

Skunks

Natural History

Skunks are primarily nocturnal (active at night). They weigh 6 – 10 lbs. Skunks usually den in hollow logs, wood / rock piles, under decks and sheds, or under concrete slabs. Skunks have one litter of 1-7 young per year. Skunks have a spray range up to 15 feet.

Skunk Under Deck or Outbuilding

Check for activity by covering entrances with loose dirt. If a skunk is present it will easily dig out. If the dirt remains undisturbed for 2-3 days, and it's not winter, the hole may be permanently sealed off.

To encourage skunks to leave try placing one of the following items in the den:

- Clothing with a strong human scent (unwashed socks, shirts, etc)
- Rags soaked with ammonia

Cover entrance with loose dirt for several nights to ensure skunk has left.

After the skunk is gone, it is very important to seal off the entrance permanently

Removing Skunk Spray from Pets and Other Surfaces

There are a number of products on the market to remove the smell of skunk spray, the following is a homemade recipe that is easy to make and inexpensive.

Mix the following:

- 1 quart 3% Hydrogen Peroxide
- 1/4 cup baking soda
- 1 tsp. Liquid soap

Wash surface or pet while mixture is bubbling.

Avoid getting in the eyes of pets.

It is also recommended that to test the mixture on carpets, upholstery, and other fabrics to make sure it doesn't cause discoloration.

Rinse with tap water.