

Raccoons

The first step in learning to live in harmony with urban wildlife is to understand that animals are by nature opportunistic and will take advantage of any source of food and shelter they can find. By reducing these resources the level of conflicts will naturally decline. Raccoons are usually active after dark.

How do I know I have a raccoon problem?

- There is an accumulation of fecal matter on the property.
- Loud thumping noises are heard in the attic at dusk and at dawn.
- A chattering sound, similar to birds chirping is heard in the chimney (baby raccoons may be present).
- Lawns are dug up (like skunks, raccoons also search for insect larvae and grubs).

More information is available on the following websites:

www.caht.ca

www.wildneighbors.org

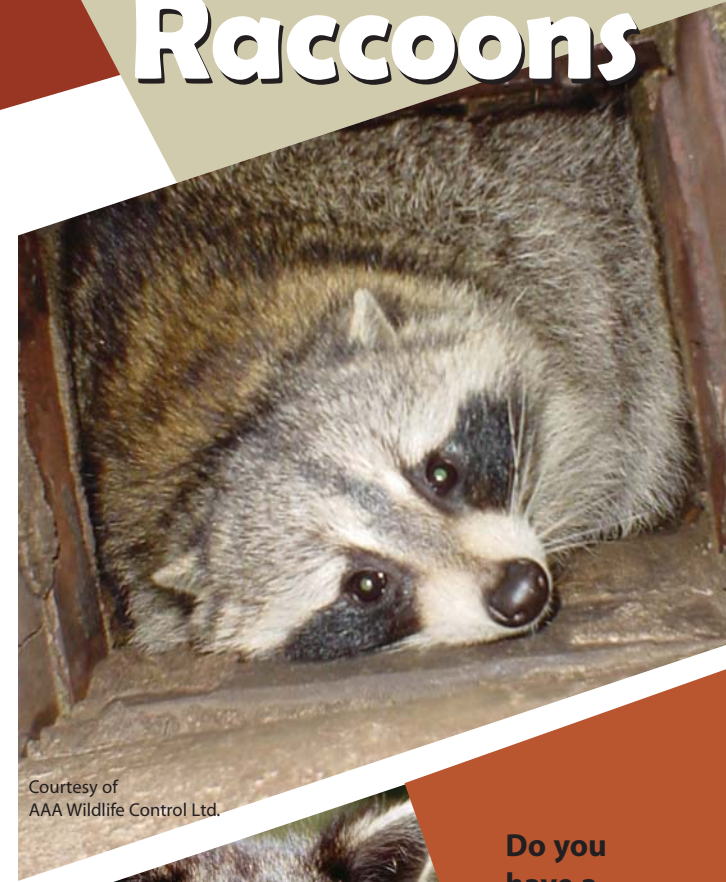
www.cfhs.ca/Programs/HumaneEducation/GeneralPublic/UrbanWildlife

Financial support for development of this brochure was provided by the Canadian Association for Humane Trapping (CAHT).

CAHT wishes to thank the following organizations for their input in the development of this brochure:



Raccoons



Courtesy of
AAA Wildlife Control Ltd.



**Do you
have a
raccoon
problem?**

Affix label here

What can I do to make my house or property unattractive to raccoons?

Animal proof your property, which includes:

- Making garbage and composting inaccessible to animals.
- Putting garbage out for pick-up on the morning of collection day.
- Not leaving pet-food out at night.
- Keeping BBQ grills clean and stored in a secured place.
- Regularly inspecting your roof and promptly replacing worn, curled, cracked or missing shingles, soffit and fascia.
- Covering chimneys with an animal proof chimney cap.
- Regularly inspecting your attic and promptly repairing any opening. (Do not use chicken wire, it is not strong enough)
- Trimming tree branches that overhang your roof.
- Installing a 1 meter wide sheet metal collar loosely around trees about 2 meters off the ground and removing all tree branches below the metal.
- Installing a 1 meter wide sheet metal collar tightly around TV Antennas at ground level.
- Securing the perimeter of sheds, porches, decks, etc. by digging a 30cm to 40cm deep trench around the perimeter of such structures and installing a wire screen (16 ga. galvanized wire mesh, size 1" x 1", shaped in an "L", placed flush around each structure so that the toe of the "L" points outward) and back-filling the trench. An opening at the point of entry should be left and closed when all animals have left, usually between July and November.
- Applying environmentally-friendly nematodes to your lawn to control grubs (contact your local garden centre).
- Refrain from feeding or attracting raccoons.

What should I do if I have a raccoon problem?

To help minimize conflicts with raccoons make your property unattractive to them by following some of the suggestions on the previous page. If the problem persists, contact a local wildlife rehabilitator, animal control center, humane society or a humane wildlife control company to discuss humane solutions.

Since wildlife control companies are not government licensed, what should I look for when hiring a wildlife control company?

- Make sure that the company has been in business for a minimum of 5 years, since there is a high turnover of wildlife removal companies.
- Query whether the company is in compliance with the OMNR Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.
- Request an on-site free written estimate.
- Ask if they provide a full range of animal proofing.
- Confirm that the company carries business liability Insurance.
- Ask for a minimum one year guarantee against animal re-entry.
- Ask for referrals.
- Request a referral from your local animal welfare or animal care and control agency.



Why not trap and relocate raccoons?

Under the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act wildlife must be released in close proximity to the original point of capture. Trapping is not an effective method of wildlife control. It does not address the primary reason why an unwanted animal is on the property, which is the availability of food and shelter. Unless the attractant is removed, the animal will return or a new animal will move in.

As well, relocation of trapped animals creates a new set of potential problems that include:

- Animals may be released in areas where populations are already at maximum levels.
- Relocated animals may transmit diseases to other wildlife in the release area.
- During certain times of the year the young may be left behind when they are unable to fend for themselves.
- Trapping and relocating animals late in the season prevents them from accessing shelter and food sources and may result in starvation or death from exposure.

