

Strathcona County's Transportation and Agriculture Services rents live traps and assists in removing the trapped animal. A fee is charged for a two-week period, and the traps must be picked up from the Strathcona Public Services Yard, 370 Streambank Avenue, during regular office hours. Please call in advance to ensure a trap is available.

Relocating a squirrel

Relocate the trapped squirrel to a natural area or spruce tree stand that is away from other residences and has a good source of natural food.

It is best to relocate after the young are weaned and before the winter storage collection begins.

Further Information

Transportation and Agriculture Services
780-417-7100
www.strathcona.ca/pests

Office hours:
Monday to Friday
8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Closed from 12 noon to 1 pm
and on statutory holidays



Red Squirrels

Living with wildlife
in Strathcona County





Quick Facts

- The red squirrel is a native species to Alberta.
- They breed in March and April and typically have four or five young, born in late May or early June.
- Squirrels are active during the day and do not hibernate.
- Squirrels are very territorial and will defend their home from others.
- During cold spells in winter, they will stay in their nests and eat food that they have stored away.
- Squirrels eat mainly seeds and nuts, especially those of spruce and pine cones. They also eat a wide variety of other foods, such as mushrooms, flowers, fruits and insects.

Behaviour

The red squirrel has adapted very well to living around humans. Houses, garages and sheds provide safe, warm and comfortable living quarters for squirrels. There is usually plenty of food available in yards and bird feeders to entice these animals to visit and stay.

Squirrels can cause significant damage to buildings. They can chew holes in soffits and fascia boards, remove insulation and gnaw on electrical wire.

Young trees, gardens and bird feeders may be damaged by feeding squirrels.

Management

Squirrel proofing your home and preventing these animals from entering buildings will give the longest lasting results. Removing a squirrel from its territory, rather than fixing the entry points where the squirrel is causing damage, only makes room for a new tenant.

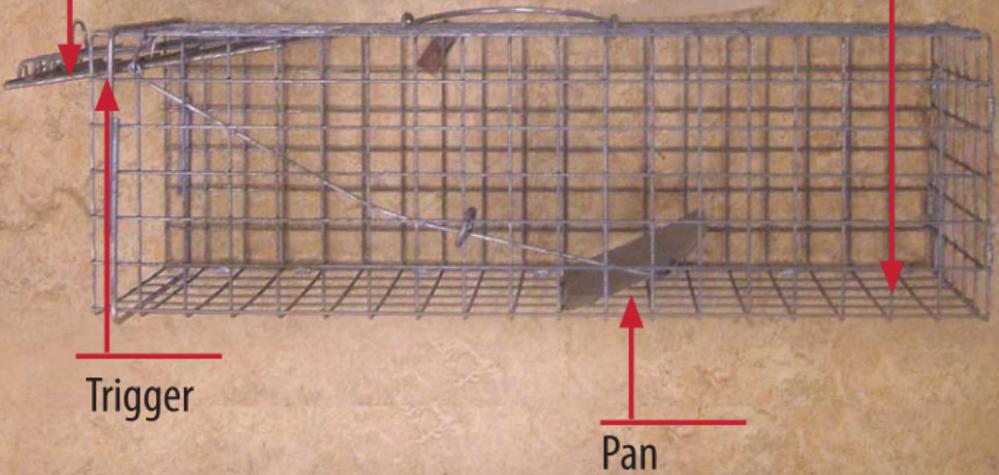
Squirrel Proofing

- Cover all holes where squirrels are entering buildings with hardware cloth (available at local hardware stores). Extend the mesh well beyond the hole so that they cannot chew beside it.
- Fix loose metal soffits and fascia. Weather stripping on windows and doors should be replaced. Keep doors and windows closed.
- During the day, when squirrels are active, watch for them to leave the building before fixing the entry point. If you separate a mother from her young, she will be very aggressive. It is better to wait until the young have left the nest.
- A squirrel trapped inside a building will try to get out. If you hear scratching, reopen the hole to let the squirrel out. If possible, you may want to set a trap inside to catch the squirrel.
- Keep bird feeders away from the trees so squirrels cannot jump onto them. Hanging feeders makes it harder for squirrels to reach the seeds. Put a metal collar on pedestal feeders and pick up spilled seed. Keep extra bird seed and other food sources in closed containers where the squirrels cannot get them.

Side view of trap

Push door spring in at the top

Place bait at back



Setting a trap

It is best to set the trap where squirrels enter a building, along the route they travel, or in the building where they are living.

Basic steps for setting the trap:

- Compress the spring on the door and lift door.
- Catch and fasten the trigger onto the small brass swivel on the door.
- Place bait at the back of the trap, making sure it does not slide under the pan.

Peanut butter on a cracker works well for bait. If squirrels are eating seeds from your bird feeder try using bird seed as bait. Put a piece of newspaper in the bottom of the trap to keep the seed from falling through the wire.

Do not make adjustments to the traps. If the trap does not work properly, please contact Transportation and Agriculture Services at 780-417-7100 for assistance.



STRATHCONA
COUNTY