

Striped Skunk

Scientific name: *Mephitis mephitis*



Facts:

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| Length | 20" - 30" (males are larger) |
| Weight | 4 - 10 lbs. |
| Lifestyle | Solitary, primarily nocturnal (active at night) |
| Lifespan | 7 - 10 years |
| Offspring | 4 - 7 |

Diet: Omnivore

Insects, small mammals, fish, crustaceans, fruits, nuts, leaves, grasses and carrion (dead animals).

Behavior:

Skunks rely on visual displays to ward off predators but may resort to spraying if not left alone. They produce a variety of sounds: low growls to birdlike chirps. Mammalian predators usually avoid skunks, however, birds of prey are unaffected by the smell. Great horned owls and eagles are the most common predators .

Did you know?

During winter, a skunk's weight may decrease up to 50% due to metabolism changes.

Habitat:

Mixed woodlands, brushy corners, and open fields with wooded ravines and rocky outcrops.

Range:

Southern Canada, the United States and northern Mexico

