

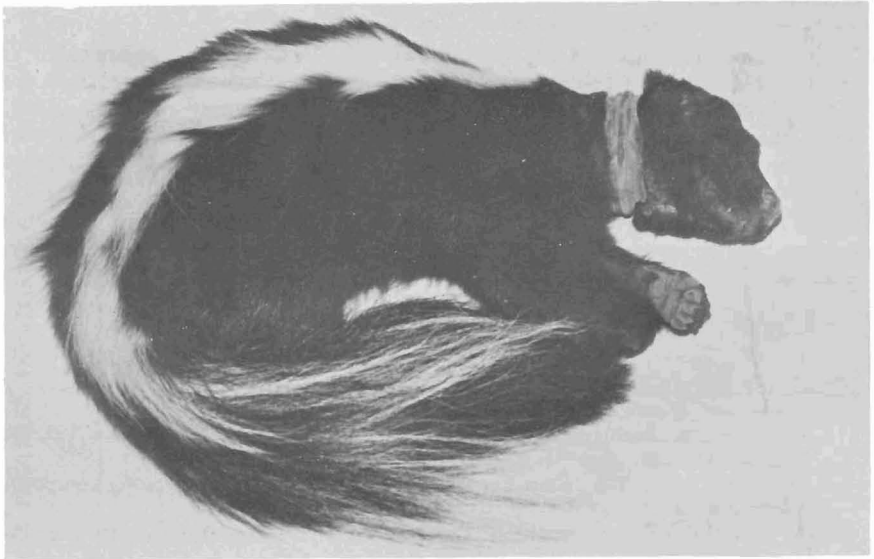
A Skunk With a Glass Collar

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This note reports an unusual wildlife accident involving a striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) and a commercial jelly jar. On October 26, 1970, a 4.5-pound juvenile male striped skunk was livetrapped 4 miles east of Hillsboro in Traill County, North Dakota. Examination revealed that a jar neck 3 inches in diameter and about 1 inch in width encircled the animal's neck (Figure 1). The broken edges of the jar neck were worn smooth by the sliding action about the neck. The only apparent effect of the collar was that the hair about the neck was worn, 5 mm long versus 20 mm on a normal skunk. The weight of the individual did not deviate markedly from the mean weight (4.7 lbs.) of juvenile striped skunks caught in the area.



A. A. Gustafson of the North Dakota Public Health Laboratory in Grand Forks stated that he found a dead striped skunk with a glass collar in the winter of 1967 a few miles south of Grand Forks. Jerald O. Jacobson, North Dakota State University, stated that he saw a skunk with a tin can over its head in the spring of 1967 which a farmer shot 2 miles south of Chaffee, North Dakota. A gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) with a tin can over its head was reported by Lee (1962). Most animals suffering such accidents probably either pull free or succumb to starvation. The skunk captured in this instance apparently managed to smash the jar after it could not extricate its head.

LITERATURE CITED

Lee, O. B. 1962. A not-so-sly fox. *So. Dak. Conserv. Digest*, 29(2): 21.