

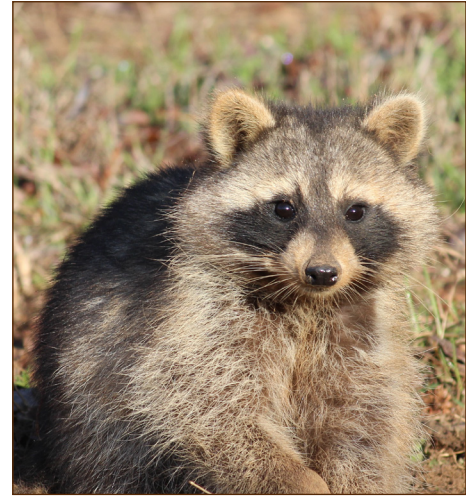


Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) are extremely adaptable to their environment and can be found throughout suburban and urban areas. A raccoon typically weighs between 8-20 pounds and is easily recognized by its grayish brown fur coat, distinctive black-ringed tail, and black “mask” around its eyes. Raccoons are considered nocturnal but will readily forage during the day. Their diet consists of a variety of plant and animal matter including berries, fruits, seeds, and insects.

CONFLICTS

Simply seeing a raccoon is not a cause for concern. Raccoons can easily adapt to human-dominated environments, so it is common for conflict to arise from sharing space with people. Use the following tools to help resolve or prevent conflicts with raccoons:

- Do not feed or approach raccoons.
- Secure food attractants such as garbage, pet food, and bird seed.
 - » Feed pets indoors when possible. If pets must be fed outside, remove food bowls when finished.
 - » Secure garbage in a garage or shed or secure lid with a strap or bungee cord.
- Haze, or scare, raccoons out of your yard. Raccoons are naturally wary of people. Consistent hazing helps keep this fear of people intact.
 - » Bang pots and pans, yell, or use an air horn to scare raccoons away.
 - » Use a water hose or motion activated sprinkler to move raccoons a safe distance away.



DISEASE CONCERNS

Raccoons can carry diseases transmittable to pets and humans. Securing food sources on your property and monitoring your pet minimizes your contact with raccoons and can reduce your and your pet’s risk.

Rabies

- Common symptoms: lack of coordination, lethargy, paralysis, and aggression.
- **Can be transmitted to humans and pets through bite or saliva of an infected animal.**

Canine Distemper

- Common symptoms: coughing, sneezing, diarrhea, and nasal discharge.
- **Can be transmitted to pets through contact with an infected animal.**

OPTIONS FOR REMOVING RACCOONS:

If non-lethal methods are not working and raccoons continue to cause conflicts, lethal removal is an option. Check local ordinances regarding the discharge of firearms.

- During regulated trapping or hunting seasons, you can remove raccoons yourself.
 - » Consult [Georgia DNR's Regulations](#) for season dates and trapping regulations.
- If it is not trapping or hunting season and raccoons are causing property damage, you can obtain a [nuisance wildlife control permit](#) from Georgia DNR.
- To hire someone to trap and remove raccoons from your property, a list of Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators can be found on [Georgia DNR's website](#).