

## **Low Cost Effective Treatment for Skunk Spray**

by H. Lee Stribling, Wildlife Specialist

Every now and then one of my dogs will get sprayed by a skunk. I have always used the "tomato juice bath" skunk spray remedy on them when they tangled with skunks. It works alright, but takes a lot of tomato juice and thus can get expensive. While going through some big stacks of "stuff" in my office I found this clipping. I was skeptical of this remedy, so I found a road-killed skunk, mixed up the 3 ingredients and dunked the smelly, dead skunk in the solution. The smell went away immediately. I was very surprised and impressed.

Paul Krebaum, a chemist at Molex, Inc. devised this low cost solution for "de-scenting" skunk spray. When one of his colleagues had a cat which had been "skunked," Krebaum suggested using the same method on the cat he used in his lab to reduce sulfur smells. This procedure causes oxygen to bond with the thiols (a family of chemical compounds) which cause the odor. The solution generates oxygen once the hydrogen peroxide and baking soda are mixed, so the solution must be made up fresh each time it is needed. The soap breaks up the oils in the skunk spray and allows the other ingredients to do their work. The solution should be poured over the pet and then rinsed off with tap water.

1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide  
1/4 cup baking soda  
1 teaspoon liquid soap