

The Law: All wildlife, including raccoons, are protected by local, state, and federal regulations. It is unlawful to keep indigenous animals as pets or to harm them maliciously.



Living with Raccoons

Humane solutions to living in
coexistence with raccoons



NORTHERN COLORADO
WILDLIFE + CENTER

www.nocowildlife.org



NORTHERN COLORADO
WILDLIFE + CENTER

**Description:**

Raccoons are very intelligent and adaptable, generally nocturnal mammals. Raccoons have a grey body with a distinctive ringed tail and black mask.

Length: 16-28 inches

Weight: 10-25 lbs

Habitat:

Raccoons are very adaptable and can be found in both urban and heavily wooded and riparian areas. They prefer access to trees, vegetation, and water sources such as rivers or lakes.

Food:

Raccoons are omnivores and often eat grubs, crustaceans, fruit, rodents, snakes, vegetables, and most other food sources.

Problems Associated with Raccoons:

Raccoons have adapted to live in very close proximity with urban developments and often get into garbage containers, attics, dog doors, and bird feeders. They have also been known to den under decks and eat fish out of ponds.

Solutions:

HABITAT MODIFICATION- Control of raccoons requires awareness and sensitivity to potential problems before they get out of hand. Making a practice of feeding pets indoors, cleaning up around bird feeders, and removing water sources, such as dog dishes or bird baths, can all deter raccoons from visiting your property. These practices essentially remove any water and food sources for the raccoons which causes them to move on in search of food and water. Using lattice to block off decks and porches, locking trash containers, and chimney caps are also great ways to remove shelter and other food opportunities from your property as well.

REPELLENTS- Several mammal repellents can be found at local hardware stores. These repellents often come in both granules and liquid form and can be useful against keeping raccoons out of gardens, small yard ponds, and garages. Simply apply the repellent in a line around wherever you do not want the raccoons to be. These must be reapplied when it rains or snows and will keep all mammals away from the area including pets such as dogs and cats.

FRIGHTENING- Often raccoons can be evicted from attics, under porches, and yards by using motion detecting flood lights, radios, or automatic noise makers. If using a radio, turn it to a talk show station and turn the volume to normal talking levels. Place it in the attic or under the deck to create a loud, uncomfortable area and the raccoons will move on. Rags soaked in ammonia can also be placed in somewhat enclosed areas too to help evict the animals. Always make sure the animal has an escape route available before starting eviction.