

Raccoons

Raccoons are common to most of North America. They are easily recognizable by their face mask and bushy tail with rings. Raccoons are intelligent, have good manual dexterity and they have adapted well to living among humans.



Feeding: Raccoons eat plants, grains, and other animals such as mice and rabbits. They will often rummage through your garbage cans and enjoy the delicacies of your bird feeders. Much damage is caused to gardens, corn fields, and orchards. Raccoons build up layers of body fat which is used to supply energy during the winter months.

Habitat: Raccoons live in wooded areas. They are often found near streams and wetlands. However, because the raccoon is very adaptable they can live in any habitat where there is food available, including suburban areas. Raccoons are primarily nocturnal but may be seen at dusk and dawn. They use multiple dens in trees, logs, burrows, deserted buildings and will often find your chimney to be a suitable den. Though the raccoon dens in the winter months they are not typical hibernators and will leave the den during warm winter days.

Raccoons breed in January, February or March. The gestation period is about 63 days and then 3 - 7 cubs are born blind. The young will open their eyes in about 3 weeks but will remain with their mother throughout the summer. They will often den together with their mother during the following winter.

Control and Prevention: Raccoons serve a purpose as a predator helping to control rodent and other pest populations. If they are not causing a nuisance it is best to leave them to their business. Keep trash cans clean and covered so as not to attract the animals and prevent access to potential den sites in and around your building. Most problems are created by a single animal so control is not as difficult as other species. However, as with the control of most wildlife it is best to call us. We will use control methods that are appropriate to the situation and safe. One of the most common calls we receive is for raccoons in chimneys. We recommend you have a chimney cap installed as a prevention method. Chimney cap installation is a service we provide to our customers.