



## WILDLIFE COLLISION CONTACTS

IN CASE OF COLLISION  
call one of the following:

### PLEASE REPORT ALL COLLISIONS

If animal is alive:

**WHATCOM HUMANE SOCIETY  
WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER:**  
(360) 966-8845

If animal is deceased:

**WHATCOM COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL**  
(360) 733-2080

#### WILDLIFE RESCUE

If you hit or see injured wildlife that is  
STILL ALIVE, or it has young animals with it, call

**Whatcom Humane Society  
Wildlife Rehabilitation Center**  
(360)966-8845

Please keep this  
in your glove  
compartment  
for reference



**HONK: Really!** It is okay to honk your horn if you see wildlife on or near the road, or as you drive through areas where you often see wildlife. Most animals will run away from a few short horn blasts (instead of freezing in place, as some creatures do).

**BRAKE TO SLOW DOWN:** BUT never stop suddenly or Swerve, especially on the highway. Just brake gently to give wildlife time to get out of the way (if it is safe to do so). Swerving can be dangerous to you and others and should only be considered when preventing collisions with large animals like deer and bear.

**LOOK AROUND FOR OTHERS:** Wildlife often travel in groups or with babies. If you see an animal on or near the road, keep an eye out for others - or many others (if frogs or amphibians) and proceed cautiously.

**DON'T THROW FOOD LITTER:** Food thrown on the road, including apple cores and banana peels, attracts animals and birds and can often lead to their injury or death.

**SCAN • WATCH YOUR SPEED •  
HONK • BRAKE TO SLOW DOWN •  
LOOK AROUND FOR OTHERS**

## WATCH FOR WILDLIFE

Wallace River Photography



### How to Prevent and Respond to Wildlife Vehicle Collisions



## PREVENTION

It is possible to **PREVENT** colliding with wildlife if you:

**DRIVE AWARE AT DAWN AND DUSK:**  
Most collisions occur at dawn or dusk.  
Please be extra careful during these times.

**SCAN AHEAD:** You can often see an animal or their eyes reflecting the light of your headlights in time to brake and avoid a collision if you are scanning ahead. Scan both sides of the road and when you see eyes reflecting, slow down.

**WATCH YOUR SPEED:** Most collisions with wildlife happen when travelling over 50 mph, though it is not safe or reasonable to drive much below the speed limit on highways, driving at a manageable speed and paying attention is the best way to prevent collisions with wildlife. Observe wildlife crossing signs where you see them.



## FACTS

- Wildlife is on the move April through November. Animals give birth to young in the spring, and must cross roads to reach forage, water, and shelter.
- November is mating season for wildlife, and the rate of collisions is higher this month.
- Most collisions happen at **Dawn and Dusk**. The hours between 6 to 9 a.m. and 5 to 9 p.m. are when collisions are highest.
- The cost of collisions can range from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for vehicles.

The risk to motorists is physical, emotional and costly!

## WATCH FOR WILDLIFE ON OUR BUSY ROADS

Vehicle collisions are a primary cause of mortality for a number of species, including deer, raccoons, beaver, squirrels, opossums, rabbits, birds and coyotes.

Whatcom County wildlife species at risk on our roads:



Deer



Coyote



Beaver



Raccoon

## IN CASE OF A COLLISION

If you do hit wildlife with your vehicle:

1. If possible, **pull over and off the road carefully and stop**. Assess yourself and others in the vehicle to make sure everyone is okay. **Safety is the priority**.
2. **If safe to do so**, get out and **check** if animal is alive or dead and if there are orphaned young animals with it. Be wary of injured wildlife and call for assistance.
3. **Call** Whatcom Human Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Center **(360) 966-8845** for injured wildlife. If the animal is deceased, call Whatcom County Animal Control **(360) 733-2080**.

**Report collisions because** the data is important to help decide where improvements can be made; like adding signs, fencing or other measures to reduce wildlife collisions.

Salvage information can be obtained through the Washington Department of Fish/Wildlife: 1-877-933-9847, #1

*Watch for Wildlife originated as a program of Sierra Club Canada Foundation - [www.sierraclub.ca](http://www.sierraclub.ca)*

*Watch for Wildlife is a program of Mount Baker Group Sierra Club to prevent wildlife vehicle collisions on our roads.*

*Special Thanks to the following:*

