

I Smell Trouble Webisode Descriptive Narrative

[A skunk saunters through a hole in the fence and into the yard]

[Dog runs from the house across the yard over to the skunk]

Jenny: Wolfie! Get in here! Wolfie!

[Hinterland Who's Who Intro featuring images Jody, Jenny, and Connor interacting with different forms of wildlife, wildlife including a caterpillar, a turtle, a groundhog and a snake]

[I Smell Trouble; Living with Urban Wildlife in Canada animation]

[Jenny and Wolfie arrive at Jody's house; Jenny wearing a mask over nose and mouth]

[Jody opens the door and plugs her nose]

Jody: Whoa, Jenny? Oh, a new perfume? I hardly recognized you.

Jenny: We've just met our first skunk.

Connor: Mice in the kitchen, squirrels in the ceiling, snakes in the garden, and now this. Your family must be freaked.

[Connor, Jenny and Jody bathe Wolfie in a metal tub]

Jenny: I knew Canada was full of wild animals, but I figured we'd be safe in the suburbs. You don't have any grizzly bears around here do you, Jody?

Jody: No. But we've got groundhogs, falcons, opossums, salamanders, frogs, toads, owls, racoons, hawks, foxes, mink, turtles, coyotes, deer, pigeons, rats, geese, dragonflies, chipmunks, worms, crows, rabbits, spiders, mosquitos, moles, hornets, weasels.

[Images of wildlife flash across the screen while Jody lists them]

[And your point is...? animation]

Connor: Okay. I got this one. The point is is just because our environment doesn't look wild to us it doesn't mean it's not wild to other species.

[Animated clapping squirrels cuts to Jenny, Jody and Connor in tents with flashlights]

Jenny: Wednesday, 11:00 p.m., we stake out my creepy backyard in search of the foul offender.

Jody: All set?

Jenny: Check.

Connor: Ready. What was that?

Jenny: A racoon. Wow.

[Jenny shines her flashlight on a foraging racoon]

[That's Wild animation]

Jody: The racoon is among the most recognizable of Canada's urban wildlife. They get their name from the Algonquian word that means hand scratcher. In fact, racoon's hands have thousands more nerve endings than ours. Combine this sense of feel with amazing intelligence, they're better problem solvers than dogs.

[Images of racoons eating, digging and exploring]

Connor: There are shadows moving across my tent.

[Connor shines his flashlight towards the sky]

Jody: Brown bats.

Jenny: That's so cool.

Jody: Yeah.

Jenny: No, because I'm Chinese.

Connor: Yeah, Jenny, it's so cool that you're Chinese.

Jenny: No, no. The bat is a sign of good luck. Look over our back door. That's the Wu-fu charm, five bats circling the tree of life. Here's something else that Jody didn't know.

[JDK; Jody Didn't Know animation]

Jody: I didn't know that individual cave colonies in Texas house more than 20 million bats. I did know that some bats are known to live as long as 35 years in Canada. Brown bats are insect eaters, great for keeping your yard free of biting bugs.

[Images of thousands of bats flying across the sky as a crowd watches]

Jenny: Connor, shine your light beside the deck.

[Connor shines his light on a skunk eating the grass]

Jody: Striped skunk.

Jenny: Bingo.

Connor: If you know her name why don't you just call her?

[That's Wild; Striped Skunk animation]

Jody: Skunks are best known for their highly effective defence mechanism, a potent spray they can accurately fire up to 6 metres. Skunks are not aggressive animals. If you encounter one it will likely try and run away. Before spraying it will growl or hiss and stamp its front feet quickly. The greatest threats to skunks in urban Canada are cars and trucks. In the countryside, these animals are hunted by bobcats and various birds of prey, especially the great-horned owl.

[Images of skunks exploring their habitat cutting to images of a busy highway and enemies of the skunk]

[Connor calling on the walkie talkie as a shadow appears across his tent in the morning]

Connor: Jenny, there's something out there, something big. I think it's coming toward my tent.

Jody: Rise and shine oh brave and mighty one.

[Jody, Connor, and Jenny stand together in the yard hear the deck]

Jenny: Okay. So here's what we know. She lives under here because?

Jenny: Because it's safe. It's dark, it's dry...

Connor: And quiet.

Jody: What else?

Connor: She likes to have her morning coffee on the deck?

Jody: Close. There is a food source nearby.

Jenny: The garbage.

Connor: And the compost pile.

Jody: Yeah. So what do we need to do to make her move out?

Connor: Dig her a 5-star hole in Beverly Hills.

Jenny: No. Not by making another place more attractive, but by making this place less attractive.

Connor: Right. Okay. All set.

[Connor puts a bag of trash into an outdoor container and closes it tightly]

[Jenny empties composite into the outdoor bin and closes the lid]

[Connor and Jenny set up lights and music they have brought from the garage and house on the deck as night falls]

Jenny: My dad says this is the first time he's every looked forward to hearing my music.

Connor: Let's find out if the skunk is funky.

Jenny: How long will it take to drive her out?

Jody: A day or two at the most.

Connor: Then the trick will be to keep her out.

Jody: And consider the bigger question.

[Jody dressed as a judge sitting behind her bench]

[Judge Jody logo]

Judge Jody: How do we deal with all of this wildlife in our urban and suburban areas? Appearing for humankind, Ms.

Jenny Wong. And for the wild inhabitants, Mr. Connor Sims. *[Jenny and Connor, dressed as lawyers, complete with glasses perched on their noses each nod to Judge Jody as she recognizes them]*

Judge Jenny: Ms. Wong, if you would begin, please.

Jenny Wong: Thank you, Your Honour. As humans we own this land and we object to being terrorized in our own homes by these animals. We just want to live in peace, but they torment us night and day. Racoons wreak havoc in our yards, deers decimate our gardens, spiders, snakes, and bats scare us half to death.

[Images of a residential neighbourhood, children raking a lawn while a snake watches]

[Images of a racoon foraging at night, a deer, a spider, a snake slithering and bats flying through the sky]

Connor Sims: Job only half done then.

Judge Jody: Mr. Sims?

[Pretend rabbits and skunks and rodents move behind Connor as he presents his case]

Connor Sims: Your Honour, my clients only understand one law, the law of nature. So perhaps Ms. Wong will forgive them for failing to appreciate the fine points of human property ownership. Humans poison my clients with pesticides. They kill them by the thousands on highways. They continually destroy wildlife habitat and then complain when my clients move into theirs. Your Honour, Canada's wildlife accept that humans are part of the urban ecosystem. The problem is that humans do not accept wildlife.

[Images of red-jacketed man spraying pesticides, a racoon lying dead beside the highway moving to an aerial view of residential neighbourhoods]

[Rabbits clap their ears together]

[And the verdict is...]

Judge Jody: I find that the humans must try and coexist with wildlife. And here's a few simple ways you can do it.

[Judge Jody taps her gavel]

[Jody and Wolfie together inside panning to images of cats roaming outside]

Jody: Control your pets by keeping them indoors, in a pen, or on a leash. When our pets encounter wild animals, it can be dangerous for both. Cats cause real trouble. In North America, free-roaming housecats kill millions of birds and small mammals each year.

[Images of chipmunks at a birdfeeder, Connor placing garbage securely in an outdoor container, a skunk sauntering through the broken fence in the yard; a bat house and a meadow]

Jody: Wildlife is attracted to urban areas by the availability of food and shelter. We can cut down on conflicts between people and wildlife by doing things like storing and sealing our garbage properly, and covering holes in which through animals can get under and into our houses. Think about installing bird and bat houses to encourage natural pest control and counteract habitat loss.

[Jody, Connor, and Jenny stand together inside]

Jody: We've learned a few ways we can share the urban environment with wildlife.

Jenny: Visit Hinterland Who's Who online and tell us about your ideas.

Connor: You'll find tonnes more on the website about how to live with the wildlife that surrounds us.

Jody: And remember, no matter where you live in Canada, wildlife is close by, so get out and see it.

[Hinterland Who's WhoTube logo]