



Body Shop Raccoon

A raccoon was high up on the metal rafters of an auto body shop and may have been injured when one of the garage doors had been raised. There was no ladder high enough to reach the roof, so the mechanics put a truck on one of the lifts and raised me toward the ceiling. That raccoon was not at all pleased to see me closing in on him with a pole net in one hand and a broomstick in the other. As I extended the broomstick towards him, he jumped backwards and landed in the net. But he was too quick for me. Before I could put down the broom and secure the net, he was flying down to the floor. This move definitely got the attention of the garage employees, who began to scatter in all directions.

It was time for Plan B. One of the mechanics was going to scare the raccoon so it would run out from behind the cars and I could capture it in my net. As you might imagine, the raccoon had a plan of his own. He climbed up the garage door to the roof, again clinging to one of the rafters. His new position wasn't close to any of the lifts, so my hope of a successful rescue was looking grim. Then one of the mechanics raised the metal garage door, which made a loud racket and frightened the raccoon even more. As he was moving across the beam away from the noisy door, he suddenly made a gigantic leap off the beam, straight for the Office Manager. Fortunately, I was standing a few feet from her so I thrust out the pole net and the raccoon landed right in it. I quickly closed the drawstring to the cheers of the employees.

The raccoon is young and is in the rehabilitation section at Southwest. He will be released with some other orphaned raccoons in a few months.