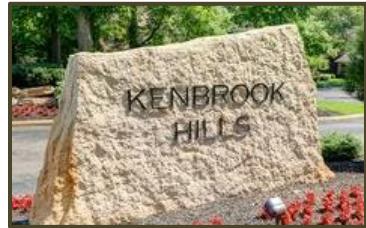


A message from your KHCA Board

Some of the wildlife outside of our homes here at Kenbrook have become a concern in our community. While you may not have perceived any problems near your home, others have. While none of us wish to see or come in contact with undesirable wildlife, we must also accept the reality that they live all around us, and will continue to do so. The wonderful trees and surrounding creeks that make this such a unique place for us to live are also attractive to many animals.



Here are some "**Helpful Hints**" that we can all follow to help keep our neighborhood lovely and at the same time make it a little less desirable to those wildlife we really don't want to be up close and personal with:

Excess Vegetation: The presence of heavy vegetation is very attractive to wild animals. Sources of food, safety from predators, and nesting and/or burrowing sites are all provided by excessive vegetation. Please keep such things in mind when landscaping around your home. ***Try to avoid too much overgrowth and promptly clean-up any gardening debris.***

Dog Waste: ***Always clean up pet waste immediately!*** Be it rain or sun, day or night! Cleaning up later is simply not acceptable or considerate. It's easy to find yourself short a bag...just take the extra minute and run back out. This includes your private back deck and yard, as well as our mutual front and rear common areas. And please make sure that any visiting guests and their dogs follow these practices too.

Bird Feeders: Unfortunately, many seeds that are attractive to desirable birds are also attractive to undesirable creatures. We must manage all of our bird feeders with this in mind. Several steps can be taken to reduce the availability of seeds to nuisance wildlife:

****Purchase higher quality seed*** either online or from a bird-feeding specialty store such as *Wild Birds Unlimited*. Better feed will have less filler seed such as wheat, milo, or white millet. Few birds readily eat this type of filler but instead drop or push it onto the ground where nuisance wildlife are happy to snack.

****Control bird food quantities.*** The traditional gravity-fed "hopper" types invite any creature to access the bird seed at any time if left filled. You can put out just "one day's" worth of seed (about $\frac{1}{2}$ cup). The birds we enjoy will finish the daily portions and there will be no leftovers for nocturnal rodents. This will encourage those creatures to head away from our homes and look elsewhere for dinner.

****Choose the design of your bird feeder with care.*** Some versions restrict access to the food either by weight-sensitive devices and/or size-restriction, helping to limit access at night. Feeders should include a seed tray, which helps to catch any waste seed that does fall from your feeder. These trays should be cleaned as necessary to avoid leaving exposed seeds. Consider a feeder that permits limited access at night, or just close it yourself in some manner.

Hopefully, with easy steps like these, we can all help to reduce unwanted wildlife at our doorstep while still enjoying the beauty of our Kenbrook surroundings!