

Regulation Regarding Feeding Wildlife

No person shall feed, bait, or in any manner provide access to food to any wild animal and/or wildlife within the Town of Sheffield on lands either publicly or privately owned, except as permitted below.

No person shall fail to take remedial action to avoid contact or conflict with wild animals, which may include the securing or removal of outdoor food sources or attractant after being advised by the Town to undertake such remedial action. Further, after an initial contact or conflict with a wild animal, no person shall continue to provide, or otherwise fail to secure or remove, any likely food sources or attractants, including but not limited to bird feeders.

The prohibitions of this regulation shall not apply to shrubs, live crops, plants, flowers, vegetation, gardens, trees, or composting.

The feeding of songbirds or other backyard birds shall be permitted on private property, unless so advised to take remedial action.

The Animal Control Officer, under the direction of the Sheffield Police Department, shall enforce the provisions of the regulation. A written warning will be issued for the initial complaint.

Violations of this regulation shall be enforceable under the non-criminal disposition procedures established by M.G.L. C. 40, S 21d. The penalties for any person violating this regulation shall be as stated in the Non-Criminal Disposition Bylaw; \$100 for the first violation; \$200 for the second violation; and \$300 for each subsequent violation. Each day of the violation shall constitute a separate offense.

Adopted by the Select Board on November 20, 2023