



# RACCOONS

Due to the distinctive black mask of fur around their eyes, raccoons are fairly easy to recognize and identify. They are a medium size mammal, (similar in size to a house cat) that is black and grey in color with a ringed tail. They are nocturnal animals that rely heavily on us for food and even shelter. They eat a wide range of food including meats, fish, pet food, seeds, insects, fruits, vegetables, and whatever else they can find in your trash.

The city of Camden is greatly aware of the headaches these animals are causing our residents . With your cooperation we can get their presence under control.

## Why Are They In My House?

Raccoons are often first attracted to homes because of easy food sources that they find like dog or cat food, and unsecured trash cans. They will then make their way into your home during the winter months in order to have a warm place to live and nest in that is close proximity to their food source. Come spring time if your raccoon problem has not been eliminated your home, or more likely your attic, can become filled with baby raccoons.

**Do not feed raccoons.**

**Raccoons can become a nuisance if people unknowingly supply food or shelter. Raccoons are attracted by food available in gardens, pet feeders, garbage, compost, and certain plants.**



## Prevent Raccoons from Entering Your

- Always feed pets indoors to avoid attracting raccoons and other pests.
- Keep your garbage and recycling areas clean, and make sure these containers are tightly sealed.
- Buy a raccoon-resistant trash container, or place a weight on the lid of your garbage bin.
- Seal all openings to your home, garage and outdoor sheds.
- Replace torn screens and fix broken windows. Trim tree branches that raccoons could use to climb onto your roof. Fence in areas underneath decks.



## Are Raccoons Dangerous?

Yes, raccoons are considered to be dangerous animals. Raccoons may look cute and cuddly but they can become aggressive if they feel cornered or threatened (especially mama), and will not hesitate to bite or scratch. Along with being aggressive, raccoons are carriers of rabies, making a scratch or bite from this animal even more dangerous. Raccoons are also destructive to properties; they can damage homes and other buildings both inside and out.

Another growing concern is a roundworm ([\*Baylisascaris\*](#)) found in raccoon feces that can infect humans and pets. Prevention is the key here. Keep raccoons out of attics and crawl spaces, and supervise young children and pets outdoors to make sure they don't come into contact with [raccoon feces](#).

[Leptospirosis](#) is caused by a bacteria that can infect raccoons, skunks, opossums, Norway rats, mice, and white-tailed deer. Humans may be exposed if they come into contact with infected urine or contaminated soil and water. Avoid touching wild animals.



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City of Camden will respond to a Raccoon/ wildlife complaints when:

## Scents Raccoons Hate...

Hot pepper, such as cayenne pepper, is one of the most potent scents that you can use to drive them away because it irritates their sense of smell. Sprinkle cayenne pepper around your property as raccoons find it irritating. (Use cayenne pepper with caution; it can be very irritating to pets.) If you use regularly, it may teach these critters that your property is off-limits for them.

A widely used essential oil, peppermint oil is profound across many industries and works well to keep raccoons at bay

Epsom salt is an excellent deterrent for raccoons and is also an effective fertilizer for your garden. All you have to do is scatter them around your garden, and it should work as a deterrent that can help keep raccoons out.

If you have garbage cans or food bins outside your house, you can also use Epsom salt to discourage them from feeding there, forcing these critters to move to another location where food is more accessible. However, the scent that it produces will diminish over time.

If you suspect that you're dealing with a female raccoon inside your house, another option that you can use is an eviction fluid. In research produced by the [University Of Nebraska-Lincoln](http://www.unl.edu) about the efficacy of eviction fluids, it was found that replicating the scent of another a male raccoon could be a viable option to force a nursing raccoon and her young to leave their habitat.

1. If the animal is in a common area of the home. For example: the animal is in an area of the home such as the living room or bedroom. They will not respond if the animal is in the walls, attic, or crawl space of the home.
2. If the animal appears to be injured or sick. Animal Control will attempt to capture a visually verified sick/injured raccoon whether it is inside or outside of a dwelling.



City of Camden does not respond to a Raccoon/ wildlife complaints when:

1. A raccoon is located in the walls, attic, or roof areas of a dwelling (or any other areas that are not common areas). In these circumstances, you can either purchase a humane animal trap from a hardware or pest control retailer (such as Lowe's or Home Depot), or contact a Licensed Wildlife Control (removal) agency.
2. Healthy wildlife is found in yards, streets, parks, etc. These animals should be left alone and trapping of healthy wildlife is prohibited under state law with the exception of certain, special circumstances. If they are brought to the shelter, per law many CANNOT be relocated-they will be euthanized (killed). Use the resources provided above to deter these animals from frequenting your neighborhood.



The City of Camden has contracted Animal Control Services to:

**Independent Animal Care Services LLC**

856-718-0305

P.O. Box 312

West Berlin NJ 08091

For more information on how to deal with

Raccoons... check out these links

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/raccoons-and-public-health>

<https://worldbirds.com/how-to-get-rid-of-raccoons/>

<https://pestpointers.com/scents-that-raccoons-hate-and-how-to-use-them/?nowprocket=1>

