

ORDINANCE NO. 1521

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 90 ENTITLED "ANIMALS" OF TITLE IX ENTITLED "GENERAL REGULATIONS" OF THE 2015 ORDINANCE CODE OF THE CITY OF OWATONNA PROHIBITING THE FEEDING OF CERTAIN NON-DOMESTIC ANIMALS

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OWATONNA, MINNESOTA, DO ORDAIN:

Section 1. Chapter 90 entitled "Animals" of Title IX entitled "General Regulations" of the 2015 Ordinance Code of the City of Owatonna is hereby amended to add the following Sections:

FEEDING CERTAIN NON-DOMESTIC ANIMALS PROHIBITED

**§ 90.50 FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

(A) This Ordinance is enacted to establish standards for the regulation of certain non-domestic animals herein referred to as "Wild Animals" in the City of Owatonna to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the public. The principle objective of this Ordinance is:

(1) To prevent nuisance conditions associated with the feeding of wild animals, specifically disruption of their natural feeding habits, their concentration at artificial feeding centers making them more susceptible to disease transmission, the attraction of predators, and the accumulation of feces in and around the area of artificial feeding.

**§ 90.51 DEFINITIONS.**

(A) Wild Animal. For purposes of this Ordinance Wild Animal means and includes raccoons, deer, turkey, ducks, and geese.

**§ 90.52 FEEDING OF WILD ANIMALS PROHIBITED.**

(1) Prohibition. No person shall feed or allow the feeding of wild animals as defined in Section 90.51 within the City of Owatonna. For the purpose of this Section, feeding shall mean provision of non-birdseed mixtures, grain, fruit, vegetables, hay, mineral salt or other edible material. Living food sources, such as fruit trees and other live vegetation, shall not be considered as prohibited feeding.

(2) Exceptions. This prohibition shall not apply to veterinarians, City, County, State or Federal officials who in the course of their duties have wild animals in their custody or under their management.

Section 2. Chapter 90 entitled "Animals" of Title IX entitled "General Regulations" of the 2015 Ordinance Code of the City of Owatonna is hereby amended by amending § 90.99 to read as follows:

**§ 90.99 PENALTY.**

(A) Any person violating any provision of this chapter for which no specific penalty is prescribed shall be subject to § 10.99 of this code or ordinances.

(B) The violation of § 90.12 of this chapter shall constitute a petty offense, as defined in § 10.99 of this code of ordinance, and subject to the penalty therein provided.

(C) (1) *Responsible authority.* The City Police Department and the City Engineering Department shall enforce the provisions of §§ 90.45 through 90.4952 of this chapter.

(2) *Civil remedies.* Sections 90.45 through 90.4952 of this chapter may be enforced by injunction, action for abatement or other appropriate civil remedy to eliminate a public nuisance.

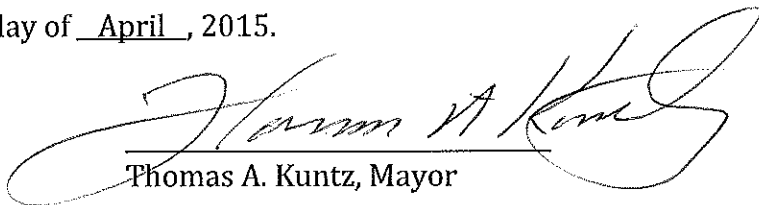
(3) *Criminal Penalties.* Notwithstanding anything in the city code to the contrary, a person who violates any provisions of §§ 90.45 through 90.4952 of this chapter shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor. The first violation of §§ 90.45 through 90.4952 of this chapter shall result in a written warning. Any subsequent violation shall result in a citation for the petty misdemeanor offense. Each act of violation of each day a violation occurs or continues is a separate offense. In all cases, the city shall be entitled to collect the cost of prosecution to the extent outlined by law, the Rules of Criminal Procedure and the Rules of Court.

Section 3. *Effective date.* This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication.

Passed and adopted this 7th day of April, 2015, with the following vote:

Aye: Raney, Dotson, Okerberg, Schultz, Burbank & Abraham  
No: None  
Absent: Svenby

Approved and signed this 7th day of April, 2015.

  
Thomas A. Kuntz, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Kris M. Busse, City Administrator/City Clerk



out by lighting a SMALL fire in the fireplace. However, this technique may not work if young raccoons are present, or the raccoon may climb part way up the chimney and stop causing smoke to back up into the house. You should be prepared to quickly extinguish the fire if this becomes a problem. Some professional chimney cleaners also specialize in removing animals, or the homeowner can wait until the young are weaned (between two and four months of age). At that time, they will leave on their own. In any case, once the raccoons are gone, the chimney should be covered with a commercial cap to prevent future problems.

**Lawn and Sod:**

Raccoons roll or pull up freshly laid sod, beginning in late June or early July, in search of worms and grubs. If the new sod does not cover much area, it may be possible to put wooden stakes or wire pins through the ends of the rolls until the roots get a good firm hold. Usually, the most practical alternative is to remove the raccoon(s).

**Gardens:**

Raccoons raiding vegetable gardens may be excluded with a single or double wire electric fence, if the area is fairly isolated. Single wire fences should be 6 inches off the ground or a double wire fence at 5 and 12 inches may be more effective. The fence can be activated at dusk and turned off after daybreak. In residential areas where children may be present, electric fences may not be the most practical alternative. No effective repellents or frightening devices are known for raccoons in outdoor areas.

**Removal**

In urban and suburban areas, cage or boxtraps are generally the most practical removal devices. Foot traps may be used in some areas, especially if they can be set in water. Some cities have ordinances prohibiting the use of certain types of traps, so local authorities should be contacted before any removal efforts are begun.

State law allows property owners to control raccoons that are causing damage or injury on their property. They may control these animals without a trapping license or permit. If the animal is killed, it must be reported to the local DNR Conservation Officer within 24 hours.

A live trap should be at least 10" x 12" x 32". It can be baited with fish, chicken, fish flavored cat food or canned tuna. The mesh must be small enough so the raccoon cannot reach through the wire and get the bait--one-half inch or smaller will be adequate. Most of the bait should be placed inside the trap near the back, but a few morsels should be placed in front of and just inside the trap. Live traps are available for rent or loan from rental companies and some animal shelters and nature centers, or they can be purchased or made.

Although shooting is often an effective control technique in rural areas, it is prohibited in towns and cities.

If a foothold type trap is used, a number one and one-half coilspring or "stoploss" trap should be used, preferably in a drowning set. These traps are best confined to water in semi-urban areas, and may be illegal in some areas.

**Diseases**

Raccoons are wild animals and no attempt should be made to pick them up or pet them, even if they appear tame.

Although rabies is quite rare in raccoons in Minnesota, no bite by a wild carnivore should be ignored. Raccoons are normally not aggressive, but will defend themselves if captured or cornered. If you are bitten by a raccoon, every attempt should be made to capture or kill it (without damage to the head) so that it can be tested for rabies by the Minnesota Department of Health. Medical treatment and advice should also be sought.

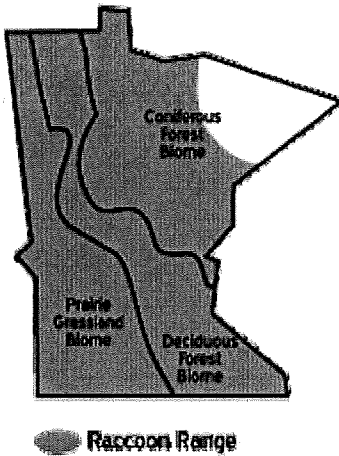
Recently, it has been found that a common roundworm parasite of raccoons can cause human health problems under certain circumstances. These parasites live in the raccoon intestine and shed microscopic eggs which are passed in the raccoon feces. These eggs can become infective to people or other animals after about 30 days. The greatest potential for problems is for people who may come into close contact with areas contaminated with raccoon fecal material, particularly small children who may place dirty hands or objects in their mouths.

In wild populations, distemper is the most important disease causing raccoon mortality, but it does not affect humans or properly immunized pets.

# Raccoon

# *Procyon lotor*

*Class:* Mammalia  
*Order:* Carnivora  
*Family:* Procyonidae

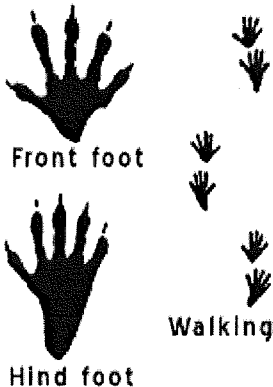


Find out more about raccoons from:

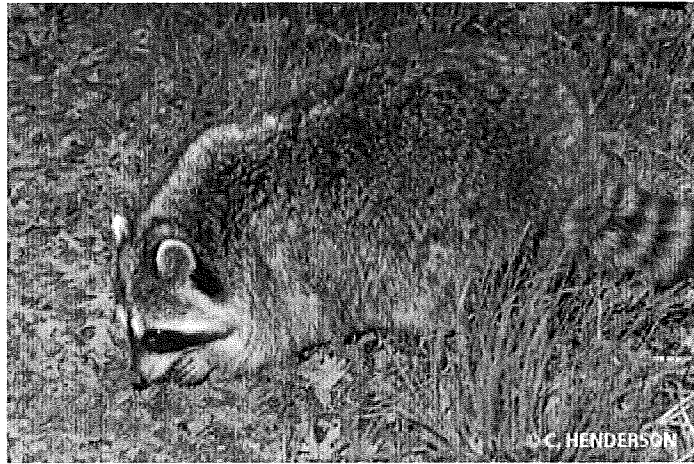
**Publications -**  
[Minnesota Conservation Volunteer articles](#)

**Problem animals -**  
[Living with raccoons](#)

**Hunting/Trapping information -**  
[Furbearers](#)



The



raccoon's antics and its appealing face make it a favorite of some and a villain to others--especially to someone whose cornfield has been raided. These excellent climbers and swimmers thrive in almost any environment and eat everything from crayfish to corn--not to mention garbage. Raccoons are most active at night. During the day they can sometimes be spotted sunbathing in trees.

## Identification

**General description:** Raccoons are the size of a small dog and have heavy fur streaked in brown, black, and gray. They have bushy ringed tails and their paws make hand-like prints in the mud or snow. Their black eye stripes resemble a mask.

**Length:** 30 to 37 inches, and a 9- to 12-inch tail.

**Weight:** They average between 15 and 23 pounds or more at maturity.

**Color:** Mostly brown, black, and gray.

**Sounds:** Raccoons hiss and growl and screech like an owl.

## Reproduction

During the mating season, February to March, the male raccoon travels long distances and mates with many females. After a 63-day gestation period, the female has her litter, which numbers from two to six young. They find shelter in either hollow trees or dens (woodchuck burrows, culverts, under buildings). Once they reach four to six months old, raccoons live on their own.

**Food**

Sweet corn is a favorite food, though crayfish, frogs, insects, fruits, and bird eggs are staples in its diet.

**Predators**

Coyotes, foxes, great horned owls, bobcats, and dogs all kill raccoons.

**Habitat and range**

The raccoon occurs throughout the state, except in the three northeast counties. Their habitat includes prairies, woodlands and cities.

**Population and management**

The DNR estimates that 800,000 to one million raccoons live throughout the state. Each year Minnesota hunters harvest 100,000 to 150,000 raccoons and trappers take another 75,000 to 100,000.

**Fun facts**

A raccoon is a powerful fighter that can kill an attacking dog twice its weight.

Raccoons remain in partial hibernation during most of the winter. The animals often den together in small groups. One woman found 23 raccoons sharing an abandoned house in Swift County. Some raccoons may winter in wood duck boxes if the entrance hole is large enough to squeeze through.

