

## In Your Home

If you find a raccoon inside your house, you can attempt to “herd” the animal into a room with an open door or window, using a broom or other long-handled item. When the raccoon is in this room, close the door between this room and the rest of the house and wait until nightfall when the raccoon will leave. If the exit is an open window, place a board between the floor and the windowsill to make an exit ramp before you try to “herd” the animal into the room. Keep pets and children away until the raccoon is gone.



Photo: Andy Longger

Raccoons cannot be relocated. A territory left open by removing one individual will quickly be filled by another. In California, it is illegal to raise raccoons as pets or to relocate them without a valid permit from California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

## Raccoon Safety

Raccoons can carry diseases and parasites. The raccoon roundworm can infect people who accidentally ingest or inhale roundworm eggs from raccoon feces and can cause serious injury or death. Children may be most vulnerable. Raccoons can also carry rabies and distemper. Be sure pets are properly vaccinated. Protect yourself and your family by carefully disposing of raccoon “latrines.” Learn how to safely handle and dispose of raccoon feces before you clear out a raccoon latrine.

Photo: TequilaMike



2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605  
1-888-EBPARKS or 1-888-327-2757 (TRS 711)  
ebparks.org

## Visitor Centers

**Ardenwood Historic Farm**, Fremont  
510-544-2797, awvisit@ebparks.org

**Big Break Regional Shoreline**, Oakley  
Big Break Visitor Center at the Delta  
510-544-3050, bigbreakvisit@ebparks.org

**Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve**, Antioch  
510-544-2750, bdvisit@ebparks.org

**Coyote Hills Regional Park**, Fremont  
510-544-3220, chvisit@ebparks.org

**Crown Memorial State Beach**, Alameda  
Crab Cove Visitor Center and Aquarium  
510-544-3187, ccove@ebparks.org

**Del Valle Regional Park**, Livermore  
510-544-3146, svisit@ebparks.org

**Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Parks**, Hayward  
510-544-3220 (Coyote Hills), chvisit@ebparks.org  
Open summer weekends

**Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness**, Sunol  
510-544-3249, svisit@ebparks.org  
Open weekends only

**Tilden Regional Park**, Berkeley  
Botanic Garden: 510-544-3169, bgarden@ebparks.org  
Tilden Nature Area/Environmental Education Center  
510-544-2233, tnarea@ebparks.org



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**On the cover: A raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)**  
Photo: Damon Tighe

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Soy Ink Bug goes here

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# Living with Raccoons in the East Bay Regional Park District



## Raccoons

**Raccoons are common** throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. They are frequently seen in wild lands, along urban creeks, and in yards. They are persistent, clever, and abundant.



Photo: David Slater

### Raccoons in the Wild

During the day, raccoons rest in a den. Dens are made in hollow trees or logs, burrows, brush piles, rock crevices, or in/under structures. At night, they travel along creeks, ponds, lakes, meadows, and storm drains in search of insects, crayfish, frogs, fish, bird's eggs, and small snakes. They also eat fruit, grains, seeds, acorns, and other nuts.



Photo: Tjflex2

An adult raccoon may weigh 35 pounds or more and can defend itself from many predators, including large dogs. They usually live alone, except during the breeding season and when raising young. Females typically give birth to three to six kits in April or May. Mothers and kits may stay together for a year before the young are ready to live on their own. Young raccoons in search of food and a den site may move several miles away from where they were born.



Photo: Ken-ichi Ueda

### Raccoons in Yards

Raccoons frequently visit yards near hills and creeks. When wild food is scarce, they travel further into neighborhoods and may be more aggressive in pursuing food left out for cats and dogs. They are also more likely to dig in lawns in search of grubs.

A raccoon that visits often to find pet food, fruit, trash, or compost may decide to den in your home or yard. They can den in attics, chimneys, or underneath houses and outbuildings. A den nearby increases the chances of close encounters with pets, children, and others. If harassed, raccoons are capable of inflicting serious injury to pets. Raccoons in the Bay Area occasionally transmit rabies and can have rabies without showing symptoms.

Watching wildlife from a distance is a healthy habit. To reduce close encounters:

- Do not feed raccoons, intentionally or unintentionally.
- Keep pet food and water bowls indoors, especially at night.
- Keep garbage cans tightly secured.
- Seal crawl spaces, basements, porches, or attics. Install a chimney cap.
- Pick all ripe fruit. Do not leave fruit on the ground.
- Do not use bird feeders that raccoons can reach. Collect seed that falls on the ground.
  - Use beneficial nematodes to treat lawn for grubs. Do not overwater lawn.
  - Never approach or attempt to pet, hold, or capture a live raccoon.



Photo: Jerry Ting

### Under a House or in an Attic

If raccoons are living under a structure or porch, or in an attic or chimney, do not seal the space until they have left. Make the space unwelcoming by installing a bright light and a radio, playing loudly, in the den. It may take a few days for them to decide they need to move and a few more days for them to find a new den. Sprinkle flour on the ground around the entry, or secure thin paper around the entry, so you will see footprints or broken paper when they leave. After they have left, seal the space with galvanized 1/4-inch mesh hardware cloth secured with fencing nails to keep them from re-entering. If entry is at ground-level, bury mesh at least six inches deep and extend outward for 12 inches before re-covering with soil.



Photo: Gary Robertson