

VIRGINIA OPPOSUM



Didelphis Virginiana

Opossums are nocturnal marsupials known for their sharp claws, long tails, and ability to “play dead” when threatened. They help the environment by eating pests like ticks and are excellent climbers and scavengers.



STATS

Range: Northern Costa Rica, Mexico, central and eastern United States, and southeastern Canada

Habitat: Woodlands, usually near water

Average Size: Body length including tail - 27 inches

Lifespan in the wild: 1 ½ - 2 years

Lifespan in human care: 3-4 years

Diet: Omnivore

Activity: Nocturnal

Conservation Status: Least concern

FUN FACTS

- Opossums are the only marsupials in North America.
- Due to an opossum's low body temperature and successful immune system, it's very rare for one to carry rabies.
- Opossums are skilled climbers, thanks to their opposable rear thumbs and long tails that are designed to wrap around branches.