



## North American River Otter

*Lontra canadensis*

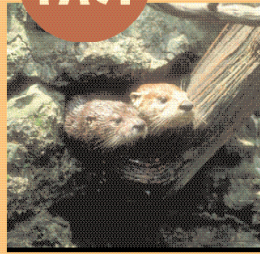
**Habitat:** Wetland areas, including rivers, lakes, marshy areas, and ocean bays. They prefer fresh, fast running water.

**Range:** Most forested regions of North America



### FUN FACT

River otters do not have tail flippers, but only webbed hind feet. In water, otters are limited to speeds of around six miles per hour, but they can dive to depths of 60 feet and stay submerged for four minutes.



### How are otters well adapted to aquatic life?

- Otters have thick, muscular tails and webbed feet which enable them to be swift, agile swimmers.
- Otters have two layers of hair that are waterproof.
- Otters have whiskers and nimble fingers which help them locate their food underwater.



### Fact or Fairy Tale?



**Otters are playful and make good pets... Fairy Tale!** They are playful, but they become aggressive as adults. And it is illegal to own an otter in the U.S.

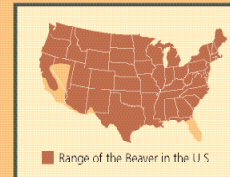


## American Beaver

*Castor canadensis*

**Habitat:** Rivers, streams, lakes, farm ponds, swamps and other wetland areas

**Range:** Most of the forested regions of North America



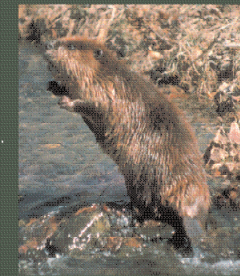
Beavers communicate in a variety of ways: postures, scent marking, vocalizations, and slapping the tail on water. When they slap their tails, the sound can be heard up to a mile away.

### FUN FACT



### Why do beavers work well in water?

- Beavers have microscopic organisms living in their stomachs that enable them to eat wood and other hard-to-digest plants.
- A beaver can close its nostrils and block its throat with its tongue so he can swim with a log in his mouth.
- Beavers have a pair of transparent eyelids that function like a pair of goggles.



### Fact or Fairy Tale?



**Beavers' teeth never stop growing...Fact.**

For this reason, beavers must always chew on hard wood to keep their teeth from becoming overgrown.