

## DE-SKUNKING YOUR DOG!

Be ready with these tips for "if" and "when" your dog gets "skunked". If you have these ingredients on hand you can usually eliminate the skunk odor before it sets into their fur.

NOTE: Tomato juice is NOT on the list. Tomato juice is believed to eliminate skunk odor because bathing an animal in it works to mask the odor so the human nose quits smelling it. But another person coming on the scene will readily confirm that the skunk smell is still present and has NOT been neutralized by the tomato juice. To neutralize or deodorize skunk spray, the chemicals in the secretion must be changed to a different type of molecule and the oily skunk spray needs to be broken down.

Have an empty container on hand, like a large shampoo bottle to mix the following:

1 cup white vinegar (or water and vinegar douches work well also)

2 tbsp. baking soda

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup Nature's Choice 5% Citrus Shampoo

2 teaspoons of liquid dish soap (Dawn)

Dilute mixture in container with about 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups of water

Bathe animal in mixture and let sit for 5 minutes. Be sure to wash area well, usually on the head or chest, where the animal got hit with the skunk spray. Avoid getting in dogs eyes, repeat if necessary. This mixture must be used after mixing and will NOT work if it is stored for any length of time. Do not store left over shampoo mixture in closed container - it releases gases and could break your container. Use just Nature's Choice 5% Citrus Shampoo in the following days if needed to eliminate any left over odor in the fur.

Hydrogen peroxide also works, and could be used instead of the white vinegar. (1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide instead of 1 cup of vinegar) NOTE: Hydrogen peroxide does bleach the animal's coat - so a black dog may be a brown dog after a Hydro-skunk bath.