

## Client Education- Skunked Dogs

Oh no, my dog has been sprayed by a skunk! He is squinting and rubbing his eyes! Foaming at the mouth! Rubbing his face on the ground! Don't panic. This handout will walk you through what you need to do.

1. If your dog is squinting, rinse the eyes out. If you have sterile saline/eye wash, use it. Otherwise, use tap water. If he or she is foaming at the mouth, you can try rinsing the mouth out with water, too, or offer a treat to get rid of the taste.
2. Bathe your dog using the recipe below or a commercial Skunk Off shampoo. Dry thoroughly.
3. Now, take another look at your dog. If s/he is still squinting or pawing at the eyes, or has bite wounds, a trip to the veterinarian is in order.
4. Please call your veterinarian ahead of time before coming in. If your veterinarian is not available, call an emergency veterinary hospital. We may have your dog wait in the car until we have an exam room ready. The odor from a skunked dog will quickly travel throughout the hospital, and since we often have patients that have respiratory disease, we have to do our best to keep the air clean for them.
5. If your dog is bitten by the skunk, s/he may need veterinary care for the wounds as well as a booster on rabies vaccination. This can wait until your dog has had the eyes rinsed and has been bathed.
6. Keep in mind that up close skunk odor smells like a burning rubber or hot asphalt smell when it first hits the dog. If your dog is light in color, you may notice a yellow tint to the area that was sprayed.



### Skunk Odor Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1 cup Baking Soda
- 1 quart Hydrogen Peroxide 3%