

Skunk Information and Prevention Measures

Skunks are a natural part of our suburban environment, and understanding them is important to help us coexist. Skunks are generally afraid of humans and other animals, and when scared they will “spray” in self-defense. They are omnivores and usually go foraging for food at night, although it’s not uncommon to see them during the day in our area. Indirect feeding of skunks is common throughout Palatine and most commonly occurs in three ways:

- Residents leave food out for their own pets or for other wildlife in the area. Never feed wildlife and always take pet food indoors before dusk.
- Residents place food waste in plastic garbage bags and put the bags on the street instead of inside garbage bins. Always put food waste in garbage bins and put the bins outside the morning of your garbage pickup day.
- Apartment, townhouse, and condominium complexes don’t secure the food waste in dumpster corrals.



Keeping skunks out of your yard

- Patch any holes or gaps around your fencing and foundation. Use chicken wire to prevent digging. Skunks can dig deep, so trench at least 12” down when installing chicken wire.
- Remove possible den locations, like wood and rock piles.
- Remove bugs and rodents. Skunks like grubs; treat your lawn to kill any grubs.
- Feed your pets inside; skunks enjoy dog and cat food. Do not leave food outside overnight. Store pet food inside in sealed containers.
- Make sure garbage cans have tight fitting lids.
- Repeatedly cover den openings with leaves, straw or rocks. This will annoy skunks until they seek out better accommodations.
- Place ammonia soaked rags or moth balls around den openings.
- Automatic or motion activated sprinkler devices are very effective.
- Skunks are good diggers, but bad climbers, so good fencing with a solid barrier along the bottom is helpful.
- If all other measures fail, consider contacting a licensed wildlife control relocation service.

De-Skunking Pets

- Mix:
 - 1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide
 - ¼ cup baking soda
 - 1 teaspoon liquid soap
- Work solution into a thick lather and apply to pet.
- Leave lather on for 3-5 minutes.
- Rinse & repeat.
- Keep solution out of animal’s eyes!