

Remember: Raccoons are not pets!!

Many people want to keep baby raccoons for a pet. But, an angry raccoon is a dangerous animal, and can bite and scratch people.

Raccoons can carry and transmit rabies to humans, and it is against state health law MCA 50-23-102 to keep live raccoons.

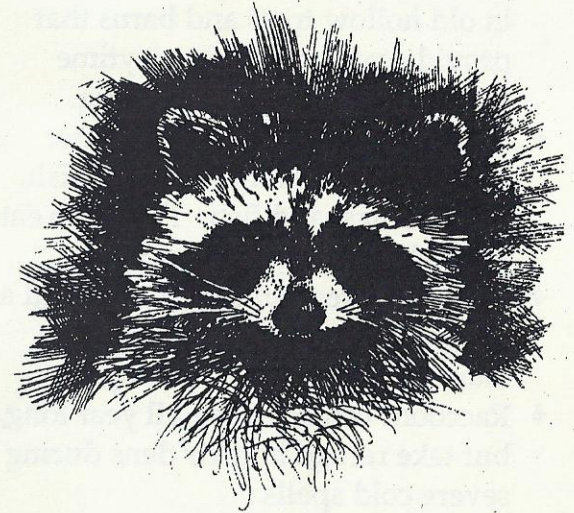
Please do your part--people and raccoons can live together!



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**
3201 Spurgin Rd.
Missoula, MT 59804-3099

LIVING WITH RACCOONS

*People and Raccoons Can
Live together!*

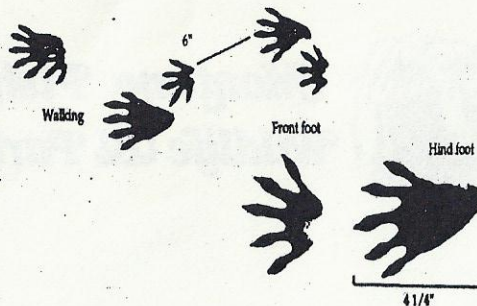


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Raccoons have adapted to living in urban areas and have quickly learned to associate humans with food. By taking care of property and attractants, the damage caused by raccoons can be successfully avoided!

Some facts about raccoons:

- ◆ In undisturbed areas, raccoons live in old hollow trees and barns that provide safe havens for daytime sleeping and for raising young.
- ◆ Raccoons prefer areas near water where they can forage for crayfish, clams, frogs, and fish. They also eat fruits, berries, insects, and eggs.
- ◆ Raccoons breed in late winter, and a litter is born about two months later, consisting of 1-8 young.
- ◆ Raccoons can be active all year long, but take refuge in their dens during severe cold spells.
- ◆ Raccoons are usually more active during the night.



Garbage Cans

Raiding garbage cans is the most common problem caused by raccoons. Put garbage cans out only ON THE DAY OF PICKUP. Keep garbage inside a raccoon-proof garage or shed. If this is not possible, cans should be stored in a rack that makes tipping them over difficult, and lids secured with bungee cord or rope. Electric fencing is also an option.

Raiding Feeders and Gardens

Since raccoons are excellent climbers, it is very difficult to keep them out of gardens and most bird feeders, and only electric fences will reliably exclude them.

Harvesting ripe fruit and picking up fallen fruit will help reduce attracting raccoons.

Pet Food

Do not leave pet food outdoors. Keeping pet food indoors will greatly reduce the attraction of raccoons.

Animals

Raccoons have been known to kill cats and chickens (and consume chicken eggs). Keeping cats indoors will reduce the danger of an encounter and possibly the death of a cat.

Chicken coups can be protected by using electric fence. There is also a spray called Ropel available at Neff's pet store and at various garden suppliers. It may be used to keep raccoons away from your property.

Trapping

Raccoons can use space under buildings, sheds, porches, etc. Eliminate access to these sites by filling in holes and covering with a screen of hardware cloth. If it becomes necessary to remove raccoons, live traps are available for homeowners' use from Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Captured raccoons can be released by the homeowner outside of urban areas on public lands.

Chimneys and Roofs

Raccoons have learned that chimneys are not used by humans in the summer and are good places to nest and raise their young. Fortunately, this is easy to prevent by securing a wire screen over the top of a chimney.

Raccoons are talented animals and are able to climb up drainage pipes and get into roofs. Make sure all vents going into the roof are sealed and there are no open holes and crevices available for the raccoon to enter. Electric fencing is also an option.

Porches

Raccoons will often use flower boxes as their personal bathrooms. Raccoons will not hesitate to climb onto your porch and put the flower boxes to use. Placing flower boxes in inaccessible spots is one way to deter this. You can also put barriers up around the porch to deny access to raccoons. Again, electric fencing is an option here.