



TRAPPING GUIDE

SKUNKS

Skunks are black and white striped omnivores that are best known for the pungent smelling spray they use to defend against predators. They are a primary carrier of rabies so it's safest to keep them out of close proximity.

Know your target:

Skunks are nocturnal creatures that mostly keep to themselves. They live in tree hollows, hollow logs, brush piles, under porches or structures, or in burrows.

Choose your trap:

A 25-35" trap that allows the animal to enter fully. Traps can have a single door or a double door.

Choose your bait:

Skunks will eat birds, moles, snakes, frogs, rodents, insects, beetles, grasshoppers, lizards, grubs, berries, fruits, nuts and chicken eggs.

- ☐ Smelly canned cat food or canned fish
- ☐ Marshmallows
- ☐ Peanut butter bread
- ☐ Eggs and crispy bacon

Setting the trap:

Traps need to be weighted or staked to the ground.

- ☐ Place the trap where you have seen skunk damage or where you suspect they may live. Consider some of these options:
 - Under porches or sheds
 - Wood piles or tree hollows

- ☐ Place the trap 5 to 10 feet from the den entrance on a level surface.
- ☐ Set traps at dusk. Close it in the morning if nothing has been caught.

Releasing your catch:

It is unethical to leave an animal in a trap for an extended period without food or water. Check traps often and release the animal as soon as possible.

- ☐ Carry a blanket in front of you from your shoulders to your feet when approaching the trap.
- ☐ Wear thick leather gloves to prevent bites from an animal that could transmit disease.
- ☐ Relocate the animal several miles from the location where they were caught. Be sure to check local rules and guidelines from your state game commission before releasing the animal.
- ☐ Approach the trap slowly, use a gentle voice, and place a towel or blanket over the cage.
- ☐ It is best to move the animal at night to limit the likelihood of them returning.

Prevent their return:

- ☐ Eliminate food and water sources.
- ☐ Remove trash and material that can be used as a den.
- ☐ Secure the lid on any garbage receptacles.
- ☐ Cover potential building access points.