



VIRGINIA OPOSSUM



QUICK FACTS

Scientific Name: *Didelphis virginiana*

Population: >10 million (estimated)

Lifespan: 1-2 years (wild), up to 4 years (captive)

Size: 0.4-0.5 m long (1.3-1.6 ft), 0.3-6 kg (0.7-13 lb)

Weight: 0.3-6 kg (0.7-13 lb)

Speed: Up to 24 km/h (15 mph)



PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- **Color:** Gray with white face
- **Sensory Adaptations:** Keen smell, hearing
- **Limb & Tail Functionality:** Agile legs, prehensile tail

FUN FACT !

Plays dead



HABITAT & DISTRIBUTION



Range: North America

Preferred Habitat: Forests, urban edges

Elevation Range: 0-2,000 m (0-6,562 ft)

IUCN Red list category
Vulnerable

DIET & NUTRITION

Primary Diet: Fruits, insects, carrion

Foraging Method: Opportunistic feeder

Adaptations: Prehensile tail, immunity



UNIQUE ADAPTATIONS

Playing Dead: Predator deterrent

Tail: Grasps objects

Survival Score:

Strength: 2/10

Stealth: 5/10

Adaptability: 9/10

REPRODUCTION & LIFE CYCLE

Mating Season: January–July

Gestation: 12–13 days

Clutch Size: 5–20 joeys

Parental Care: Mother carries joeys



ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

Role: Seed dispersal, pest control

Indicator Species: Presence indicates habitat diversity

Cultural Significance: Symbol of adaptability



THREATS

Habitat loss,
roadkill



CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Protected areas,
urban planning



Call to Action: Protect habitats, reduce roads, spread awareness

INTERESTING FACTS

Plays possum for hours

50 teeth total

Carries young on back

