



Medford City Council  
Medford, Massachusetts

**Public Health and Community Safety Committee, March 12, 2024**

**City Council**

Emily Lazzaro, Chair  
Justin Tseng, Vice Chair  
Anna Callahan  
Kit Collins  
Matt Leming

This meeting will take place at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Medford City Hall, 85 George P. Hassett Drive, Medford, MA and via Zoom.

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88011940251>

Call-in Number: +13126266799,,88011940251#

Broadcast Live: Channel 22 (Comcast), Channel 43 (Verizon), and medfordtv.org.

To submit written comments, please email [AHurtubise@medford-ma.gov](mailto:AHurtubise@medford-ma.gov).

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

**ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**23-449** Resolution to Draft Wildlife Feeding Ordinance  
IN CITY COUNCIL 11/14/2023

**PAPERS IN COMMITTEE**

**15-749** Replica Handgun Ban Ordinance  
IN CITY COUNCIL 11/17/2015

IN COMMITTEE	2/6/2017
<b><u>20-289</u></b>	Face Surveillance Ban Ordinance
IN CITY COUNCIL	3/31/2020
<b><u>20-400</u></b>	Resolution to Request an Update on Medford Police Department Use of Force and Deescalation Policies
IN CITY COUNCIL	06/09/2020
<b><u>23-015</u></b>	Resolution to Renew Efforts to Reduce Nip Litter Around City
IN CITY COUNCIL	01/17/2023
<b><u>23-453</u></b>	Resolution to Draft Ordinance Regulating Sales of Animals Raised in Commercial Breeding Facilities
IN CITY COUNCIL	11/14/2023
<b><u>24-023</u></b>	<b>Warming/Cooling Center for Adults Experiencing Homelessness</b>
IN CITY COUNCIL	02/06/2024

### **Adjournment**



Medford City Council  
Medford, Massachusetts

**MEETING DATE**

March 12, 2024

**SPONSORED BY**

**AGENDA ITEM**

**23-449** - Resolution to Draft Wildlife Feeding Ordinance

**FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION**

**23-449- Offered by Councillor Collins**

Be it Resolved that the Subcommittee on Ordinances and Rules meet to consider a Wildlife Feeding Ordinance.

**Councillor Collins moved to refer the paper to the Subcommittee on Ordinances and Rules (Councillor Caraviello second)—referred to the Subcommittee on Ordinances and Rules.**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**FISCAL IMPACT**

**ATTACHMENTS**

- I. Wildlife Feeding Ordinance DRAFT 2.15.24

# Wildlife Feeding Ordinance DRAFT 2.13.2024

Committee: Public Health & Community Safety

Chair: Councilor Lazzaro

Sponsor: Vice President Collins

Part 1, Ch. 6, Article 6 – In General.

Section 6–49. Wildlife Feeding Prohibited.

## A. Purpose and Intent.

- a. Medford is home to a large population of wild animals, including rats, pigeons, gulls, and raccoons. Feeding such wildlife, whether intentionally or passively, entices and attracts these wild animals around and into private property and Medford, including into private porches and backyards. This stands to create nuisances and health hazards for residents, and prevent residents from the unfettered enjoyment of their outdoor spaces. Furthermore, inappropriate or excessive feeding of wildlife can create health hazards for wild animal populations as well, or entice them into areas of the city that are unsafe for them.
- b. As private properties in Medford share permeable boundaries with one another, the feeding of wildlife on one property, whether intentionally or passively, stands to create nuisances or problems for neighboring residents, particularly in the densely-settled areas of the City.
- c. By limiting the practice of feeding wildlife, whether intentionally or passively, and enforcing this prohibition, the City can help limit a major factor that entices wildlife into resident areas of the City.

## B. Definitions

- a. Wildlife shall mean any undomesticated and unrestrained animal or fowl, including but not limited to pigeons, raccoons, rats, and/or coyotes, and/or any other animals or fowl causing public safety threats or nuisances.
- b. Feeding shall mean the act of distributing, scattering, placing, exposing, or depositing, directly or indirectly, any feed or foodstuffs, including but not limited to grain, seeds, or other food products, in any manner or form, so as to constitute a lure, attraction, or enticement to wildlife.

## C. Prohibited activity

- a. No person shall feed any wildlife, as defined above, nor distribute or scatter any foodstuffs, within the City of Medford, on or in any public place or private property.

## D. Exceptions

- a. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted so as to prohibit bird feeders. However, if a bird feeder is determined to be the cause of a public safety threat or nuisance, the bird feeder(s) and seed debris will be required to be removed at the instruction of the enforcing officer.
- b. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted so as to prohibit the feeding of pets, provided that if food intended for pets is determined to be the source of wildlife feeding, the

resident or person responsible for the premises will be required to take steps to render such pet food inaccessible to wildlife. If any wildlife continues to gain access to pet food, the condition allowing access must be corrected or the pet food removed within 48 hours.

- c. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted so as to prohibit the storage of food products, pet food, or other material on any premises in a manner which does not constitute a lure, attraction or enticement of wildlife on property within the City of Medford, provided that if such storage is determined to be the source of a wildlife feeding problem, the resident or person responsible for the premises will be required to take steps to render such storage area inaccessible to wildlife and the area near the storage be kept free from such debris. If any wildlife continues to gain access to a storage area, the condition allowing access must be corrected or the stored material removed within 48 hours.
- E. Enforcement and Penalties
- a. The Animal Control Officer, Health Director, Code Enforcement Officers, and/or their designees, are authorized to administer and enforce this ordinance.
  - b. This ordinance shall be enforced in the manner provided in [Section 1-13](#) of these Ordinances and M.G.L.A. c. 40, § 21D. Any property owner or tenant who violates any provision of this ordinance shall be subject to the following penalties:
    - i. First offense: Written warning.
    - ii. Second offense: \$50.00
    - iii. Third (and subsequent) offense: \$100.00