



Options in dealing with skunks

Staff in Evanston's Health and Human Services Department suggests to residents that a group of neighbors rent multiple traps through Animal Control, split the cost and place them in locations where skunks have been sighted. Residents can also hire a private service.



Other suggestions include:

Remove the denning sites under and around structures such as garages and homes.

A denning site is shown at left.

A method to exclude skunks is shown at right.



How to remove a resident skunk

1. Seal all possible entrances along the foundation, but leave the main burrow entrance open.
2. Sprinkle a thin layer of flour two feet in circumference on the ground in front of the opening.
3. After dark, examine the flour for tracks that indicate the skunk has left to feed. If tracks are not present, reexamine in about an hour.
4. After the den is empty, cover the remaining entrance immediately. Cover all openings with wire mesh, sheet metal or concrete. Bury fencing 1- 1/2 to two feet in areas where skunks could gain access by digging.
5. Reopen one of the entrances the next day for one hour after dark to allow any remaining skunks to exit before permanently sealing the entrance particularly in the months of May and June when baby skunks may still be in the den.
6. Use tight-fitting lids to keep skunks out of garbage cans.