

1: Reproduction – Life Cycle | Opossum Society of the United States

The female opossum is a spontaneous ovulator with an estrous cycle of about 28 days. She is in estrus a short period, about 36 hours. This is the time mating can occur.

Appearance, biology, life cycle, habitat, diet, behavior About Opossum: Appearance, biology, life cycle, habitat, diet, behavior The opossum, more commonly called the possum, are odd animals that have proven to be unbelievably adaptable to a wide range of areas and habitats including Indiana. They are able to adjust their diet and live off of the available sources of food, even when these sources have not been a part of their diet before. Opossums range in size from that equal to a large cat down to a small mouse. They have long snouts and slim down the face much in the way a cone looks. They are creatures that walk on all fours, but the back feet are constructed differently than the front paws. On the back feet there is an opposable digit that is separated from the other four toes; however, on the front feet all five digits are spread apart evenly across the foot. These are marsupial animals meaning that the mother gives birth to the young and then they reside in her pouch until they have reached a certain age. The young are born very shortly after the egg is fertilized, usually no longer than 12 to 14 days after conception. This is primarily due to the fact that the placenta does not last long in the mother, and the young would die if they were not birthed earlier. The young are weaned somewhere between 70 to after birth depending upon rate of growth and safety. Some animals are able to stay with the mother for longer periods of time because the conditions are safer for her to do so. Most opossums in Indianapolis live to be two to four years of age. Even in captivity their life spans are fairly short primarily because their aging is quick. Opossums are solitary figures, only uniting around other opossums for breeding. They also are quite nomadic, rarely staying in one area for two long. They will remain for an extended period of time if the food source in Indiana is such that it is readily available and it is safe to continually return to get more. Many will choose to live under houses or in abandoned burrows for shelter. While they enjoy the comfort of these places, they are not often protective of their temporary homes. If challenged they will frequently abandon the spot rather than risk being killed or hurt. In fact, opossums are often considered the least courageous of mammals. Their primary defense is to play dead, in hopes that other animals will bypass them altogether. Opossums are even able to secrete an odor that makes them smell like they have been dead for some time, thus causing other Indianapolis animals to ignore them out of fear that they are rotten. There are instances where groups of opossums will reside in the same burrow if they are in need of greater safety because of the larger numbers, or if conditions demand a solitary home for many. This usually occurs during dangerous weather conditions. It seems instinctually that these animals will not become offended or combative with other Indianapolis opossums who choose to reside where they are located. Opossums in Indiana have a very full jaw. It has large canine teeth and small incisors. The molars are tricuspid shaped. The shape of the jaw and the types of teeth that the possums have give them the ability to eat a diversified array of food, including both meat and vegetables. One of the most interesting features of the opossum is that they are quite immune to most venom from other animals. For example, a possum can survive a bite from a rattlesnake, cottonmouth or pit viper, things would kill a human being quite easily. These animals are incredibly dangerous to come in contact with because they are quite likely to be carrying the rabies vaccine. One in eight hundred has the disease and, while that seems like a small amount, consider that there are tens of millions of possums in North America alone. That means that there are hundreds of thousands of the species of mammal with the disease. While possums may not look particularly good, many find them to be a rather tasty treat to enjoy. At one point the possum was almost completely wiped out in Virginia because of hunting and consumption of the animal. Now they are only able to be hunted during certain times of the year, but they are still low in numbers in many states throughout the country. In many Caribbean nations the possum is often used to replace rabbit or chicken in meals. In many countries it is believed that eating the tail of a possum will increase fertility, and some believe that possum oil has healing powers. It is used as a medicinal ingredient in cures and remedies for arthritis and burns. No word if scientific studies have proven the effectiveness of possum oil in these treatments. To learn more about our services, visit the Indianapolis wildlife removal home page.

2: Opossum - Wikipedia

*The Life Cycle of an Opossum (Nature's Life Cycles) [Barbara M. Linde] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Learn how opossums live from birth to death.*

A marsupial is an animal belonging to the order Marsupiala, infraclass Metatheria. Members include the kangaroo, koala, Tasmanian devil and the Virginia opossum. Marsupials give birth to fetal-like young following a brief gestation period. The young then nurse for an extended period of time. It is generally accepted that a marsupial is a non-placental mammal whose female carries her young in a pouch, or marsupium, which provides the developing young with the proper environment, warmth, possess a placenta, although the placenta is non-invasive and functions in nutrient and waste transfer for a very short period of time, about 3 days in the Virginia opossum. Female opossum with young in pouch Without a long-lasting and functional placenta, the young must be born early in their development after a short gestation period. Marsupial young are basically embryos at birth. Not all female marsupials possess a well-developed pouch, as found on the abdomen of the Virginia opossum. Some marsupials carry young in rudimentary pouches which are basically skin folds. Many other do not have a pouch at all. The pouchless young must firmly attach to the teats with their mouths and front paws. The reproductive system of the opossum has fascinated many and has led to interesting folklore. She then sneezed the young through her nose and into the pouch. Of course, this is not true. There are several reasons why this belief was held. One reason is that opossums are so small at birth it is difficult to witness the event. Observers had seen the female with an empty pouch one day. The next day she was seen with her nose in the pouch making sneezing sounds. Later, upon examination of the pouch, tiny embryos were found. Actually, the female opossum was either cleaning the pouch prior to the birth or licking the area to soothe her swollen teats. It is bifurcated, like a 2 pronged fork. The female has an internal, bifurcated reproductive tract as well. Opossum sperm are interesting? Sperm heads align and pair inside the male reproductive tract during sperm maturation. The sperm are ejaculated as pairs and remain paired inside the female reproductive tract until just prior to fertilization at which time the paired sperm separate into single spermatozoa. The breeding season for the Virginia opossum can begin as early as December and continue through October with most infants born between the months of February and June. A female opossum may have litters per year. During the mating season, the male attracts the female by making clicking sounds with his mouth. The female opossum is a spontaneous ovulator with an estrous cycle of about 28 days. She is in estrus a short period, about 36 hours. This is the time mating can occur. The infants are so small at birth that 20 could fit into a teaspoon. At birth, the infants must make a long and difficult journey from the birth canal into the pouch, latch onto a teat, and continue their development. The mother helps by licking the hair leading into the pouch, providing a moist path for the infants to follow. On average, there are only 13 teats in the pouch and not all may be functional. If more infants are born than the number of functional teats available, the excess infants will not survive. Also, if only one individual attaches, milk production by the mother probably will not occur. This opossum is not pregnant. At this time the young are learning survival skills such as finding food sources and predator avoidance. If one of the young becomes separated from its mother it will make sneezing sounds to call her. She, in turn, will make clicking sounds. In a few months they will reproduce and continue the fascinating life cycle of the Virginia opossum. Breeding season brings on two major consequences. First, males extending their range to search for mates are more subject to injury or death by cars, dogs and other predators. Second, females laden with young cannot run as fast and have to forage earlier in the evening and later in the morning. They risk exposing themselves to increased predation and more encounters with people, pets and cars with possible injurious or fatal consequences. Many times the mother does not survive these encounters and the young, usually found still alive in the pouch, ultimately wind up in the hands of wildlife rehabilitators. It is important to always check the pouch of a deceased female for live young. If found then seek immediate medical assistance.

3: Opossum Biology, Life Cycle, Habitat, Diet

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A marsupial is an animal with a pouch, like a kangaroo or a koala. The opossum is about the size of a large house cat. It has a triangular head and a long pointed nose. It has grayish fur everywhere but on its ears, feet and tail. Its tail is prehensile. A prehensile tail is adapted for grasping and wrapping around things like tree limbs. The opossum can hang from its tail for a short time. Some people think opossums hang from their tails and sleep. The opossum has opposable hallux. Hallux are clawless big toes that work like thumbs. The hallux helps the Virginia opossum grab branches when it climbs. Habitat The Virginia opossum lives in a wide-variety of habitats including deciduous forests, open woods and farmland. It tends to prefer wet areas like marshes, swamps and streams. Diet The Virginia opossum is nocturnal and uses its keen sense of smell to locate food. It is omnivorous and eats just about anything, including lots of different plants and animals like fruits, insects, and other small animals. Sometimes, it eats garbage and carrion. Carrion is dead animals. Because so much carrion is roadkill, opossums are often killed by cars while looking for food on roadways. Life Cycle A Virginia opossum female may have as many as 25 babies, but she usually will have between seven to eight. The reason opossums have so many babies to insure that some of them survive. Like most marsupials, opossums are very small when they are born - about the size of a navy bean. Some babies will not find their way to the pouch and will die. If they make it to the pouch, only babies who find one of the thirteen teats will survive. They will stay in the pouch and suckle for days. In some parts of their range, females will have three litters a year. Behavior The Virginia opossum has many behavioral adaptations it uses to survive. When threatened, it will exhibit behaviors like running, growling, belching, urinating and even defecating. This coma-like state can last up to four hours Some predators will think the opossum is dead and go away!

4: Life Cycle Of An Opossum

From inside the mothers pouch to life outside the den, this is an engaging exploration of Americas only wild marsupial. Fun facts and vivid photographs teach readers about every stage of an opossums life.

This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. March Learn how and when to remove this template message Pacing diagram for Virginia opossum - key: One grid square represents one square inch. Opossum tracks photo center in mud: Left-fore print appears on left center of photo, right-hind print appears right center. The small, circular tracks at bottom center of photo were made by a meadow vole. The yellow ruler top is in inches. Virginia opossum tracks generally show five finger-like toes in both the fore and hind prints. Individual adult tracks generally measure 1. Opossums have claws on all fingers fore and hind except on the two thumbs in the photograph, claw marks show as small holes just beyond the tip of each finger ; these generally show in the tracks. In a soft medium, such as the mud in this photograph, the foot pads clearly show these are the deep, darker areas where the fingers and toes meet the rest of the hand or foot, which have been filled with plant debris by wind due to the advanced age of the tracks. The tracks in the photograph were made while the opossum was walking with its typical pacing gait. The four aligned toes on the hind print show the approximate direction of travel. In a pacing gait, the limbs on one side of the body are moved simultaneously, just prior to moving both limbs on the other side of the body. This is illustrated in the pacing diagram, which explains why the left-fore and right-hind tracks are generally found together and vice versa. However, if the opossum were not walking but running, for example , the prints would fall in a different pattern. Other animals that generally employ a pacing gait are raccoons , bears , skunks , badgers , woodchucks , porcupines , and beavers. By taking careful stride and track-size measurements, one can usually determine what species of animal created a set of tracks, even when individual track details are vague or obscured. Behavior[edit] When injured or threatened, the Virginia opossum is well known for attempting to fake death or "play possum", as seen in this photo. Carrying its young The Virginia opossum is noted for reacting to threats by feigning death. This is the genesis of the term "playing possum", which means pretending to be dead or injured with intent to deceive. In the case of the opossum, the reaction seems to be involuntary, and to be triggered by extreme fear. It should not be taken as an indication of docility, for under serious threat, an opossum will respond ferociously, hissing, screeching, and showing its teeth, but with enough stimulation, the opossum will enter a near coma. It lies on its side, mouth and eyes open, tongue hanging out, emitting a green fluid from its anus whose putrid odor repels predators. Brain activity is unaltered however, and the animal remains fully conscious. Death feigning normally stops when the threat withdraws, and it can last up to six hours. Besides discouraging animals that eat live prey, playing possum also convinces some large animals that the opossum is no threat to their young. Opossums are omnivorous and eat a wide range of plants and animals such as fruits, grains, insects, snails, earthworms, carrion, snakes, birds, mice, and other small animals. The Virginia opossum has been found to be very resistant to snake venom. The Virginia opossum does not hibernate, although it may remain sheltered during cold spells. The breeding season for the Virginia opossum can begin as early as December and continue through October with most young born between February and June. A female opossum may have one to three litters per year. During the mating season, the male attracts the female by making clicking sounds with his mouth. Like all female marsupials, the females reproductive system is bifid: It is common for 20 or 30 young to be born and even as many as 50 , but the female only has 13 teats, arranged in a circle with one in the center, so only the first 13 may survive. They leave their mother after about four or five months. The Virginia opossum has a maximal lifespan in the wild of only about two years. Under her belly she hath a bagge, wherein she lodgeth, carrieth, and sucketh her young. Or, The Anatomy of a Male Opossum: Fellow of the College of Physicians and of the Royal Society. The letter suggests even earlier descriptions. Humans may be causing an increase in body size for opossums that live near urban environments. They rarely transmit diseases to humans,[citation needed] and are surprisingly resistant to rabies , [28] most likely because they have lower body temperatures than most placental mammals. In

THE LIFE CYCLE OF AN OPOSSUM. pdf

animation, it is often used to depict uncivilized characters or " hillbillies ". In an attempt to create another icon like the teddy bear , President William Howard Taft was tied to the character Billy Possum. Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference 3rd ed. Johns Hopkins University Press. International Union for Conservation of Nature. Retrieved 28 December

5: Virginia opossum - Wikipedia

From inside the mother's pouch to life outside the den, this is an engaging exploration of America's only wild marsupial. Fun facts and vivid photographs teach readers about every stage of an opossum's life.

Will They Attack People and Pets? In this post, we discuss if opossums are dangerous to humans, dogs, and cats and if they carry diseases and rabies. Opossum behavior is not well known by most people. Very often people know very little about them, what they eat, how they behave. We are more familiar with squirrels or raccoons, which we are more likely to encounter and observe their behavior. The possum, however, is less well known. They are entirely nocturnal animals, so we rarely see them. They are also solitary and will avoid contact with humans. When we see a possum, it is not cute like other animals. Then when we encounter an opossum in our yard and we wonder, are opossums dangerous? Opossums are rarely dangerous. They are solitary animals, slow moving, and usually very docile. Even with those menacing looking teeth though, it is very unlikely that they would attack a person or other animals. We have witnessed people poke an opossum with a stick while its teeth were showing and it still will usually not even attempt to bite. Will opossums attack people? It is very rare for an opossum to attack a human. Any wild animal can become dangerous if cornered and threatened. However, it is very unlikely that an opossum will attack a human. They may bear their teeth. More than likely they will become still and maybe play dead. Will opossums attack dogs? In reality, it is much more likely that a dog will attack an opossum than a possum will attack a dog. As we said before, opossums are very docile. They are very non-confrontational. They avoid contact with humans and with other animals. An opossum will choose to escape or play dead before it will go out of its way to threaten or attack a dog. It is possible a cornered opossum could bite your dog, but even in that case, it is unlikely. Will opossums attack cats? Just like with dogs, it is much more likely that a cat will attack an opossum than an opossum will attack a cat. Opossums are not aggressive animals, despite their impressive set of teeth. They would always prefer to avoid contact with other animals, including cats. An opossum is much more likely to try to escape or play dead than to attack a cat. Do opossums carry diseases? These can be transmitted through contact with opossum droppings. Do opossums carry rabies? All mammals are potential carriers of rabies. However, rabies is very uncommon in opossums. Very few opossums contract rabies, and if they have it, they very rarely transmit it to other animals. It is much more common for rabies to occur in skunks, bats, and raccoons than in possums. That said, just because it is a docile animal unlikely to carry rabies, we would recommend you NEVER attempt to touch or pick up a possum. All wild animals can be unpredictable and even dangerous if they feel threatened, even the docile opossum. They can also carry fleas, ticks, and other diseases. Always leave wild animals in the wild where they belong.

6: Opossum Archive - Blog Posts About Opossums | Attic Solutions

Simple text and photographs describe the life cycle of opossums from birth to adult and discuss their physical characteristics, habits, and dangers they face.

Etymology[edit] The word "opossum" is borrowed from the Powhatan language and was first recorded between and by John Smith as opassom and William Strachey as aposoum. They tend to be semi- arboreal omnivores , although there are many exceptions. Most members of this taxon have long snouts , a narrow braincase , and a prominent sagittal crest. The dental formula is: By mammalian standards, this is an unusually full jaw. The incisors are very small, the canines large, and the molars are tricuspid. Didelphimorphs have a plantigrade stance feet flat on the ground and the hind feet have an opposable digit with no claw. Like some New World monkeys , opossums have prehensile tails. Like that of all marsupials, the fur consists of awn hair only, and the females have a pouch. The tail and parts of the feet bear scutes. The stomach is simple, with a small cecum. Members of the Caluromyinae are essentially frugivorous ; whereas the lutrine opossum and Patagonian opossum primarily feed on other animals. Baby opossums, like their Australian cousins, are called joeys. The young are weaned between 70 and days, when they detach from the teat and leave the pouch. The opossum lifespan is unusually short for a mammal of its size, usually only one to two years in the wild and as long as four or more years in captivity. This may ensure that flagella movement can be accurately coordinated for maximal motility. Conjugate pairs dissociate into separate spermatozoa before fertilization. Some families will group together in ready-made burrows or even under houses. Though they will temporarily occupy abandoned burrows, they do not dig or put much effort into building their own. As nocturnal animals, they favor dark, secure areas. These areas may be below ground or above. When threatened or harmed, they will " play possum ", mimicking the appearance and smell of a sick or dead animal. This physiological response is involuntary like fainting , rather than a conscious act. In the case of baby opossums, however, the brain does not always react this way at the appropriate moment, and therefore they often fail to "play dead" when threatened. The stiff, curled form can be prodded, turned over, and even carried away without reaction. The animal will typically regain consciousness after a period of a few minutes to four hours, a process that begins with slight twitching of the ears. An opossum may also use its tail as a brace and a fifth limb when climbing. The tail is occasionally used as a grip to carry bunches of leaves or bedding materials to the nest. Threatened opossums especially males will growl deeply, raising their pitch as the threat becomes more urgent. Males make a clicking "smack" noise out of the side of their mouths as they wander in search of a mate, and females will sometimes repeat the sound in return. When separated or distressed, baby opossums will make a sneezing noise to signal their mother. The mother in return makes the clicking sound and waits for the baby to find her. If threatened, the baby will open its mouth and quietly hiss until the threat is gone.

7: Virginia Opossum - *Didelphis virginiana* - NatureWorks

opossum peeking-rb image by Tijara Images from www.enganchecubano.com Opossums are colloquially known as "possums," especially in North America. The Virginia opossum -- which can be found throughout the continent -- is the only marsupial that lives naturally in North America.

Opossum is the official name. They can even be found as far north as Vermont and Maine. Identification Virginia opossums are about the size of housecats, and are mostly grey, with a white face. They have a pointed nose, short legs, and a long rat-like tail. These animals walk in a curiously slow, hobbling manner. Behavior Virginia opossums are mostly active at night. Their eyes are well-adapted to darkness. During the day, they den up in cavities, such as hollow trees, brush piles, or spaces under structures built by people. In the warmer months, opossums wander widely in search of food. They rarely spend two consecutive days in the same spot. In the fall and winter, they occupy a more permanent nest lined with leaves. If the predator is not deterred and the opossum is attacked, it plays dead. While in this catatonic state, the opossum falls on its side and becomes completely limp, with its tongue hanging out of its mouth. It often defecates and may also emit a greenish, foul-smelling substance from its anal glands. Life Cycle Virginia opossums mate from mid-winter to mid-summer, and often have multiple litters in a year. Females give birth only about two weeks after mating. If there are more than 13 babies, only those babies able to grasp a teat will survive. This vital connection remains unbroken for about two months. At about two months, their eyes open and they begin to spend time out of the pouch. The young are fully independent at about three months. Food Virginia opossums are omnivores. This means that they will eat a variety of foods, including meat and plants. Insects and carrion dead or decaying animals are important parts of their diet. They will also eat amphibians, reptiles, earthworms, birds, and small mammals, as well as seeds and fruit. If an opossum dens in an undesirable location, usually the best solution is patience; the animal will probably move on after a few days. Learn more [Connect With Us](#).

8: The Life of a Possum | Animals - www.enganchecubano.com

The opossum (/ ˈɒpəˈsʊm /) is a marsupial of the order Didelphimorphia (/ dɪˈdɛl.əˈfɪm.ɔrˈfiː.ə /) endemic to the Americas. The largest order of marsupials in the Western Hemisphere, it comprises or more species in 19 genera.

Contact Opossum Biology, Life Cycle, Habitat, Diet Whether you have an interest in learning more about the wildlife around your home or want to better understand them as a way to keep them off your property, finding out more about opossums can be a very interesting endeavor. Keep in mind that possums and opossums are the same thing; they are just two different terms used for the animal. Appearance And Biology There are actually 60 species of opossums, with the common opossum or Virginia opossum being the most common. This is actually the only marsupial, meaning pouched animal that is found in Canada and the United States. Opossums have sharp claws that help them dig into the bark of trees while climbing. They also have a long gripping tail which they use as an additional limb during climbing. The rear limbs have clawless, opposable thumbs. These prehensile tails are hairless. Possums have hairless ears and a pink nose at the end of their flat, long snout. Opossums can vary greatly in size. The average one will be around the same size of an average house cat, but they tend to be smaller in the tropical areas and larger farther north. Their fur is usually gray but it can be anywhere from black to brown to white due to variations in their guard hairs. These guard hairs can also vary in thickness. Their mouth holds the most teeth of any mammal in North America, Life Cycle Although a litter of opossums may have up to 20 babies, less than half of these animals will survive on average. When opossums are born, they are as small as honeybees and completely helpless. Not all of the newborn opossums will make it this far. Eventually, the possums get larger and occasionally leave their pouch. They span from southern Ontario to Costa Rica and are expanding their range north. These animals are native to the eastern portion of the U. Possums tend to live by or in wooded areas, particularly those that are close to water. They are also frequently found in urban areas. Since they are excellent climbers, it is not uncommon for possums to nest inside of tree holes. They can also frequently be found in dens that were previously made by different animals. They will bring nesting material to their chosen shelter. Diet Possums are scavengers, which means they will eat whatever food they can find. Because of this, they will frequently be found by human homes, raiding dumpsters and garbage cans. Opossums will also carrion, which is why you will frequently find them by roadkill. Additionally, these animals eat fruit, nuts, and grass. As omnivores, they also hunt birds, mice, worms, insects, and snakes as well as chickens. Possums have a relatively small brain, but are able to find food as well as remember where they found it. In fact, opossums scored better than cats, rats, rabbits, and dogs in some tests for their memory. They can also remember how toxic or noxious substances taste. They will flop on their sides then lie on the ground. Their eyes will either be closed or they will stare into space with a fixed view. At the same time, these marsupials extend their tongues to complete the impression that they are dead. This has proven to be an effective way to put predators of guard and give the animals the chance to escape. Possums are not typically aggressive, but they do have a defensive posture when threatened. If cornered, they will either sit back or crouch down and open their mouth. This displays as many of their teeth as possible. This action is accompanied by screeches or growls that tend to get more intense. Opossums are also great climbers, spending a great deal of their time in trees. Their biology helps with their climbing capabilities. If caught and then handled, possums will frequently defecate and the glands by the base of their tail will release a secretion that is pea-green. Possums are mostly nocturnal, typically foraging after dark. When it gets colder out, such as during winter, they are more likely to be active during the day since they need to eat more.

9: The Life Cycle of an Opossum : Barbara Linde :

The Life Cycle of an Opossum by Barbara Linde, , available at Book Depository with free delivery worldwide. The Life Cycle of an Opossum: Barbara Linde: We use cookies to give you the best possible experience.

Opossum Life and Habitat Opossums, or possums, are the smallest and the stupidest of American terrier quarry. A possum will normally weigh between three and eight pounds, and the brain case of the animal is so small that the skull has a prominent bone ridge whose sole purpose is to give the possum a large enough cranial surface area for the jaw muscles to attach to. Rat-like in appearance, the typical possum has long, coarse, grayish-white fur, with a scaly prehensile tale, and sharp and slender muzzle, pink nose and black eyes. Possums are unique creature in many respects. The hind foot of a possum has four claw-bearing toes and a thumb-like opposable "big toe" which is clawless. The result is an odd looking track -- almost Martian-like in appearance. The opossums original range was from from Costa Rica north through Mexico and the central and eastern half of the United States to southeastern Canada. During the s, its range expanded northward and westward. Its northern distribution is limited by winter temperatures and its western distribution is limited by dry, hot climates. The opossum has been introduced along the Pacific Coast and is currently found from southern California to southwestern British Columbia. Opossums prefer low, damp, wooded streams and swamps. Farming areas having hedgerows and small, wooded streams are preferred over densely forested upland areas. In many ways, possums are cursed animals. Not only do they have small brains, they are not very fast, and are easily killed by coyotes, farm dogs, fox and owls. A typical female possum will have two litters a year, each with as many as 18 young. The gestation period for a possum is just 13 days -- the shortest gestation period of any furbearer in North America. Pouch mortality is fairly high, and usually only five to eight baby possums survive to peek out in the world two months after being born. Young possums remain with their mother for 3 to 4 weeks after leaving the pouch. It is during this period that you often see them traveling on the backs of their mother, clinging on for dear life, but rarely falling off. Young possums are weaned at two and half months of age, and are independent at three and a half. Female opossums are sexually mature by 6 to 7 months of age; males by 8 to 9 months. Most possums die within the first 9 months of life, and few make it to age three. Opossum skull, side and from top. Opossums are active throughout the year, but may hole up in groundhog dens or hollow trees during cold periods. Possums are primarily nocturnal and will seek protective cover during the day. These shelter sites may include hollow trees, firewood racks, brush piles, groundhog burrows, and crawl spaces under houses and outbuildings. Opossums are omnivorous, eating a wide variety of foods but preferring animal matter -- grasshoppers, crickets, frogs and toads, small snakes, baby mice, and road-kill. Other main food crops include blackberries, pokeberries, wild grapes, and persimmons. Possums do not appear to have territories -- they simply wander around living a catch-as-catch can life, as short and as grim as it too often is. To see several very large possums, go to:

Historical dictionary of the Druzes The line of least existence. Infinity of little hours Searching for Dr. God Building Outrigger Sailing Canoes Washington Square by Henry James Repositories : what are they and what do they do? Eye pain and visual change Yamaha sx6 owner manual Fuels and Energy from Renewable Resources Poems and Songs Of Robert Burns Volume II of II (Large Print) Vistas pocket dictionary language guide. Advances in neural regeneration research The Lost Prophets Mastering postgresql in application development Microsoft excel 2010 learning book Nobel prize chemistry 2015 Buddhist birth-stories (Jataka tales) Psychology of Fear Beginners guide to Tajiki This Country of Ours Wah! Wah! (Backpack Baby Stories) Evolution in mind Marilous Long Nose (First Novel Series) C. Web Authoring with HTML Sex, Love, and Romance in the Mass Media VMI Manual (VMI Series: The Beery-Buktenica Developmental Test, Fourth Edition) The elements of economic growth Urbanization primer Tip 8 : Review code early and often Appendix B State franchise authorities 321 art reflection filetype Introduction to automata theory The holy office of the inquisition and women Jacqueline Holler Out of the Italian Night Tobias Smollett, critic and journalist Alices nightmare in wonderland coloring book Inaugural address Raymond Nakai Frommers family travel guide, San Francisco with kids Psychology of food