

Porcupines



Those who capture animals accept the responsibility of ensuring that the animals survive and that stress and trauma are kept to a minimum. In any procedure, always take into account the safety and welfare of the animal.

HUMANE HINTS: In some cases, you don't need to remove porcupines at all - just leave them alone! Spray very hot sauce, like capsaicin, on plants. Install barriers around plants. NEVER attempt to poison porcupines. Unfortunately, there are no registered porcupine repellents but predator urine has shown success.

Summary of Step-By-Step Instructions:

- 1) Purchase large cage traps - rated porcupine size (these will be VERY large).
- 2) Set traps in areas of high porcupine activity. Bait with salted apple slices. Place a small dish of freshwater in the trap. Make sure traps are scent-free and flush to the ground, and set in the shade.
- 3) Check the trap frequently! Do not set traps if there is inclement weather or in severe temperatures (cold or hot).
- 4) Relocate any trapped porcupine at least 15 kilometers from capture site.
- 5) If you have porcupine living under a deck, shed, or other structure, install an exclusion barrier - steel mesh around the perimeter, and down at least 12 into the ground, with bottom of mesh sloping outward.

Porcupines have soft hair, but on their back, sides, and tail it is usually mixed with sharp quills. These quills typically lie flat until a porcupine is threatened, then leap to attention as a persuasive deterrent. Porcupines can not shoot them at predators as once thought, but the quills do detach easily when touched.

Things to consider when relocating a wild animal:

- Trapping can create orphaned babies that are left behind.
- Baiting traps will attract more animals.
- Traps don't discriminate what species they capture.
- It causes high levels of stress for the trapped animal.
- Relocating may cause territorial disputes, difficulty locating food, water and shelter, and increase the spread of disease.

Porcupines



Edmonton

- Removing an animal without eliminating what is attracting the animal will open up space for a new inhabitant.

*IF YOU HAVE FOUND INJURED, ORPHANED, OR CONTAMINATED WILDLIFE PLEASE CALL
WILDNORTH AT 780-914-4118*