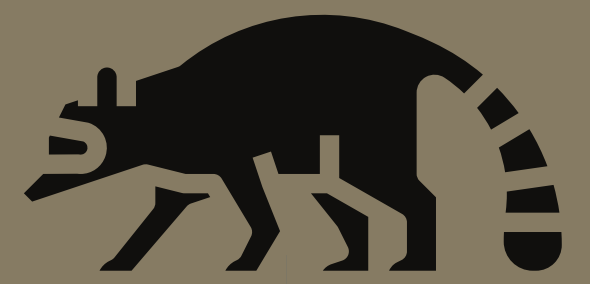


RACCOON

Procyon lotor



The Northern Raccoon is one of the three species of raccoons in the world, and is the only one that inhabits North America. This mammal can be easily recognized by the black fur around its eyes, with white eyebrows and snout, representing that of a 'bandit's mask'.

Their thick, stocky bodies are covered with a mix of dark and light-coloured gray to reddish-brown hair, and a bushy grey tail with dark rings. The raccoon also has incredibly dexterous front paws with five toes, like human hands, allowing them to climb and use objects better than many other mammals.



HABITAT

Raccoons are highly adaptable and live in a range of areas such as swamps, marshes, forests and farmland (as long as they have access to water). Raccoons prefer making dens in hollow trees but can also live in abandoned animal dens, deserted houses or barns, and rain sewers. In urban areas, they can make home under decks and back yard sheds.

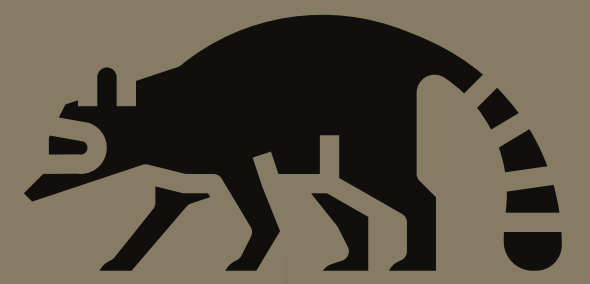
DIET

Raccoons are omnivorous, eating both meat and plants. They are also opportunistic and consume more of what is easily available. In cities, you can often see raccoons digging in garbage cans.

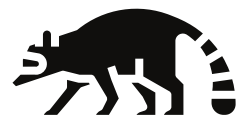
Using their hand-like paws, raccoons often "wash" their food to remove debris or soften food before eating it.

RACCOON

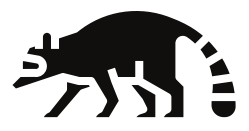
Procyon lotor



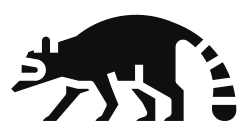
BEHAVIOUR



Raccoons are nocturnal and are most active at night and are seldom seen during the day.

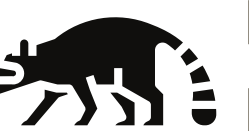


During winter, they go into a state of "torpor" where their temperature remains constant and their bodies survive off fat reserves.

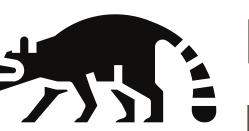


A solitary animal, not living socially with other raccoons.

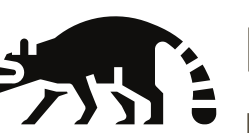
BREEDING



Breeding takes place in February/March and babies, known as kits, are born in May.



Females typically have three to four kits in a litter and in rare cases up to seven.



Males do not take part in raising the kits, with females raising their young independently.



For more information visit:
www.charlottetown.ca

RACCOON FACTS

Raccoons have a good sense of smell and hearing, being able to hear insects and worms underground.

Their front paws have a series of nerve endings that play a big role in their ability to handle objects well.

A very intelligent animal that can problem-solve and tell different shapes apart.

Average lifespan in the wild is two to three years. It has been documented that domesticated raccoons have lived up to 20 years in captivity.

To avoid issues with raccoons on your property, seal your waste and compost bins well. Make sure there are no openings in sheds, garages and under decks where they can get in.

Do not feed wildlife.