

River Otter



- The river otter is a member of the Mustelidae family and along with sea otters, is the most aquatic of the North American mustelids. The body is long, cylindrical and muscular with a short, stout neck that is nearly the same diameter as the broadly flattened head. Adults weigh between 11 and 33 pounds and range from 35 to 54 inches in total length. Males are generally about 25 percent heavier than females. The coloration is a rich, glossy shade of brown, but may be black or even blonde. River otters have physical features that make them especially adapted to an aquatic existence; webbed toes, non-retractile claws, and valves in their noses and ears that close when they are submerged. Long, sensitive facial whiskers allow them to be successful hunters in dark or murky waters. Like other mustelids, river otters have anal musk glands that release a pungent odor when they are frightened.
- **Range**
- The river otter ranges throughout most of North America with the exception of the arid Southwest and frozen Arctic. In the United States, their range includes Alaska, Pacific Northwest, Great Lakes states, Mississippi River Valley, New England, Atlantic and Gulf Coastal states.
- **Habitat**
- River otters live in and along lakes, wetlands, rivers and streams exploiting a variety of aquatic habitats. Otters do not construct their own dens, but instead rely on logjams, beaver lodges, the bank dens of beaver and muskrat. The river otter prefers habitat where dense riparian vegetation is present adjacent to waterbodies, relying on the escape and resting cover provided.

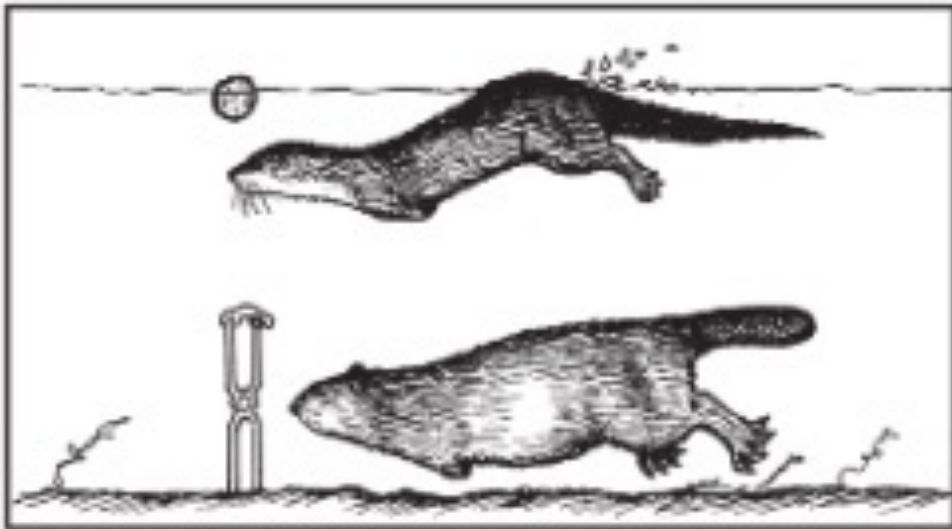
Otter Trapping



- **General Considerations When Trapping River Otters**
- *Foothold Traps*
 - Many currently-used trap models meet specifications
 - Can be used to capture several furbearer species
 - Capture and hold animals alive, allowing for release
- *Bodygrip Traps*
 - Many currently-used trap models meet specifications
 - Should be placed so that the rotating jaws close on the top and bottom of the captured animal's neck (Figure OT2)
 - Can be used to capture several furbearer species
 - Trigger configurations may be modified, and tension-adjustable triggers are available
 - to help improve selectivity
 - Allow for use in locations and in weather conditions where other traps are less effective or inappropriate
 - May not be appropriate in some areas because captured animals are killed by the trap

Otter Sets – Dive stick

Moving the trigger completely to one side of a bodygrip trap can leave room for an otter to get through.



Setting bodygrip traps deep under water may allow an





Otter sets – Submerged Bucket set



Otter Sets – Beaver Damn



Otter set – In
a known or
likely run



Beaver

- **Characteristics**

- The beaver is the only member of the Castoridae family found in North America. It is the largest of the rodents of North America with adults weighing between 26 and 90 pounds, and ranging from 34 to 54 inches in length. The pelage color of most beavers is reddish dark brown, though the fur may be black, pale silver or even blonde.

- **Range**

- Beaver occur throughout North America with the exception of arid and desert environments and the Florida peninsula. The range extends far into Canada, but excludes the area above the Arctic Circle. Beavers are rarely encountered in Mexico, except in isolated pockets along the United States border.

- **Habitat**

- The beaver is highly adapted to freshwater environments and will rarely venture far from a water source. Beavers live in and along lakes, wetlands, rivers and streams. In locations where slow running water is present, extensive dams are often constructed. In such environments, beavers will often construct a den in a high stream bank. In still waters beavers often build lodges from tree limbs and other debris.

- **Food Habits**

- Beavers are strict herbivores and their food habits depend highly on the season. In the spring and fall, their diet is about half woody vegetation and half non-woody vegetation. In the summer months the amount of non-woody vegetation increases to about 90 percent. In the winter months, woody vegetation makes up 100 percent of the diet. When consuming woody plants, beavers generally eat the bark and cambium layer above the wood layer.



Sets for Beaver

- Four basic types of traps were tested for beaver: foothold traps, cage traps, bodygrip traps and non-powered cable devices.

Trap Category (recommended use)	Jaw/Frame Characteristics	Inside Jaw/Frame Spread at Dog*	Inside Width at Jaw/Frame Hinge Posts*	
Coil-spring (submersion only)	Unmodified	5 - 7 1/4	5 - 7 3/4	
Longspring (submersion only)	Unmodified	3 7/8	3 7/16	
	Double jaw	3 7/8	3 7/16	
	Dimensions*: Length X Width X Height	Mesh Size*/Gauge		
"Suitcase" Type Cage (live restraint or submersion)	39 x 43	2 x 2 16 gauge galvanized		
	Height of Trap Window*	Width of Trap Window*	Frame Wire*	Spring Wire*
†Bodygrip (on land or submersion)	6 7/8 - 11	7 - 12	1/4 - 5/16	1/4 - 5/16

Beaver Sets (Snare)





Beaver sets
Conibear

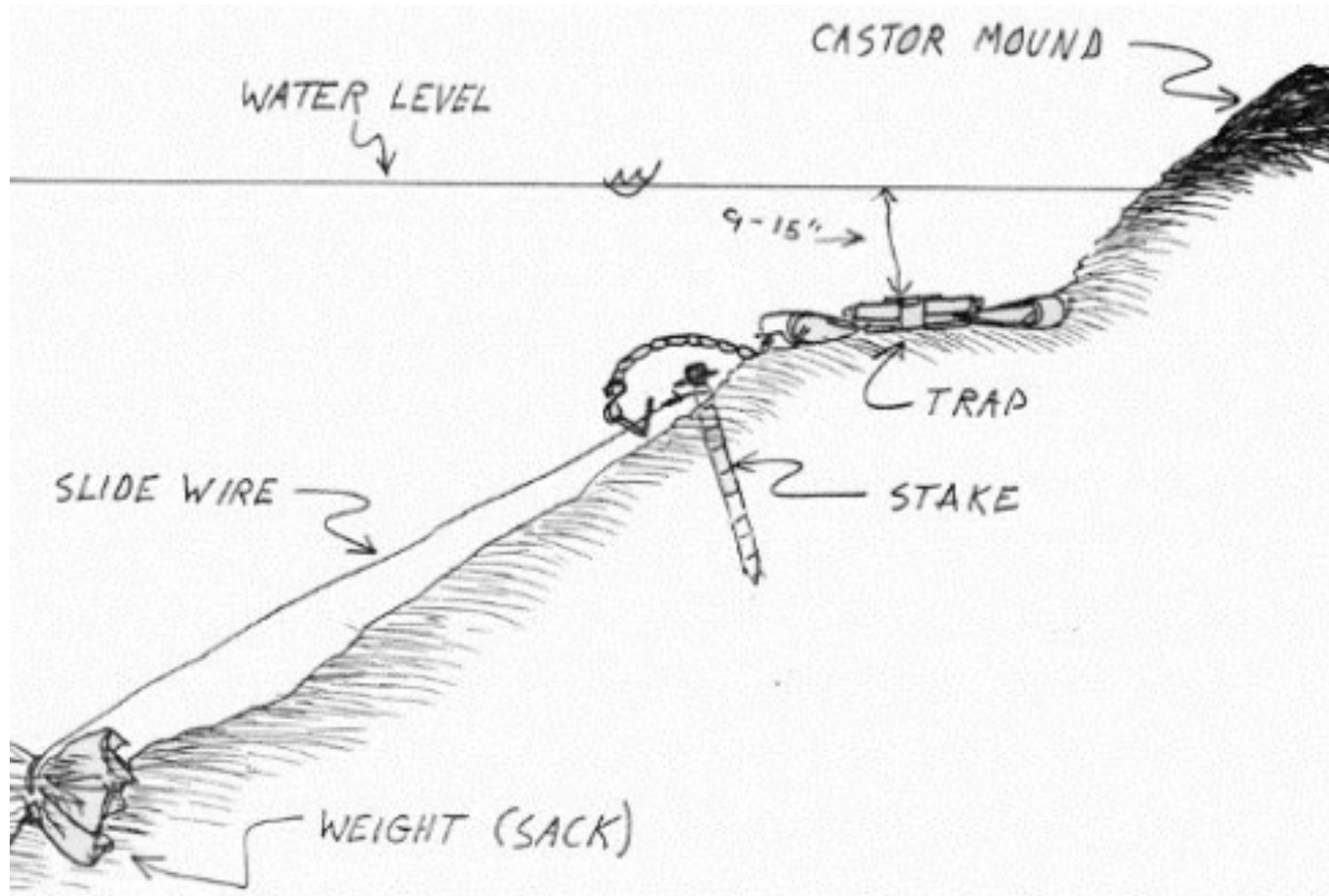
Beaver Castor Mound Set

- Mud
 - Castor
 - 330 Conibear
 - *Don't use in fluctuating water*
-





Beaver Set
Floating
Conibear



Beaver Set
Foothold -
Submersion

Raccoon

- **Characteristics**

- The raccoon is a medium-sized mammal with a short stocky build. Adults generally weigh from 9 to 20 pounds. Raccoons are active at night and rest in dens during the day. They are excellent climbers and strong swimmers. Raccoons have a well-developed ability to grasp and manipulate objects with their front paws. Raccoons will den in groups and remain dormant during extreme winter weather, but they do not hibernate. Large deposits of fat accumulated during late summer and fall allow raccoons to survive periods of food scarcity during winter.

- **Range**

- Raccoons occur throughout most of southern Canada and the United States except for the deserts of the southwest and higher elevations of the Rocky Mountains. They range southward into Central America.

- **Habitat**

- Raccoons are adaptable and use many habitat types. They prefer hardwood forests with numerous den sites, and are usually most abundant around water, especially bottomland hardwood forests along streams, hardwood swamps, and edges of reservoirs, marshes, and ponds. Raccoons are also at home in agricultural landscapes and urban and suburban areas. They prefer hollow trees for dens, but readily use abandoned woodchuck burrows, caves, and artificial structures such as barns, attics, and culverts.

- **Food Habits**

- Raccoons are omnivorous. They will eat fish, crayfish, mussels, as well as a variety of fruits, nuts, grains, and other plant material, carrion, garbage, birds, eggs, small animals (mice, rabbits, snakes, turtles, frogs, and insects) and most foods prepared for human or animal consumption. Raccoons are significant predators of ground-nesting birds.



Trapping Raccoons

Jaw-type Traps

- Can be used in unbaited blind sets;
- Can be used to capture several furbearer species;
- Captures and holds animals alive, allowing for release.

Enclosed Foothold Traps

- Requires use of baits;
- Highly selective for raccoons and opossums;
- Design reduces potential to capture dogs or cats;
- Captures and holds animals alive, allowing for release.

Cage Trap

- Cumbersome;
- Can be used to capture several furbearer species;
- Often requires bait;
- Captures and holds animals alive, allowing for release.

Body grip Traps

- ~~Body grip trap should be placed so that the rotating jaws close on either side of the captured animals neck~~
- Selectivity features can be enhanced by use of recessed sets (in cubby or cage), restricted openings, or elevated sets;
- Trigger configurations can be modified;



Raccoon Set Conibear in Box





Raccoon Set
Foothold in
pocket

Racoon set dogproof





Opossum and Skunk: (any set for Raccoon will catch Opossum and Skunk)

Fur Handling

- <https://mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/trapping/what-do-you-do-your-catch#:~:text=Undried%20pelts%20are%20often%20called%20stretch%2C%20and%20dry%20the%20pelts.>
- In the round or whole
 - Not as popular anymore
- Green Fur (skinned and frozen)
 - What I prefer
- Fleshing Fur
 - Scrape fat and meat off hide
- Dry and Stretched Fur
 - Majority of fur sellers
- Tanning Fur
 - <https://www.outdoorlife.com/story/survival/the-ultimate-guide-to-tanning-wild-game-pelts-and-hides/>



Meat handling

- Warning- Do not consume meat you believe to be unsafe or that may have spoiled – If you cannot confirm an animal in your trap has been below 32 degrees between the time it expired and the time you prepared it to eat, DO NOT eat that animal!
- Recipes
 - Muskrat Feast in Michigan
 - Beaver hindquarter roast
 - Raccoon pulled sandwich



Muskrat Feast

- <https://www.atlasobscura.com/foods/muskrat-dinners>
- Muskrat quarters
- Butter
- Garlic
- Onion
- Sides of your choice
- Fry in pan



Beaver Pot roast

- Onion
- Carrot
- Beef Broth
- Celery
- Beaver quarter
- Slow cooker



Raccoon Pulled Sandwich

- <https://www.themeateater.com/cook/recipes/bbq-raccoon-sandwich-recipe>
- Pepperoncini jar
- Onion Buns
- Slow Cooker
- Dry ranch seasoning
- Beef Broth

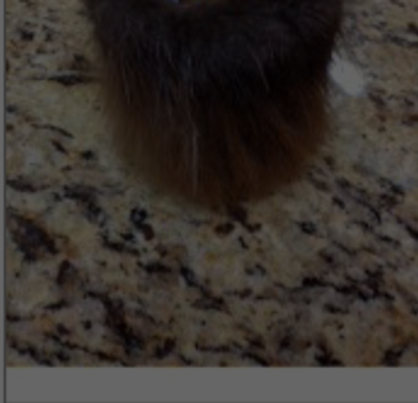




Beaver All Fur Ear Muff
\$65.00

Add to Cart

- ☐ Add to Wish List
- ☐ Add to Compare



Beaver Can Holder
\$20.00

Add to Cart

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- ☐ Add to Compare



Beaver coat
\$2,495.00

Add to Cart

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- ☐ Add to Compare



Beaver coat with fox collar
\$2,595.00

Add to Cart

- ☐ Add to Wish List
- ☐ Add to Compare



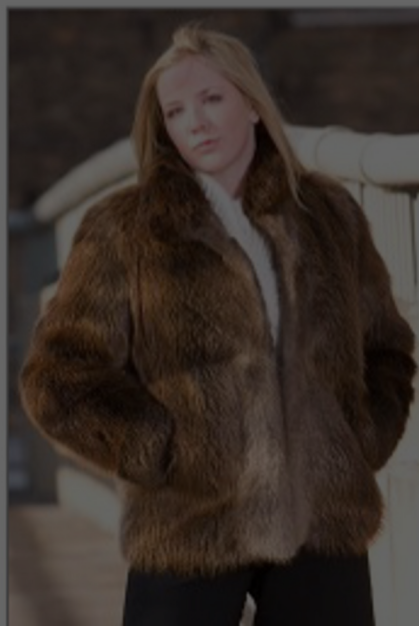
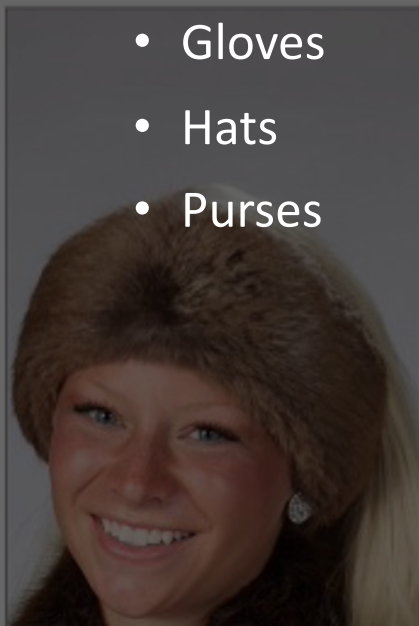
Beaver fur mittens
\$275.00

Add to Cart

- ☐ Add to Wish List
- ☐ Add to Compare

Fur Usage

- Cozies
- Gloves
- Hats
- Purses



Tips and tricks

- Fish Juice
 - Sight Exposed Bait
 - Habitat, Habitat, Habitat
 - Cold and Wet
 - Extra clothes in the truck
 - Don't Stop Moving
-





Questions on Part III?

Further Education

- <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Education/OutdoorSkills/Unit1.pdf>
- <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Education/OutdoorSkills/Unit2.pdf>
- <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Education/OutdoorSkills/Unit3.pdf>
- <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Education/OutdoorSkills/safeandethical.pdf>
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- <https://widnr.widen.net/s/q6zqptlwbw>
- <https://www.nationaltrappers.com/bmp.html>