



VIRGINIA OPOSSUM

Didelphis virginiana



The only marsupial native to North America, the Virginia opossum is a slow and solitary animal. Like all other marsupials, they have a pouch in which they carry their young for protection. Opossums are omnivorous, nocturnal animals that feed primarily on smaller animals such as crickets, grasshoppers, mice, moles, and snakes. When faced with danger, the Virginia opossum goes into an incapacitating state of shock (playing dead) to trick potential predators into ignoring them. The fur is mostly gray and white, while the snout, feet and tail are pinkish in color.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The average length of a Virginia opossum is 25 to 33 inches.

WEIGHT

An average adult Virginia opossum weighs between six and 15 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

Virginia opossums are omnivores. They eat insects, nuts, berries, small amphibians, baby birds, bird eggs, and carrion.

HABITAT

Virginia opossums can be found in a variety of habitats including forests, wetlands, farmland and urban areas.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Virginia opossums are found throughout most of the southern parts of the United States northward into some southern regions of Canada.

FUN FACT

An adult Virginia opossum has a total of 50 teeth.