



HWCC Humboldt Wildlife Care Center

Living with Raccoon/Skunk/Opossum/Fox

These nocturnal mammals are attracted to areas by food or shelter. While these native animals will always be around and may pass through your property, there are things you can do to keep them from staying. Keep pet food, garbage, and compost secure. Make sure livestock, such as chickens, are securely penned up at night, maybe even during the day. Board up access under the house, and keep garages and sheds closed. Once the animals have nothing to gain by coming to your property, they will move on.

If wildlife are living under your home, or in your attic, etc. make sure that they are not trapped inside when you close up entry/exit points. For nocturnal species, wait until after dark, as it is more likely they will be active and not resting inside. Sprinkle flour outside the entry/exit points before dark and later check them for exiting tracks to help verify the animal has left. Bright lights, repellants (ammonia soaked rags or mothballs) and loud talk radio stations may be used to encourage problem animals to leave.

Very important-During late spring, summer and early fall many wildlife have young. This is the time when you may first notice you have a wildlife problem because of the increase in activity. During these times, make sure that there are not babies inside of the area you are closing up. Listen for cries, whining, or scratching. An adult that is foraging/hunting very frequently or during the day, and returning to a den site often can indicate that young are present. If there are babies the best thing you can do for them is to leave them alone and wait until they are old enough to move out on their own. In a few weeks you will then be able to close any entry/exit points. If this is not possible, call a wildlife rehabilitator for advice. Try to be patient and think of what is the best for the animals.