

# Skunks

The striped skunk, a member of the weasel family, is the most common skunk in Southern California. Skunks become a nuisance when their burrowing and feeding habits conflict with humans. They may burrow under porches or buildings by entering foundation openings. Garbage or refuse left outdoors may be disturbed by skunks. Skunks dig holes in lawns, golf courses, and gardens to search for insect grubs found in the soil. Digging normally appears as small as 3-4" cone-shaped holes or patches of upturned earth. There are steps you can take to discourage skunks from taking up residence on your property, but animal control experts agree that education and cooperation are the keys to solving most wildlife issues. Trapping of wildlife is illegal without a license, and eradication and/or relocation programs are costly and ineffective. Also be aware that rabies may be carried by skunks on occasion. Contact Mission Viejo Animal Services if one appears sick or injured.

## Mission Viejo Animal Services

Serving the cities of  
Mission Viejo, Laguna Niguel, Aliso Viejo, Laguna  
Hills and Rancho Santa Margarita

28095 Hillcrest ♦ Mission Viejo  
www.cmvas.org  
(949) 470-3045

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



### How to discourage skunk activity around your home:

- Keep pet food indoors and do not leave food of any kind outside
- Cover trash containers
- Don't leave plastic trash bags outside
- Change automatic sprinkler settings regularly
- Eliminate garbage, debris, lumber piles, etc.
- Check fencing and eliminate access points.
- Seal house and decking foundations.
- Clear dense vegetation and thin out the lower 18 inches of landscaping shrubbery.
- Scattering mothballs and ammonia-soaked cloths serve as repellants, but are only temporary.
- Life-like owl figures (scarecrows) are sometimes effective.

