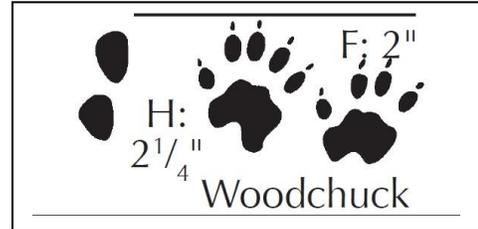
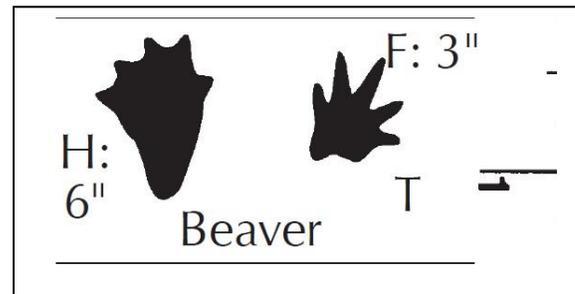
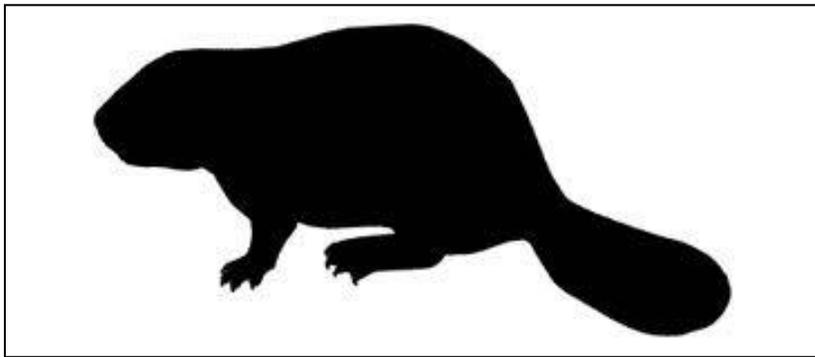


## Groundhog/Woodchuck *and*



## Beaver Fun Facts



### SIZES:

- Groundhog/Woodchuck: 20" long, 12-15 pounds
- Beaver: 24-36" long, plus 12-18" tail = up to 54" long, 30-65 pounds

### HAIR/FUR:

- Groundhog/Woodchuck: coarse grayish hairs (fur) tipped with brown or sometimes dull red, short tail
- Beaver: rich brown fur (which is both waterproof and insulating) and a unique, paddle-shaped, scaled, hairless tail

### FEATURES:

- Groundhog/Woodchuck: short legs, strong jaws, clean (Insects do not bother groundhogs and germs pretty much leave them alone.

They are resistant to the plagues that periodically wipe out large numbers of wild animals).

- Beaver: Busy, webbed feet. Strong teeth, powerful jaws. Can remain underwater for 15 minutes without surfacing, and have a set of transparent eyelids that function much like goggles One of the largest rodents.

### SPEED:

- Groundhog/Woodchuck: very quick
- Beaver: waddle slowly on land, but very graceful in water swimming at speeds of up to five miles per hour

## FOOD/DIET:

- Groundhog/Woodchuck: lots of greens, fruits, and vegetables and very little water. Most of their liquids come from dewy leaves.
- Beaver: Herbivores that prefer to eat leaves, bark, twigs, roots, and aquatic plants.

## SOUNDS:

- Groundhog/Woodchuck: A groundhog can whistle when it is alarmed. Groundhogs also whistle in the spring when they begin courting.
- Beaver: The sound of a slapping tail is the most common you will hear from beavers, as they are communicating with each other or slapping out a warning to intruders.

## HOMES:

- Groundhog/Woodchuck: They dig burrows several feet deep and up to 30 feet long, and they live there alone. Fresh dirt at the entrance of a hole 8 to 12 inches in diameter usually indicates an active burrow as Woodchucks regularly clean out their dens. This fresh dirt is at the main entrance.
- Beaver: A dome- or teepee-shaped lodge is constructed by beavers out of sticks and mud within the wetland, upstream from the dam. The lodge contains a dry inside chamber which provides cover from the elements and a place to raise young. There are usually several underwater entrances to the lodge. Beavers also may build dens along rivers by digging underneath overhanging root masses or into the bank. The entrance to a bank den may be covered with sticks and mud.

## BABIES/FAMILIES:

- Groundhog/Woodchuck: Young Groundhogs are usually born in mid-April or May, and by July they are able to go out on their own. The size of the litter is 4-9. A baby groundhog is called a kit or a cub.
- Beaver: a single litter of 2-5 kits is born in May or early June. At birth, the kits are well-furred and possess fully developed teeth. At 2-3 weeks of age they begin to eat vegetation and are weaned by about 6 weeks. The young remain with the adults as a family group or colony until their 2nd year. At that time, the adults drive the young beavers out of the territory, forcing them to migrate and search for mates and unoccupied habitat in which to establish a new colony.

## LIFESPANS:

- Groundhog/Woodchuck: 6-8 years
- Beaver: Can live 5-10 years in the wild, but have potential life spans of 20+ years

## HIBERNATION:

- Groundhog/Woodchuck: YES! Hibernation is actually a deep coma, where the body temperature drops to a few degrees above freezing, the heart barely beats, the blood scarcely flows, and breathing nearly stops.
- Beaver: NO! Stays active all winter, swimming and foraging in their ponds even when a layer of ice covers the surface.