



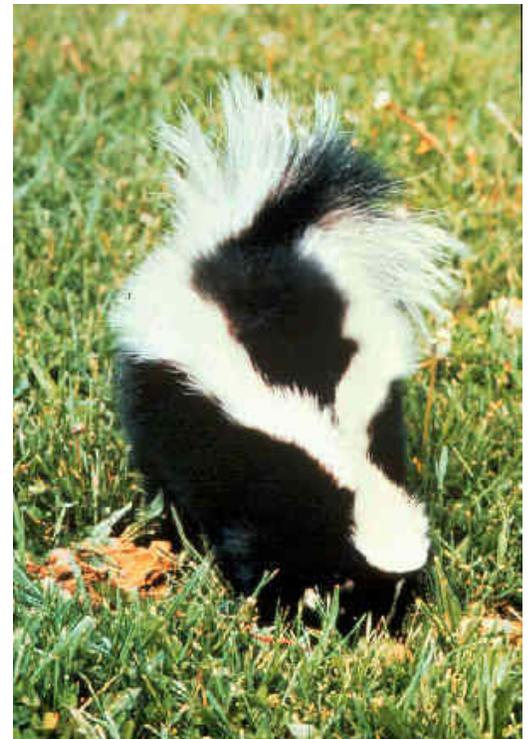
Oh no, your dog has been sprayed by a skunk! Don't panic. This guide will walk you through what you need to do.

1. If your dog is squinting, rinse his or her eyes out. If you have sterile saline/eye wash, use it. Otherwise, use tap water. If he or she is foaming at the mouth, you can try rinsing the mouth out with water, too, or offer a treat to get rid of the taste.
2. Bathe your dog using the recipe below or a commercial Skunk Off shampoo. Dry thoroughly.
3. Now, take another look at your dog. If s/he is still squinting or pawing at the eyes, or has bite wounds, a trip to the veterinarian is in order.
4. Please call your primary care veterinarian ahead of time before coming in. If your veterinarian is not available, call SAGE. We may have your dog wait in the car until we have an exam room ready. The odor from a skunked dog will quickly travel throughout the hospital, and since SAGE often has patients that have respiratory diseases, it's important to keep the air clean for them.
5. If your dog has been bitten by a skunk, s/he may need veterinary care for the wounds, as well as a booster on rabies vaccination. This can wait until your dog has had the eyes rinsed and has been bathed.
6. Keep in mind that up close skunk odor smells like burning rubber or hot asphalt when it first hits the dog. If your dog is light in color, you may notice a yellow tint to the area that was sprayed.

A little background information: Despite its small size, the skunk can expertly defend itself against predators, such as dogs, that are much larger than itself. There are few things that will deter a predator more than an offensive odor, and the skunk is probably most notorious for this ability.

Beneath the skunk's tail are two internal walnut-sized glands that produce a foul-smelling oily spray that can be ejected up to ten feet. The pungent substance is a thiol, a strong-smelling organic sulphur compound. Contact with this compound can result in a burning or stinging sensation in its victims.

Skunks will only release their spray if they feel really threatened as the glands only hold enough of the smelly concoction for five or six strikes and it can take up to ten days to replenish. The animal gives plenty of warning before spraying, including stamping its feet and thrusting its tail high in the air in preparation. The skunk then lifts its tail and extends a tiny protrusion from each gland from which the noxious scent is emitted. Muscles around the glands enable the spray to be projected quickly and with accurate aim.



While it can be unsettling, you don't have to panic if your dog has a run in with one of these guys.



Skunk Odor Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1 cup Baking Soda
- 1 quart Hydrogen Peroxide 3%
- 1-2 tsp. Dawn dish soap

Directions:

1. Mix the above ingredients in an open container, such as a plastic bucket. The mixture should be fizzy.
2. Apply mixture to your pet's fur from the ears to the tail and massage in well. Be very careful using on the face to ensure none gets into eyes.
3. Let the solution sit on the fur for 10 to 15 minutes.
4. Rinse with lukewarm water.
5. Repeat as necessary; if your pet has a dense coat, multiple treatments may be necessary.

Please note:

- This recipe is for a patient weighing approximately 20 lbs. Increase amounts proportionally to the weight of your pet.
- Use sterile saline eyewash (NOT contact lens solution or Visine) for the eyes. It will help flush out the eyes.
- Foaming at the mouth is normal as the "spray" has a bitter taste.
- Check for any bite/scratch wounds. Verify with your veterinarian that your pet's rabies vaccine is current.
- This mixture may lighten the color of your pet's fur.
- Do not store this solution. If kept in a closed container, the contents will explode.
- This recipe works by chemically altering the thiols (the chemical compound that makes skunk spray stink).