

Opossums

Issue – looking sick or injured.

Note – Often, when faced with sudden danger or bright lights, an opossum will become incredibly still or “play possum”. They can remain in this position for hours as long as they still feel that danger is present. This leads people to think the opossum must be sick. They are normally nocturnal, but since they have little body fat and must forage year-round, they may be seen out in daylight when food is scarce.

Issue – found inside a house

Suggestions-

- ▶ Close off surrounding interior doors and leave the room. Let them find their own way out through an open door or pet door.
- ▶ If necessary, gently herd the opossum out using a broom.
- ▶ Don't scare the animal - if it feels cornered it will hunker down and become defensive (hissing, growling, defecating, and expressing their scent glands to produce a foul odor).

Issue – being aggressive to pets of people.

Note- opossums have lots of small sharp teeth and can bite if they are grabbed, but they have weak jaws and most of their “aggression” is a bluff, used when they feel scared or cornered. They rarely actually attack.

Suggestions -

- ▶ Feed pets indoors, secure garbage cans and compost etc, so there is little in your yard to attract opossums.
- ▶ Take pets indoors until the possum can leave.

