

## **The top Reasons why Trapping Wildlife doesn't work.**

- 1) There is no guarantee that the offending animal will be trapped. Trapping may catch something but it may not be the animal creating the problems.
- 2) Trapping wildlife creates orphans. There is always the potential to trap a mother that has a nest of babies somewhere.
- 3) It is incredibly stressful for a wild animal to be trapped and often they injure themselves trying to get out. Teeth and claws are often broken in the animal's frantic effort to escape. It is best to hire a professional trapper.
- 4) Animals dumped in another location have no idea where there are food and water sources. This often leads to starvation and death.
- 5) When a trapped animal is relocated it may end up in the territory of another animal. This may lead to territory disputes, and often these fights lead to serious injuries and death.
- 6) If a sick animal is captured and transferred it to a healthy population, this may spread disease.
- 7) Removing an animal from its territory (by either trapping or killing) opens up a territory and another animal will soon show up to take its place.
- 8) Trapping doesn't solve the problem. As long as the attractant remains (food, shelter or water) other animals will show up. Removing the source of what is attracting them is the solution.



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## **Wildlife Information: Skunks**



## Skunks:

Despite their bad reputation, skunks are actually beneficial creatures that feed on a variety of agricultural pests. To the average homeowner, however, skunks are pests that dig in lawns, get into trash containers and cause offensive smells. Because of these inconveniences, and the fact that skunks can carry rabies and other diseases that can be transmitted to humans or pets, it is wise to make your home unwelcoming to skunks.



Humans provide food sources, such as bird feeders, trash cans, and pet food bowls that are replenished regularly. Urban landscapes provide attractive nuts, buds, and fruits from trees that striped skunk will favor. Once a striped skunk has found a prevalent food source, it will look for a den site that is relatively close to the food source .

## Eliminate sources of food and shelter:

- Do not leave pet food or water out over night.
- Keep garbage cans tightly closed.
- Clean and tidy yards. Trash, brush and loosely stacked lumber piled on the ground are some of the settings skunks look for to set up a home.
- Completely enclose porches and decks with plywood, chicken wire, or lattice to prevent skunks from accessing these spaces.
- Fully seal off all openings around and under buildings and mobile homes with sheet metal or plywood, buried to a minimum depth of one foot.
- If you are going to store articles in the yard, keep them off the ground, and mow grass and weeds.
- Rid the yard of rodents because skunks will eat mice and rats, and an infestation may attract skunks to your home.
- Replace open composting piles with a secure composting bin with a lid.

Skunks are known to carry rabies and other diseases that can be transmitted to humans. Never approach or handle a skunk.

Striped skunks are very mild mannered, nocturnal animals. They will only spray when they feel threatened. Dogs and cats are the main reason that striped skunks spray in urban environments.

Peak spray periods may be due to the breeding season, and when the young realize they have a defense mechanism. When a striped skunk sprays outside, the odor can be detected through every house in the neighborhood. Their droppings and urine leave a lingering odor.



Ongoing urbanization and abundance of food for the striped skunk, will result in their continued adaption to human environments and a continued threat to homes and human health.