



STRIPED SKUNK

Mephitis mephitis



The striped skunk is all black except for a variable, divided white stripe that runs from head to tail. It is the most common skunk of the Great Lakes region. The striped skunk can be found in both forests and fields, and it will also live in areas where people are located. Winters are difficult for this species, when it relies on several survival tactics. One of these is to form a community of skunks and huddle underground. These animals will eat almost anything that is present. Of course, it is most commonly known for its defensive adaptation, which is to spray a musky odor from anal glands toward its attacker.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The striped skunk can reach lengths of up to two feet.

WEIGHT

Striped skunks typically weigh between six and 12 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

The striped skunk is an omnivore. It eats a variety of small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, fruit, nuts, and berries. They particularly like grubs.

HABITAT

The striped skunk is found in a variety of habitats, including forests, river valleys, farmlands, prairies and urban areas.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The striped skunk is found throughout the United States and into some regions of northern Mexico and southern Canada.

FUN FACT

The skunk can spray its odor for a distance of up to twenty feet!