



# RACCOONS

## DID YOU KNOW?

Raccoons are very adaptable creatures that thrive in diverse habitats.

Raccoons are extremely bright creatures that have compensated for human encroachment into natural areas by moving back into our neighbourhoods where food and shelter is often readily available. As omnivores, raccoons will eat just about anything!



## DID YOU KNOW?

**A raccoon has front paws much like small human hands.**

These “hands” are very sensitive and driven by curiosity. Raccoons often locate their food entirely with their sense of touch.

They are skilled at opening doors, latches, and jars and are adept at getting into almost any garbage can, regardless of the devices designed to keep them out! Properly store and secure your garbage!

## HELP!

### Is there a raccoon in the chimney?

Raccoons like dark, warm places with small entrance holes. Although they do not hibernate, raccoons will curl up in a den (e.g., tree cavity, hollow log, attic, or chimney) throughout harsh winter weather. Raccoon babies are born in April or May in the winter den. For the first ten weeks, the mother will leave her young as she forages for food on her nightly journeys. If she is away too long, the kits may whimper or whine when they become hungry - often a first clue to their presence in or around the cottage.

## TRY THIS!

If a raccoon family has moved into your premises, it is best to wait out baby season. After ten weeks, the kits will join their mother on evening jaunts, and eventually the family will move on. After this time, you can close up any points of entry. Uncapped chimneys, opening into attics, rotting roofs, and loose shingles are all invitations for wildlife to move into buildings.

A disturbance, such as a radio playing or a light source, will cause the mother to take her babies elsewhere. Only when the mother and her kits have been seen outside, however, should a cottage/home owner encourage them to leave permanently and then repair the entrance that they are using. Separating a mother raccoon from her young will result in their slow and inhumane death. Furthermore, a mother separated from her young will do considerable damage trying to get them.