

Skunk Smell Eliminator

Have you ever doubted your Newf's good sense after he has been sprayed by the local skunks...repeatedly? These dogs fall into two categories: (1) those who learn the first time and (2) those who never learn. Unfortunately, most of us have the category 2 dog who thinks that "Eau de Polecat" is a perfume, so you'll be glad to know that this mixture really works – unlike tomato juice.

Bathing an animal in tomato juice *seems* to work because at high doses of skunk spray the human nose quits smelling the odor (olfactory fatigue). When this happens, the odor of tomato juice can easily be detected. A person suffering olfactory fatigue to skunk spray will swear that the skunk odor is gone and was neutralized by the tomato juice. Another person coming on the scene at this point will quickly confirm that the skunk spray has *not* been neutralized by the tomato juice.

A quick word of advice here – do NOT bring a freshly skunked Newf into the house! He will rub against things and transfer the smell; the whole house will end up smelling like a skunk. If you must bring him in, wrap him in something washable until you get to the bathtub. If at all possible, keep him outside and bathe him there as well!

Eliminator

1 quart 3% Hydrogen Peroxide

1/4 cup Baking Soda

1 teaspoon liquid Dawn Dishwashing Detergent

Mix in a large bucket or bowl as it will bubble, a clue that you shouldn't try to mix it and store it in a bottle or other closed container. Thoroughly wet your dog with the solution. Knead it into his coat extremely well, a good 10 minutes, to chemically alter every bit of the skunk thiols (the oily compounds that make up the skunk's horrific smell) that are on the hair. Be careful to keep the formula out of the dog's eyes, nose and mouth; you can use a sponge to carefully wipe it onto his face. Follow the bath with a thorough rinse. Repeat if necessary.

The soap breaks down the oil in which the odor is suspended, and the hydrogen peroxide and baking soda neutralize the scent. This mixture also works for clothes, humans and any animal unlucky enough to have gotten too close to a skunk.

Caution

This mixture may bleach your dog's hair.

Do not premix this for later use as it will lose its effectiveness.

*Do not attempt store this mixture in a sealed container – **IT WILL EXPLODE!***

This information has been compiled by the Southeastern Newfoundland Club, as part of their comprehensive rescue program. We are grateful for their generosity in sharing all of their hard work.- NCA 2006