



Striped Skunks  
*Mephitis mephitis*



**Striped Skunks get a bad wrap!** But, at EHS, we like and respect these native animals. They are valuable members of the wildlife community. They are not aggressive and contrary to popular belief, do not like to spray their musk. You must startle or agitate a Skunk before it will release the well-known foul repellent, that even it finds disagreeable.

**Food:** Striped skunks are nocturnal and emerge around dusk to forage for food. They are omnivorous and feed on insects, grubs, earthworms, amphibians, bird eggs, berries and seed as well as spilled trash. They do not generally knock over garbage cans. Unfortunately, they sometimes damage lawns in search of their favorite food, beetle larva (grubs).

**Habitat:** In nature, skunks den under blown down trees, logs and rock. In your perfectly groomed yard and neighborhood they have discovered a perfect habitat, under your deck, porch or shed! Males are solitary and den alone. Females share their dens with their litters. Litters of 4-7 kits are born in early May each year and start foraging with their mother by early July. The young may spend the first winter with her. They are not true hibernators but rather go dormant for a few of the coldest months. Skunks may die during their winter siesta, creating an odor problem for the homeowner the following spring.

**Management:** We have a “Live and Let Live” approach to nesting skunks, prohibiting access to their den only during non-breeding seasons. We trench and screen all perimeters of the nesting area(s) and install a one-way door. This proven system lets them out and not back in. We will guarantee it for two years!