

Raccoon

Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) have a ringed, bushy tail, yellowish brown fur and a black facemask.

Habitat:

Live statewide and can be found anywhere.

Diet:

Raccoons are omnivores, which mean they'll eat both plant food and small animals. They eat just about anything: fruits, nesting birds, eggs, rodents, insects, crayfish and dead animals. They feed near water and rinse their food.

Behavior:

Raccoons are nocturnal. Raccoons walk flat on their feet. *If you see a raccoon out during the daytime, call Animal Services at 303.438.6400 and report it, as the animal could be sick.*

Reproduction:

One litter of three or four a year.

Size and Life Span:

Two to three feet long and weigh eight to 22 pounds. Two to three years is the average lifespan but they can live over ten years.

raccoon track



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Possible Conflicts:

Raccoons may get into compost, trash cans, BBQ grills; may eat garden foods or fruit; and may nest in a chimney.

What to Do:

- If you have a raccoon foraging in your yard, you'll need to seal up all attractants to deter their visits. Take pet food inside, clean the BBQ, clean up any fallen fruit and securely close all trash cans and compost piles.
- If you think you have a raccoon nesting in your chimney, then turn on a radio at night and place a large bowl of ammonia under the flue, and keep a light on. (Keep the flue shut!) These three things should convince mom to move the babies. The babies will leave on their own after eight to 10 weeks.
- Seal up the top of your chimney with a chimney cap, available at most home and garden store.

For More Information:

Broomfield Wildlife Masters, 303-464-5554

Wildlife Observation:

Look for wildlife. Remember to watch from a distance and don't get too close.

Listen for wildlife. Even if you can't see wildlife, you may hear them.

Learn about wildlife. Talk to a wildlife master or naturalist, borrow a book about wildlife.

Love and Respect the Outdoors!

The more we know about wildlife, the less likely we are to harm or fear wildlife.



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City and County of Broomfield
Open Space and Trails
303.464.5803
www.broomfield.org/openspace