

They Are Beneficial Too

Raccoons are beneficial and are an important part of our ecosystem. Raccoons help keep the populations of other pests in balance, such as wasps and rodent populations by feeding on them. They also help with plant reproduction by distributing seeds of the fruits, berries, vegetables, and nuts that they eat. However, you do not want to leave a raccoon problem unattended.

How Can We Help?

Trained technicians are available to conduct a home inspection at no cost and provide advice to homeowners on appropriate exclusion procedures, locate possible entry points, and provide guidance on repair. To schedule an inspection, please call our office at (408) 918-4770, or submit a service request online.

Please Note

We do not respond to animals trapped by home/property owners. California Fish and Wildlife codes make it the responsibility of the home/property owner, or their agent to check traps and remove animals. If you are in doubt about doing this yourself, you may contact the California Fish and Wildlife or a wildlife trapper.

If you should decide to trap animals yourself, please call the California Fish and Wildlife for the current information regarding trapping. You may also contact your local animal shelter to receive information on their current policy regarding receipt of trapped wildlife.

We do not respond to situations regarding domestic animals or dead animal pick-up requests.



Raccoons are known to carry ectoparasites like fleas, mites, and ticks. We provide free insect identification and can help identify specimens for you. Email us a good quality photo, drop off a live specimen, or send it through mail. Contact us for more information.

Raccoons

Resources

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bay Delta Region - (707) 428-2002
wildlife.ca.gov

County of Santa Clara Animal Care & Control
Field Services - (408) 201-0660
Animal Shelter - (408) 686-3900
animals.santaclaracounty.gov

Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley
(408) 929-9453

County of Santa Clara Vector Control District

1580 Berger Drive
San Jose, CA 95112
M-F 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Office: (408) 918-4770
Fax: (408) 298-6356

vectorinfo@cep.sccgov.org
vector.santaclaracounty.gov



@sccvcd





About Raccoons

- Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) have an easily recognizable black-masked face, a bushy tail with light and dark rings around it, and a salt and pepper appearance on their fur.
- They are between 2 to 3 feet long and weigh between 7 to 30 pounds.
- Their hind feet are long and narrow, resembling that of a human foot, and the front paws resemble long and slender human hands.
- Raccoons are mainly nocturnal, however they will come out in the daytime if pet food is available.
- They are active year-round but may take cover in dens during severe winter conditions.
- Raccoons breed between February and March and their young are born in late spring.
- They can make a wide range of vocal sounds from chirps, growls, and purring.
- They are well adapted to urban areas and live in greater numbers in urban environments than they do in the wild. They are very intelligent and have become highly adaptable to human presence.

Diseases

- Raccoons are known to carry a variety of diseases and parasites that can spread to humans and pets, such as:
 - Raccoon roundworm - an infection that spreads through accidental ingestion/inhalation of roundworm eggs from infected raccoon feces.
 - Rabies and canine distemper - rabies can infect any mammal and is transmitted through the bite of an infected animal. Keep pets vaccinated and keep your distance from wildlife.
- Raccoons can also be infested with ectoparasites like mites, fleas, and ticks.

Raccoon Habitat and Food

- In urban environments raccoons will den in backyards, attics, under decks, houses, and porches. In their natural habitat, they prefer to den in wooded areas that are near water.
- A raccoon's diet is very diverse. It includes fruits, eggs, poultry, nuts, vegetables, fish, acorns, mollusks, insects, pet food, and garbage.

Detection and Management

- Evidence of raccoon presence can include tracks, droppings, noises on the roof, in the chimney, or in the attic.
- Raccoons can cause severe damage to buildings by tearing vent screens or shingles, and can damage heating ducts, sheet rock, insulation, and wiring.
- Damage to lawns is quite common with raccoons. They pull back large portions of the lawn to feed on grubs and other insects.
- The best way to deter raccoons from being attracted to your home is to remove any potential food, water, and shelter.
- Keep garbage cans tightly closed, pick up fallen fruit, and harvest gardens often. Raccoons causing lawn damage may be encouraged to leave by controlling grubs, watering your lawn in the morning, and avoiding saturation.
- Close off all potential entrances under the house, deck, porches, etc. with 1/4 inch mesh hardware cloth. For more detailed guidance, a home inspection, and other recommendations please submit a service request through our website at vector.santaclaracounty.gov.