



RACCOON

Phylum: *Chordata* Class: *Mammalia* Order: *Carnivora* Family: *Procyonidae*
Procyon lotor

Description: With its distinctive mask and ringed tail, the raccoon looks deceptively cuddly.

Length: 18-30 inches with a tail 8-13 inches

Weight: up to 46 pounds

Range: Stream edges, open forests and coastal marshes

Distribution: United States and parts of Canada

Life Span: 10 or more years in the wild.

Status: Not listed

Diet: Omnivores, they feed on fruits, nuts, insects, reptiles, garbage and crops

Special Features:

- Solitary animals, Raccoons are very temperamental and will fight with its own family members
- Nocturnal
- Do not hibernate in the winter although they will sleep for several days during cold weather.
- Raccoon hides were once so prized that they were used as currency.
- Raccoon's toes are long and widely spaced to help them climb.
- The Raccoon has very nimble fingers that can twist handles and open doors. They use them much as monkeys do.
- Sometimes Raccoons will dip food in water to moisten the food. The wetting of their paws makes their hands more sensitive to touch so they can remove debris from the food.
- Live in hollow trees or logs, or ground burrows dug by other animals.

Reproduction:

- Sexual maturity is 2 years for males and 1 year for females.
- Breeding season is winter
- Gestation is 60-73 days
- Litter size is 1-7 kits

