Raccoon

AKA: Common Raccoon, North American Raccoon, Racoon, etc.

Scientific Classification: Animalia, Chordata, Mammalia, Carnivora, Procyonidae, Procyon, *P. lotor*.

Size & Markings: A Raccoon can grow to 28" long (not including tail) and can weigh up to 20 pounds. The grayish fur has a dense undercoat that keeps raccoons warm on cold days. The characteristic feature is the "bandit's mask"; the black banding around the eyes. This mask enhances the raccoons reputation for mischief and rascality.

Habitat: Raccoons have adapted to a wide variety of habitats. Though native to North America, raccoons have spread to Europe, Japan and parts of central Asia. In urban settings, raccoons can live in a variety of man-made structures. Depending on the environment, a raccoon's territory can range from 7 acres to 20 square miles.

Nesting/Dens: Raccoons build dens in protected voids such as hollow trees, abandoned burrows, storm drains, crawl spaces, chimneys and attics. A mating pair can produce a litter of 2 to 5 young (called 'kits' or 'cubs') every year. The kits are weaned after 16 weeks but usually spend the first winter with their mother.

Food: Raccoons are omnivorous, eating just about anything that will sustain them. On the menu are fruits, nuts, seeds, eggs, fish, grubs and other insects, rodents, suet, milk corn, and more. City raccoons can become dependent on humans for food. Their menu usually includes food raided from garbage cans, gardens, pet food bowls, bird seed & suet, and food left out intentionally for raccoons. The intentional feeding of raccoons and other feral animals is very controversial and is prohibited in some areas.

Impact on Human Health: Raccoons carry rabies which can be transmitted to humans through bites. The raccoon's saliva transmits the virus through the bite wound. Raccoons also carry mites, ticks and other parasites that can spread from den sites into occupied structures such as homes and businesses.

Impact on Architecture: When raccoons den in structures, they can damage wiring, insulation, screens, gutters, downspouts, windows and more. Raccoons are very intelligent and persistent - they target weak points of a structure to gain access. They often climb gutters, brickwork, vines and other objects to get through holes or gaps in soffits, attic vents, chimneys, facia boards and poorly fitting or broken windows.

Raccoon Control Methods:

Bird Spikes: *Premium Nixalite Stainless Steel Climbing Barrier Spikes*.

Access Barriers: *Welded Wire Mesh* and *Copper Blocker Access Control.*

Additional Products: *Vent & Chimney Guards, Live Capture Animal Traps, Scarecrow Motion Activated Water Jet, RoPel Animal Taste Repellent.*

NOTE: It is your responsibility to check local, state and federal regulations regarding the control of bird and/or animal species.

Simply purchasing the best control does not guarantee success. Best results come from a thorough knowledge of both the species and the product or method you employ. If you have any questions, please contact Nixalite of America Inc and speak with a wildlife control product specialist.

Raccoons do very well in urban areas primarily due to hunting restrictions, a general lack of predators, and an abundance of human food.

Raccoons are intelligent and persistent. To get into closed structures raccoons often climb gutters, brickwork, vines and trim to get to gaps in soffits, attic vents, chimneys, facia boards, etc.

For individuals, capture and relocation can be effective. Trapping can be as much art as science. Know your quarry and know your trap.

Note: factual content from Wikipedia, Audubon, US Center for Disease Control, US Federal Register Codebook, and others.

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