



For More Information Contact

wildlifecontrol@spca.bc.ca
BC SPCA Animal Helpline
1.855.622.7722

BCSPCA
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

RACCOONS

WILDLIFE CONTROL BEST PRACTICES

Species

Procyon lotor

Legal Designation

Schedule B, Furbearer, *BC Wildlife Act*

Disease Risks

Raccoon roundworm eggs shed in feces can be transmitted to people and other animals. Raccoons can also carry *canine distemper virus* and *raccoon parvovirus*, but are not a rabies vector in BC

Seasonal Considerations

One litter of 3-4 babies in spring



Did you know?

Raccoons are omnivores - they are valuable scavengers, eating discarded food and foraging for insects, fruits, nuts, clams, fish, and snails.

Raccoon, Photo Credit: Colin Franks

Common Conflicts

Raccoons are a common urban species, and can come into conflict with people when scavenging for food in dumpsters and other urban areas. Raccoons are also attracted to bird feeders, ponds, pets and farm animals. They can damage turf by rolling up the new sod while looking for insects. Raccoons sometimes den in structures like attics, chimneys and sheds, and may also establish latrine sites near homes or in yards.

Raccoons are typically reluctant to approach people, but access to garbage, pet food, or other human food decreases their fear of people. Habituated raccoons may become aggressive around food or pets or if they feel cornered. Raccoons in BC are not a rabies vector, so this is not a risk for people or pets.

Call an **AnimalKind** accredited wildlife control company if you need help managing raccoons

Visit www.animalkind.ca for more information



Conflict Prevention

Discourage people from feeding raccoons – make sure bird feeders are not overflowing and pet food is not left outside. Remove potential food sources by securing garbage bins and composts, and collecting fruit that has fallen on the ground. Secure fresh sod with stakes, or apply nematodes to soil to prevent the insects that attract raccoons.

Maintain roofs and chimneys to prevent raccoons from getting inside. Block access to vents and under porches, decks and crawlspaces. Use secure chimney caps, and remove rooftop access by trimming branches and other materials that raccoons can climb. To discourage property use, install motion-sensor lights or sprinklers.

To clean feces, avoid direct contact and wear gloves and a face mask for protection. Scoop feces using a plastic bag or shovel, close tightly and place in the garbage. Use boiling water to destroy roundworm eggs on every surface or item that touched the feces. If you can't use boiling water on the surface or item, using a 10% bleach solution will dislodge roundworm eggs so they can be rinsed away.

spca.bc.ca/urban-wildlife





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RACCOONS

WILDLIFE CONTROL
BEST PRACTICES



Raccoon, Photo Credit: Raymond Bennett



RECOMMENDED

Actions & methods for control

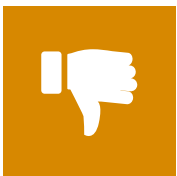
If raccoons have moved in, try using mild humane harassment. Place lights at the den entrance or play a radio nearby. Soak rags in apple cider vinegar, place them in a plastic container with holes poked in the lid, and place the containers in or near den entry points (without blocking access). If babies are present, it is best to wait until they are old enough to leave the den. Injured or orphaned raccoons should be taken to a wildlife rehabilitator for treatment.

To evict the animal, install a one-way door for two to three nights so the raccoon(s) can leave, but not re-enter. If a one-way door can't be used, or has been ineffective, animals should be live-trapped and then released immediately outside the home. Use reuniting techniques if there are babies present, and seal gaps and holes once the whole family has moved out.

Don't Trap and Relocate

Trapping and relocating wildlife away from their home is generally not a permanent or humane solution. Animals often injure themselves and may die trying to escape a trap. Relocated animals have to set up a new home, may starve trying to find food or get into fights with other animals over territory, and may spend vital energy trying to return home.

When you trap animals, you also risk separating a mother from her babies. Even if you move an entire family, a mother may abandon her young due to the pressure of caring for the babies while trying to find food in a new area.



NOT RECOMMENDED

Actions & methods for control

The BC SPCA does not recommend killing raccoons. However, legal regulated methods may be used for euthanasia to relieve suffering when animals are injured. They may also be used legally to control raccoons but are not recommended as they can cause suffering, may be high risk to non-target animals, and/or are difficult to administer. Check local bylaws and/or regulations to confirm whether the method is legal in a municipality.

- Trapping and relocating (in accordance with the *BC Wildlife Act* – can only relocate within 1 km on Vancouver Island & Gulf Islands, within 10 km in the rest of the province)
- Blunt force trauma
- Carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide
- Cervical dislocation
- Egg trap (a.k.a. dog-proof trap)
- Killing neck snare
- Penetrating captive bolt
- Shot to brain
- Spring trap (e.g. Conibear-style)



ILLEGAL

Actions & methods for control

- Bait poisons
- Drowning
- Suffocation
- Chloroform
- Electrocution
- Freezing (including dry ice)
- Leghold or foot snare
- Vehicle exhaust