



# Wildlife

## Fact Sheet: Raccoons

Raccoons are intelligent and highly adaptable mammals that are generally nocturnal. They may be active during the day, or whenever it makes sense for them. Suburban and urban landscapes fit them perfectly.

**\*FUN FACT:** Raccoons provide free pest control services by eating small snakes, rats, mice, & grubs.

- **Raccoons that are out in the daytime:** They can be active during the day when people leave pet food out or when the raccoons have young to feed.



**\*If a raccoon is ACTING STRANGELY, (such as: circling, disoriented, falling down, or showing unprovoked aggression) CONTACT THE PATERSON ANIMAL CONTROL\***

- **Raccoons eating garbage:** If your garbage cans are open, raccoons think they have an open invitation to eat. The cans need to be secured better to avoid them taking it.

**SELF-HELP OPTION:** You can secure garbage receptacles by keeping the lids on and using bungee cords and put the trash out on the morning of pick up.

- **Raccoons in your garage:** Raccoons may wander into your garage, usually around spring or summer, they look for shelter for their young if the door is open for a long period of time.

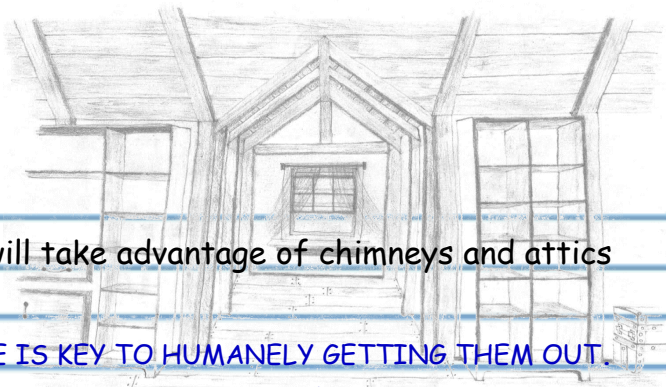
**SELF-HELP OPTIONS:** (1) Leave the garage door open before dusk and sprinkle some flour underneath it. Watch for existing footprints, and then close the door.

(2) Let them stay until they leave on their own. PLEASE DO NOT SEPARATE THE MOTHER FROM HER BABIES (3) Placing ammonia doused rags and a blaring radio in the garage near the den site; typically moms will move with their young in response to harassment.

- **Raccoons Eating Fish Out of a Pond:** Raccoons will see fish as a good meal if they can get the chance.

**SELF-HELP OPTION:** The best solution is to use chicken wire to cover the pond, and hold it down with 2x4 pieces of wood.





- **Raccoons in Attic or Chimney:** Mothers will take advantage of chimneys and attics for raising their young.

**SELF-HELP OPTION:** REMEMBER PATIENCE IS KEY TO HUMANELY GETTING THEM OUT.

Keep the damper closed and wait a few weeks for the raccoons to move out on their own.

As soon as the raccoons are old enough, the mother will usually move to a more accessible den.

**\*For a Chimney:** Keep the damper closed, put on a blaring radio and patiently wait until they move; put vinegar in a bowl or dampen on towels to help repel them to get out.

**\*For an attic:** Leave all the lights on and put a blaring radio on, douse old fabric rags or tennis balls with vinegar and leave them near the spot the raccoons are just before dusk.

- **Raccoons under deck:** In the spring and summer months, raccoons will move to different den sites. It is possible they will leave on their own, but if they stick around for a long time and tolerance is not possible, harassment can speed up the process.

**SELF-HELP OPTION:** Once all the raccoons leave, seal off their entry hole with galvanized mesh. It is EXTREMELY CRITICAL to make sure that no animals are entrapped or babies are left behind to starve before sealing it off. Make a one-way door until they are gone.

- **Baby Raccoons:** If a baby raccoon is following people, it is most likely a hungry orphan who will follow anything that moves. It can also be a sick baby. If the babies are around a deceased mother, it is important that they do not starve.

**SELF-HELP OPTION:** Contact a wildlife rehabilitator; In the mean time, to prevent the babies from wandering off, put an upside-down laundry basket over them, until the rehabilitators come. \* (Fees may apply) \*



**\*If you trap a raccoon, the only thing an Animal Control Officer can do is release it back on your property depending on the situation. Make sure a wood board is placed underneath the trap. RESIDENTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR AN ANIMAL THAT IS CONTAINED IN A TRAP. An outside wildlife service can help remove the raccoon from the area humanely (A fee may be involved). \***

Any other questions?

Visit [www.humanesociety.org/raccoons](http://www.humanesociety.org/raccoons) for more information.

Or call the Paterson Animal Control at 973-881-3640



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