



## HUMAN-BADGER CONFLICTS:

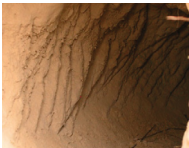
Human-badger conflicts are rare. Badgers typically only become aggressive when protecting themselves, their burrows, or their young. Badgers may be attracted to human-modified habitats with short grass and abundant vegetation as these can also be attractive to their rodent prey. This can lead to conflicts when badgers establish burrows in a location that humans deem inappropriate. Coexisting with badgers can bring benefits as they often help control rodent populations.

Badgers are most vulnerable from May to July when females are raising their kits in natal burrows. These tunnels may extend 20 m. It is advised to flag a 20 m radius from a burrow entrance to prevent disruption or public safety issues such as machinery parking overtop. Report the burrow's location on the badgers.bc.ca website.

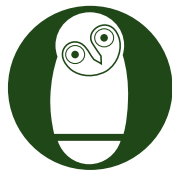
**Badger Burrow**



**Badger Tunnel**



Badgers are an endangered species in British Columbia, and they are legally protected from being harmed, captured, or killed under the BC Wildlife Act. It is prohibited to trap or relocate a badger. Badgers will often move to a new burrow over time.



The BC Conservation Foundation is a not-for-profit, registered charity that has been working in BC since 1969.

Learn more at

[www.bccf.com](http://www.bccf.com)

Report a badger sighting, burrow or mortality, to the

**BC Badger**

**Recovery Team**

[www.badgers.bc.ca](http://www.badgers.bc.ca)



To report wildlife in conflict contact the Conservation Officer Service at

**1.877.952.7277**

WildSafeBC is funded through the Province of British Columbia and in partnership with communities and organizations throughout BC.

[www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com)

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Photos by Richard Klafki, Michelle Ombre and Christina Ray.

# BADGERS



British Columbia Conservation Foundation





## REDUCING CONFLICT

1. **Never feed or approach wildlife, including badgers.** Do not use rodenticides that may lead to secondary poisoning of badgers.

2. **Keep dogs away.** Badgers will defend themselves and may injure your pet, or a large dog may injure or kill the badger. Neither is desirable.

3. **Wait until the badger moves on.** As badgers have large home ranges, they are likely to move to another burrow within a day or two over the summer months. Females are likely to stay in the same natal burrow for about 2 months in the spring (May to July) when they are raising their young. Leave them undisturbed until they leave.

4. **Humane Harassment.** Badgers do not like moist soil in their burrows. **Only from July to October**, you can moisten the soil by allowing a **trickle** of water in the burrow every evening for three evenings. **DO NOT FLOOD** the burrow as this will lead to injury or potential death for the badger which is illegal. Ensure you can assess for badger activity by smoothing down the dirt at the front of the burrow. In this way you will be able to see fresh diggings and feces. If no activity is observed over two days, the badger has likely moved on. If you spot the badger, or see fresh activity, repeat moistening of the burrow for another three evenings and reassess the site for fresh badger activity after two days.

If, in this second round, fresh badger signs or the badger are spotted, cease moistening the burrow and contact 1-877-952-7277.

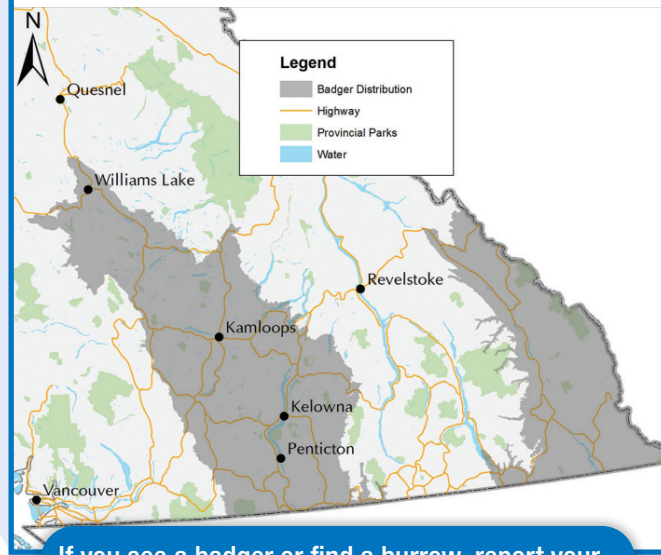
### **! BADGER SAFETY**

Like all wildlife, never feed or approach a badger. A badger that feels threatened may bare its teeth, hiss, or even growl. Females may be especially protective of their young or their natal burrow where they raise their offspring.

Maintain your distance and keep pets away to avoid altercations and injury to both parties. Badgers generally pose very little threat to humans unless highly provoked.

Be aware that other animals may use badger burrows. Never place your hands or face near the openings.

## Badger Distribution Map in BC



If you see a badger or find a burrow, report your sighting to BC Badgers. Your report and photos will be helping the BC Badger Recovery Team monitor badgers throughout BC. If you find hair at the entrance of a burrow, this can also be collected in an envelope and mailed. Learn more on the [badgers.bc.ca](http://badgers.bc.ca) website.



American badgers in British Columbia (*Taxidea taxus jeffersonii*) are an endangered species under the Federal Species at Risk Act and are Red-Listed in BC. Badgers have suffered decline as a result of habitat loss, persecution, illegal or accidental trapping, road mortalities, and altercations with domestic dogs.

Badgers are easily identified by their distinctive white stripe from their shoulder to their snout and the black “badges” on the sides of their face. They have a short, stout body, front paws with long claws, and a very short, bushy tail.

Badgers can be found in grasslands and dry open forests of the Southern Interior and East Kootenays. Badgers are mostly solitary animals, except when they are raising young. They mate in July and August and give birth the following year in either March or April. They are primarily active at night and have multiple burrows within their home ranges. Badgers do not hibernate but they are less active during the winter months and spend most of their time in their dens. Most badgers live up to four years in the wild.

Their favourite prey includes the Columbian ground squirrel, yellow-bellied marmot, and northern pocket gopher.



## BADGER FACTS:

- American badgers are designated as a Red-Listed species in BC with populations estimated at around 400 individuals in the province. They are legally protected from being harmed, captured, or killed.
- Badgers are named after the black patches or “badges” on both sides of their face.
- Badgers are incredible diggers with claws that can exceed 5 cm.
- Badgers have large home ranges for their size; 50 km<sup>2</sup> for females and up to 500 km<sup>2</sup> for males. They will regularly re-use multiple burrows within their home range.
- Badgers eat a variety of small mammals such as yellow-bellied marmots and even the occasional snake.
- Badgers have membranes on their eyes to protect them from dirt.
- Abandoned badger burrows provide important nesting sites for other wildlife, such as burrowing owls. Badgers and ground squirrels also regularly “exchange” burrows.
- Badgers are born from March to April, and by June to August they will disperse and can travel up to 100 km to find their own territory.



[www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com)