

Town of Middlesex Digital Wildlife Camera User Policy & Procedure

The following provisions are intended to govern the use and temporary possession of the Town of Middlesex' digital wildlife camera. The purpose of this equipment is to improve the communities understanding and appreciation of our natural heritage through photo-documentation of wildlife in Middlesex.

1. The borrower must be a current resident of Middlesex.
2. The camera shall only be used within the Town of Middlesex.
3. The borrower must secure written permission from any private landowner owning property where the camera is to be used.
4. All images captured by the camera must be made available to the Town of Middlesex Conservation Commission. All data from the infra-red monitor shall be made available to the Middlesex Conservation Commission. Credit for any images will be given to the borrower.
5. The camera shall only be borrowed for a period not to exceed 2 weeks (14 days). A user may renew their permission for use of the camera for an additional 2 week period as long as no other Middlesex resident(s) have made a request to use the equipment. The Conservation Commission will maintain a waiting list, if necessary, for the orderly use of the camera.
6. The borrower must complete the user form (see attached).
7. The borrower must be responsible for the safe and reasonable use of the equipment. This equipment may only be used to photograph wildlife. It shall not be used for other purposes such as surveillance of human activity.
8. The camera must be returned to the Town Clerks office during normal business hours (or other location as directed by the Conservation Commission).

Town of Middlesex
Agreement for the Possession and Use of the Town's Digital Wildlife
Camera

I, _____, hereby agree to abide by the procedures and policy for the proper and reasonable use of the Town of Middlesex digital wildlife camera as presented in the Town of Middlesex, Digital Wildlife Camera User Policy & Procedure. I further agree to reimburse the Town of Middlesex, Conservation Commission for any damage or loss of this property as a direct result of my personal negligence or irresponsible use.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Date Received: _____

Date Returned: _____

Signature: _____

Town of Middlesex

Instructions for the Proper and Effective Use of the Digital Wildlife Camera

Copies of manufacturer instructions shall be included in the camera box and will be available for the borrower. Any user of the camera should carefully review these instructions prior to using the camera. This will ensure effective use of the camera and avoid damage or loss of information and photographs.

Deciding where to place the camera outdoors is a very important consideration. Camera placement will determine what animals are photographed and the quality of the photos. For instance, placing the camera along a trail worn down by wildlife in the forest (such as white-tailed deer) will result in a greater chance for photographing a deer or other animals that may concentrate their activities along the trail. Placing the camera on the edge of a wetland will offer a good opportunity to photograph many species of wildlife such as moose, black bear, beaver, otter, mink, muskrat, waterfowl, herons and many others. Other habitats that may offer good opportunities to photograph wildlife include:

- Edges of fields
- Apple orchards
- Edges of corn fields
- Along streams and ponds
- Along old logging roads
- Within concentrated areas of oak trees, American beech trees, mountain ash trees, cherry trees, or other areas of trees and shrubs that provide valuable food for many species of wildlife

It may be useful to speak with residents who are familiar with certain areas of town that know where some wildlife regularly occur. Hunters, trappers, anglers, hikers, cross-country skiers, farmers, and loggers are all good sources of information for where to find certain species of wildlife.

The State of Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board has passed new regulations as of 2005 that restrict the use of bait to attract wildlife. Therefore, do not use bait to attract wildlife to the camera locations. Instead, rely on natural food sources and feeding habitats to locate wildlife and obtain photographs.

Other advice:

- Place the camera at a height that will ensure photographs for small as well as large mammals ranging from deer and bear to fisher and mink. You may have to experiment to find the most effective height for the camera, but typically the camera can be secured to a

- tree about 24 inches above the ground and will detect and photograph most wildlife.
- Place the camera so that small tree branches don't obstruct the view of the camera or get blown into the infrared sensor area and release the camera shutter resulting in many photos with no animals.

Most important, place the camera in a safe location where it is unlikely to be stolen, or damaged and where it is easy to find again!!

Have fun and enjoy the outstanding wildlife resources of Middlesex!

For further assistance you may contact the Middlesex Conservation Commission:

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