Fast Facts

General Appearance
grayish and furry with a “bandit-mask”, black-ringed tail, husky build, dextrous paws

Territory
found in all types of environments, from tropical areas to suburban areas with easy access to open garbage cans and pet food

Diet
omnivorous diet consisting of berries, nuts, grains, and vegetables, insects, and even human garbage

Lifestyle
mostly nocturnal

Lifespan
2-3 years

Size
15-40 pounds

Rabies Vector Species
yes

SBWCN cares for approximately
15-30 per year

Reasons why raccoons come into our care:

- Car strikes
- Poison
- Emaciation
- Orphaned
- Mange
- Parasites

Living in Harmony

- Do not leave pet food outside
- Keep cats indoors
- Do not let your pets out unsupervised after dark
- Make sure your trash cans have tight lids and the cans are secured in some way that can not to be toppled
- Pick up fallen fruit. Try to pick ripe fruit off trees
- Do not leave windows or sliding doors without screens open and unattended. Close garage doors
- Never intentionally feed a wild animal! It habituates and endangers them

Feeding wildlife increases human encounters, which endangers animals and harms the ecosystem.

FLIP OVER FOR MORE
Raccoon Fun Facts:

1. Raccoons can make over fifty different sounds to communicate!
2. A group of raccoons is called a nursery or a gaze
3. *Lotor*, from their latin name, means "one who washes"

If a raccoon approaches you:

- Back up
- Make noise
- Grab a long object to create distance between you and the raccoon
- If possible, spray a hose in the direction of the raccoon

If a raccoon needs help...

- Since raccoons have the potential to spread rabies, call the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network and we will send a rescuer who is rabies vaccinated to rescue the raccoon:
  Helpline: (805) 681-1080
- You can also call Santa Barbara County Animal Services: (805) 681-5285
- Or Santa Barbara City Animal Control if you’re in the city of SB: (805) 963-1513

Why not trap and relocate?

- **Live-trapping and relocation is inhumane**
  Animals are introduced into areas that are unfamiliar to them so they do not know where food or water sources are. Other animals in the area may have diseases to which the introduced animal has never been exposed, and the introduced animal may be encroaching on another's territory.

- **Trapping is only a temporary solution**
  The reasons animals are visiting your property must be addressed before they stop visiting.

- **Traps often do not catch the intended targets**
  Other animals, including pets, are just as likely to enter traps set for raccoons. Animals are also prone to injuring themselves as they try to escape from traps.

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Website: www.sbwcn.org
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Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
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