



# MUSKRAT

*Ondontra zibethicus.*



The muskrat is one of the largest rodents in North America. It has a naked scaly tail that is flattened to aid in swimming. The muskrat always lives close to slow moving streams, ponds, and marshes. Their dens typically consist of mounds of vegetation with a space underneath for habitation, much like the den of a beaver. muskrats feed mostly on plant material. They are busiest during the day. Muskrats keep a single mate for life, but the male does not contribute significantly to the rearing of offspring.

## SPECIES QUICK FACTS

### SIZE

Muskrats average between eight and twelve inches in length.

### WEIGHT

Muskrats typically weigh between one and four pounds.

### FOOD HABITS

Muskrats are omnivores. They mostly eat aquatic vegetation. However, they will also eat crayfish, clams, and dead fish.

### HABITAT

Muskrats are always found near ponds, lakes, and slow-moving rivers with emergent vegetation such as cattails.

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Muskrats are found throughout the United States and Canada.

### FUN FACT

Muskrats can swim up to 3 miles per hour and can remain submerged underwater for up to 15 minutes at a time.

