



Wild Mammals

IN OUR COMMUNITY

MEET & GREET-1

OHLONE HUMANE SOCIETY

NORTHERN RACCOONS



- RACCOONS ARE NOCTURNAL AND MAY ONLY LIVE 2-3 YEARS IN THE WILD, BUT IN CENTERS AND ZOOS CAN LIVE UP TO 20 YEARS.
- RACCOONS CAN BE FOUND IN THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND PARTS OF MEXICO.
- RACCOONS HAVE PREDATORS SUCH AS COYOTES AND BOBCATS, DOGS, LARGE BIRDS OF PREY LIKE EAGLES AND OWLS.
- RACCOONS MAY SLEEP FOR EXTENDED PERIODS IN COLD WINTER CLIMATES, ALTHOUGH THEY DON'T ACTUALLY HIBERNATE. TO PREPARE FOR COLD WINTERS, RACCOONS PACK ON EXTRA BODY FAT IN FALL.
- RACCOONS DIG THROUGH TRASH CANS OR COMPOST BINS, EAT PET FOOD LEFT OUT, AND MIGHT LIVE UNDER A HOUSE OR IN THE ATTIC.
- RACCOONS CAN USE THEIR FINGERS TO UNTIE KNOTS, OPEN LATCHES, AND UNSCREW NUTS. THEY CAN COME DOWN A TREE BOTH FORWARD AND BACKWARD AND HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO SAFELY DROP 40 FEET. THEY USUALLY WALK ON ALL FOURS BUT CAN EASILY STAND UP ON THEIR TWO BACK LEGS. THEIR BUSHY TAIL CAN HAVE ANYWHERE FROM FOUR TO TEN BLACK RINGS.
- RACCOONS SWIM WELL AND ALTHOUGH THEY WALK SLOWLY, THEY CAN RUN FAST, UP TO 15 MILES PER HOUR.

VIRGINIA OPOSSUM



- The Virginia Opossum is the largest of the over 100 types of opossum. This species is found everywhere - cities, suburbs, forests, swamps, plains and marshes.
- Opossum are marsupials like kangaroos and when born, they are the size of a bumblebee but can climb up the mother into her pouch and stay there for almost 3 months! Mother opossum keeps the pouch very clean and opossum groom themselves like cats do.
- Scientists believe opossum have been on Earth so long that the first ones may have eaten dinosaur eggs!
- Opossum tails can grasp and hold onto tree limbs. The young ones can even hang upside down. They can grip objects with their hind feet that are like our thumb and fingers.
- Opossum have a low body temperature and are considered immune to rabies, some snake venom, tick bites, and scorpion and bee stings.
- Opossum come out at night and will eat almost anything, including cockroaches, rats, ticks, plants, grains, human garbage and food.

FOX SQUIRREL (EASTERN)

- Squirrels can rotate their feet of this animal 180 degrees, allowing the squirrel to climb down trees head-first
- The 4 front teeth grow continuously throughout its life. The squirrel needs to gnaw on nuts and tree bark to keep the teeth short.
- When threatened or alarmed, squirrels try to confuse a predator by running back and forth and in various directions.
- Squirrels are very intelligent and may pretend to bury food if other animals are watching.
- Fox squirrels like to nest in tree hollows and take care of their young for about 2-3 months.
- Fox squirrels have great senses of hearing, smell and vision. They use their whiskers around their eyes, chin, nose, and forearms as special touch receptors.
- As scatterhoarders, they can bury food and find it later. Squirrels are omnivores and will eat bird eggs, insects, and seeds among other items. They help the ecosystem by spreading seeds.
- Fox squirrels use a variety of sounds and behaviors to communicate, such as standing upright and flicking their tail.
- Predators are hawks, owls and snakes.
- Many squirrels die before they are adults but can live 8-18 years in controlled environments.



STRIPED SKUNKS



- Striped Skunks are 1 of 3 types of skunks and the only one with a stripe on its face and the most common in the Northern California area. They also have two white stripes down their backs.
- Skunks eat anything and everything and they commonly hunt for food right before sunset or sunrise.
- Skunks live about 3 years in the wild and up to 10 years at centers or zoos. Mother skunks can store their fertilized egg inside their body and delay the implantation to give birth in the Spring when chances of survival are better.
- Skunks have poor eyesight, but excellent hearing and sense of smell. Predators are bobcats, coyotes, wolves, foxes and owls.
- Although they prefer to live alone, during a cold winter, they may room with another female skunk to share warmth.
- Striped Skunks will give warning, like hissing, stomping their feet, and raising their tail before they spray from up to 10-20 feet away. Actually, their spray has chemicals called thiols that, when distilled, are the basis for many perfumes sold today. Skunk scent can be smelled over a mile away and can linger for weeks!

IDENTIFY the Mammal!

See the Choices Below



Raccoon

Deer

Fox

Bobcat

Answers: A. Fox B. Deer, C. Raccoon, D. Bobcat

BABY MAMMALS: TO HELP OR NOT? CALL A WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR

HOW TO HELP

- You see an animal is bleeding, injured, shivering, or has a broken limb and is unable to walk or move correctly.
- Your dog or cat brings it to you.
- You see a young animal crying and appears to be searching all day.
- You see /know its parent is dead or by watching from a distance you see the mother does not return after several hours.
- You estimate the rabbit is less than 4 inches long.
- You are being followed by a young squirrel that doesn't know where to go.
- You find a fawn (baby deer) that is crying and laying on its side.
- You notice baby foxes that are sickly or weak.
- You find an opossum baby with a body estimated to be less than 7 inches long.
- You see a baby raccoon (cub or kit) that has been alone and crying for several hours, including nighttime.
- You see several baby skunks running around without their mother.

**Children should
not attempt to
rescue a wild
injured or baby
animal.**

**Adults should
contact a
wildlife
rehabilitator
for advice!**

**Also see
[Found a Baby
Mammal on
the OHS
website](#)**

BETTER LEFT ALONE?

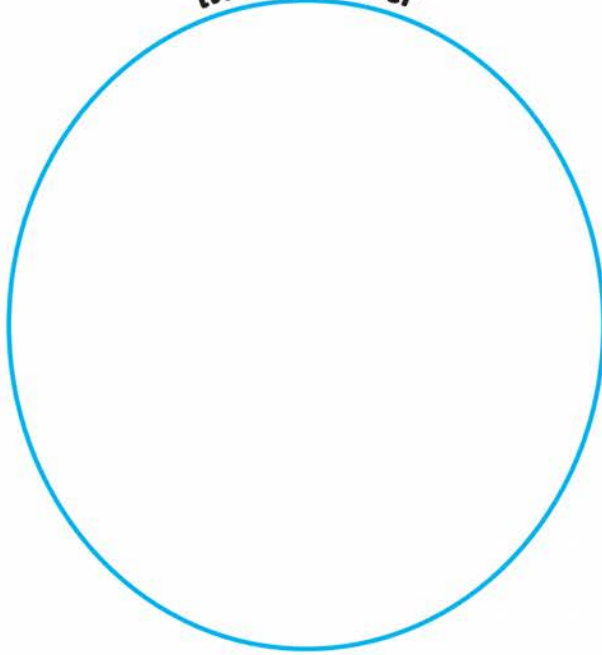
- You are unsure if mother will return and you do not know if she is dead.
- Your dog or cat brings it to you.
- You see a young animal crying and appears to be searching all day.
- You see /know its parent is dead or by watching from a distance you see the mother does not return after several hours
- You estimate the rabbit is over 4 inches long.
- You are being followed by a young squirrel that doesn't know where to go.
- You find a fawn (baby deer) that is hiding but alert. The mother may return after long intervals.
- You notice baby foxes but they look healthy.
- You find an opossum baby with a body more than 7 inches long.
- You see a baby raccoon alone, but it is safe to leave for
- You see several baby skunks running around without their

Remember wildlife are not pets. To help make the best decision for the animals, contact a licensed and trained wildlife rehabilitator. Their ultimate goal is to rehab wildlife to be release back to nature

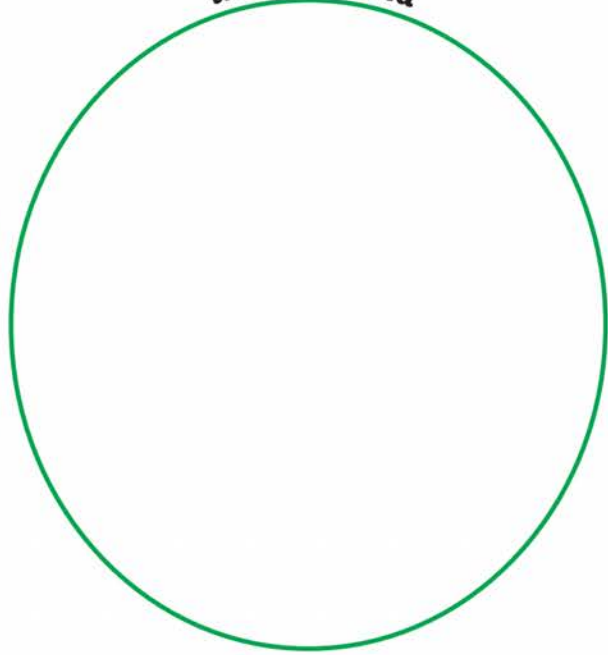
Sorting Mammals

Sort the mammals into the correct groups.

lives in water



lives on land



SAVE OUR WILDLIFE!

EDUCATE!

