

## Armadillos

Nine-banded armadillos have slowly started expanding their range northward into North Carolina. NC WRC is tracking this expansion by taking reports of sightings. If you have a sighting, please report it to the Wildlife Helpline at (866) 318-2401 or [wildlifehelpline@ncwildlife.org](mailto:wildlifehelpline@ncwildlife.org). To learn more about armadillos click [here](#).

**What kind of damage is caused by armadillos?** Armadillos can cause lawn and turf damage from burrowing or digging for food. Burrows may be 8-10 inches in diameter and an average of 3-4 feet long. When they root for food they create shallow holes which are typically 1-3 inches deep and 3-5 inches wide.

**Can a WCA write a depredation permit?** Yes, if property damage has occurred a depredation permit can be issued by a WCA.

**Can they be relocated?** No, armadillos cannot be relocated. They must be released on site, euthanized at the capture site, or taken to a facility designed to humanely handle the euthanasia.

**What can I do with sick or injured armadillos?** There are licensed [rehabilitators](#) across the state that can take in injured or orphaned wildlife. If the injury is not significant, advise individual to leave the animal alone. It should be able to recover without help. If the armadillo has a life-threatening injury or illness, it should be humanely euthanized and disposed of in a safe and sanitary manner.

**Are there any safety concerns?** Armadillos can carry the bacteria that causes leprosy, but the [CDC](#) considers them to be low risk for transmitting the disease. Additionally, 95% of people have a natural immunity to the disease. It is a good practice to wear gloves when handling any animal.

### Non-lethal Options:

- See the [General Considerations for Handling Wildlife](#) document for general ways to prevent damage from wildlife.
- Fencing can be effective at excluding them if it is partially buried and slanted outward.

### Lethal Options:

- Armadillos can be hunted year-round with a state hunting license. A landowner is not required to purchase a hunting license to hunt on his/her own property.
- Armadillos may be trapped during the trapping season with a valid trapping license. A landowner is not required to purchase a trapping license to trap on his/her own property.
- If property damage has occurred, armadillos can be taken with a depredation permit.
  - The individual that has incurred the property damage can obtain a depredation permit from a wildlife enforcement officer or district biologist if they would like to take the animal themselves.