

Eastern Grey Squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

Interaction with squirrels on campus can cause unwanted disease and dependency if fed.

Since squirrels rarely bite unless they've been cornered or feel threatened, the pests are typically able to coexist with humans with little issue. However, they do carry and transmit a handful of diseases, which makes their presence undesirable and occasionally dangerous:

- **Salmonellosis** - Salmonella bacteria found in their droppings causes diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and fever.
- **Lyme disease** - spread by the ticks squirrels carry and symptoms include nerve pain, stiffness, and inflammation of the brain or spinal cord.
- **Tularemia** - an unpleasant condition that brings about swollen lymph nodes and ulcers.
- **Leptospirosis** - symptoms include fever, headache, vomiting, jaundice, and rash.
- **Rabies** - though rare, sometimes squirrels pass this virus onto humans via biting or scratching.

It's best not to take any chances. Avoid physical contact with the animal where possible. When squirrels make their way into University Buildings, the Facilities department should be called to assist in removal.

Never should you feed, shelter or otherwise interact with squirrels where you could be possibly exposed to a bite, scratch or feces.

Source- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)