

Wildlife

Fact Sheet: Skunks

Skunks are animals who tend to be nocturnal, but sometimes are out during the day. They are beneficial creatures, and their important ecological role is often overlooked because of their spraying abilities.

***FUN FACT:** Skunks have glands that produce their smelly spray. They can spray up to about 12 feet away.

- **Skunks that are out in the daytime:** They can be active during the day if people leave pet food outside or when they need to feed their hungry offspring.

If a skunk is ACTING STRANGELY, (such as: circling, dragging itself, acting injured or unusually aggressive) CONTACT THE PATERSON ANIMAL CONTROL

- **Skunks in your garage:** Skunks may wander into your garage when the door is left open.

SELF-HELP OPTION: If a skunk gets into your garage, leave the garage door open before dusk and sprinkle some flour underneath it. Watch for existing footprints, and then close the door.

- **Skunks eating garbage:** If a skunk finds your garbage, then you need to contain the trash better so that animals do not find it, pick at it, and spread it around.

SELF-HELP OPTION: You can secure it by using bungee cords and put the trash out on the morning of pick up.

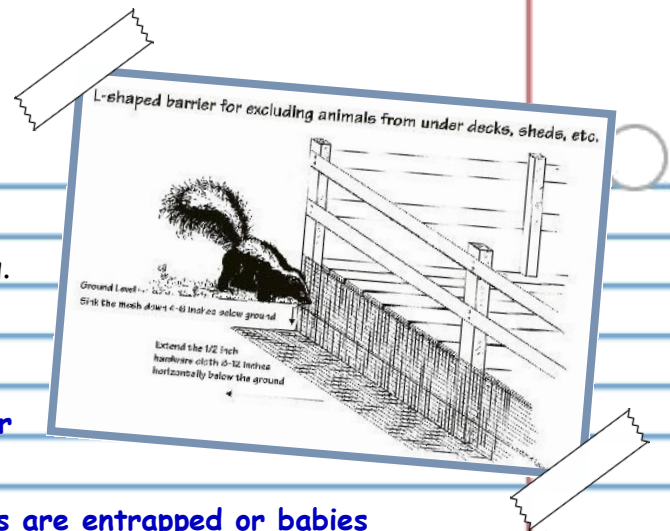
- **Skunks fall into a pool:** Skunks fall into pools fairly often because of their poor eyesight.

SELF-HELP OPTION: Put a pool skimmer GENTLY underneath the skunk to safely lift him out. The skunk may be exhausted from swimming. Contact the PATERSON ANIMAL CONTROL for assistance.



- **Skunks under decks:** Skunks take advantage of spaces where they can burrow to raise their young. They leave as soon as the young are old enough.

SELF-HELP OPTION: The simplest option is for the skunks to leave on their own and then seal off their entry hole with galvanized mesh. It is **EXTREMELY CRITICAL** before sealing it off to make sure no animals are entrapped or babies are left behind to starve .



- **Skunks damaging lawn:** When it rains heavily, or the lawn is over-watered, grubs come to the surface where skunks can smell them and start digging. Once the lawn dries out, and over-watering doesn't occur, the grubbing should cease.

SELF-HELP OPTION: Cayenne pepper or similar capsicum-based repellants can also be sprinkled on digging areas for temporary repellant effect.



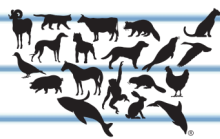
***If you trap a skunk, the only thing an Animal Control Officer can do is release it back on your property depending on the situation. Make sure a wood board is placed underneath the trap. RESIDENTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR AN ANIMAL THAT IS CONTAINED IN A TRAP. An outside wildlife service can help remove the skunk from the area humanely (A fee may be involved). ***



Any other questions?

Visit www.humanesociety.org/skunks for more information.

Call the Paterson Animal Control at 973-881-3640.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
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