

OTTO THE OTTER, A BIG SURPRISE

FACTS YOU OTTO KNOW



1. Otter fur is waterproof... Otters have two layers of fur. The outer layer of guard hairs, and the inner layer of softer fur. The guard hairs protect the insulated inner layer of fur, and also capture air in a way that keeps the otters both dry and lighter-weight underwater. Otters have the densest fur of any animal - as many as a million hairs per square inch in places.
2. Otters live near and around water. A group of otters is called a bevy or a "romp", because they play together and are energetic. When otters in the water, the group is often called a raft. They live in nests called a holt or couch.
3. Otters are found on every continent except Australia and Antarctica and the only habitats they do not live in are deserts, polar regions, and mountains.
4. Otters are mammals. A mammal is different because it gives birth to a live animal and produce milk to feed their young. All mammals have hair or fur. No other creature possesses true hair, and at least some hair is found on all mammals at some time during their lives... this includes whales and dolphins.
5. Otter families are usually limited to pups and their mothers, and these duos will spend most of their time either feeding or sleeping. In the downtime, otters love to play and will often build themselves slides along the banks of rivers.
6. Otters can dive to a depth of 60 feet.
7. Otters always wash themselves after every meal.
8. Otters generally live alone or in small social groups. They can live eight to nine years in the wild but have lived up to 21 years in captivity.