



Raccoons in Yosemite

Raccoons are **adaptable and intelligent animals**, and use their dexterous and sensitive front paws to forage for food such as insects, frogs, crayfish, and plant matter. Like bears, they can easily learn to use human development as a food source. This causes many problems for raccoons and people alike. Raccoons in Yosemite have been known to go as far as to unzip tents or run off with backpacks to eat any food forgotten inside- another reason to store your food in a bear-resistant food locker when camping!

Food left out around human development can cause unusually high populations of raccoons to collect where people spend time. This is problematic because of the changes it causes to raccoons, but also for human safety. Not only do **Yosemite's raccoons can carry diseases dangerous to people**, but the presence of raccoons (and other smaller mammals, including squirrels) in turn attracts larger predators like mountain lions and coyotes.

Store your food properly, never feed or approach any wildlife, and avoid leaving "microtrash" (scraps from cooking, etc.) behind! These steps can help to keep raccoons safe and you healthy.

