

Wildlife and the Homeowner

Raccoons



Raccoons

- The ultimate “Invader”
- Gardens, Garbage Cans, Bird Feeders, Fish Ponds, Chimneys, Attics
- Heavy footed animals that do make quite a bit noise (scream, growl, snarl, etc.)
- Extremely agile.



Raccoons

- Birthing Season: March to May
- Cubs stay in den for about 2 months
- Start independence around 6 months
- Activity:
 - Not strictly Nocturnal
 - Rabies work extensive

Raccoons

- Home Invasion
- Summer:
 - Attics are too hot
 - Prefer decks, patios, and wooded areas
- Fall:
 - Seek shelter and extra food
 - Great time for inspection of home
- Winter:
 - Do not hibernate yet limit activity

Skunks



Skunks

- Nearsighted
- Poor climbers
- Often get trapped by falling into window wells.



Skunks

- It is all about the spray
- Spray contains a bit of sulfuric acid that creates the aroma
- Time is the best remedy
- Other mix:
 - 1 Quart 3% Hydrogen Peroxide
 - ¼ tsp. baking soda
 - 1 tsp. of Dawn Dish Soap

Skunks

- Nomadic creatures
- Trapping only invites more friends to your yard
 - a high turnover rate
 - all your neighbors cousins will visit

Coyotes

- Cape Cod since 1970
- Increased productivity due to greater availability of resources
- Pups: Mid Spring – Mid Summer
- Dusk to Dawn with the exception of birthing
- Prefer to be close to water source
- Wooded areas in Spring and Summer and prefer low density housing around areas of den
- Travel great lengths. Likes power lines, rr tracks, and old fire lanes/cart paths.
- Curious yet will run away once they figure us out.
- Generally avoid residential areas during the day.
- Opportunists, extremely adaptable with their choice of food and habitat selection
- Packs on the Cape average 3



Brown Bats

- Enter Attics and chimneys in search of a place to roost.
- Once inside the house they are very confused
- Try to keep the bat in 1 room. Close the door and place a towel under the door.
- High Risk for rabies transmission
- Very small holes for entrance.

Opossums

- Hiss, growl and have about 50 small sharp teeth
- Fortunately they have poor eyesight and prefer to avoid humans at all times
- At home in trees.
- Uses its tail to stabilize itself during climbing and does not hang by it!
- Shortest lived mammal in 2-4 years
- Eats it all....everything!



Other wild friends



General Rules

- Cover Garage Cans
- No food outside
- Cover all openings in and around the house:
 - Patios
 - Porches
 - Crawl spaces
 - Chicken wire or hardware cloth a few inches underground in an “L” format
 - Put newspaper in the hole during the day to check if someone is still “home”.

Trapping

- Illegal
- If it is in your house you can catch and capture
- Best to FIX the problem
- Promotes the transmission of disease and creates social issues.
- Don't be fooled to think the animal or its many friends and family will not return to your yard.

Keep wild animals wild

- Offering Food
- Neighbors tolerance
- Overcrowding increases disease transmission
 - Rabies (Humans and Pets)
 - Roundworm Parasite (Children)
 - Leptospirosis (low occurrence)
 - Distemper (pets)
 - Lyme Carriers