



## **SPRINGDALE HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

### **LIMITING THE PRESENCE OF SKUNKS IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES**

- Limit the availability of food sources for skunks to prevent potential attraction to the residential community. Skunks consume insects, grubs, earthworms, small rodents, snakes, lizards, frogs, mushrooms, berries and fruit, pet food, and garbage.
- Limit the availability of prospective skunk's dens. Skunks will den in brush piles, hollow logs, and culverts. In urban settings, they den under decks, porches, or beneath buildings.
- Use odorous products to repel skunks. Skunks have an excellent sense of smell and good hearing, but they have very poor vision. Commercial skunk repellents typically contain the urine of natural predators. These products have proven to be highly effective and can be obtained at hardware stores and landscaping centers.
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- Skunks are not aggressive and, given the opportunity, prefer to flee rather than fight. They usually only defend themselves when suddenly frightened, cornered, or harmed. If a skunk shows aggressive behavior, this may be a sign of rabies.
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- Skunks are one of the most common carriers of rabies, a viral disease transmitted by the bite of an infected animal. Skunks can also be carriers of leptospirosis, listeriosis, canine distemper, canine hepatitis, Q-fever, and tularemia.

