

# Things You Should Know About Raccoons



Raccoons, sometimes referred to as “masked bandits”, are often admired for their intelligence and their ingenuity. But these traits also make them quite destructive to homes and businesses. Their average weight is 12 to 20 lbs. (5.5 to 9 kg.) and they should be dealt with very carefully.



## Property Damage

Raccoons most often like to make dens in chimneys, roofs and attics, especially over bedrooms where it tends to be quieter. They are nocturnal (i.e. active at night), making them quite a nuisance when homeowners are trying to sleep.

**FACT: Raccoons have very manipulative paws, which means they can open jars, garbage cans and even door latches. They are also quite strong and will rip up shingles, soffit, flashings and aluminum.**

Mother raccoons will do just about anything to get to their young if separated and will also try very hard to get back into a den site. The babies (kits) can also be quite curious and destructive once they are mobile.

**FACT: The mother instinct in raccoons is very strong and they will cause major damage if separated from their young.**

## Health Risks

The first case of raccoon rabies was found in Eastern Ontario in 1999 and it has since spread to other parts of Ontario and Quebec.

**FACT: Raccoons infected with rabies often cannot be distinguished from healthy ones. Rabies is transmitted through saliva from the infected raccoon to humans and pets, often through a bite.**

Raccoon feces are commonly infected with a roundworm known as Baylisascaris. If the eggs are ingested by humans, they can cause nausea, organ malfunction, blindness, loss of muscle control and even death. Extreme caution is advised to avoid any contact.

**FACT: The roundworm eggs are extremely resilient and can be easily transmitted through water runoff, soil and building materials to surrounding areas.**

## How to Find Them

Raccoons emit a large number of vocalizations and prefer to build dens in warm, dry locations. They are very active animals and will scurry around attics, chimneys and roofs, usually at night. Feces and fur are often found at the entry point and there can be a strong odour detected.

**FACT: Raccoons are able to gain entry through just about any common building material (e.g. wood, soffit, aluminum, shingles and flashings). On average, there are 10-25 raccoons per square kilometre in urban areas.**

## How to Remove Them

Simply patching the entry hole does not work. They will rip it open to regain entry or find their young.

**FACT: The most effective method is to remove all the raccoons and completely seal the entire building from further entry.**

Killing or capturing the adult likely won't solve the problem, since the babies may still be living in the attic, chimney, walls or roof.

**FACT: Raccoons usually produce 5-6 babies per year from early spring to late summer. The young become very vocal upon birth and are mobile around six weeks of age. Raccoons usually have 5-6 den sites in residential areas.**



**Toll Free 1-877-222-9453**  
[www.humanewildlifecontrol.com](http://www.humanewildlifecontrol.com)



# Services Provided by Humane Wildlife Control

## *Location & Assessment*

Our trained technicians will locate the raccoon entry points and describe or show them to you.

We will then locate the raccoon den, determine the stage in the breeding cycle, and assess the best method to get them out.

## *Effective Removal*

Our technicians will gain access to the den and use various hands-on techniques to remove the raccoons (mother and babies).

If babies are present, we may install a special heated baby box near the previous entry point. This will allow the mother to relocate her babies safely.

## *Guaranteed Exclusion*

Our wildlife technicians will seal all the potential openings in your building with heavy gauge wire screening.

We will deodorize the area to deter other raccoons from entering.

***All materials used to exclude raccoons  
are of the highest quality and  
are guaranteed for at least three years.***

## *Why the Humane Approach is Better*

Our wildlife technicians are specially trained to remove raccoons and prevent undue stress or injury to the animals. This is also a practical and economical approach. The inhumane killing, trapping or relocation of raccoons is illegal. Removing raccoon mothers leaves the babies to die in your building. The removal of carcasses is time consuming, costly and poses a health risk. Our focus on education and prevention makes us a leader in the wildlife control industry.



**Raccoon den site**



**Mother entering  
baby box**



**Roof damage from  
mother raccoon**



**Baby raccoons (kits)**



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