

Why skunks?

In November, a skunk sprayed my dog Trooper.

We moved Trooper to the front yard. The skunk dug a hole under the fence to follow Trooper.

I like skunks because they can dig.



Question

Did this skunk have rabies?

Background: What is rabies?

Rabies is a disease that animals get. They can give it to other animals by biting them. Rabies can make dogs and people very sick.

What I knew



- The skunk didn't look sick.
- It had its tail up.
- It sprayed my dog.
- The skunk was out during the day.

How to Spot a Skunk with Rabies

My Research

Baby Skunks:

- Are born in the spring
- Do not spray when first born
- Need their moms for food
- Stay with their moms until they are one year old



Photo: www.wildlifehotline.com

Healthy Adult Skunks



Photo: www.kids.nationalgeographic.com

- Come out of their dens at night
- Run when they hear a loud noise
- Stand on their front paws before spraying

Skunks with Rabies

- Walk in circles
- Look sick
- Do not run away when they hear a loud noise
- Have tails that are down
- Bite and scratch
- Cannot spray



Photo: www.wildskunkrescue.com

Conclusion

The skunk that sprayed my dog Trooper was a young adult skunk. It was outside during the day because it couldn't find its mother.

The skunk did not have rabies because it followed my dog around and it sprayed. It did not bite my dog, or try to scratch him.

References

To do this project, I read these books:

- ***Skunks*** by Adrienne Mason
- ***Welcome to the World of Skunks*** by Diane Swanson

And I looked at these websites:

www.kids.nationalgeographic.com

www.youtube.com