

# ADVISORY ON CROWS

House crow



Crows are amongst the most intelligent animals on Earth. They are capable of tool making and tool usage to obtain food. They are also able to recognise and remember human faces.

The house crows (*Corvus splendens*) are common residents in cities and towns, and thrive in urban environment. They can be found in food centres and trash bins scavenging for food if leftover food is not properly disposed of. Crows gathering and roosting near residential areas may prove to be a nuisance with their cawing and the accumulation of dropping stains.

You can make your neighbourhood less conducive for crows to gather with proper management of your living environment.

## How to prevent crows from gathering?

### Proper management of your refuse

Keep your surrounding area litter-free. Properly dispose leftover food into secure and covered trash bins. Crows will gather where there is easily obtainable food.

Do not leave trash bags outside the bin. The crows can easily tear open the bags to retrieve what they want. Ensure to properly dispose trash bags into bins.

Keep crows out of the trash. Use intact and secure trash bins with tightly-fitting lids. Keep the lid covered at all times. You may secure the lid with an elastic strip, bungee cord or latches to prevent other animals from entering the trash and causing spillage. Crows will be attracted to the spilled trash.

## What should I do when I encounter hostile or nuisance crows?

Contact AVS at 1800-476-1600 or through our online feedback form at <https://www.avsgov.sg/feedback> for the removal of crow nests when you encounter any crow related issues in your neighbourhood.

If you are being attacked, take an alternate route and avoid dense trees where crows are roosting. Crows have facial-recognition abilities and are able to remember your face and target a particular person. It is best to avoid the area they are protecting.

## Eliminating food sources

Harvest fruits regularly and/or cover them with an opaque material. Crows are omnivores and they feed on insects, fruits, vegetables, garbage and carrion. If you own a fruit tree, harvest them regularly or cover them so that crows cannot see them.

Remove water sources from your yard. Like any wildlife, crows want a stable water source near their roost.

Clean up after feeding your pet. If you feed them outdoors, promptly and regularly remove unfinished food and spillage. Alternately, feed your pets indoors.

## Frightening methods

Play recorded crow distress/alarm calls at different times of the day, for 3 consecutive days (or more to prevent their return) to disperse the crows.

Use CDs or Shiny metal pieces to reflect sunlight at them and scare them off. It also makes it difficult for them to see where they are going. Note that this method of frightening will not last forever as crows are intelligent birds.

## Why do crows attack people?

- It may be the fledging season (May - June) in which their young learn to fly. The parents are very protective during this period and would attack if you are close to the young (limited to a small area).
- You have invaded their territory and they view you as a threat.
- They are grudge-holding birds and you may have accidentally offended one of them.