

# SKUNK NOTICE

RECENT ACTIVITY REPORTED IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

There have been reports of skunk activity in your neighborhood. Please read the following to keep skunks off your property and your pets from being sprayed.

Healthy skunks are non-aggressive and mild mannered. They are more scared of you than you are of them! Skunks are primarily active at dawn, dusk, and at night time. They have poor eyesight and will only spray if startled, when approached quickly, or cornered. If you see a skunk, keep your distance until they have moved on, and make sure your pets do so as well! Always be aware of your surroundings!

Skunks are natural inhabitants of our local ecosystem. They not only help keep down garden pest and insect numbers, but also hunt mice and rats.

If a skunk ends up in your yard, they are probably just looking for food, water, or shelter. The best way to keep skunks away is to remove the incentive for them to be there.

LA County Animal Care & Control's website has information on Living with Wild Animals, (<http://animalcare.lacounty.gov/living-with-wild-animals/>). However, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife does not allow the relocation of wild animals; therefore, Animal Control does not pick up wild animals unless they are sick or injured and require medical attention. Should you encounter a sick or injured wild animal, do not approach or handle the animal. Please contact Animal Control at (626) 962-3577.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Prevent skunks from building dens on your property. Cover all openings leading under your house, patio, or sheds with wire mesh. If opening is flush with the ground, bury mesh at least 6 inches to prevent skunks from digging under.
- Skunks have excellent senses of smell. Make sure all trash is bagged and in a fully closed trash can at all times.
- If you have fruit trees, don't let fallen fruit accumulate on the ground.
- Clean up fallen seeds from bird feeders frequently.
- Food placed outdoors for pets should be removed by nightfall.
- Food items or kitchen scraps should not be placed in compost bins. If you are intent on composting, use "hot" rather than "cold" composting methods.
- Keep your yard debris free. Wood piles, fence posts, junk cars, and other clutter may encourage skunks to use an area.