



Eastern Spotted Skunk

Spilogale putorius

What is their preferred habitat?

Forests and wooded areas.

How big are they?

They are smaller than Striped skunks, and weigh usually between one and two pounds.

What is their average life span in the wild?

1 to 2 years.

What do they like to eat?

They are omnivores and prefer rabbits, small rodents, insects, birds, fruit, and eggs.

What is their fur color?

Black and white.

Fun Facts

- Eastern spotted skunks are rare in the Southern Appalachian Mountains and not much is known about their distribution in the mountains.
- Eastern spotted skunks have 4 to 6 stripes on their backs, giving them a spotted appearance. The only true spot they have is one found on their foreheads. Their distinctive black and white appearance is a warning to potential predators.
- They are excellent climbers and can scurry up and down trees like squirrels.
- Before spraying a potential predator, they stand repeatedly on their front paws in a handstand as a warning display. If that doesn't work, they then assume a horseshoe shaped stance before spraying their foul-smelling musk towards the predator. They have an accurate range of over 10 feet.
- They are nocturnal animals and are usually seen by humans only at dawn or dusk.