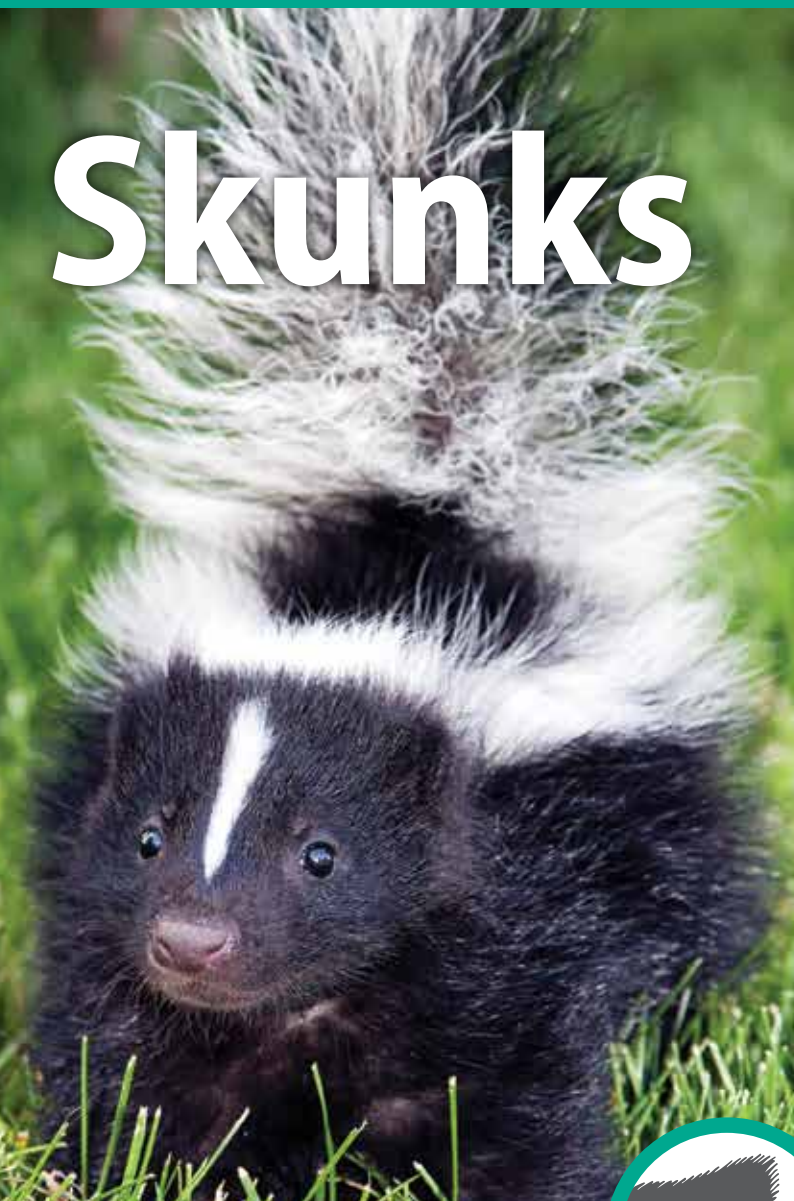




# Skunks



For more information on urban wildlife in Saskatoon visit [saskatoon.ca/wildlifemanagement](http://saskatoon.ca/wildlifemanagement) or contact City of Saskatoon Urban Biological Services at 306-975-3300.



# Skunk Characteristics

### Appearance

- thick black fur with white stripe down the back
- bushy tail, short legs and visible claws
- body length is 50-70 cm (20-28 in), weight is 1.1-6.8 kg (2.5-15 lbs), approximately the size of a cat
- paw prints are very similar to a cat's

### Behaviour & Habitat

- Are generally most active from dusk to dawn, however, can be seen during the day especially in the fall and winter.
- Often den under sheds, decks and porches.
- Release an oil that produces a pungent odor. Before spraying, they give warnings such as stamping their feet, vocalizing and raising their tail.
- Can carry and transmit rabies.

### Diet

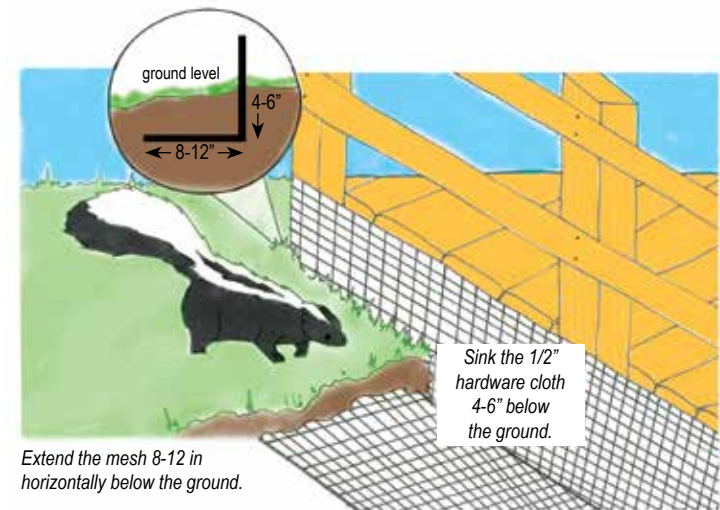
- Eat a variety of food including pet food, insects, eggs, small rodents, plants and bird seed.



# Skunk Prevention Tips

Skunks are well adapted to urban areas and are commonly found in Saskatoon. To prevent skunks from entering your property, remove sources of food and shelter and consider these tips:

- Ensure garbage, compost, birdseed and pet food are not accessible.
- Prevent access underneath sheds or other structures that can provide shelter by creating an L-shaped barrier (refer to picture below).
- Remove wood or other construction material that can create shelter.
- Fix open gates or broken fences to prevent easy access to the property.



### What to do if a skunk is found on your property

- If a skunk is found on your property, contact Urban Biological Services at 306-975-3300. A technician will inspect the area to determine the appropriate course of action.
- If a trap is issued, it is your responsibility to check the trap in the morning and evening each day.
- If you are unable to check the trap, it must be kept closed. Checking the trap is especially important on hot days.
- If a skunk has been trapped, keep pets away from the trap to avoid creating additional stress for the animal and do not feed the skunk.