cracks in your home or foundation.
- Remove any branches overhanging your home.

### Short Term Solutions

All of these solutions work, but once the squirrel figures out that it can tolerate these methods, they no longer work.

- Moth Balls
- Squirrel Repellent Sprays
- High Frequency Sound Emitters

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