

Groundhog Fun Facts

Classification

Class: Mammalia
Order: Rodentia
Family: Sciuridae
Genus: Marmota
Species: *M. Monax*.

Groundhog Stats

They weigh on average between 8 and 15 pounds and their length is on average 20-26 inches. Their tail can be 6 inches long.

Other Names

Woodchuck
Whistle Pig
Marmot
Chuck
Monax

Diet & Food

Groundhogs eat grass, seeds, leaves, flowers, fruit, clover, and alfalfa. During warm seasons, a groundhog may pack in more than a pound of vegetation at one sitting, which is much like a 150-pound man scarfing down a 15-pound steak.

Life Span

Groundhogs in the wild can live between 2-6 years. Predators include but are not limited to: humans, cars, fox, raccoons, coyotes and farm dogs.

Other

Groundhogs are diurnal meaning they are active during the day.

They are rodents and are the largest animal in the squirrel family.

Groundhogs live in the Eastern part of North America.

Groundhogs live near fence lines, vegetable farms, and corn fields or fruit orchards.

Hibernation

Groundhogs enter their burrows in the autumn each year and start the hibernation process. Their breathing slows and their body temperature drops to between 43°F- 57°F. They stay in hibernation until spring. When they wake up, they begin looking for a mate.

Groundhog Tracks

Groundhog's front feet have 4 toes and their hind feet have 5 toes. Their feet are generally black in color and have very sharp claws that are required for digging their burrows.



Burrow

Groundhogs have multiple burrows that they move in and out of as the crops and weather changes before hibernation. They even dig themselves a bathroom!

The average groundhog excavates over 700 pounds of dirt digging just one burrow!

Teeth

Groundhogs have two top incisors and top bottom incisors. Their teeth never stop growing so it is very important for a groundhog to chew on things to keep their teeth filed down.