Otter



• Otters are semi-aquatic (or in one case aquatic) fish-eating mammals. The otter subfamily **Lutrinae** forms part of the family Mustelidae, which also includes weasels, polecats, badgers, as well as others.







Food

 With twelve species in seven genera, otters have an almost worldwide distribution.









• They mainly eat aquatic animals, fish and shellfish, but also birds, frogs, crayfish, crabs and small mammals.

• For most otters, fish is the primary staple of their diet.





 Some otters are expert at opening shellfish, and others will feed on available small mammals or birds.

Gestation

• The time of gestation of otters is about 60 to 86 days. The newborn baby is taken care of by the mother, the father, and all the other offspring.





• Female otters reach sexual maturity at approximately 2 years of age, while males can produce offspring at approximately 3 years of age.

After one month, the young otter can come out of the cave, and after
2 months it is able to swim.





• It lives with its family for about 1 year so that it can learn and be kept safe until maturity. Otters live up to 10 years.

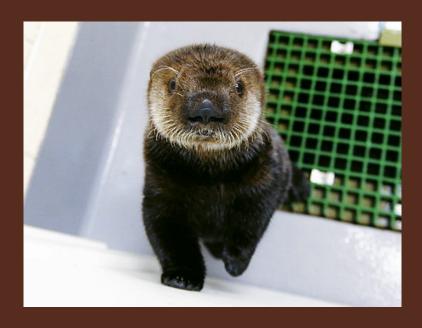
Characteristics

• Otters have long, slim bodies and relatively short limbs, with webbed paws. Most have sharp claws on their feet, and all except the sea otter have long muscular tails.





• The twelve species range in adult size from 0.7 to 1.8 metres (2 to 6 feet) in length and 5 to 45 kilograms (10 to 100 pounds) in weight.





• They have a very soft, insulated underfur which is protected by their outer layer of long guard hair. Their fur keeps them dry and warm under water.







• Many otters live in cold waters and have very high metabolic rates to help keep them warm.

• Because of their beautiful fur, some people are still hunting otters and buying clothes and shoes that are made of otter fur.













Sea Otter Fur Trade

• Sea otters can do well in captivity, and are featured in over 40 public aquariums and zoos.







Videos

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQLQhZ-YO_s&NR=1
 (Celebrity otters otters holding hands otter video)
 almost 15.000.000 wievs
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhuvaKLJbNw&NR=1 (baby otters)
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUJDmAXsEvs (noisy otters in Zoos)
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NQqOiGTUWw&NR=1

Sources

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otter
- http://www.otterjoy.com/otterholdings.html
- http://www.google.si/imgres?imgurl=http://upload.wikimedia.org/
- http://www.youtube.com/
- Google pictures





The end

