

# LITTER HURTS WILDLIFE



Litter is not only unsightly, it also causes great harm to the environment. Litter and other pollution can destroy habitats by choking out plant life and confusing wildlife into thinking it's food.

Litter, especially plastics, can be ingested by animals and become caught in their stomachs. When their stomachs are blocked, the animals may feel full or be in pain and unable to eat their normal food. The malnourished animals are more likely to become sick, become prey or have reproductive issues.



## BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY

**Both people and animals benefit from a litter-free world.**

MDOT encourages everyone to take action to reduce litter.

- Always dispose of trash in the proper containers.
- When driving a truck or hauling a trailer, make sure the load is secure and will not accidentally fall out.
- If you see litter on the ground, pick it up and throw it away.



[GoMDOT.com/DontTrashMS](http://GoMDOT.com/DontTrashMS)

**With everyone pitching in,  
we can reduce litter  
so people and wildlife can  
enjoy nature together.**



# HOW DOES LITTER AFFECT WILDLIFE?

## BIRDS

can become entangled in strings and ropes.

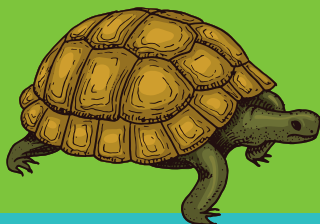
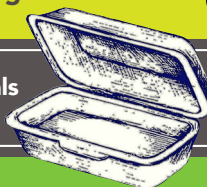


## DEER

can get caught in containers as they forage for food.



Discarded food containers also attract other animals to roadsides where they are more likely to be hit.



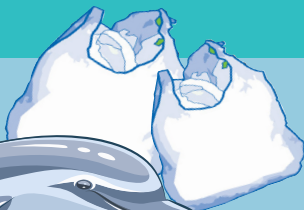
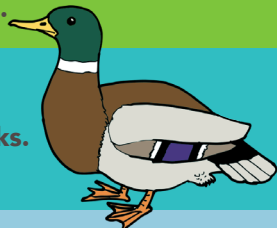
## TURTLES

can become trapped in six-pack rings, which deforms their growth.



## DUCKS

can get plastic bags ensnared in their beaks.



## DOLPHINS

may mistake plastic bags for jellyfish or other food.

