



The **Mephitis Advocate**[™]
Skunk News You Can Use!



It's Been a Busy Baby Season

It's that time of year again. Exuberant new parents are turning into frustrated new parents as their furry bundles of joy are reaching puberty.

Bad potty habits, nipping and digging seem to be the most common annoyances. Luckily, it is almost time for most of this year's babies to be spayed/neutered, and this will help with a lot of the behavior problems. As the time nears for these upcoming surgeries, this is a good time for a few important reminders.

- If your baby has not been de-wormed yet, do it now! Just about every baby this year has arrived from the breeder with parasites; even those that the breeder claimed had been de-wormed at the breeding facility. Strongid, Evict and Panacur are safe to use.
- Bring your baby to the vet for a full check up as soon as possible. This should not be put off until time for big boy and girl surgery. There have already been deaths in babies this year from congenital conditions. Make sure to get a full chemistry blood panel as part of the check up.
- Make sure your veterinarian only uses Isoflurane gas for anesthesia.
- Make sure your baby is not given Metacam or Baytril (or any fluoroquinolone antibiotic) or NSAIDS after the surgery.
- If you or your veterinarian does not have a copy of the safe meds list and/or the current blood values, you can go to <http://www.strippedbandits.com/request-information.html> to request they be sent to you.
- Tell your veterinarian about the new skunk vet site www.skunkvetcare.org.

Mary Copeland August 19, 2011

Featured Product

STOMP

Pet Skunk Food

Freeze Dried Chicken Entrée

Now Available For Purchase!



It's an exciting time in the world of skunk ownership! Finally, a species appropriate food designed specifically for skunks, in convenient packaging that's easy to serve. STOMP takes the guess work out of feeding your skunk while using high grade natural ingredients. Just as important is what isn't in STOMP. There is no added fillers, grains, colorings, antibiotics, hormones, or steroids. With ingredients such as chicken, including organs and bones enriched with Vitamin D and Omega 3 fatty acids from herring oil, preserved naturally with Vitamin E, you can be assured your skunk is getting a nutritionally balanced product. STOMP is recommended to be part of a varied diet for your pet skunk. An additional benefit is that the nuggets are perfectly sized for skunks and help promote healthy teeth.

Portion size will vary for each skunk just like it would for any food you feed your skunk. Suggested daily portion for an adult skunk weighing 4 to 6 pounds is .60 ounces and 1 oz for an adult skunk weighing 6 to 10 pounds.

A kit's daily portion is suggested to be 1 ounce, divided into 3 meals. Suggested portions are a good place to start and portions should be adjusted according to the individual skunk's age and activity level.

Although STOMP is enjoyed by most skunks that have tried it, some skunks are more particular than others. If at first your skunk doesn't seem interested, you might want to try breaking up the nuggets into smaller pieces.

If you have a skunk that balks at new foods, you may need to try giving it on two or three occasions before he/she will accept it.

Once you try STOMP you will love the ease and convenience of giving your loved one a perfectly balanced food with all the guess work removed.

Mary Copeland August 19, 2011

THE 23RD ANNUAL SKUNK SHOW
SPONSORED BY THE FLORIDASKUNK RESCUE AND SKUNKS AS PETS OF
FLORIDA

September 24, 2011

Ramada Gateway Hotel, Kissimmee, Florida 34747

From the South:

Turnpike North to exit 249....left onto E Osceola Parkway
left onto International Drive

Right onto W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy/192 approximately 4 miles

Ramada will be on the left U Turn will be necessary

7470 W Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy

Group Reservations:

(407) 396-4400 ask for the Skunk Show

Economy Rooms \$39 Tower Rooms \$55

All skunks will need to be healthy, spayed or neutered, and have a Florida Class III Permit
for Exhibition and Sale.

Health Certificates are not required.

To donate items for auction or be a vendor contact Brenda Hoch, hochdb20@verizon.net

Submit media news and information to Judy Slade, skunkrescue@toast.net

All tables (\$20 each) must be RESERVED AND PAID FOR by September 10, 2011

Also contact locally: Lynnda Butler, Lynndabutler@bellsouth.net

Skunk Vet Care Website Debut

We are pleased to announce the website is now **live**.

If you haven't done so already, please inform your vet about it and have them visit

www.skunkvetcare.org.

It is still in infancy stage, but there is already some important information on there.

Please ask your vet to be active in sending case files to Dr. Schneider.

The more contributions she gets, the more information can be available to your vet as well as others.

We can all make a difference!

Pepe



Let me introduce to you Pepe, a beautiful lavender boy that I was fortunate to get in the spring of 2005. He was so shy and timid. As the story goes, he was bought in Florida as a kit, I was told in 2000 by a family who lived in Casper, Wy. What his life was like I don't know. I believe they had him for about 3 years, but somewhere along the line he ended up with a woman who "collects" pets. I don't know for sure how long she had him either. What I do know is that when he was 4 maybe closer to 5 yrs old, he

had. He was losing weight, his coat was glistening and he seemed to be feeling so much better. I'd had him about a year by this time and he'd lost approximately 15 pounds. He still had a few more pounds to go. He still had a limp that was never going to go away, but he got around really good in spite of it. By this time I had found a skunk list to join and learned ever so much, and I think Pepe benefited greatly from what I learned.

Thank goodness I'm still learning. He got an abscess at the base of his tail that I had no clue was there until it popped and that scared me to death. I took him to the vet and got him on some anti-biotic. A friend of mine told me about "Flowers of Sulfur", an old time remedy used by pharmacists many, many years ago.

Finding some took some effort and getting it was even more difficult, but get it I did. I

was attacked by a dog and severely injured. She called a lady in Cheyenne whom she knew was a rehabber. Lynn, the rehabber, visited with her about Pepe's injuries and told her she'd do what she could for him but made no promises. Lynn explained the injuries to me and how when she got him his injuries were maggot infested and he stunk so bad and the wounds were really bad. She honestly felt Pepe would never make it, but she tried anyway and about 6 months later Pepe was declared healed, at least physically. He had lots of scars and a limp, but still a beautiful and horribly overweight boy. She fed him some veggies and dog food and a lot of fruit. She didn't know any better. But she did grow to love Pepe very much.

Lynn and her husband are elderly and were getting ready to retire and were downsizing the critters they had as they just weren't physically able to take care of the animals like they needed to be taken care of. They had physical issues of their own to deal with so Lynn called Pet Pals, Inc. just outside of Hawk Springs, WY and asked the owner, Linda York, if she knew of anyone who would/could possibly be interested in taking a skunk in as a pet. As luck would have it, I'd known Linda for several years by this time and she knew I raised skunks as pets. She and my Sweet Pea were

followed the directions the pharmacist gave me and it took several weeks, but the abscess did heal and it never came back. Not too terribly long after the abscess healed, the tip of his tail got a serious infection. I don't know how that happened either. He was put on anti-biotic again, that didn't help. The vet scraped the area and treated it with some cream stuff, wrapped it and we did that for a couple of weeks to no avail. The problem just wasn't going away, so we ended up amputating about 2 inches of his tail. Through all of this, Pepe's attitude never wavered. He was still shy, and wanted to hide, but he had the most awesome attitude and tolerance of any animal I had ever been around. He did love being held and hold him a lot I did. Cutting his nails was always a breeze. I'd lay him on his back and he'd stay that way and let me cut his nails without fuss. Taking care of his abscess, tail and teeth was not an issue. And his teeth were not in very good shape either. But he did well in spite of them. He had to have a couple of his molars pulled. He'd been through so much in his lifetime.

On August 23, 2005 I had to help my beloved Sweet Pea cross the Rainbow Bridge due to her spine fusing, she lost her ability to stand or walk. It was the hardest thing for me to do. I love and miss her so much to this very day. I think even Pepe missed her.

In June of 2007 I got 3 babies and brought them home and I'm thinking Pepe was not

good friends. So Linda gave me a call, told me what was going on and asked if I'd be interested. That was a silly question!!!! I told her of course I was interested and took the information. I called Lynn in Cheyenne and we visited for quite a while on the phone as Lynn wanted to feel as sure as she could about releasing Pepe to a good home because she had become attached to Pepe. I gave her references and she said Linda's reference was good enough for her. We made the arrangements for me to go to Cheyenne and pick Pepe up and bring him to his forever home.

I have to say I was shocked at best when I saw him, I expected to see a big, overweight boy, but about 30 pounds was more than I expected. He couldn't walk more than a couple of feet at a time, as he became winded, but he sure tried. He didn't know me and was scared, but boy was he a beautiful boy, even overweight like he was.

I loaded him up and we came home. Home being 90 miles north. This boy has done some traveling in his lifetime.

Sweet Pea wasn't sure she liked him showing up and getting into her space, but after a bit, she made friends with him. Sweet Pea was my classic black and white I'd had since she was about 2 weeks old. She was the only skunk

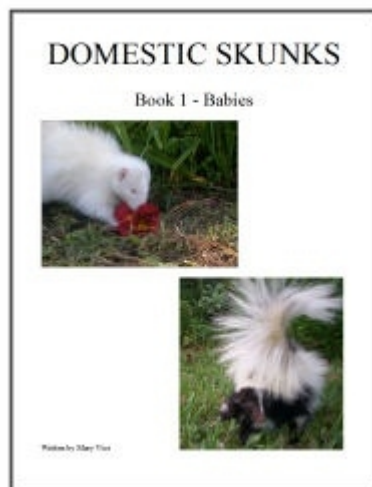
appreciative of them, but he did well in spite of them. They just had way too much energy for him to appreciate. He was still very shy, would rather stay in his den than do much of anything else, but I continued to take him outside and go visiting. He was loved by the residents at the Care Center, our local nursing home. I took him up there at least once a month for Pet Therapy Day. He was always the perfect gentleman. No matter where we went, he was perfectly behaved and admired. He and Sweet Pea were excellent teachers. Losing Sweet Pea was devastating and had it not been for Pepe, I don't know that I would have gotten any more skunks. When I came home from work on the 5th of Sept. of 2007 and found that he had died while I was at work, again I was devastated at having lost another beloved pet. The vet said it was his heart. By this time I had learned the terrible effects of what being overweight could do to our precious skunks. I realize it was more than just the issue of being overweight, his injuries from the dog attack took it's toll on him as well, but when he passed, he weighed 11.5 pounds. He had played, run and did the things happy, healthy skunks do. I only had him for 2 1/2 years, but they were wonderful years and I'm grateful for them and him. He overcame a lot in his young life. He worked hard and I believe he was happy. Again, thank goodness I had Rebel, Dixie and Sadie by then. Only by now I knew I'd never be without skunks in my life, as long as I'm able to properly provide and take care of them.

for 5 years in this house.

I started him on a proper skunk diet and totally took away the dog food he'd been given and cut way back on his fruit intake as well. He wasn't sure he liked that, but I think his belly helped make up his mind for him. I took him outside with Sweet Pea often and he started getting some exercise and seemed to enjoy the playtime he

Pepe was a very special and unique skunk. He'd been through so much in his life and not all was very good, but I do know the last 3 years of his life were good in that he was safe. The last 2 1/2 were very good as he lost the excess weight, had play time and tons of good, positive attention. He was a wonderful ambassador for the world of skunks, at least here he was. I love and miss him dearly.

Cam Seigal, April 2011



Domestic Skunks, Book 1 - Babies

Revised June, 2011

Now also available on Kindle!

Over 80 pages of current, up to date information and tips for raising a happy, healthy baby skunk.



2012 Skunk Calendar

Price: \$12.50

Printed in color on 8 1/2 X 11" high quality paper.

Each month on 1/2 page.

Domestic shipping is included in price.

Available at: [Striped Bandits Calendar](#)

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 for instructions and postage amount.




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