

Skunks

The striped skunk is easily identified by the white stripe that runs from its head to its tail. Its stripes start with a triangle at the head and break into two stripes down its back. The stripes usually meet again and form one stripe at the base of their tail. Their tails are usually a mixture of white and black fur. The striped skunk is about the same size as a house cat. It has a triangular head and little ears. Its legs are short with webbed toes and claws which it uses for digging and looking for food.

Habitat

The striped skunk tends to live in open areas with a mix of habitats like woods and grasslands or meadows. It is usually never further than two miles from water. It looks for an abandoned burrow or finds a natural hollow under a tree or building.

Diet

The striped skunk is omnivorous, eating both meat and plants. Its diet includes insects, small mammals, fish, crustaceans, fruits, nuts, leaves, grasses and carrion (dead animals).

Rabies

Skunks are major carriers of the rabies virus, to which all warm blooded animals, including humans, are susceptible.

Spray

A skunk can spray as far as twelve feet! When a skunk is threatened, it may raise its tail, turn its back on a predator and spray a strong-smelling fluid. The fluid really stinks and it can also sting the eyes of the predator. **Remedy for skunk odour:** 1 litre hydrogen peroxide, 50 ml baking soda and 5 ml dishwashing liquid.