



Always Helpful Veterinary Services

Education for both ends of the lead!

DE-SKUNKING YOUR PET RECIPE

Ingredients:

- 1 Quart 3 % Hydrogen Peroxide
- ¼ Cup Baking Soda
- 1 Tablespoon Mild Dish Soap

Directions:

Mix ingredients, apply to animal's fur. Rub thoroughly into fur and let sit for 5 minutes. Rinse thoroughly. Repeat if necessary.

Collars:

This mixture might also take the smell out of your pet's collar. It seems to work pretty well on fabric collars. It is not known how well it works on leather.

Note:

Skunk spray is composed mainly of low molecular weight thiol compounds, namely (E)-2-butene-1-thiol, 3-methyl-1-butanethiol and (E)-2-butenyl thioacetat, these compounds are detectable at concentrations of ~ 2 parts per million.

Removing the scent from objects or creatures can be difficult. Some home remedies suggest using tomato juice, beer, or vinegar. However, these do not break down the thiol compounds and oils in the skunk spray, and usually just mask the odor temporarily. The thiols, which are responsible for the odor, are not water soluble, even with soap, but the baking soda catalyzes the oxidative ability of the peroxide, which oxidizes the thiols into highly water-soluble thiolates. In an episode of the television program MythBusters, the hydrogen peroxide mix was found to be the most effective smell removal agent.

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