

Bobcats

Bobcats are nocturnal, shy, and elusive by nature, usually keeping their distance from people. They make a variety of noises, but their most characteristic sound is compared to screaming or crying.

What kind of damage is caused by bobcats? Bobcats have been known to take small livestock (chickens, guineas, etc.).

Can a WCA write a depredation permit? Yes, if property damage has occurred a depredation permit can be issued by a WCA.

Can bobcats be relocated? No, bobcats cannot be relocated. They must be released on site, euthanized at the capture site, or taken to a facility designed to humanely handle the euthanasia.

What can I do with a sick or injured bobcat? Bobcats can be rehabilitated. There are licensed rehabilitators across the state that can take in injured or orphaned wildlife. If the injury is not significant, advise individual to leave the animal alone. If the bobcat has a life-threatening injury or illness, it should be humanely euthanized and disposed of in a safe and sanitary manner.

Are there safety concerns? Yes, bobcats are considered a potential vector species for rabies. If someone or his/her pet has been bitten or scratched by a bobcat, refer the individual to their county health department. It's good practice to wear gloves while handling any animal.

Non-lethal Options:

- Education
 - See the [General Considerations for Handling Wildlife](#) document for general ways to prevent damage from wildlife.
- Exclusion
 - Fencing can be effective at excluding bobcats. Small livestock needs to be placed in a completely enclosed pen with 1-inch chicken wire over a sturdy wooden framework. Electric wire can be added to the enclosure for additional protection.

Lethal Options:

- Bobcats can be hunted during the open hunting season with a state hunting license. A landowner does not need to purchase a hunting license to hunt on his/her own property.
- Bobcats may be trapped during the regulated trapping season with a trapping license. A landowner does not need to purchase a trapping license to trap on his/her own property.
- Bobcats caught in the act of causing property damage may be shot by the landowner without a depredation permit (where permitted by local ordinance).
- Outside on an established season, bobcats can be taken with a depredation permit if property damage has occurred.