

Raccoons

Raccoons are found in all types of habitats. They generally prefer to stay close to water sources such as ponds or lakes. Over the past decade, raccoons have become more comfortable living near human communities, and do not fear people like most wildlife do. In fact, they can be very bold.

A raccoon usually has one litter per year, and it's mating season is from March to May. Occasionally, the season can be prolonged through July. The gestation period is typically 63 days. Litters average from two to seven babies.

Raccoons being nocturnal animals, ravage properties at night, looking for insects, fruits, vegetables, acorns, seeds, fish, and small mammals in the spring. During the other seasons they feed on acorns, seeds, fruits, vegetables, insects, and other invertebrates.

Live humane trapping is not an alternative to ridding your home, property, or yard of raccoons. Because they are around in such large numbers, it won't be long before another one is attracted to your home. Raccoons are protected by wildlife laws.

In areas serviced by the Mission Viejo Animal Services Center, we will respond to and remove any raccoon that is injured, sick or deceased. Or, involved in a bite with a human or domestic animal.



Raccoon Proof Your Home!

- **Fasten garbage can lids tightly.** To prevent toppled trash cans, place your garbage can in some type of anchored rack, or tie it to the fence.
- **Install metal guards around trees** five or six feet above the ground, this will deprive raccoons access to roof tops and other buildings
- **Sprinkle your lawn or planters** with cayenne pepper to discourage raccoons from grub hunting. Grubs are tiny worm like bugs that live in your lawn.
- **If you feed your pet's outdoors**, pick up their bowl after they are done eating, and lock pet doors at night to keep raccoons out of the kitchen or garage.

Mission Viejo Animal Services
Serving the cities of
Mission Viejo, Laguna Niguel, Aliso Viejo,
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