**RATS & MICE**

**Lifestyle:** Nocturnal
Average lifespan in the wild: 2–7 years
**Diet:** Omnivorous
**Eats:** Insects, fruit, nuts, seeds, carrion

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**BRUSH RABBITS**

**Lifestyle:** Crepuscular
Average lifespan in the wild: 1–2 years
**Diet:** Herbivorous
**Eats:** Grasses, leaves, flowers, fruits, acorns

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**SQUIRRELS**

**Lifestyle:** Diurnal
Average lifespan in the wild: 3–4 years
**Diet:** Omnivorous
**Eats:** Nuts, seeds, fungi, fruit, insects, eggs

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**LIVING IN HARMONY WITH SMALL MAMMALS**

**PREVENT RODENTS FROM MOVING IN**

- **NEVER** use poison. Poison impacts the whole food chain and is dangerous to all animals. A poisoned rat can kill a whole family of owlets or a beloved family pet. **Don't let it happen.**
- Remove rodents' food, water, and shelter.
  - **Food:**
    - Pet food
    - Seeds
    - Fruit (band with sheet metal to prevent climbers)
  - **Water:**
    - Pet water bowls
    - Leaky pipes and hoses
  - **Shelter:**
    - Wood piles
    - Shrubberies close to the ground
    - Things that aren't moved regularly (RVs, boats, old cars, etc)
- Learn more tips at www.sbwcn.org or give us a call: (805) 681-1080

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**DON'T KIDNAP BABY BUNNIES!**

Baby bunnies are frequently kidnapped from their nests.
To make sure a mother bunny is still visiting, place **flour or yarn** around the nest. Check for footprints or disturbances after a few hours (around dusk).

**If you are sure** that the bunnies are orphaned (e.g., you can see the deceased mother or the bunnies have been abandoned for over 24 hours) or if you are worried about their safety, call our helpline.

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**TRIM TREES IN THE FALL**

Squirrels are cavity nesters. Their nests can be difficult to spot so look for nesting activity like squirrels going back and forth between a tree and other locations.

Save tree trimming season until Fall to protect all cavity nesters, including woodpeckers! Be sure to survey wildlife activity near your trees for a few days before having them trimmed. Have questions? Call us.

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**WILDLIFE HELPLINE**

(805) 681-1080
Ways to reduce wild mammal problems

Responsible pet practices

- Pick up all pet food and water dishes at dusk.
- Keep pets indoors at night.
- Keep cats inside. If not possible, use break-away bell collars or BirdsBeSafe collars.
- Keep dogs on a leash when walking near wild areas.

Keeping them out of your space

- Close all entries to the house with 1/2” wire mesh.
- Secure decks so animals cannot make dens underneath.
- Do not leave windows, sliding doors, or pet doors open or unattended.
- Prune trees and shrubs back 3 feet from structures, and 2 feet from the ground.
- Secure trash can lids.
- Wrap sheet metal around tree trunks to prevent climbing mammals.
- Pick up all fallen fruit.
- Do not feed animals. Feeding wildlife increases human encounters, which endangers animals and harms the ecosystem.

Volunteer

Join our team!

Donate

www.sbwcn.org/donate
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 6594 Santa Barbara, CA 93160
Tax ID: 77-0201505 SBWCN is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. We rely on friends like you to make our wildlife rehab efforts possible!

Connect

sbwildlifecarenetwork SBWCN
contact@sbwcn.org
Office Line: (805) 681-1019
NOTE: The only appropriate contact for wildlife emergencies is the Helpline: (805) 681-1080