

Influence of Gender and Den Type on Home Range Shape for Striped Skunks, *Mephitis mephitis*, in Saskatchewan

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Larivière, Serge, David Howerter, and François Messier. 2007. Influence of gender and den type on home range shape for Striped Skunks, *Mephitis mephitis*, in Saskatchewan. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 121(3): 261-264.

We investigated gender differences in shape of home ranges for Striped Skunks, *Mephitis mephitis*, in southcentral Saskatchewan, Canada, during 1993-1994. Data collected on free-ranging Striped Skunks indicated that shape of female home ranges was unaffected by den type (building versus burrow) and was similar to shape of male home ranges. Moreover, type of maternity den did not influence the position of the den within the home range (inside or outside of core area). We conclude that the distribution of Striped Skunks in summer, and the distribution of their foraging activity, are not affected by the availability of anthropogenic den structures.

Key Words: Striped Skunk, *Mephitis mephitis*, home range, denning site, spatial distribution, Canadian prairies.