

## Keep Raccoons from Returning

After raccoons leave your property, take action to make sure they don't return.

- **Make sure that all raccoons have left your property** and that no dens with raccoon pups remain.
- **Find out where raccoons entered your home** by checking for torn window screens, openings in the walls, roof or underside of eaves or overhangs and holes in sheds or garages.
- **Permanently seal all entrances.** Raccoons will return if shelter and food are available.
- **Periodically check your home and property** to make sure there are no new holes or openings.
- **Use secure garbage containers.** Raccoons thrive on garbage and are particularly agile at getting container lids open.

For more information on raccoons, rabies and protecting your home from pests, visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9358.html>



*Keeping Them Away from Your Home and Property*

Raccoons are abundant on Long Island with densities exceeding 100 per square mile. They thrive wherever food and shelter are available. Raccoons living on your property or in your house can cause problems:

- Raccoons can have **rabies** and may bite you or your pets.
- Raccoons can **damage** your home and property.



## Protect Yourself and Your Pets from Rabies

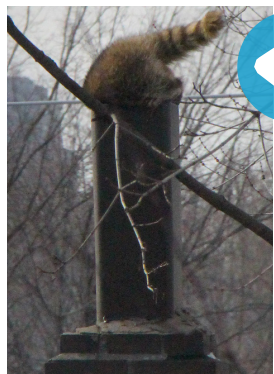
Raccoon rabies has become widespread in New York State. It is a deadly virus that attacks the brain and nervous system. Infected raccoons can give rabies to you and your pets through bites and scratches. If you suspect a raccoon is rabid, avoid or destroy the animal and contact local health officials.

A rabid raccoon may:

- Appear sick or injured
- Stumble or have trouble standing
- Convulse or shake uncontrollably
- Act unusually friendly or aggressive

If you are bitten or scratched by a raccoon, wash the wound with lots of soap and water. See your doctor as soon as possible or visit the emergency room.

If you own dogs or cats, make sure that their rabies vaccinations are up to date. All pets 4 months of age or older need a rabies shot and should be revaccinated every one to four years, depending on the vaccine used.



## Protect Your Home and Property from Damage

Raccoons are not picky eaters; they will devour your trash, bring along their friends and leave the mess for you to clean up. Raccoons will also live almost anywhere, including under rock piles, fireplace chimneys, hollow walls, attics, the underside of overhangs and beams or sewers. Over time, they can damage your property and become a nuisance. Animals that

damage property may, for example, dig up your yard, eat your landscape plants or vegetable garden, kill or threaten your livestock or pets, foul your lawn, eat the fish in your pond, damage your home, etc

## Prevent Raccoons from Entering Your Home

- **Always feed pets indoors** to avoid attracting raccoons and other pests
- **Keep your garbage and recycling areas clean.** Make sure these containers are tightly sealed
- **Buy a raccoon-resistant trash container**, or place a weight on the lid of your garbage bin. The Village Carter can recommend a sturdy container
- **Seal all openings** to your home, garage and outdoor sheds
- **Replace torn screens and fix broken windows**
- **Trim tree branches** that raccoons could use to climb onto your roof
- **Sprinkle cayenne pepper** around your property as raccoons find it irritating (Use cayenne pepper with caution; it can be very irritating to pets.)
- **Fence in areas** underneath decks

## Eliminate Raccoons from Your Home and Property

- **Raccoons are protected under New York State law.** No one may possess a raccoon without a license, and licenses are not issued for pet wildlife. Hunting or trapping raccoons requires a license.
- **The law permits you** to destroy, or "take" raccoons that damage property. "Take" or "taking" means to pursue, shoot, hunt, kill, capture, trap, snare or net the raccoon; or perform acts that disturb or worry the animal. Taking an animal is only suggested if other best practices do not help alleviate the problem. Property owners should try eliminating food and shelter before killing the animal.
- **It is illegal for you to catch, then release a raccoon** somewhere else. You cannot live trap an animal and release it in a park, on State land or anywhere other than on the property where it was captured. Relocating an animal can create problems for neighbors, can move diseases like rabies or Lyme, and can cause unnecessary stress to the animal.
- **If you want a raccoon removed** from your property, you can hire a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) licensed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Check the Resources section of the Village website ([www.upperbrookville.org](http://www.upperbrookville.org)) to find a raccoon trapper near you. After removal, the licensed professional is required to euthanize the animal.