

# Mammal



## VIRGINIA OPOSSUM

*Didelphidae virginiana*



### LOCATION

Also known as the North American opossum, it is found in Central America and North America east of the Rocky Mountains. It prefers woodlands with nearby bodies of water. It is extremely adaptable and can survive in a variety of habitats & climate.

### DIET

It is an opportunistic omnivore, meaning it eats a wide variety of animals & plant matter. It also loves insects & will occasionally hunt small animals like chicks & snakes.



**THE OPOSSUM IS THE ONLY MARSUPIAL FOUND IN THE US.**

**A FEMALE WILL HAVE 1 - 2 LITTERS OF BABIES EACH YEAR.**



### RABIES

Rabies in an opossum is extremely rare. This may have to do with how low its body temperature is, making it difficult for the virus to survive.

#### Signs of Rabies

Rabid animals are prone to acting very abnormal. If you see an animal having seizures, foaming from mouth, twitching or coming towards you. Keep your distance and call animal control to prevent anyone getting injured.

**AN OPOSSUM HAS A VERY SHORT LIFESPAN - ABOUT 2 YEARS!**

### NOCTURNAL & DEAD

The opossum is nocturnal, mainly active after dark. Although it does not hibernate, it is less active during the winter.



**DID YOU KNOW?  
THE OPOSSUM MAY  
LOOK LIKE A RAT TO  
SOME PEOPLE BUT IT IS  
NOT A RODENT.**

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#### IS IT DEAD!?

#### NOPE!

When threatened or harmed, it will “play possum”, mimicking the appearance & smell of a sick or dead animal: lips are drawn back, teeth are bared, saliva foams around the mouth and a foul-smelling fluid is secreted from anal glands.