



Raccoons



Raccoons are excellent mothers. They will often retrieve their wandering/displaced offspring and establish alternate nest sites if one nest is destroyed. Give mother raccoons plenty of time to find and rescue their young. **In accordance with State law, Ohio Wildlife Center can only accept orphaned raccoons from Franklin and Delaware counties.**

If you are calling about raccoons from outside of these two counties, please contact the Ohio Department of Natural Resources or visit www.dnr.state.oh.us for a list of wildlife rehabilitators by county.

Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) can, and do, live almost anywhere with access to food, water and shelter. Considered one of the most adaptable mammals in Ohio, these opportunistic animals will eat everything from berries and acorns to frogs and your trash. Raccoons are nocturnal, sleeping during the day and being active at night.

Raccoons can breed after one year of age, and generally have one litter annually with an average of four babies. Raccoon babies will open their eyes around 19 days and be weaned by seven weeks. Even after being weaned, juvenile raccoons stay with their mother into fall, sometimes through their first winter.

Is this raccoon an orphan?

Raccoons are excellent mothers, and will retrieve offspring when they fall or wander from the nest. They also have alternate nest sites if the primary nest is destroyed. Give mother raccoons plenty of time to find and rescue their young.

Ohio Wildlife Center can accept orphaned raccoons from Franklin and Delaware counties ONLY after there has been an attempt made to reunite them with their mother for at least one night. Put towels or dry leaves in a box and cut a hole in the side for the mother to come in and get her babies out, and provide a heat source (hot water bottle or white rice in an old sock and heat in the microwave - both reheated every two to three hours). Place the box near the location where you found the babies. The raccoons must be left out overnight, as this is when the adults are most active and will be searching for their young.

Raccoons in your home or attic?



SCRAM! Wildlife Control, a department at Ohio Wildlife Center, offers a biologically-sound solution. Call 614-763-0696 for details.

SCRAM! will provide you with the only no-kill animal control service in Ohio. We use the biology of the animals in question to offer a **natural, humane and permanent** solution to deal with wildlife in and around your home or business. SCRAM! agents will work with you to safely evict, exclude and prevent wildlife from coming back into your home. Guaranteed!



The mother was already trapped or killed?

The State of Ohio considers raccoons to be nuisance animals. By law, Ohio Wildlife Center is not permitted to raise infant raccoons if you have purposely trapped and relocated or fatally injured an adult mother raccoon. In accordance with State law, you may bring the babies to Ohio Wildlife Center's hospital for euthanasia only. If you worked with a professional trapping company, you must contact the company to have them return and take responsibility for the offspring as well. If you relocated the parents, please make every attempt to reunite the babies before bringing them to our hospital.

A raccoon sitting in the yard all day?

Seeing an adult raccoon out during the day does not necessarily mean it is ill; it may have been displaced from its resting location or it could be malnourished and needs to spend more time searching for food. However, if the raccoon is showing signs of lethargy, disorientation, seizures, or approaching humans, there is a chance the animal may be showing signs of the Canine Distemper Virus. Ohio Wildlife Center receives many positively identified distempered raccoons annually, and unfortunately there is no treatment available for this disease.

I caught a raccoon in a live trap, where can I relocate it?

Ohio state law states that it is illegal to relocate any rabies vector species (skunk, raccoon, coyote, fox, bat). Additionally, it is illegal to "relocate" an animal by dumping it off in a Metro Park, State Park, or on any other public land without permission. All trapped animals must be released on the original premises within 24 hours of trapping. Relocated animals also have a very poor chance of survival.

I think this animal needs help...

If you believe the animal is sick, injured, or legitimately orphaned, a wildlife rehabilitation facility should be contacted. If the animal must be held overnight before transport to a rehabilitator, keep the animal warm, away from children and pets, and **do not give anything orally**. People often do not realize the amount of stress an animal endures when it is handled by a human. Consequently, many infant and juvenile animals are killed by kindness.

Hours of Operation

Our wildlife hospital is located at 2661 Billingsley Road, Columbus, 43235. We are open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Ohio Wildlife Center is not a government agency; we are a local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and we rely on individual donations. We would greatly appreciate a monetary donation to help with animal care.

Thank you for caring about Ohio's wildlife!