



## LAND OF ENCHANTMENT Wildlife Foundation

**Summer 2014**

Welcome, and thank you for taking the time to read the Land of Enchantment Wildlife Foundation's summer issue of our quarterly newsletter.

LEWF has had a busy summer. First, and our biggest news, is that LEWF is now recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit! That means you can deduct your donations to LEWF on your taxes. Becoming a non-profit was one of our hardest tasks. If you have donated to us over the last year, please watch your mail for important tax information.

Second, LEWF is officially 2 years old! It is almost hard to believe that two years have gone by, but we, the LEWF board, cannot wait to see what accomplishments are in store for the next two years.

Finally, thanks to generous donations, LEWF was able to fund requests from Desert Willow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Carlsbad; Best Rehab in Chimayo; and the Santa Fe Raptor Center. Desert Willow used the funds to purchase food for foxes in its care; Best Rehab purchased food for bobcats in its care; and Santa Fe Raptor Center used the money to complete construction of a new flight cage. Almost immediately the new cage was put to use to rehab Swainson's Hawks. Please visit the "Projects" tab on our website for a slide show of the cage construction.

Currently, the cost of feeding the hawks is about \$25 a day, and funds are quickly drying up. If you would like to help to feed them, you can donate on our Facebook page, our website, or by mailing your donation to P.O. Box 957 Santa Cruz, NM 87567.

Please continue to check [www.landofenchantment.org](http://www.landofenchantment.org) and [www.facebook.com/LandOfEnchantmentWildlifeFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/LandOfEnchantmentWildlifeFoundation) for announcements and pictures.

On the next page is a great discussion about the different defenses that mammals use in the wild. If you would like a topic discussed in our next issue, or just like a question answered, please email LEWF at [info@landofenchantment.org](mailto:info@landofenchantment.org).

Thank you for your time, and I hope everyone enjoys what remains of the summer, and let us hope for a pleasant transition into fall.

Regards,

James Robinson  
Chair, Land of Enchantment Wildlife Foundation



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### Mammal Defenses

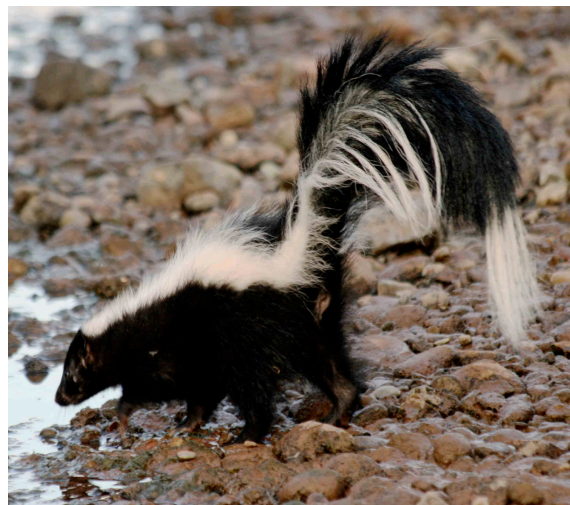
Almost every species of mammal on this planet can experience predation. With this alarming possibility mammals have made some unique adaptations to protect themselves. Predation is when one animal eats another animal. Even though this might sound sad, it is the way larger predators can survive. Some adaptations include color patterns, poison, quills, and scents.



Color patterns have several uses. They can help to disguise the mammal by using the patterns as camouflage. When camouflaged, the mammal will blend in with its surrounding terrain. An example of this is the Snowshoe hare. During the winter months it has a white hair coloration for the snow, but during the summer the hare sheds the white hair and the new hair comes in brown. This is to blend into the grasslands.

The other way color patterns can help a mammal's defense is to use the patterns as a warning to predators to stay away. The Striped skunk is a well-known example of this. The skunk's stripes warn predators to "stay away or something worse is going to happen."

Along with color the skunk has another defense: smell. (Another common defense that dogs encounter is the odor from a skunk.) The skunk will spray a fluid that has a putrid smell, causing other animals to stay away. That scent also is used in defense to mark territories. The alpha male will scent-mark its territory to help protect the pack. This scent-marking is a warning to other rough males to "stay away."





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### Mammal Defenses



Poison is one of the least common mammal defenses. There is only one mammal that actually has poison, and it is the Ducked-Billed platypus. The platypus has a spine on its heels that contains a toxin that the platypus uses to defend itself from predators.

*Photo Courtesy of National Geographic*

One common defense that dogs come into contact with is porcupine quills. Porcupines' backs are covered with tightly bound bundles of hair that they use to ward off predators. These quills are barbed at the end, and once they are imbedded in the skin they will stay there until pulled out. A false perception is that porcupines can shoot or throw quills. They can't, however, they can move their tail at an extreme speed to defend themselves.

