

How big is a full grown raccoon?

A full grown adult male will weigh up to 35 pounds and be about 3 feet long from tip of the nose to the end of their tail. Full grown females are slightly smaller. The largest raccoon on record weighed 50 pounds!

Raccoons are easily recognized by their black facial mask and bushy striped tail.

The Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) also known as Common Raccoon, Northern Raccoon, Washing Bear and Coon are native to North America and an introduced, non-native pest species in Europe (after escaping from fur farms). Their native habitats are woodland; however they are very adaptive and are often found in around human habitations, especially where food is abundant. Raccoons are very intelligent and often go to great lengths to find food. They have been known to get into trash cans and dumpsters, find their way into picnic baskets and coolers. Many people think raccoons are cute and leave cat or dog food out for them to eat.

Raccoons are wild animals and may carry diseases such as rabies, roundworm, distemper and parvovirus (all of which can be transmitted to pets). They may feel threatened by other animals around the house like pet cats and dogs. An adult raccoon is easily a match for a housecat and most pet dogs. If a raccoon likes the food left in your yard it is a reasonable bet that some of its friends like the skunk will like it to.

It is illegal to have a pet raccoon in California, the Department of Fish and Wildlife may issue a prohibited animal permit.