

Skunk



Skunks are excellent at controlling pest species and are an important part of our ecosystem. However, many people are wary of skunks because of their ability to spray a noxious scent. Skunks usually provide several warning signs before they spray, and being calm and quiet around them will help reduce spraying as they won't feel threatened. Skunks will also dig holes in gardens and lawns for grubs, worms and other prey. There are a variety of ways to control nuisance skunks.

Don't Feed Wildlife

- Remove potential food sources for skunks, such as open garbage cans and pet food bowls.
- Spraying your lawn and garden with an insecticide will reduce the number of natural prey items available to a skunk, and may deter them from visiting the area.

Protect Your Pet

- Keep cats indoors and always supervise pets when outdoors. Only leave pets unattended when they are secure in a kennel with a covered top.
- Before letting your dog out at night, turn on a bright light and scan the area for skunks.

Discourage Skunks

- Skunk repellent can be placed within a building to repel skunks. However, these repellents may be offensive to humans and are harmful to young animals if applied to a den or nest. This is not a permanent solution.
- Exclude skunks from buildings on your property by securing holes and other openings. However, make sure skunks are out of the building before doing so! Remove potential habitat such as rock or wood piles. These items provide shelter to skunks and encourage them to use an area.
- Scare tactics through the use of lights and noises can be used to deter a skunk from using an area. However, over time skunks may become used to a certain kind of harassment and another option should be considered.
- If a skunk takes up residence under your porch or shed, leaving a radio playing continuously may encourage the animal to leave.

Skunk Smell Remover

*1 quart hydrogen peroxide
1 cup baking soda
1 teaspoon liquid dish soap*

Mix all ingredients together in an open bucket. Massage into pet's fur and allow to soak in for a few minutes, then rinse. Avoid eyes, ears, and mouth of pets. Do not store.

Keep out of eyes!



Quick Facts

- Skunks are excellent diggers and eat primarily insects, earthworms, and other invertebrates by digging them out of the ground or rotten logs. Because of this foraging technique, they cause distinctive damage to lawns by digging conical shaped holes to pull out grubs and worms (see above photo).
- There are 5 species of skunks throughout the U.S., but Wisconsin is only home to the striped skunk.
- Skunk trapping and hunting is legal year-round on your own property without a license. Many municipalities in Wisconsin have specific regulations regarding the discharge of firearms. Please check with your local government to ensure adherence to local ordinances
- Relocated animals have lower survival rates because of a lack of food and habitat and they can spread disease. Skunks are a carrier of rabies in Wisconsin. As such, they may not be relocated.



For more information, visit our webpage:
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