

Raccoon Eviction Measures

Raccoons in Chimneys

- ❖ Keep the damper closed and put a blaring radio (rock or rap music) in the fireplace. Then put a bowl of ammonia on a footstool near the damper. Apply these deterrents just before dusk, as mother raccoons will not move cubs in daylight. It may take several days for the mother and young to move. Once they are gone, install a mesh chimney cap with a stainless steel top so that the situation will not recur.

Raccoons in Attics

- ❖ Leave all the lights on, place a blaring radio on and rags soaked in ammonia around the attic. You can enhance the deterrent effect by adding cayenne pepper or the commercial repellent Repel around the attic, and hanging an electrician's drop light over the denning area. Apply these deterrents just before dusk, as mother raccoons will not move cubs in daylight. Once the raccoons are gone, seal any entry hole so the situation does not recur.

Raccoons in Dumpsters

- ❖ Place some strong branches or plank-like pieces of wood in the dumpster so the raccoons can climb out. It is strongly recommended that dumpster lids remain closed to avoid this problem.



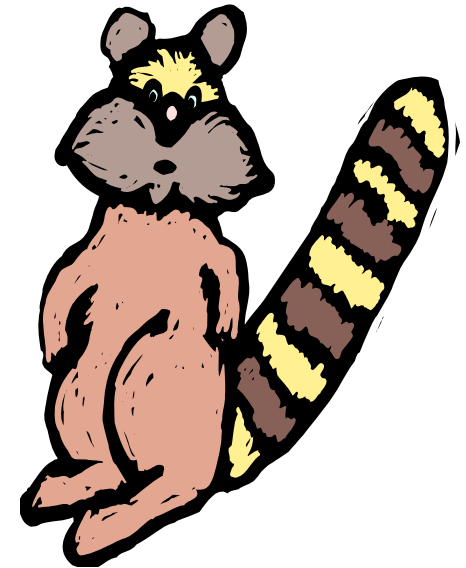
PORTSMOUTH ANIMAL CONTROL

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ANIMAL CONTROL

Raccoons

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Raccoons are intelligent, fascinating and highly adaptable mammals. As wildlife habitat is destroyed, raccoons are forced to come into closer contact, and occasional conflict, with people. Most of these conflicts occur in the spring and summer as raccoons take advantage of cavities in our homes to raise their young. There is no need to panic as most problems are easily resolved with some simple advice and household materials

A Raccoon's Legal Status

- ❖ Raccoons are classified as furbearers under most State wildlife laws. These animals can be trapped, run or hunted with a license during the open season established by the State Fish and Game Department. At other times of the year, raccoons 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. Raccoon-proofing may be performed at any time of the year without special permission from the Game Department.

What is Raccoon Proofing?

- ❖ In most instances, food from poorly maintained garbage containers is the

attraction around buildings. Keeping tight fitting covers on garbage cans around camps and homes and keeping the garbage area clean and odor free, will usually prevent raccoons from becoming a nuisance. Placing a few drops of turpentine or ammonia in a garbage can will discourage raccoons from getting into them in search of food.

Raccoon Habits

- ❖ Raccoons that are seen during the day are not necessarily a cause for concern. Although raccoons are considered nocturnal, mother raccoons often forage during the day when they have nursing cubs, which depletes their energy. Coastal raccoons are often seen during the day as they take advantage of the tides in gathering food.
- ❖ Raccoons are omnivorous, eating both plant and animal food. Plant foods include all types of fruits, berries, nuts, acorns, corn and grains. Animal foods are crayfish, clams, frogs, snails, insects, turtles, mice rabbits and ground-nesting birds.
- ❖ Raccoons breed mainly in February or March. The gestation period is about 63 days and most litters are born in April or May. Average litter size is three to five young, and family groups remain together for the first year, separating the

following spring, as the young become independent.

- ❖ Raccoons do not hibernate but they do “hole up” and become inactive during severe winter weather. This period of inactivity may extend for weeks at a time.

Health Concerns

- ❖ Raccoons may carry rabies and caution should be taken to avoid overly aggressive raccoons, or any wild animal, which approaches people without hesitation. Raccoons showing abnormal behavior such as partial paralysis, circling, staggering as if drunk or disoriented, self-mutilating, screeching or exhibiting unprovoked aggression should be reported to Animal Control.
- ❖ Raccoons may also carry a type of roundworm which is normal for them, but which can be very dangerous to humans. Raccoons should not be handled except by wildlife professionals.

Finally

- ❖ Raccoons fulfill an ecological niche as a predator, thereby helping to regulate rodent and other pest populations. For this reason they should not be needlessly killed or removed.