

SKUNKS

OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Striped

Larger than
spotted species

More common in
cities & suburbs



Spotted

Found in woodlands
and forests

Conservation
efforts needed



WHAT SKUNKS EAT

Omnivorous



Often dig for food

PLANTS

Fruits, nuts, vegetables



ANIMALS

Birds and eggs

Animal carcasses

Mice, moles, voles, and rats



Grasshoppers

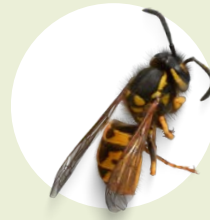
Crickets

Wasps

Bees

Beetles

Larvae



HUMAN SOURCES
can attract skunks
to your yard

Garbage

Pet food

Birdseed



WHERE SKUNKS LIVE



**Like using
deserted animal
burrows as**

**DENS
where they can:**

- Hide
- Give birth
- Raise young
- Rest during the day

Underneath

wood or rock
piles, porches,
buildings

Inside

rock crevices,
hollow trees,
drain pipes,
culverts

**Females
may share
communal
dens**





SKUNK REPRODUCTION

Spotted skunk

Mate late September through October

Striped skunk

Mate late February through March

DELAYED IMPLANTATION

Optimizes timing of birth by delaying embryonic development

Fertilized eggs do not implant directly in the uterus

Spotted skunk

Development delayed until February/March

Striped skunk

Some delay if female mates early in season



SKUNK KITS

APRIL - MAY

Give birth to
an average of
4 - 5 kits



**Striped skunk families often
remain together through the winter**

Months Old

0-2

2

3

Remain
in den

Taught to
forage
and hunt

Nearly full
grown and
completely
independent





SKUNK FUN FACTS

FOOD PREP



They roll **caterpillars** on the ground

to remove the hairs before eating them!



Stink-emitting beetles too,

thus depleting their scent stores before ingestion

WINTER PREP



**SKUNKS
DON'T
HIBERNATE**

Instead, they decrease their **body temperature** and plug their **den entrances** with leaves and grass

This helps **insulate** against extreme cold!



WHEN TO HELP ADULTS



IF SKUNK IS SICK OR INJURED

- Bleeding
- Obviously broken bones
- Inability to move normally
- Stumbling or circling
- Approaching humans.
- Being active during daylight hours

**Safely capture
them and take
to a rehabilitator**

May be lured into a crate or box with canned cat food, or by using a humane trap

**For help with
safe capture:**

**CALL
Local animal
control or Fish
and Wildlife
officer**



WHEN TO HELP YOUNG



1

Abandoned

First check carefully for their mother. Not all young need help as they are independent at 3 months old

2

Deceased adult

If the young are milling around a dead adult, they may be orphaned and do require assistance

Know the den location?

Sprinkle flour on the ground outside the entrance

At dusk and dawn, check for adult pawprints in the flour

If present, the mother is caring for her young

3

Appear sick or injured

If young are healthy, please leave them be



HOW TO HELP YOUNG



CAPTURING YOUNG

1

Wear gloves

Take care to not be bitten or scratched



2

Use a towel to place over the animal and pick them up



3

Place in a secure box or crate with **no food or water** to transfer to rehabilitation facility

