



Raccoons - Quick Reference Sheet¹

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Table 1.

Common Name:		raccoon
Other Names:		coon
Scientific Name:		<i>Procyon lotor</i>
Appearance:	Length:	about 2 to 3 feet, including a 10-inch tail
	Weight:	between 10 and 30 lbs., adult
	Color:	black mask on face; black rings around heavily furred tail
		body coat salt and pepper with black and yellowish hairs interspersed, light belly
Range:		common statewide, but some races in Florida Keys are rare
Habitat:		found in nearly every habitat type in Florida
		very adaptable to urban landscapes
		dens may be found in wide variety of locations, including hollow trees, culverts, crawl spaces in attics and under mobile homes
Diet:		feed on wide variety of plant and animal matter
		particularly attracted to ripe fruit and nuts, crayfish and fish, sweet corn, and eggs
		frequently raid garbage
		will attack domestic animals confined in pens, pools and cages
Reproduction:		usually 3-4 young per litter, although 7 young per litter recorded
		usually 1 litter per year born March through April

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2.

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Behavior:	most active at night
	natural shyness disappears where they are fed by people
Problems:	den in and under homes; damage screens
	raiding garbage cans; eating fruit, vegetable and nut crops
	attacking caged birds, small livestock, ornamental fish
	defecating in swimming pools and digging in yard
	carry diseases such as rabies and distemper
Solutions:	capture and removal using live traps baited with dry cat food
	exclusion using a single-wire electric fence located 8" above the ground
	enclose pools to prevent access
	secure garbage pail lids with a rubber strap
	relocation is discouraged because of the potential for disease transmission
	in non-urban areas raccoon can be shot at night throughout the year with the use of a dog and light, and a .22 caliber firearm (check local ordinances)
	if hesitant about handling, contact a local nuisance trapper
Legal Aspects:	may be destroyed when causing property damage
Fact Sheet Available:	yes