



Raccoons are usually seen foraging for food at night and in the early morning hours. They seek food in garbage cans, pet dishes that are left outside, vegetable gardens, and other man-made sources. When food is readily available, raccoon populations increase. Under these circumstances, problems occur.

Females normally give birth between February and April, though it is not uncommon to find new litters outside of these parameters. Prior to bearing young, raccoon mothers seek a safe den, which frequently is inside an attic, garage, storage shed or other location. Raccoons have one litter a year consisting of 3-5 babies.

Though juvenile raccoons look adorable, they should never be captured and kept as pets. They are wild animals, and once they reach maturity, usually by two years of age, they become difficult to manage and are prone to biting and scratching. It is unlawful to keep raccoons as pets for this and other safety reasons.

Raccoons can cause considerable damage to roofs, attics, lawns and gardens. Simple exclusionary measures can prevent such damage from occurring:

Eliminate all sources of food, water and shelter

Store trash in solid containers with tight fitting or locking lids. Never use plastic trash bags for outdoor storage

Do not feed pets outdoors.

Keep lawns and gardens free of insect pests. Snails, grub worms, and other soil dwelling bugs are a significant raccoon food source

Cut back tree branches that lead to your roof. Remove lattice work that can serve as a ladder. Seal up holes under or into your home