

**SKUNK REMOVAL AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – FAQs**  
**September 13, 2017**

- Q? If a homeowner uses the same contractor that the Village or Park District employs, will the Village just pay the contractor directly?
- A. No. Homeowners are certainly welcome to use the same trapper. However, the contract and agreement to pay for services is between the homeowner and the contractor. The Village **will not** make a direct payment to the contractor.
- Q? Can I trap on my neighbor's property?
- A. No. All private property rights continue to be respected. A homeowner can only authorize trapping on their own property.
- Q? If I am aware of a den of skunks that may be located on my neighbor's property, will the Village notify my neighbor?
- A. We encourage homeowners to communicate with their neighbors directly. If you have concerns regarding a neighbor property, you may contact the Community Development Department about those concerns. The Village may contact the property owner depending on the circumstances.
- Q? What happens if an animal other than a skunk gets trapped?
- A. Depends. Licensed Nuisance Control Operators (trappers) offer different fee structures. When hiring a trapper, homeowners should clarify charges for animals other than skunks that are trapped. The Village will reimburse only for skunk removal.
- Q? How do I find a qualified trapper?
- A. State Licensed Nuisance Control Operators are listed on both the Village website <http://www.vernonhills.org/655/Skunks---Prevention-and-Solutions> and the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources website [http://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife/solutions\\_remove.cfm](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife/solutions_remove.cfm)
- Q? Will any other expense such as property inspection, repairs or setting of traps be reimbursed by the Village?
- A. No. The Village and Park District are only reimbursing homeowners the actual expense to remove a skunk, up to \$75 per skunk. No other expense will be reimbursed by the Village.

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Q? Can I direct a trapper to catch and release a skunk? Can a trapped skunk be relocated?

A. No. State law and the IDNR regulate how trappers deal with wildlife. Skunks are humanely euthanized away from the trapped location.

Q? Can I be paid for any skunks trapped outside of the Village?

A. No. Only Vernon Hills' homeowners will be reimbursed for skunks trapped on their own property within the Village.

Q? If I apply to Illinois DNR for a temporary permit, will the Village and Park District reimburse me if I trap a skunk myself?

A. No. Even if a temporary permit is issued, the Village will only reimburse a homeowner who contracts with a State Licensed Nuisance Control Operators listed on either the Village website or the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources website.

Q? Can I use other means to kill skunks on my property?

A. No. Using poisons pose dangers to other wildlife and pets. The discharge of firearms is illegal. Trapping without a permit is unlawful. Licensed professional are trained to humanely euthanize the animal.

Q? Is there a limit on the number of trapped skunks that I can be reimbursed for?

A. Not initially. The program will run from May 1, 2017 until further notice, but is subject to modification.

Q? If a licensed Nuisance Control Operator sets traps on my property but fails to catch any skunks, can I be reimbursed for any of the expense?

A. No. The Village and Park District are only reimbursing homeowners the actual expense to remove a skunk, up to \$75 per skunk. No other expense will be reimbursed by the Village.