

SKUNKS



Those who capture animals accept the responsibility of ensuring that the animals survive, and that stress and trauma are kept to a minimum. In any procedure, always consider the animal's safety and welfare.

HUMANE HINTS: In some cases, you can resolve a skunk problem without trapping the animal - for example, you can install fencing around a property you don't want skunks to enter. If you use a cage trap, be sure to set it in the shade and relocate the skunk as soon as possible. Never attempt to poison skunks. Setting up a radio to make noise and lights will also help make your yard less appealing. Unfortunately, there are no registered skunk repellents, but predator urine has shown success.

Summary of Step-By-Step Instructions:

- 1) Purchase large traps - rated for skunks.
- 2) Set traps in areas of high skunk activity. Bait with marshmallows, or, if stray cats are not a problem in the area, cat food works as well. Place a small dish of fresh water in the trap. Ensure traps are scent-free, flush to the ground, and set in the shade.
- 3) Check the trap frequently! Do not set traps if there is inclement weather or in severe temperatures (cold or hot).
- 4) Relocate any trapped skunk at least 15 kilometers from the capture site.
- 5) If you have a skunk living under a deck, shed, or other structure, install an exclusion barrier - steel mesh around the perimeter, and down at least 12 into the ground, with the bottom of the mesh sloping outward (skunks can dig).
- 6) Clean up your yard and secure garbage cans if you don't want to attract every skunk in the neighborhood.

The most effective way to eliminate the skunk smell, whether on the side of your house or your family dog, is a simple solution: a quart of hydrogen peroxide, a splash of dish soap, and a quarter cup of baking soda. Rub this solution on whatever has been sprayed and leave it soaking for a few minutes, and then you can rinse and try it again until the smell is gone. Professional exterminators and decontaminators use a neutrolem-alpha epeleon for heavy-duty jobs. There will be trial and error for this.

Things to consider when relocating a wild animal:

- Trapping can create orphaned babies that are left behind.
- Baiting traps will attract more animals.
- Traps don't discriminate what species they capture.
- It causes high levels of stress for the trapped animal.
- Relocating may cause territorial disputes, difficulty locating food, water, and shelter, and increase the spread of disease.
- Removing an animal without eliminating what is attracting the animal will open up space for a new inhabitant.

***IF YOU HAVE FOUND INJURED, ORPHANED, OR CONTAMINATED WILDLIFE PLEASE CALL
WILDNORTH AT 780-914-4118. Wildnorth.ca***