# **How Do We Live Together? Raccoons and Community Connections**

Raccoons are one of the most common animals in North America. They are found in almost every type of habitat, from forests to cities. Raccoons are very adaptable animals, and they have learned to live in close proximity to humans.

This close proximity can sometimes lead to conflict between raccoons and humans. Raccoons can raid garbage cans, damage property, and even attack pets. However, it is important to remember that raccoons are not inherently aggressive animals. They are simply trying to survive in a world that is increasingly dominated by humans.



How Do We Live Together? Raccoons (Community Connections: How Do We Live Together?) by Lucia Raatma

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There are a number of things that we can do to live together with raccoons in a more harmonious way. One of the most important things is to secure our food and garbage. Raccoons are attracted to food, and they will often raid garbage cans if they are not properly secured. We can also help to

prevent raccoons from damaging our property by sealing up any holes or cracks in our homes.

If we take these steps, we can help to reduce the conflict between raccoons and humans. We can also learn to appreciate these fascinating animals and the role that they play in our ecosystem.

### **Raccoons and the Ecosystem**

Raccoons are an important part of the ecosystem. They play a role in seed dispersal, and they help to control populations of small rodents. Raccoons are also a food source for other animals, such as owls and coyotes.

In addition to their ecological role, raccoons can also be beneficial to humans. Raccoons can help to control pests, such as mice and rats. They can also be a source of food and fur.

### **How to Live Together with Raccoons**

There are a number of things that we can do to live together with raccoons in a more harmonious way. Here are a few tips:

- Secure your food and garbage. Raccoons are attracted to food, and they will often raid garbage cans if they are not properly secured. Make sure to keep your garbage cans in a secure location, and do not leave food out overnight.
- Seal up any holes or cracks in your home. Raccoons can enter your home through even the smallest of holes. Make sure to seal up any holes or cracks in your home, especially around windows and doors.

- Do not feed raccoons. Feeding raccoons can make them dependent on humans for food. This can lead to problems, such as raccoons becoming aggressive or losing their fear of humans.
- Be tolerant of raccoons. Raccoons are a part of our ecosystem, and they have a right to live here. Be tolerant of raccoons, and do not try to harm them.

By following these tips, we can help to reduce the conflict between raccoons and humans. We can also learn to appreciate these fascinating animals and the role that they play in our ecosystem.

#### **Additional Resources**

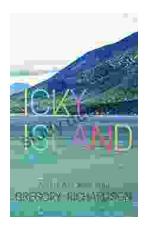
- The Humane Society of the United States: Raccoons
- U.S. Geological Survey: Raccoons in Urban Areas
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Raccoons



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