

LIVING WITH RACCOONS

Raccoons are found in all types of habitats and over the decades of urban sprawl, have become comfortable living near and within human communities. Often, they do not fear people or small

Raccoons are primarily nocturnal, hunting and rummaging for insects, fruits, vegetables, acorns, seeds, fish and small through your garbage can, if the lid is not secure and they will bowl. Your fish pond or pool are also very attractive to

Raccoons are agile, great climbers and use their forepaws like use pet doors to enter your home. Raccoons don't mind sleeping under your home.



pets. food at night. Food includes mammals. Raccoons will go dine at your pet's outdoor raccoons.

little hands. Raccoons will nesting in the attic or

Raccoons can carry zoonotic diseases, so it is smart to discourage them from being attracted to your home. Remember to secure garbage cans, protect ornamental fish ponds with netting, and secure all vents and openings in your attic and foundation. Also, bring in pet bowls before dusk and lock pet doors at night.

An abandoned baby raccoon can be irresistible. However, it is illegal to keep raccoons in California without the proper permits. Confined raccoons, of any age, should be reported to California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

LIVING WITH OPOSSUMS

Opossums are marsupials, and although they have most of the characteristics of a mammal, the main difference is that the female opossum carries her young in her pouch. After two months, the young are developed enough to spend most of their time on their mother's back, which they do until they are about a year

Opossums are primarily nocturnal. They hunt and scavenge vegetables, fruits, nuts, meats, fish, eggs, insects, carrion Opossums will raid your garbage can and eat from outdoor



Opossums also climb trees and fences and if an opening home. Opossums have very large, sharp teeth. Opossums can "play dead" when they are startled. Keep pets and children away from an opossum "playing dead" until it "recovers" and leaves the vicinity.

old. for food at night. Their diet includes (dead animal) grains and small animals. pet bowls.

presents itself, they can get inside your

Remember that opossums can also carry zoonotic diseases and they should be discouraged from frequenting your home. Prompt removal of spoiled garden produce, securing trash can lids, removing outdoor pet bowls before dusk and securing vents and other openings in your home will reduce the attractiveness of your home to opossums.

LIVING WITH SKUNKS



Skunks abound in Butte County and often live in close proximity to human homes. Skunks are one of the main animals in Butte County that are closely monitored for a rabies outbreak. Skunks are primarily nocturnal, but a skunk displaced from its den due to flooding (they like to sleep in driveway culverts) or other unusual circumstance, may be out during the day and is not necessarily ill or diseased.

Skunks are omnivorous and will eat fruit, vegetables, acorns, rodents, pet food, etc. Burrowing areas can include the ground or under buildings and wood piles.

Skunks have been known to eat from outdoor pet bowls with cats. Skunks also are known to enter dogs' kennels and the ensuing altercation often ends with the demise of the skunk. Discourage skunks from frequenting your property and interacting with your pets. Promptly dispose of discarded or spoiled garden produce. Secure openings that allow access to underneath your home and outbuildings. Remove outdoor pet bowls before dusk.

Nuisance wildlife like raccoon, skunks and opossums can be reported to the Butte County Trapper at (530) 538-7381.

Odd-acting, ill or injured wildlife can be reported to Butte County Animal Control at (530) 538-7409 or (530) 891-2907, or your municipal animal services if you live within city limits.