NUISANCE ANIMALS: RACCOONS

Most of us think raccoons are cute, especially the baby raccoons. They are not so cute once they invade your garden, garbage or home.

FACTS

Health issues for humans & pets - don't handle raccoons, or let your pets near them because of the following:

- Carriers of rabies and feline distemper
- May have roundworm that can infect humans
- Hosts for leptospirosis and giardiasis
- Carrier of fleas

Raccoon Instincts

Raccoons are not vicious or aggressive. They are defensive.

They are most active at night, but may sun themselves or hunt for food in daytime.

Habitat

They prefer woodlands, but can also thrive on grasslands with water sources and shelter. Dens are made in tree cavities, chimneys, attics, storm sewers, crawl spaces and under buildings, etc.

Reproduction

One litter between April & May.

What Attracts Raccoons to a Residence?

- Pet Food
- Gardens
- Water
- Composts (Worms and Food Waste)
- Fruit
- Garbage
- Shelter
- BBQ Grills

i "Evergreen Animal Protective League", Evergreen Animal Protective League Website, Wildlife Information - Raccoons.

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TIPS

Stay away from raccoons; don't ever handle them, no matter how cute they may look.

Keep your pets away from raccoons, and always keep your pets' vaccinations current.

To Avoid Attracting Raccoons

- Feed pets inside or remove food after a meal
- Keep BBQ grills clean and stored in garage or shed
- Keep garbage in metal sealable containers
- Block any openings under buildings

What Deters Raccoons from a Residence?

- Rags soaked in ammonia
- Socks filled with mothballs
- Cayenne pepper
- Bright lights and loud radios
- Electric fencing
- Mammal repellant
- Thick border of talcum powder or lime
- In garden, plant cucumbers (they hate cucumbers)

For details on these tips and more ideas, check out this website at: www.eapl.com.

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