



Skunk Bath Recipe

We get numerous calls about pets that have been “skunked” and what can the owner use to clean the skunk oil off the pet. This is a tried and true recipe we use here at Hawthorne when we do de-skunking baths.

1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide

¼ cup baking soda

1 teaspoon liquid dish (preferably Dawn brand)



-Mix all ingredients in an open container. Increase in equal amounts to get larger volumes. A large Labrador may need 2-3 batches to get all of the skunk oil out depending on where pet was sprayed and how closely they were sprayed.

-Thoroughly wet dry hair on pet with mixture. Make sure to get down to skin, past undercoat if possible. Try to leave on pet for 5 minutes or so once completely wet. Avoid the eyes, inside of ears and mouth.

-Once pet has sat with peroxide mixture, wash pet with a basic oatmeal or moisturizing shampoo (don't need to rinse peroxide if you shampoo immediately after). The liquid dish soap strips the oils from the hair follicle to remove the skunk scent. By using a moisturizing shampoo after, you can help prevent skin from over-drying.

-Once thoroughly rinsed, you may need to dry the pet to see if smell is gone. Sometimes it may take 1-3 rinses of the peroxide solution to remove lingering odors.

Treatment for Eyes/Face:

Some dogs get skunked directly to face. They may salivate as oil enters their mouth and mucus membranes. Do not apply anything to the eyes without consulting with a veterinarian. You can flush them out with plain saline drops (make sure they do not have any added medications). If pet's eyes become excessively red and they begin to paw at them, seek medical attention. Pet can further damage eye by rubbing or scratching the eye.

A few additional handy tips:

-Mix this ingredients up only as needed; this does not have a shelf life beyond 2 hours and works best fresh.

-Do not place mixture in a closed container. As the ingredients do foam, there are reports of mixing up a batch and then closing the jars, only to have them explode a short time later. With that in mind, be careful.

-Solution can bleach and pull color from clothes and materials. It is best to wear gloves while applying to your pet as it will burn any open cuts on hands (peroxide) and also begin to bleach your fingertips.