

# Skunks 101!

## Skunk Facts That Don't Stink

- Skunks are nocturnal, primarily active at night
- Their diet mostly consists of insects and rodents (mice).
- Will eat farm eggs and dog food if available
- Will raid bee hives
- While they do not fully hibernate, they become inactive during the winter months
- 4 to 7 skunks born per litter
- Usually the young will venture 5-10km but can in some cases travel 50km
- Can live up to 7 years in the wild, but most only live a year
- Not protected in Alberta
- Have a great nose but bad eyesight!



## How to prevent skunks from living on your property

- Block off areas where skunks may like to make a home, such as under decks, sheds, or houses.
- Clear brush piles and old vehicles, as skunks like to live there
- Remove easily available food sources
- Put mothballs under buildings (Skunks don't like the smell...)

## Tips when dealing with skunks

- If a skunk finds its way into a home or other building, open a door and allow the skunk to leave on their own time. Do not agitate the skunk, or you risk them spraying.
- It is illegal for anyone to use poisons to kill nuisance skunks
- Skunks den during winter months so that is the best time to safely remove them and any shelter they have made on your property.

Visit the Government of Alberta's Agriculture and Forestry Website to learn more about [skunks](#).