



# 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 inch cone shaped holes or patches of upturned earth. There are steps you can take to discourage skunks from taking up residence on your property. 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.

## How to discourage skunk activity around your home:

- Keep pet food indoors and do not leave food of any kind outside
- Clear dense vegetation and thin out the lower 18 inches of landscaping shrubbery
- 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
- Cover trash containers
- Scattering mothballs and ammonia-soaked cloths serve as repellants, but are only temporary
- Life-like owl figures (scarecrows) are sometimes effective



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