

A collection of information from the Dhamma Sukha Yahoo List members!

- 1) A kids toy called a “bug collector” that sucks bugs into a clear tube. You can take the gun outside and expel them unharmed.
- 2) Pick up worms from puddles so they don’t drown.
- 3) Remove creatures from paths and roads.
- 4) Buy “feeder” creatures. Set them free.
- 5) Put a bell on your cat.
- 6) Pop bottle rings for slugs – cut a collar with zig-zags from the bottle and put round at risk plants.
- 7) To discourage ants from invading:
 - a) Cayenne pepper
 - b) Citronella oil for underside surfaces. Apply with cloth for difficult to get to places
 - c) Talcum powder – ants don’t like crossing it.
 - d) White vinegar. They don't like it and it’s easy to spray in the kitchen.
- 8) Mosquitoes Citronella (other insects too) repellent. Burn in hanging lamps or candles in BBQ area.
- 9) Spiders
 - a) For large spiders that get inside, with a dustpan and brush, corner them (if they run) or take them on as they rear up to threaten you. Gently push the spider downward with the brush, place the dustpan next to the spider, then gently work it onto the dustpan, using minimal force. Then take the spider outside and let it go.
 - b) For spiders that are near the ceiling, bring them down with a broom first, then use the dustpan and brush as previously described. Be careful not to drag spiders too much with the brush or broom because that can critically injure them.
 - c) Spread lemon slices along window sills, doorjambes and any other place a spider can get inside. Spiders taste organs are on the bottom of their feet and lemons really send them running... "
- 10) Cockroaches - Cucumber slices
- 11) Rats and mice,
Have-a-hart rat traps for mice and rats. Available at Home Depot. Catches them and then you relocate them.

- 12) Cats: –
 - a) Black pepper keeps cats away.
 - b) “Get Off” from pet stores often works.
 - c) Cayenne pepper.
 - d) Anything that is very strong citrus scented.
- 13) When mindfully walking, reserve a little bit of attention to what's in your path. I am able to walk effectively, AND miss stepping on large numbers of ants, small beetles, etc.

When you throw away rubbish that contains plastic rings (seals, parts of lids, etc) cut the ring so it doesn't end up around the necks of foraging birds. More than once I have seen a wild bird destined to die because they have a plastic ring around their necks
- 14) Rodents, small mammals, snakes etc. – A black snake in your home.
- 15) Seal all small holes giving access to your home, especially in the Spring, with Polycell, or similar.
- 16) Put chicken wire over chimneys.
- 17) Capture houseflies at night when they are crawling on the ceiling by approaching them from below with a mason jar. They swoop down on take off and fall into the jar. Release outside.
- 18) Put up a bat house--gives bats an alternative to your belfry.
- 19) Seal up cracks especially in kitchen and bathroom to discourage silver fish.
- 20) If you live in the country and have some forested land or fields, post it against hunting.
- 21) During deer season put out deer corn to attract deer from unposted land.
- 22) Team up with local farmers who use sustainable practices and 'sponsor' animals.
- 23) Rehouse bee swarms in unsuitable areas.

How to do it.

It's best to start as soon as the swarm settles in. This way they have not had time to deposit wax or honey in the walls. They are also more apt to move again. The bees will have found a way into the walls through cracks in the clapboard or mortar. You have to seal off as many cracks as you can, leaving one exit and one hole which you will plug with cork. You can remove the bees to a hive or you can just remove them and have them move on.

To remove them to a new hive you need to have a bee box ready with honey combs. The commercial honeycombs tend to be large as commercial bees are bred to be big. Feral bees can be half the size. Some organic or sustainable beekeepers would have smaller combs.

Put the bee box right below the one crack you've left for exit (unless you are encouraging the bees to leave and not capturing them). Take a long funnel and cut the larger end at an angle. Tape some light cloth on the small end extending the opening and tapering it. (Another option is a funnel soap bubble blower which you can sometimes find in toy stores. It already has a large angled end.) Put the large end over the whole with the funnel pointing toward the bee box. You can fix it to the wall with duct tape or putty. This works kind of like a reverse lobster trap. The bees can get out but they can't get back in.

Now there is a slow method and a quick method. The slow method is to leave it as it is. The worker bees will come out and not be able to get back in. Eventually the queen will get really pi..., um perturbed and will come out to see what is going on. When she can't get back in she'll head for the next likely place which should be your bee box. If there is no bee box she'll fly off to look for a tree or maybe a neighbour's house. Wherever the queen goes, the rest will follow.

Now the quick method is this. Remember the hole with the cork? Do you know someone who smokes? Put a smoker by the second hole and have him or her blow smoke into the hole. Bees don't like tobacco smoke too much. It may take a couple of days of blowing smoke at them every hour or so but eventually they'll get the idea that this isn't the greatest place to start a colony. You can probably use some other kind of smoke although as I recall, my dad used to use smouldering pine cone smoke to make the bees daffy when he opened the hive. He had a little can with a bellows on it and a long spout. He would put in some pine cones and pine straw, light it and when it was smouldering, pump smoke into the hive. They would all huddle and get goofy. At least I think it was just pine cones but who knows? It was the seventies.

Wasps.

If you are dealing with wasps it is a little trickier. Wasps can reproduce really quickly and establish very large hives. They can also have multiple queens. Bees and wasps both have 'sentries' that keep an eye on the main entrance to the hive. They will fly out and attack any being that comes within a range of their doorstep. I have found wasps to be much more territorial than bees with a larger aggressively defended range. As well, wasps can sting multiple times without dying while bees venom sacs rip out when they sting and they die. This makes it a lot harder to seal wasps off or get close to their entrance/ exit. Best scenario with wasps is make sure you don't have cracks in your walls so they don't move in in the first place.

24) If you live where there is a stream that dries up in the summer, you can move fish from the last puddles and put them into another lake nearby or a larger river. This really makes you and the fish very happy! Smiles.

Post note:

If you have other information about living harmoniously with other life forms on this planet, Please let us know! We would like to post it this coming year.

Much Metta., Sister Khema