



SKUNKS

Skunks are best known for their potent defense mechanism - the awful smelling fluid sprayed when they feel threatened.

The skunks diet consists of insects, grubs, rodents, and vegetables. They are generally not aggressive. The best advice is to simply leave the skunk alone. Skunks and racoons are known to carry rabies so it is best to seek professional assistance when trying to remove a skunk from your home or property.

If you or your pet has been sprayed by a skunk, rinse the area with a gentle cleaning solution, such as dish soap. If the spray was in the eyes or other sensitive area, then it may be best to seek prompt medical attention.

CITY OF HELOTES ANIMAL CONTROL

12951 Bandera Road
Helotes, Texas 78023

Phone: 210-695-5907
helotes-tx.gov/departments/animal-control



**CITY OF HELOTES
ANIMAL CONTROL**

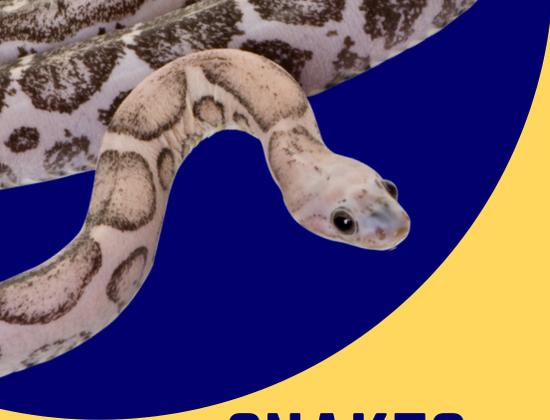
Serving Helotes Residents and Furry Friends

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YOUR GUIDE TO **HELOTES WILDLIFE**

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SNAKES

Snakes play an important role in ecosystems. They are usually in the middle of the food chain being both predators and prey. Snakes can be non-venomous or venomous. It is important to learn the difference.

Common venomous snakes in Bexar County include the Texas Coral Snake, Diamondback Rattlesnake, Broadbanded Copperhead, and Northern Cottonmouth. A bite by a venomous snake is very painful and requires quick professional medical attention.

DEER

Did you know? Nearly half of the state's total deer population live in the Texas Hill Country.

Studies show that most deer will live their life within three miles of their birthplace. Similar to Helotians, they like to stay close to home.

Use extra caution when driving in areas where deer are common. Deer crossing the roadway often cause unintended vehicle accidents.

RACOONS

Racoons are generally 33 to 45 inches long and weigh from 7 to 20 pounds. They are very intelligent and have excellent night vision.

Proficient climbers and swimmers, racoons are able to secure food from various sources including trees, creeks, or your outside trash receptacle. The best way to deter a racoon from your property is to ensure that any sources of food or shelter for the animal are not easily accessible to them.

Racoons usually sleep during the day and will be most active at night. As solitary animals, racoons general live alone. If you see more than one, then you may have baby racoons nearby, especially if it is breeding season.



OPOSSUMS

Pronounced "Possum"

The most common opossum in Bexar County is the Virginia opossum. They are generally shy creatures who can involuntarily freeze and fall to the ground when they experience extreme fear. It's similar to a human fainting. Opossums are immune to snake venom, except for the venom of the coral snake.

You are likely to only encounter an opossum at night as they are usually nocturnal. They are great at pest control as opossums prefer to eat insects such as cockroaches and ticks.

Helotes Animal Control provides traps to homeowners for the purpose of removing wildlife. Contact us today to learn more about this service.