

For More Information Contact

wildlifecontrol@spca.bc.ca
BC SPCA Provincial Call Centre
1.855.622.7722

BCSPCA

SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

PIGEONS

WILDLIFE CONTROL BEST PRACTICES

Species

Rock dove, *Columba livia*

Legal Designation

Schedule C, *BC Wildlife Act*

Disease Risks

Droppings may pose a risk of *Histoplasmosis*, and rarely *Cryptococcosis*. Droppings should be cleaned carefully and regularly. Avoid direct contact with dead bodies

Seasonal Considerations

Pigeons breed all year round, but most commonly in spring and summer in BC

Legal designation and control varies widely by species. For more information on other types of birds, please consult our best practices sheet for other birds.



Did you know?

Pigeons are gentle and gregarious birds. Baby pigeons (bottom left) are often described as looking like “baby dinosaurs”. It’s easy to see that birds are dinosaurs’ closest relatives!

Pigeons, Photo Credit: Anna Chow

Common Conflicts

Rock doves, or “pigeons” are generally found in urban areas. Pigeons come into conflict with people when their droppings soil and damage structures, and they sometimes nest in homes or other structures. Pigeons are abundant in places where they are fed intentionally or accidentally (food scraps, crumbs, garbage, etc.) and large groups can be noisy.



Baby pigeon

Conflict Prevention

Discourage intentional feeding to avoid problems with pigeons. Secure garbage bins and compost, and remove potential water sources (including leaky faucets). Keep balconies and other areas as clean as possible, and clear away any nesting material as soon as it is deposited to discourage pigeons from nesting. Empty nests or nests with eggs can legally be destroyed. If there are babies in the nest, the nest may be moved short distances (where the parents can still see them).

Fertility control (e.g. Ovocontrol) is humane, it may be a viable option to manage large urban populations.

Call an **AnimalKind** accredited pest control company if you need help managing pigeons

Visit www.animalkind.ca for more information



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Pigeon, Photo Credit: Christina Stobbs



RECOMMENDED

Actions & methods for control

Bird-proof urban and residential structures by: using bird-netting, bird wires and/or bird spikes to prevent access to specific areas; blocking access to ledges, window sills and rafters; and using door curtains to prevent birds from flying into buildings. Birds can also be scared away using devices like predator decoys (e.g. owls, hawks), reflective string, sound deterrents, or wires that deliver a small electric shock. Pigeons can also be hazed using specially-trained raptors.

To evict birds from enclosed spaces, use one-way doors or funnel cones so that they can leave the structure or net barrier, but not re-enter. If the birds are nesting, it is best to wait until the babies have all hatched and can fly away. Seal any openings once the nest or structure is undisturbed for several days.



NOT RECOMMENDED

Actions & methods for control

The BC SPCA does not recommend killing pigeons. However, legal regulated methods may be used for euthanasia to relieve suffering when animals are injured. They may also be used legally to control pigeons, but are not recommended as they can cause suffering, may be high risk to non-target animals, and/or are difficult to administer. Check local bylaws and/or regulations to confirm whether the method is legal in a municipality.

- Alpha-chloralose
- Avicides – permit required
- Blunt force trauma
- Carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide
 - using pure gas in sealed chamber with regulator
- Cervical dislocation
- Live traps with food, water, and bedding – checked at least every 24-48 hours
- Captive bolt
- Repellent gels or sticky substances
- Shot to brain



ILLEGAL

Actions & methods for control

- Bait poisons or chloroform
- Drowning
- Suffocation
- Freezing (including dry ice)
- Glue traps
- Maceration
- Thoracic compression
- Vehicle exhaust



Bird spikes must be properly placed to be effective