

North American River Otter

Scientific name: *Lontra canadensis*



Facts:

Length	Body: 2' - 3' Tail: 12" - 20"
Weight	12 - 30 lbs
Lifestyle	Social, Nocturnal (active at night)
Lifespan	Wild; 8 - 10 years, Captivity: 20+ years



Diet: *Carnivore*

Fish, crayfish, crabs, frogs, birds' eggs, birds and reptiles. They also eat aquatic plants and small mammals. Otters have a very high metabolism so they need to eat often.

Behavior:

River otters are very playful animals and can often be seen involved in play behavior. Social groups are typically made up of adult females and their pups. However, there are also groups of individual males.

Did you know?

River otters can close their nostrils to keep water out during long dives.

Habitat:

Ponds, marshes, lakes, rivers, estuaries and marshes

Range:

Canada and the United States, except for portions of the Southwest, and in Mexico in the Rio Grande and Colorado River delta areas.

