

The Law: All wildlife, including skunks, are protected by local, state, and federal regulations. It is unlawful to keep indigenous animals as pets or to harm them maliciously.



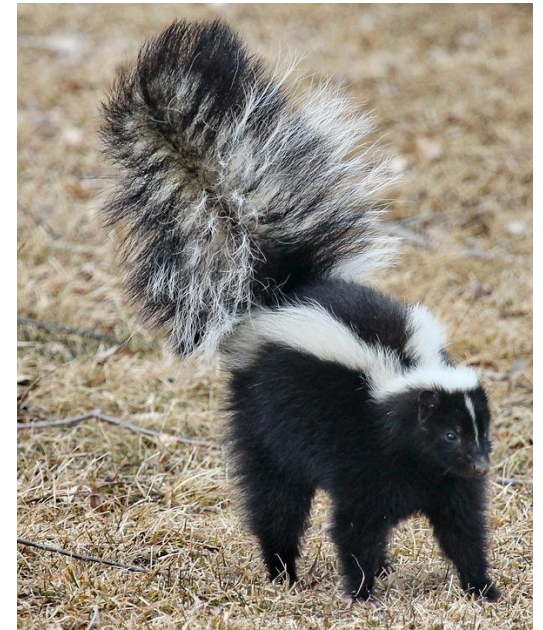
NORTHERN COLORADO  
WILDLIFE + CENTER

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# Living with Skunks

Humane solutions to living in  
coexistence with skunks



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**Description:**

Skunks are nocturnal mammals that are easily distinguished by their black bodies and white stripes or spots. They will often raise their bushy tails, stomp their front feet, and spray a noxious-smelling spray when threatened.

**Length:** 20-30 inches

**Weight:** 12-15 lbs

**Habitat:**

Skunks can often be found in both urban and rural habitats. They enjoy riparian areas, open fields, and wooded ravines.

**Food:**

Skunks are omnivores and often eat grubs, fruit, rodents, snakes, vegetables, eggs, and even black widow spiders.

**Problems Associated with Skunks:**

Skunks can live in urban developments and often get into garages, dog doors, and window wells. They have also been known to den under decks and porches.

**Solutions:**

HABITAT MODIFICATION- Control of skunks requires awareness and sensitivity to potential problems before they get out of hand. Making a practice of feeding pets indoors, cleaning up around bird feeders, and removing water sources, such as dog dishes or bird baths, can all deter skunks from visiting your property. These practices essentially remove any water and food sources for the raccoons which causes them to move on in search of food and water. Using lattice to block off decks and porches, and burying fences by 1' can also keep them from denning on properties. Using window well covers, closing garage doors, and using locking dog doors, especially at night, can help to prevent many conflicts that could be created involving skunks.

REPELLENTS- Several mammal repellents can be found at local hardware stores. These repellents often come in both granules and liquid form and can be useful against keeping skunks out of gardens, yards, and garages. Simply apply the repellent in a line around wherever you do not want the skunks to be. These must be reapplied when it rains or snows and will keep all mammals away from the area including pets such as dogs and cats.

FRIGHTENING- Often skunks can be evicted from under porches and yards by using motion detecting flood lights, radios, or automatic noise makers. If using a radio, turn it to a talk show station and turn the volume to normal talking levels. Place it in the garage or under the deck to create a loud, uncomfortable area and the skunks will move on. Rags soaked in ammonia can also be placed in somewhat enclosed areas too to help evict the animals. Always make sure the animal has an escape route available before starting eviction.