



STRIPED SKUNKS

KEY FACTS:

- Skunks are born between April and August. Gestation is about 63 days. An average litter is 6.
- At birth, skunks have pink skin, but skin may be dark where their markings will emerge.
- At 1 week- Skunks eyes and ears are closed, and they have a bit more fur.
- At 2 weeks-Eyes and ears are still closed but they have fur and are beginning to smell.
- At 3 weeks- Eyes are beginning to open and ears are open. They can move around and raise their tail.
- At 4 weeks- skunks can spray a little and walk.
- Skunks are on their own at about 14 weeks.

Skunks are a **Rabies Vector Species**. Always wear gloves when handling wildlife.



Wildlife Rehabilitators' Association of Massachusetts

NESTS

Skunks live in dens or burrows and will build nests in hollow logs, under porches, in brush or wood piles, and many other areas. They are mostly nocturnal but can be seen at dawn and dusk. They will stay in an area where food is available. They have poor eyesight but are good diggers and climbers.

If baby skunks are found alone:

Mother skunks are protective and stay with their young. If babies are found alone, they are likely to be orphans. However, the best strategy is to try to reunite the young with their mother.

If the mother is still in the area

Watch to see if the mother returns. Place the babies in a box or container with a heat source (a sock filled with rice and heated in the microwave, a hot water bottle). If the young skunks are roaming around, try to place a laundry basket, or any other object over the nest that will still allow the mother to get to the babies and keep them safe. Keep pets away from the area.

If the mother does not return, call a wildlife rehabilitator.
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/find-a-wildlife-rehabilitator>

