



## **Frequently Asked Questions about Wildlife Roaming in Coppell**

### **Can a trapped animal be relocated outside of Coppell?**

No. The Texas Department of State Health Services restricts wild animal transport, and since Coppell is located within an urban Metroplex, Animal Control Officers do not relocate wild animals to nearby cities as a courtesy to our neighbors.

### **Can the City trap a bobcat or coyote?**

No. The most effective way to trap a bobcat or coyote is to use live bait, which is inhumane. Rarely will a healthy bobcat or coyote enter a baited trap.

### **Are all animals that have been trapped euthanized, with the exception of a domesticated animal/dog/cat?**

Skunks are euthanized by Animal Services. Raccoons are euthanized if they appear sick, injured or overly aggressive. All other trapped wildlife are relocated to other areas in the City of Coppell that are less populated and more wooded.

### **Is tranquilizing an animal an option?**

Animal Services or the Police Department are not going to tranquilize an animal due to safety concerns. If a tranquilizer dart inadvertently comes in contact with a human, it could be lethal. The tranquilizer is filled with Ketamine and it does pose a serious safety risk to the public. Animal Services will only tranquilize a wild animal if it has already been trapped and secured.

### **Is shooting a bobcat or coyote within City limits a possibility by the Police Department?**

If an animal appears to be suffering from an apparent fatal wound, sickness or is actively aggressive towards a person, then an officer can shoot the wildlife after ensuring that the firing of the weapon will not endanger any person or property.

### **Is it legal for a resident to discharge a gun inside the city limits of Coppell?**

It is a violation of a city ordinance (Sec 9-3-1) to discharge a firearm within the city limits. It is a defense to prosecution (Penal Code 42.092) if a citizen discharges a firearm at a wild animal because they were in fear of bodily injury to self or others. Common sense/discretion would be applied in these cases.

For additional information please visit

<http://www.coppelltx.gov/government/departments/animal-services> or call 972-304-3515.