



# Raccoon Fact Sheet

**Class:** *Mammalia*  
**Order:** *Carnivora*  
**Family:** *Procyonidae*  
**Genus:** *Procyon*  
**Species:** *Procyon lotor*

<b>Average Length</b>	19-30 inch or 48-76 cm
<b>Average Height</b>	12-20 inch or 30-51 cm
<b>Average Tail Length</b>	10-16 inch or 24-41 cm
<b>Average Weight</b>	14-35 lb or 6-16 kg
<b>Lifespan in the Wild</b>	2-3 years
<b>Lifespan in Captivity</b>	Up to 20 years
<b>Top speed</b>	17 mph or 27 kmph
<b>Behavioral Activity</b>	Nocturnal
<b>Physical Features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Hunched posture as hind legs longer than front legs</li> <li>◆ Strong sense of touch due to sensitive and dexterous front paws</li> <li>◆ 90% of coat is dense underfur for insulation</li> <li>◆ Males are larger than females</li> </ul>
<b>Diet</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Omnivorous and opportunistic eater</li> <li>◆ Most commonly feeds on: fruits, plants, nuts, berries, insects, rodents, frogs, eggs, crayfish, and garbage</li> </ul>
<b>Geography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Native to North America</li> <li>◆ Introduced to countries such as Germany, Russia, and Japan in the 20th century</li> </ul>

<b>Habitats</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Originally found in deciduous and mixed forests, but now is a highly adaptable species that inhabits wide range of landscapes</li> <li>◆ Thrives in urban areas due to food availability and fewer predators</li> <li>◆ Sleeps in tree cavities or burrows, but does not hibernate</li> <li>◆ Home ranges of individuals typically overlap and span from 0.1 km<sup>2</sup> in urban areas to 4 km<sup>2</sup> in rural areas</li> </ul>
<b>Reproduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Mating season is January-June</li> <li>◆ A female raccoon is called a sow, a male raccoon is called a boar, and young are called kits</li> <li>◆ Females begin reproducing at 1 year old, have a 65 day gestation period, produce 1 litter annually, and give birth to 2-5 kits in the Spring</li> <li>◆ Kits stay with their mothers until 13-14 months of age</li> </ul>
<b>Social Structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ A group of raccoons is called a nursery or gaze</li> <li>◆ Some evidence that raccoons congregate in sex-specific groups</li> </ul>
<b>Threats</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Predators include bobcats, coyotes, and cougars</li> <li>◆ Health risks include roundworm (<i>B. procyonis</i>) and rabies</li> <li>◆ Often injured and killed by cars</li> </ul>