Human/raccoon conflicts can occur in urban areas throughout the state. Raccoons will prey on poultry, small pets and get into trash and gardens. They have also been known to inhabit attics, chimneys, basements and garages. They can enter through holes already present in a structure. Raccoons in a home can sometimes be heard scurrying about, whining or growling. Raccoons can pose a risk to humans and pets with some of the diseases they carry, such as distemper, mange, rabies, and canine and feline parovirus and roundworm.

Determining that raccoons are causing problems is the first step; removing attractants and exclusion are the next steps in avoiding conflict. Involving neighbors in these efforts is the key to success.

- Do not approach or try to feed raccoons.
- Do not leave pet food and water bowls outside.
- Keep bushes trimmed and woodpiles stacked neatly.
- Trim tree branches that extend over buildings to eliminate climbing structures.
- Trash should be kept indoors at night and put out the morning of pick-up. If this cannot be done, trash cans should be secured to avoid being overturned and the lids should be weighed or locked.
- Keep fallen fruit and vegetables picked up.
- Cover openings under porches and sheds.
- Cover window wells with a commercial grate.
- Install chimney caps and cover attic exhaust pipes with hardware cloth.
- While covering holes, be sure to avoid sealing animals inside. Sprinkle flour around the area. If you do not find tracks for several days it is okay to proceed with covering.
- Use woven wire fencing around poultry yards and gardens. Approximately 8 inches should be buried in the ground to prevent a raccoon from digging under.
- Keep poultry, rabbits and other hobby livestock secured in a building/barn at night.
- Install electric fencing.
- Install motion sensor lighting, and if possible use in conjunction with noise makers such as a radio.
- Keep housecats and dogs indoors at night.
- Lock dog/cat doors at night to prevent raccoons from entering your home.
- Vaccinate your pets.
- Always observe raccoons from a safe distance.

Raccoon on porch or in yard:
Use noise makers to scare the raccoon away. Use a hose or water gun to deter the animal from approaching. Keep a good distance from the animal and do not corner it.

Raccoon in a home:
Close off access to other areas of the home, open doors and windows and go outside and watch for the raccoon to leave. Do not use food as bait. If it still won’t leave, contact a professional pest control company. Do not attempt to remove the animal yourself.

Legal status: Raccoons are not protected in Utah. No hunting or trapping license is required to take them. Utah state law prohibits possessing a live raccoon without a permit.

If you have a problem with raccoons that cannot be resolved by following these tips consult a professional, licensed animal control company.
Visit this link: http://wildlife.utah.gov/habitat/nuisance_control.php