WILDLIFE COLLISION CONTACTS

IN CASE OF COLLISION call one of the following:

If you collide with wildlife always report it to:
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES:
1.800.565.2224 if injured, ALSO call wildlife rescue.

If a large animal is injured and is in distress after hours or on weekends, and/or wildlife is a safety hazard, contact:
RCMP DISPATCH: Call 911

For removal of a carcass from a road or highway, call the
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION’S road response hotline:
1.844.696.7737 (1 844 MYNSRDS)

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 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, bear and moose.

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 mean their injury or death.

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

WILDLIFE RESCUE

If you hit or see wildlife (animal, bird, turtle, etc.) and it is injured but STILL ALIVE, or if it has eggs or young animals with it, Call the nearest Wildlife Rescue:

Hope for Wildlife, Seaforth, NS (east of Halifax): 902.407.WILD (9453)
Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Hilden (below Truro): 902.893.0253

www.watchforwildlife.ca
Keep this brochure in your glove compartment for reference

PREVENTION

It is possible to PREVENT Colliding with Wildlife if you:

DRIVE AWARE AT DAWN & 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 80km/hour, 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 in the Spring, especially after a long and snowy winter, and collisions with wildlife can be significant.
- The highest rate of collisions - about 18% - is in November due to migration and mating.
- Most collisions happen at Dawn and Dusk. The hours between 6 - 9 am and 5 - 9 pm are when collisions are highest.

WATCH FOR SPECIES AT RISK

Vehicle Collisions are a primary cause of mortality for a number of Species at Risk in Nova Scotia. It is so important to report collisions with all wildlife, but it is especially important to report collisions with species at risk. There is no fine or penalty for hitting a Species at Risk, and reporting the data is very important for developing recovery plans.

Species at Risk in Nova Scotia that you may encounter while driving include:

- Canada Lynx
- Blandings Turtle
- Wood Turtle
- Ribbon Snake
- Mainland Moose

If you collide with or see a Species at Risk, please report it to the contact information below. Species sightings are important for developing recovery plans and habitat protection.

Contact information to report Species at Risk sightings (or collisions with):
DNR: 1 800 565 2224 or 1 877 727 3447 or sightings@speciesatrisk.ca

If you see a Mainland Moose, please report the sighting to the Department of Natural Resources. An online Moose sighting form is found here: novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/sustainable/msform.asp

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. Report the collision to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Transportation of Infrastructure and Renewal (TIR), the RCMP (after hours or on weekends) or a licensed wildlife Rehab facility (see CONTACTS section).

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.