

# Opossums

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Opossum, March 12, 2019, San Diego Zoo.



A opossum has a pink nose with black and white fur. Its eyes are black and it has black whiskers.

When opossums feel threatened or they think a predator is around or near they play dead..

Female Opossum, December 23, 2015, Ky Forward.



The babies stay on the mothers back for two more weeks after they leave their mother's pouch.

## Breeding/ Reproduction

- Marsupials
- 2 litters a year
- 13-20 babies in a litter
- babies have a race for survival
- Open their eyes when 65 days old
- live with their mother for over 100 days
- 8 months when the moms start to breed/reproduct
- Only meet when it is time to breed

Playing Possum, March 11, 2019, Science FYI



Opossums can play dead from 40 minutes to 4 hours.

## Eat...

- plant
  - birds' eggs and baby birds
  - frogs
  - lizards
  - small rabbits
  - berries
  - insects such as crickets, butterflies, worms, and grubs
  - eat any dead animal they can find
- ## Predators
- Owls
  - Foxes
  - Coyotes
  - Snapping Turtles

## Diseases/Pests

- do not have many diseases/immune

## Benefits

- Eats ticks
- Cleans environment

## Nusense

- Annoyance

## Range/Habitat

- Opossums live by water sources, cities, crops, forest/area with trees, etc.
- The live on the west and east coasts, but not areas that are too hot or too cold.

Opossum's Range, 2018, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries



The range of opossums is continuously growing.