

5 Fun Facts About the Amazing and often MISUNDERSTOOD VIRGINIA OPOSSUM



1. Unique Critters

Opossums are the only marsupials native to North America. Females carry their babies, called joeys, in their pouch until they are old enough to climb out and ride on mom's back. Since they don't need a home base to rear their young, this allows for a nomadic, nocturnal lifestyle where they are always on the move in search of food and water.

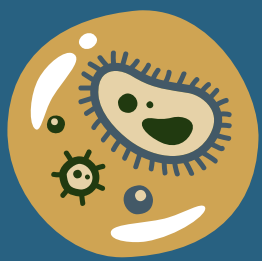


2. Natural Tick Control

Opossums are meticulous groomers, which means that attached ticks become tasty snacks! This helps control tick populations and can reduce the spread of Lyme disease.

3. Clean-Up Crew

Along with insects, spiders, rodents, snakes, and other small animals, opossums often eat dead animals and rotting fruits & vegetables. Scavengers serve a critical role in healthy, ecosystems by keeping them clean and less prone to disease.



4. Disease Resistant

It is almost impossible for opossums to contract rabies and distemper due to their low body temperature. They are also resistant to many poisons, Lyme disease, and snake venom.

5. Dramatic? Yes. Aggressive? No.

While opossums will hiss and bare their teeth when threatened, they are naturally timid creatures and not aggressive. Their only defense is known as "playing possum" - this is an involuntary coma-like state induced by fear. If you encounter an opossum, remove pets from the area and give them time to recover and they will move on.



They might look scary, but they mean you no harm

Give them space - Do not feed them - We can co-exist

If you come across injured or orphaned wildlife in Northwest Indiana, contact the Humane Indiana's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center by calling 219-299-8027