

SKUNKS

Uniquely scented, these critters are experts in self-defense.

Breeding: 4-6 young in May/June

Active: Nighttime, year-round

Diet: Insects, rodents

Skunks are the highest carriers of rabies in the United States. Skunks active in the day time are most likely to be rabid.



- Raccoons contract distemper in the spring and they sometimes fall sick and die in the streets. They will act just like they may have rabies.



- Opossums rarely stay in one place for more than a few nights and seldom cause any serious problems. Instead of digging their own burrows they use abandoned burrows of other animals. They love to raid garbage cans at night.

How to solve your wild animal problem

Keokuk Animal Control has humane traps available for sign out. Traps are signed out on a first come, first serve basis. There is a \$20.00 deposit which is returned when the trap is turned back in.

Be aware, as stated earlier however, live trapping is only a temporary solution, other animals will probably soon move in.

There is almost nowhere to relocate these animals. It's far better if we can learn to live with and enjoy backyard wildlife.



**KEOKUK ANIMAL SERVICES
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**Shelter Hours: Monday—Friday,
1:00-5:00 PM**

BACKYARD

WILDLIFE



SHARING OUR SPACE

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Growth and development in Keokuk have created problems for wildlife by crowding them into less space. As they try to adapt to the ever changing environment they have to live closer to people than ever before. You can help by being tolerant and willing to share some space with wildlife.

Careful planning can create a good environment for both you and your backyard animals.

This brochure contains:

- Information to help you understand the behavior of some wild animals common to our area.
- Humane and effective ways to prevent wildlife from entering unsuitable places in and around your home.

When an animal gets into a building it may be necessary to trap and remove it. However, live trapping and relocation are only a temporary solution to wildlife problems. Unless you take the preventive measures outlined in this brochure, other animals will soon move in.

USE THIS CHECKLIST TO AVOID PROBLEMS WITH BACKYARD WILDLIFE

- Use sturdy metal or tough plastic garbage cans with tight lids. Secure the cans so that they cannot be knocked over. Put your garbage on the curb the morning of pickup.
- Wild animals are not pets. Do not feed them.
- Put only a small amount of bird food out at a time.
- Do not leave pet food outdoors at night.
- Screen all exterior accesses to buildings, including vents, chimneys, attic fans, dryer vents and areas around soffits and rain gutters. Use 1/4 mesh hardware cloth.
- Install screens on all windows and doors.
- Fill in holes around foundations. Screen crawl spaces and cover window wells.
- Trim vegetation to prevent it from covering foundation walls. Allow two feet between the vegetation and the building.
- Trim tree limbs away from the roof.

Be sure all animals, especially young, have left before sealing off an area. An animal trapped in its den will die of starvation. Be aware of the times of year when young may be present.

SQUIRRELS

Breeding: 2 litters per year in April/May and July/August
3—5 young/litter

Active: Daytime year-round

Diet: Nuts, fruits, and insects

RACCOONS

This masked critter has adapted well to life in the city.

Breeding: 1 litter/year April/May, 4—5 young/litter; may still be nursing young in August

Active: Nighttime; sometimes hunt for food or sun themselves in day time; active year-round

Diet: Insects, rodents, fruit, garden crops, and garbage

If a raccoon gets into your chimney, a bowl of ammonia in the fireplace at dusk will usually send him on his way.

OPOSSUMS

This gentle nomad poses no threat to humans.

Breeding: 2 litter/year; 7/litter

Active: Nighttime; year-round

Diet: Carrion, insects, fruit, garden crops