



Striped Skunk



Eastern Spotted Skunk

# Skunks

Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), Eastern Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale putorius*)

## Instant ID

- Short-limbed mammal with two strong scent glands
- **Striped Skunk:** Thin, white stripe between eyes with two stripes running down the back, tail can have some to no white fur
- **Eastern Spotted Skunk:** Upside-down triangle on forehead and white-tipped tail with white spots on the body

## Native Niches

- Striped skunk is found throughout Florida, except in the Florida Keys
- Eastern spotted skunk found in most of Florida
- Live in a wide variety of habitats, including woodlands and open fields



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## Favorite Foods

- Primarily feeds on insects (insectivore)
- Changes diet in winter and spring months
- Will eat fruits, vegetables and other animals

## Critter Characteristics

- Musk from scent glands can blind some animals
- Can lose up to half its body weight in the winter

## Population Protection

- Populations of the eastern spotted skunk are declining
- Never touch wildlife, including skunks

