

The County has received complaints that raccoons have been causing damage to grain storage bags. In addition to causing economic losses raccoons can spread disease.

Of particular interest is the raccoon roundworm *Baylisascaris procyonis*. The eggs of this intestinal parasite are passed in racoon feces, and may be picked up by other hosts (including humans) from accidental inhalation or ingestion of dust that contains them. The larvae may migrate to the central nervous system of humans, causing serious illness and occasionally death. Raccoons are also a vector for rabies, distemper and parvovirus.

People are advised to handle raccoons with gloves and/or wash their hands carefully before handling food, and to avoid inhaling dust that may be raised when brushing or shaking out a racoon's fur. In the field, avoid racoon latrine areas. It is also good practice to steam clean truck beds, cage traps, and bags or containers after exposure to racoons.

Raccoons are not considered to be a game animal pursuant to the Wildlife Act and so may be hunted or trapped at any time of the year by a landowner or someone acting on behalf of the landowner.

The County has a limited number of traps available to loan on a first come first served basis.

For further information please contact the Pest Control Officer at 780-846-2244.

<http://srd.alberta.ca/FishWildlife/HumanWildlifeConflict/Raccoons.aspx>

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex847](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex847)