



*The* ***Mephitis Advocate***<sup>™</sup>  
***Skunk News You Can Use!***



## Happy 2011

All of us with The Mephitis Advocate hope you have a wonderful  
2011!

Our break is over and we are back up and running.

Although we did not put out a newsletter for a while, it's because there  
has been a lot going on behind the scenes that we would like to share  
with you.

We hope you are as excited about the news as we are.

Dr. Schneider is working on getting the skunk vet website up. She is  
very busy collecting data and writing articles. The website will be  
hosted by Pet Assure, very well known, respected and used by  
veterinarians. This will be an invaluable tool for skunk vets  
everywhere.

## We need your help!

There will be a submission form available to submit information about  
your skunk and/or his health issues. As soon as the form is available,  
we will let everyone know. Your input is greatly appreciated. The  
website will only be as good as the information it contains. The more

information that is gathered, the better it will be for everyone.

## How you can help right now!

We are collecting data on the ages of domestic skunks. We are using the data from the Memorial List, so if you have a deceased skunk that has not been added to the list, please send us the name, date of birth and death as soon as you can.

You can email us at [mephitisadvocate@yahoo.com](mailto:mephitisadvocate@yahoo.com).

If you would like us to be able to use the information but not have the name added to the Memorial List, please let me know and we will not put the information on the list.

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## Cadbury's Poison Scare



Several years ago, when my Cadbury was a much younger boy, he stayed in the office where I worked. Cadbury is a chocolate male that I got when skunks of any color other than black and whites were legal to have as pets in Georgia. We have a family business, so I could take him to work with me to keep me company when I was in the office alone. The delivery men, especially the UPS guy loved seeing him waddling around the office. My grandfather even made me

My sister that also works in the office called me first thing that morning and warned me that Cadbury had gotten out and thought that he might have gotten into the poison. So as soon as I got to work, I cleaned him up and tried to figure out how much of the poison he had actually eaten. This was not easy because he had scattered it everywhere, not to mention that he had also gotten loose in the back part of our shop, so there was no telling what all he had investigated. All I knew was that his nose and fur was quite nasty, with cobwebs, dirt and trash.

I called the vet and I was told to keep a close eye on him for a little while until their office opened. Cadbury was sleeping by this time, tired out from his little adventure, but he didn't usually sleep much while there were people in the office, because he was usually trying to find someone to feed him something. This worried me.

a split door so I could keep him safe but still see if anyone walked in, because I could not use a baby gate because he had learned how to climb them early. If I was sitting at my desk, Cadbury was usually laying right on top of my feet and if I was filing paperwork he would follow me from my desk to the filing cabinets, however many trips it took. He was really good at pest control, the building is old and prone to having spiders and other bugs creeping around but good old Cadbury took care of those for us. No need to use stinky bug spray or traps with him around, he was constantly on the prowl for a nice crunchy bug. Since Cadbury did not like riding in my car much I would usually leave him locked in my office at night during the week, but take him home on the weekends. This arrangement worked for over a year without any incidents. However, it only takes one careless person to cause a huge problem.

The men that work for us come into the office early in the mornings to get paperwork for their jobs and someone opened my office door and did not close it back all the way. A door not completely closed is like a magnet to a curious skunk. They always have to see what is on the other side of the door. This would not have been too big of a deal, except for the fact that we had to put out poison because we have a fiber optic line going to one of the computers that a mouse had recently chewed in half. The computer and poison were behind

I took off work and me and Cadbury headed to our vet, he slept the whole way and that was unusual for him. He usually paced back and forth inside his carrier. I rushed him to the vet, worried to death and mad that someone would be so careless.

Our vet, checked him out, weighed him and listened to his breathing and heartbeat. He told me what the poison does to their bodies. D-Con uses poisonous chemicals called anticoagulants that usually cause death 1 to 2 weeks after the poor critter eats a lethal dose. Anticoagulants cause the animal to not be able to produce blood-clotting factors, which will cause it to bleed to death. When he told me this it scared me even more, but the good news was that there is an antidote! The vet stated that it might be hard to get him to take it as it was in capsule form, it is actually vitamin K. However, because I had read somewhere to give my baby skunk vitamin E pills, Cadbury was used to taking these and he would actually gobble them up like a kid eats a jelly bean. It was no problem giving Cadbury his medicine, but I kept him at home in a safe room where I knew he would have a very slim chance of getting hurt. He did not like being confined but I was more worried about keeping him safe for the 2 weeks, than his little temper tantrums he threw because I wouldn't let him wander around the house.

When the two weeks were up and the medicine was gone, Cadbury was given a clean bill of health from his vet and I could finally sleep a little better knowing my baby was not going to leave me because of someone else's carelessness. I was lucky because I had Cadbury use to eating vitamin E capsules, it made it so much easier to get him to take his medicine. I'm sure most of you know how difficult it can be to get a skunk to take something that is good for them, when it probably doesn't taste good.

Mindy McLaughlin Oct 1, 2010

cabinet doors, but since the cabinet looked so much like a refrigerator, I guess it was too big of a temptation for a curious, little Cadbury.

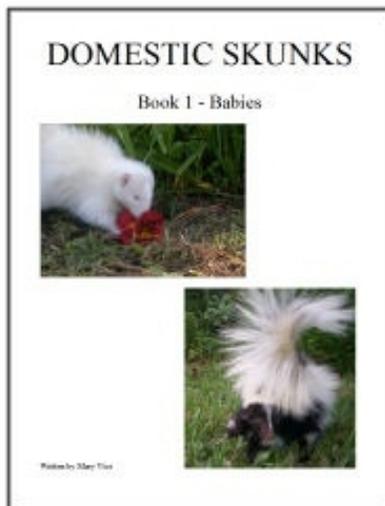


You can win this tote!

It's easy to do. Submit a story with pic for us to use in an upcoming issue and if we use your story, you will receive this tote for free!

Entries must be submitted to [mephitisadvocate@yahoo.com](mailto:mephitisadvocate@yahoo.com) by

March 31, 2011



Domestic Skunks, Book 1 - Babies  
Now also available on Kindle!

Over 90 pages of current, up to date information and tips for raising a happy, healthy baby skunk.



Ask Ashlar

If you have a question you would like answered on the newsletter, please fill out the submission form at [www.strippedbandits.com](http://www.strippedbandits.com) or email us at [mephitisadvocate@yahoo.com](mailto:mephitisadvocate@yahoo.com)



Late Season Babies

There are a lot of reports of babies being born quite late in the year. We don't usually do baby articles at this time of the year, but we think it might be a good idea to send out a few reminders for those of you lucky enough to have just gotten a baby.

- Hold your baby as much as humanly possible!
- Don't expect your baby to be perfect upon arrival. Time, patience and LOVE will get you that perfect bundle of joy.
- Research, research, research! Read everything you can get your hands on and ask questions. Be careful of old

Filled with color pictures of domestic skunks.

\$15.50 each (includes domestic US postage).

Paypal payment using stripedbandits@yahoo.com as the account.

International orders can contact me at [stripedbandits@yahoo.com](mailto:stripedbandits@yahoo.com) for instructions and postage amount.

information. Make sure what you are reading is recent information and go with what makes sense to you.

- Feed your baby the best possible diet with proper proteins and fats to give him the good beginning he needs.
- Spay/neuter your baby! Besides the health and behavioral issues, there are far too many unwanted skunks needing homes. More breeding is not a good idea.
- Don't over vaccinate your baby. You are your baby's advocate. Speak up for him and stand your ground.

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