

FIELD GUIDE TO NORTH AMERICAN MAMMALS

Ringtail
(Bassariscus astutus)

ORDER: Carnivora
FAMILY: Procyonidae

Ringtails are nocturnal, cat-sized carnivores. They are good climbers and are found in habitats that range from dry canyons to wet woodlands, in highland and lowland terrain. They prey on small mammals, but their varied diet also includes other vertebrates, insects, nuts, and fruit. These animals are solitary and territorial, marking their home ranges by depositing urine and feces.

Also known as:

Babisuri, Bandtailed Cat, Basaride, Bassarisk, Cacomistle, Cacomixtle, Civet Cat, Comandreja, Guayanoche, Mico de Noche, Mico Rayado, Onza, Pintorabo, Ring-tailed Cat, Rintel, Sal Coyote

Sexual Dimorphism:

None

Length:

Average: 793 mm males; 756 mm females

Range: 616–811 mm

Weight:

Range: 0.9–1.3 kg



Credit: painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)



FIELD NOTES

DATE: _____ LOCATION: _____

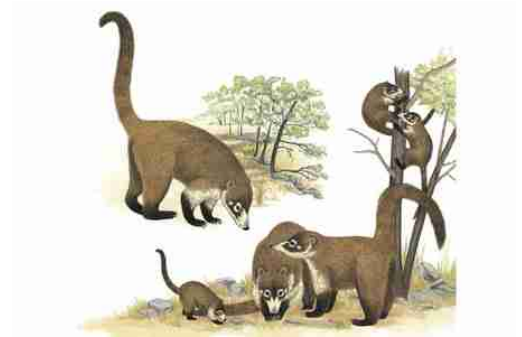


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White-nosed Coati
(Nasua narica)

ORDER: Carnivora
FAMILY: Procyonidae

White-nosed Coatis are the most diurnal members of the family Procyonidae. They often sleep curled up in trees, and come down at dawn to forage, rooting with their long, mobile snouts and digging with long, curved claws for insects, larvae, eggs, and small vertebrates. Adult males often live alone, but females and young coatis travel together in bands, vocalizing and grooming each other. They do not hunt cooperatively or share food, but they join forces to defend against male coatis and other intruders. Females raise their young alone, in a nest. Mortality can be high when the young first leave the nest, from predators—including male coatis, big cats, monkeys, and boa constrictors—and accidents and disease.



Nasua narica – male, upper left; females and young, lower right

Credit: painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's *Mammals of North America*, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Also known as:
Coatimundi, Gato Solo, Pizote

Sexual Dimorphism:
Males are larger than females.

Length:
Range: 750–1,350 mm

Weight:
Range: 2.5–5.5 kg



FIELD NOTES

DATE: _____ LOCATION: _____

Northern Raccoon
(Procyon lotor)

ORDER: Carnivora
FAMILY: Procyonidae

Raccoons are among the most adaptable of the Carnivora, able to live comfortably in cities and suburbs as well as rural and wilderness areas. They use small home ranges, as small as 1—3 square km, and show flexibility in selecting denning sites, from tree hollows to chimneys to sewers. A varied diet is at the root of their adaptability. Raccoons eat just about anything, finding food on the ground, in trees, streams, ponds, and other wet environments, and from unsecured trash cans, which they open adroitly by hand. They can live anywhere water is available, from the deep tropics well into southern Canada. Even in the suburbs, Raccoons can occur at densities of almost 70 per square km. Females can breed when they are not yet a year old, and typically have litters of four young, which they raise themselves. The female nurses her cubs for about 70 days. The cubs' eyes open at 18—24 days and they begin exploring the world outside the den when they are 9—10 weeks old. By 20 weeks of age they can forage on their own.



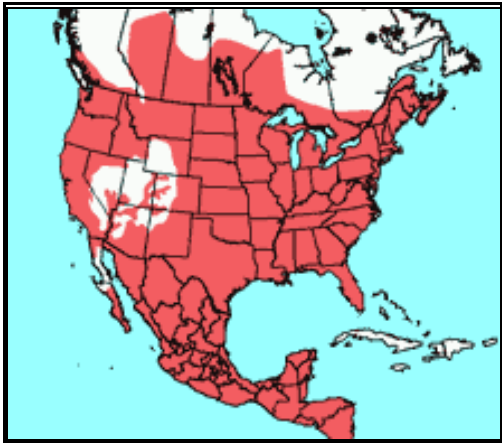
Credit: painting by Consie Powell from Kays and Wilson's Mammals of North America, © Princeton University Press (2002)

Also known as:
Coon

Sexual Dimorphism:
Males are 10%–30% larger than females.

Length:
Range: 603–950 mm

Weight:
Range: 1.8–10.4 kg



FIELD NOTES

DATE: _____ LOCATION: _____
