

Routine home maintenance can keep animals in the wild

By Cheryl Millham

As I look out the window and see it snow, it is hard to remember that last week was the start of spring. But in the world of wildlife, life goes on and spring is the start of new “wild” beginnings.



Coyotes and raccoons are breeding in the months of February, March and April. Once the female is impregnated, the gestation for both species is the same – 63 days. Most babies are born during April and May.

So, why am I telling you this bit of interesting news?

Now is the time to look around your house for any air vents which may have been pushed in or are missing. Also check to make sure the crawl space opening (the access to get under your house) is securely sealed. Also, look for vent openings into the attic area. Make sure all of these are repaired.

If your house is not kept in good repair, Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care will be getting a call from you asking how to get a raccoon out from under my house, or a statement saying that a coyote has had babies under my porch. It is always better to repair your house before you have any wild animals living with you.



Now is the time ensure wildlife don't have babies at your house. Photos/LTWC

Coyotes are good parents and have to feed their babies, so they are always looking for more food in the months of April, May and June.



Also, please take extra special care of your small dogs and cats. To a coyote, they do not see them as a human's loved pet. Coyotes just see them as food to keep their babies alive.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care at (530) 577.2273.

Cheryl Millham is executive director of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.