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KALLISON RANCH *Review*

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT



Having trouble with animals raiding your garbage cans and creating an awful mess? You're not alone. Dogs, cats, raccoons, opossums, rats and other animals can have a king-sized buffet if they get into your trash—even if the lids on your cans are latched on properly.

First, let's cover some things you shouldn't do:

Don't put your trash out early. Don't put your cans out until shortly before the scheduled for pickup.

Don't pour bleach, ammonia or other chemicals on the garbage. Animals might be repelled only temporarily, and the chemicals can damage your yard and environment. Also, garbage handlers aren't fond of strong chemicals coating their hands and clothes.

Don't shoot or poison the animals. They're hungry, they smell food and they need to eat to survive. They don't realize they're causing you trouble. If it's a pet, such as a neighbor's dog or cat, contact the owner and explain the problem. You should contact local animal control if you need help solving the problem.

Now, here are some options for deterring the scavengers:

Stake the handles. If your garbage cans have handles, drive stakes into the ground and place the handles around them. It prevents animals from knocking over the cans.

Try bungee cords. Connecting bungee cords helps secure the lids and, if you wrap them around multiple cans, may keep them in an upright position. You also may try connecting the cords to a fence or other structure.

Put them in a box. Put the cans in a wooden or plastic box with a lid and clasp. It hides unsightly cans and adds another level of protection from animals. Please check association guidelines to ensure your box complies.

Of course, it's another matter if bears are the culprits. They're stronger and a little more determined than your average scavenger. The only way you're guaranteed to keep bears out of your trash is a bear box. Be sure to contact the association first. You may not be the only one with bear trouble, and the association may want to consider purchasing bear boxes for the community or alerting residents to the problem.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Water Conservation Tips



Even though we use water every day, it's easy to take it for granted. Just imagine how you would function without clean water. It's everyone's responsibility to conserve and protect water resources. The decisions and actions you make today truly affect our water resources for the future. The following suggestions will help you get in the habit of saving water in the great outdoors:

Get a rain gauge to measure rainfall. One inch of rain per week is generally sufficient for lawns and gardens. Supplement only when rainfall is inadequate.

Use mulch around landscape plantings. Mulch will help eliminate weeds and hold moisture in the soil.

Select hardy plants that don't need much water. Native plants that are well adapted to your climate and soils will survive well without supplemental watering.

Water during the cool part of the day to avoid rapid evaporation.

Raise the mowing heights on your lawn mower. This promotes healthier grass that can better survive dry periods.

When watering is necessary, water slowly and thoroughly. If you notice puddles or runoff, turn water off and wait for water to soak in. Also be sure your sprinkler puts water where you need it—not on driveways or sidewalks.

Wash cars efficiently. First give the car a quick rinse, and then turn the water off. Wash one section of the car at a time and rinse that section quickly. Turn the water off each time.

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