



LINCOLN

January 19, 2026

Mark Coleman
Nebraska Federation of the Blind
1026 S. 35th St.
Lincoln, NE 68510

Via US Mail
Re: Wildlife Removal

Mr. Coleman,

By way of introduction, my name is Rick Tast. I am an Asst. City Attorney for the City of Lincoln and provide legal counsel to the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD). This includes the Animal Control Division. After review of your email and discussion with the Division Manager of Animal Control I wanted to clarify the process when Animal Control receives a call related to wildlife removal in a private business or residence.

The LLCHD Animal Control Division does conduct wildlife removal; however, by policy they do not do so within private businesses or residences absent an emergency. Wildlife removal remains the responsibility of the property owner. Animal Control otherwise refers all situations involving unwanted animals within private property to licensed private exterminators.

In some instances, if wildlife is within private property and there are available personnel, Animal Control may assist in removal. However, Animal Control cannot do so unless the individual has eyes on the wildlife the entire time. This ensures a safe, efficient response: officers can locate the wildlife quickly and avoid unnecessary searches of the entirety of privately owned home or business. This is because the LLCHD handles public health and safety, not full wildlife removal.

This applies equally to all individuals, regardless of ability. If a sighted person loses track of wildlife in a private residence before an Animal Control Officer arrives, and there is not otherwise an emergency, that officer could not conduct a full search of the residence for the wildlife. Operational safety and resource limits would necessitate a private exterminator handle that matter. Absent any other circumstances, a single bat in a residence does not otherwise constitute an emergency.

To have an Animal Control Officer otherwise search the entirety of the interior of private property for wildlife would fundamentally alter the nature of the program and impose an undue burden on the Animal Control Division.

Animal Control does have information for citizens regarding bats inside of private property which can be found on the City of Lincoln's website www.lincoln.ne.gov. Use the keyword "animal". As previously noted private wildlife removal services remain available, however the City does not endorse or recommend any specific business.

If you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact me at. I can be reached by phone at 402-441-7281.

Rick Tast
Asst. City Attorney
City of Lincoln – Law Department

CC: Denise Bolwitt
Division Manager – Animal Control