

RACCOON

Did You Know?

The raccoon's English name comes from the Algonquian word arukan, meaning "he who scratches with his hand."

APPEARANCE

The raccoon's notorious black mask is what people remember most about this creature! In addition to the band running from one side of its face to the other, the raccoon has a big, bushy tail with an average of five to 10 alternating black and brown rings. Its body is normally grey in colour, but can vary from albino to black or brown.



FOOD

The raccoon is an omnivore, so it is happy to eat both meat and vegetables, just like many humans! As a scavenger, the raccoon's diet is determined largely by its environment. Common foods include fruits, plants, nuts, berries, insects, rodents, frogs, eggs, and crayfish. In urban environments, the animal often sifts through garbage for food. The majority of its diet consists of invertebrates and plant foods.

HABITS

The raccoon can live in a wide range of habitats, requiring only a source of water, food, and a protected area for shelter in order to survive. The habitats best suited are hardwood swamps, floodplain forests,

saltwater marshes, and farmland. It is also found in cities all over the country. The raccoon is also a strong swimmer, but it is better known for its climbing abilities. It is capable of making a variety of sounds, including whistling, shrieking, chattering, clicking its teeth, snarling and growling.