

## **Magical Skunk Deodorizer Recipe**

- One quart 3% hydrogen peroxide
- 1/4 cup baking soda
- 1 tsp liquid dish or laundry soap
- Mix these three ingredients together, then dip a washrag in the solution and rub down the dog (clothes, skin, or whatever was exposed to the spray). Rinse with water and the odor will disappear within minutes!
- A word of warning, hydrogen peroxide may give a dark furred animal "rust colored highlights".



# **ANIMAL CONTROL**

*Skunks*



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**ALTON  
ANIMAL CONTROL**

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## **A skunk's legal status**

Skunks are classified as furbearers under most State wildlife laws. These animals can be trapped with a license during the open season established by the State Fish and Game Department. At other times of the year, skunks are normally protected and can be killed or removed from property only under the conditions set by the Game Department call Wildlife Services 603-223-6832 for more information. Skunk-proofing may be performed at any time of the year without special permission from the Game Department.

## **What is Skunk Proofing?**

You can take steps to 'skunk proof' your property through habitat modification. Attractants, such as garbage and pet food left outside, should be removed. Convenient denning sites such as wood and rock piles, elevated sheds, openings under concrete slabs and porches and access to crawl spaces under houses, all will attract skunks. To discourage skunks from denning, openings to all buildings should be closed up with boards or screening that extends 8 to 10 inches underground. Openings under concrete structures should be backfilled with dirt, and debris piles should be removed or stacked neatly to eliminate suitable cavities.

In most instances, food from poorly maintained garbage containers is the attraction around buildings. Preventive measures such as placing secure lids on garbage containers will usually solve the problem.

Occasionally, skunks enter garages, cellars or houses and become trapped. If this happens, doors or windows should be left open to allow the skunk to leave.

## **skunk Habits**

Although they may be observed during the evening or early mornings hours, skunks are primarily nocturnal.

Skunks feed on mice, snakes, insect grubs and larvae. Occasionally small mammals such as voles, shrews chipmunks and carrion are eaten.

Skunks sleep during daylight hours. Their dens are usually located in ground burrows along woodland borders, under stone walls, under buildings and in wood piles.

Mating occurs during late February or early March with the young born in mid-May. Young skunks open their eyes and begin to crawl at 3 weeks and are capable to expelling musk and accompanying their mothers hunting by 7 weeks. The family stays together until the following spring.

Skunks enter partial hibernation in late fall or early winter and may den in community burrows where as many as ten skunks sleep throughout most of the winter. Because skunks do not truly hibernate, these large numbers help them to keep warm. During the winter, skunks, especially male skunks, may awaken periodically.

## **Health concerns**

Skunks may carry rabies and caution should be taken to avoid overly aggressive skunks, or any wild animal, which approaches people without hesitation. If a skunk must be handled, this should be done by grasping the skunk at the scruff of the neck and tail, and only while wearing bite resistant gloves.

Many individuals find the smell of skunk musk nauseating. Where musk has entered the eyes, severe burning and excessive tear flow occur. Temporary blindness may result, with sight returning in ten to fifteen minutes. Rinsing the eyes with water will speed recovery.

## **Finally**

Skunks should not be needlessly killed. They are highly beneficial to gardeners and landowners because they feed on large numbers of garden pests, mice and rats.