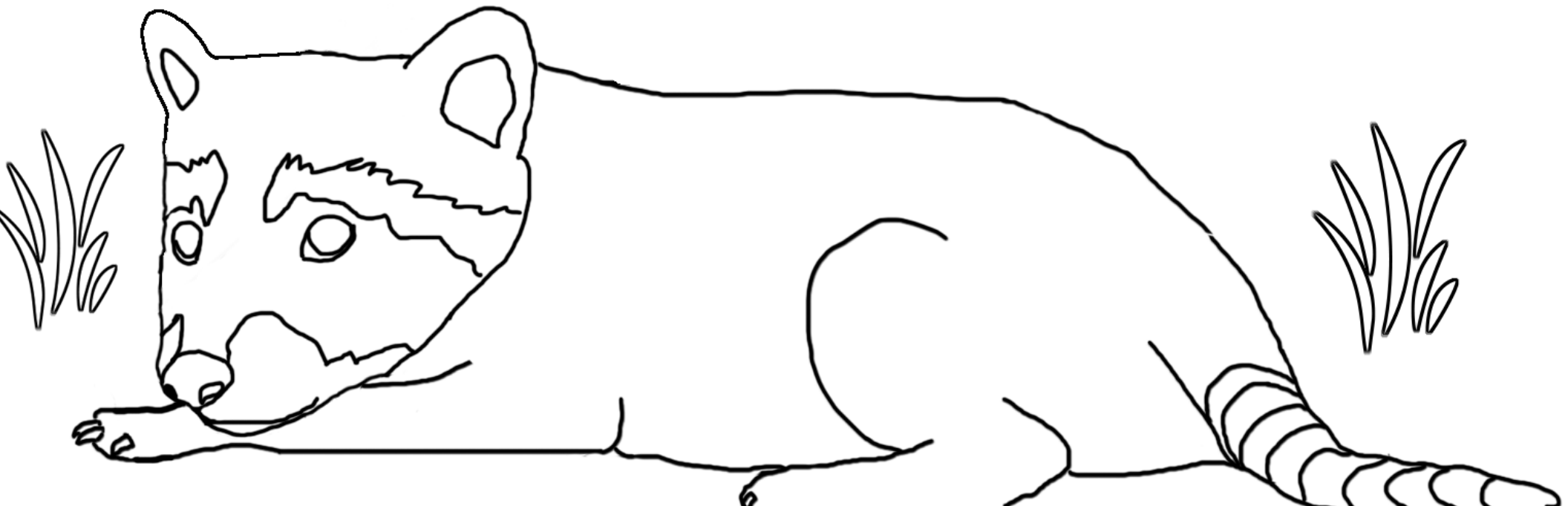


# Raccoon



# WILDLIFE TIPS FOR KIDS

## How to Learn More About Wildlife

**READ** Go to your school or public library and get books on local, Colorado wildlife. Ask your librarian, teacher or parents for help. Then you will know more about wild animals when you see them!

**OBSERVE** You can learn a lot by observing wild animals wherever you find them: in your yard, in parks, in the woods, near creeks and ponds.

**LISTEN TO EXPERTS** Ask your teacher to contact local organizations, including Greenwood, that can conduct educational programs on wildlife at your school!

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**Keep Cats Indoors** Millions of songbirds and small mammals are killed every year by the domestic housecat. Keeping your cat indoors will help protect wild animals as well as your cherished pet.

**Create Better Habitats** Use native plants in your garden that supply food for wild animals. Plant trees to provide shelter and homes. Hang bird feeders and offer bird baths in your backyard. Remember to keep them clean!

**Do Not Feed** It is illegal to feed carnivores and unwise to feed many other species. Feeding wildlife means that they will identify people as a food provider and will start approaching others for tasty snacks. This presents a danger for people and animals. Human food can also do harm since it is not formulated for animal consumption. Keep trash cans sealed. Do not throw food out the car window. And remember, if you leave food out for bunnies and squirrels, you might attract other animals you don't want in your backyard.

**Stay On Trails** When hiking, walking or biking on trails, it's important for you and your pet to stay on trails. Ground nesting birds and small mammals may be disturbed or even die if you leave trails designed to protect wildlife.

**Don't Litter** Always throw garbage in designated bins to protect wildlife from ingesting it or becoming entangled in it. Be a good environmentalist by picking up other people's trash, too!

**Leave Wild Items** Leave nests, feathers and eggs alone – it is illegal to disturb or possess them, and some birds reuse their nests year after year. Other birds use feathers to coat their nest and keep their young warm.

**Be A Good Neighbor** Look before you climb trees or stick branches into holes – these trees or dens could be homes for wildlife.

**Clean Up Fishing Line** If you fish, make sure you tie your lures on tightly so they won't come loose and become embedded in wildlife. Pick up unused fishing line around the lake or pond; animals' legs and wings become tangled in this deadly litter leaving them impaired.

**Watch From A Distance** Watch wildlife, take pictures, or just observe and enjoy, but never chase. You will most likely disturb them in their efforts to find food and cause them to use needless energy fleeing from you.

**Do Not Harm** Never use a BB gun, blow darts or CO2 guns on living creatures for target practice. It is cruel, completely unnecessary and causes animals much unneeded pain and ultimately death.

If you have a wildlife emergency, call Greenwood Wildlife at **303-823-8455**

<https://www.greenwoodwildlife.org/resources/just-for-kids/>



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