

Skins & Skulls Fun Facts

Black Bear

Scientific name: *Ursus americanus*

- Can be black, blue-gray, blue-black, brown, cinnamon, or even white in coloration.
- Black bears are omnivores. The main part of their diet is grasses, roots, berries, and insects. Will also eat fish and other mammals and even scavenge. Baiting for bears is legal in Oklahoma and is one of the best methods for hunting them.
- Males can have a territory ranging from 15 to 80 square miles.
- Females have 1 to 3 cubs at a time.
- Cubs stay with mothers for about 2 years.
- Black bears do not truly hibernate, they go into torpor.
- The average lifespan is 20 years old.
- Size: 4 to 6 feet long.
- Weight: 200-300 pounds, which can exceed the average weight description.
- Group name: Sleuth or Sloth
- Hunting: Can be hunted during the archery and muzzleloader seasons.
- One bear per season (either sex)
- No baiting and no shooting cubs or females with cubs
- The bear quota for muzzleloader season will stay open until 20 bears have been harvested or the season ends.
- There is no bear harvest quota for archery.

Sources: National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com); Oklahoma Furbearers, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation; and (www.wildlifedepartment.com).



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Beaver

Scientific name: *Castor Canadensis*

- Beavers play an important role in changing ecosystems, creating different habitats over time.
- Construct lodges to live in, which have underwater entrances. The entrance is a good place to set traps.
- Will also build dams to maintain a constant water level in their habitats.
- They are the largest rodent in North America.
- Coloration chestnut to near black.
- The castor glands of a beaver's scent glands are used in making many different perfumes.
- Parents, young kits (baby beavers), and yearlings will all live together as a family unit.
- Beavers have a good sense of smell. When hunting, make sure the wind is in your face. If they pick up your scent they will leave the land for the water quickly.
- Beavers are herbivores. They eat leaves, bark, twigs, roots, and aquatic plants. Their favorite foods in Oklahoma are cottonwoods, willows, and Johnson grass.
- Their paddle-shaped tails are used like rudder and their webbed rear feet allow them to swim up to 5 miles per hour.
- They can stay underwater for up to 15 minutes.
- They have transparent eyelids that act like goggles.
- Average life span is 24 years old.
- Length: 34-40 inches
- Weight: 30-60lbs
- Group name: Colony
- Can be hunted year-round with no season or daily bag limit. Must have a resident hunting license.
- Can be harvested in the daylight with any legal firearm or archery equipment. Nighttime hunting is limited to the use of a .22 caliber rifle or pistol and a light carried by the hunter.

Sources: National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com) and (www.wildlifedepartment.com).



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Bobcat

Scientific name: *Felis rufus*

- Bobcats are nocturnal and are most active at dawn and dusk.
- Found throughout North America in forests, swamps, deserts, and even urban areas.
- They are twice the size of the average house cat.
- Their coloration is brown to brownish-red with a white underbelly, with a short black-tipped tail.
- Their bobbed tail is where its name comes from.
- Good management has allowed them to maintain a healthy population.
- Most heavily harvested and traded cat species of the last two decades. Due to this their furs and parts are extremely regulated and must be tagged. This is what the yellow tag on the fur is for.
- There is a hunting/trapping fur to sell for trappers and predator hunters.
- They are carnivores. Bobcats can kill prey much larger than themselves including deer, regular food contains rabbits, birds, mice, squirrels, snakes, and other small game animals.
- Bobcats can leap up to 10 feet.
- They are solitary animals.
- Females give birth to 1 to 6 kittens at a time.
- Kittens will stay with mom for 9 to 12 months.
- Average life span is 10-12 years old.
- Length: 30-36 inches
- Weight: 16-20 pounds
- Can be hunted and trapped during the furbearer season.

Sources: National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com) and (www.wildlifedepartment.com).



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Badger

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Sources: New Hampshire PBS (www.nhpbs.org); Oklahoma Furbearers, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation; and (www.wildlifedepartment.com).



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Coyote

Scientific name: *Canis latrans*

- Coyotes are omnivores and will eat almost anything, rabbits, rodents, fish, frogs, deer, insects, snakes, fruit, grass, and carion.
- Coyotes have great vision and a great sense of smell.
- They can run up to 40 miles per hour.
- They live in a variety of social arrangements, solitary, in pairs, and even in packs. Packs typically include a mated pair, young pups, and yearlings that have not left their parents yet.
- During the fall and winter, they form packs for better survival.
- Litters contain 3-12 pups.
- Both parents will feed and protect pups and their territory. They will aggressively defend their pups.
- They are extremely adaptable even in human-altered environments.
- They are found from Northern Alaska to Central America.
- May be brown, red, or grayish in color.
- They are the most vocal mammal in North America. Their vocal communications are the most important form of communication. Vocalizations can range from barks, yips, and howls.
- The average life span is 14 years.
- Length: 33-53 inches.
- Weight: 15-40 pounds.
- Group name: Pack
- Young are called pups.
- Coyotes are excellent swimmers.
- Can be hunted year-round with no daily, season, or possession limit.
- The use of any artificial light, thermal, or night vision equipment from a public roadway is prohibited.

Sources: National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com); Oklahoma Furbearers, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation; and (www.wildlifedepartment.com).



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Red Fox

Scientific name: *Vulpes vulpes*

- Found all around the world in forests, grasslands, mountains, and deserts.
- Red Foxes are solitary animals, except for mating and raising pups.
- They are omnivores and eat rodents, rabbits, birds, and other small game, fruits, vegetables, fish, frogs, and worms. If around humans they will eat garbage and pet food.
- Uses a tail for cover (like a blanket when cold) as well as to communicate with other foxes.
- Females are called vixens.
- Red Fox litters contain 2 to 12 pups.
- Coloration can vary some are golden, reddish-brown, silver, or even black.
- Both parents provide care for the young.
- The average life span is 2 to 4 years.
- Length: 36-41 pounds.
- Weight: 7-18 pounds.
- Hunting: Can be hunted and trapped during the furbearer season.

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Opossum

Scientific name: *Didelphia virginiana*

- There are more than 60 different species of opossum in the world.
- The Virginia opossum is the only marsupial (pouched mammal) found in Oklahoma and all of North America.
- May have up to 20 babies in a litter, but fewer than half will survive.
- They are omnivores. Opossums are scavengers, they like carrion; they will also eat grass, nuts, birds, insects, worms, snakes, and chickens at times.
- Known for playing dead to trick predators.
- They are outstanding climbers, thanks to their sharp claws and long prehensile tail.
- Opossums will nest in holes in trees or dens of other animals.
- Length: 24-33 inches.
- Weight: 4-12 pounds
- The average life span is 2 years.
- Group name: Passel
- Hunting: Can be hunted and trapped during the furbearer season.

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Skunk

Scientific name: *Mephitis mephitis*

- Skunks spray offers no damage to victims but smells awful. May cause irritation to the eyes and nose of sprayed in the face.
- Predators avoid skunks due to smell unless food is otherwise unavailable.
- Can be striped, spotted, or swirled, with distinct black and white warning coloration.
- Nest in the burrows of other animals or hollow logs or buildings.
- Females have 2-10 young per birth. Young are called kits.
- Skunks are omnivores and opportunistic eaters; fruit, plants, insects, larvae, worms, eggs, reptiles, small mammals, and fish.
- Skunks are nocturnal animals.
- All species in this family are found in North America, except the recently added Asian stink badger.
- The average life span is 3 years.
- Sizes differ but most are the size of a house cat.
- Length: 20-28 inches
- Weight: 3-15 pounds
- Group name: surfeit
- Active early morning and late evening.
- The common myth that skunks held by their tail cannot spray is FALSE!
- They can spray up to 12 feet.
- They do not truly hibernate but sleep through most of the winter, they go into torpor.
- Hunting: can be hunted year-round.

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Raccoon

Scientific name: *Procyon lotor*

- Live in forests, marshes, prairies, and cities.
- Have dexterous front paws.
- In nature, raccoons catch most of their food in the water.
- Raccoons are nocturnal animals.
- They are omnivores and will eat crawfish, frogs, and other aquatic creatures, mice, insects, eggs, fruit, and plants.
- They will use tree holes, fallen logs, and attics for dens.
- Females have 1-7 young in the early summer.
- Young raccoons are called cubs.
- The first two or so months of the cub's lives are spent in trees and then later they will move to the ground.
- Northern raccoons fatten up during the spring and summer and spend much of the winter sleeping in dens.
- There are six species of raccoon, in addition to the common North American species. Many of the others live on tropical islands.
- Raccoons are the most important furbearer in Oklahoma both economically and recreationally.
- Average life span is 2-3 years.
- Length: 26-40 inches
- Weight: 8-30 pounds
- Group name: nursery
- Hunting: Can be hunted year-round.

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Whitetail Deer

Scientific name: *Odocoileus virginianus*

- Whitetail deer is the smallest member of the North American deer family.
- In the heat of the summer, they are found in fields and meadows and use clumps of broadleaves and coniferous trees for shade.
- During winter keep to forests with preference to coniferous stands.
- Their coat color depends on the season; they will be reddish-brown in the summer and grayish-brown in the winter.
- Antlers are grown annually; sometimes females will grow antlers as well. For the purpose of bag limits and game laws, antlered does are considered bucks, with licenses being available for antlered or antlerless harvest.
- Male whitetail deer are called bucks, females are called does, and young deer are called fawns.
- Females give birth to 1-3 young at a time; the number depends upon food availability.
- Fawns' coats are reddish-brown with white spots, which are great for camouflage.
- Whitetail deer are herbivores. They are browsers and eat mostly woody material. But they will also eat leaves, fruits, grass, corn and alfalfa.
- Whitetail deer are most active at dawn and dusk. Those are the best times to hunt them.
- Whitetail deer will pop up their white tail when feeling threatened. They can run up to 40 mph. Hunters should not take a shot at a running deer.
- Ticks are one of the number one external parasite that affect deer. Ticks can be carriers of Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Lyme disease, which are transferable to humans. Hunting keeps the deer population in check, which helps keep the tick population lower.
- Thanks to strict game management they have been brought back from the brink of extinction in Oklahoma.
- The average life span is 6-14 years.

Sources: National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com) and (www.wildlifedepartment.com).



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Skins & Skulls Fun Facts

Whitetail Deer continued...

- Size: Three feet high at the shoulder
- Weight: 150-225 pounds
- Group name: herd
- Can be hunted during archery, gun, muzzleloader, and holiday antlerless gun seasons.
- The yearly limit is six with only two being antlered.
- Deer taken during the Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun season do not count toward the hunter's combined season limit of six deer.
- Antlered Deer Definition: Any deer, regardless of sex, with atleast three inches of antler length above the natural hairline on either side.

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Mountain Lion

Scientific name: *Puma concolor*

- Other common names used are puma and cougar.
- Length: 79-90 inches
- Weight: 80-200 pounds
- Has reddish brown to gray unspotted fur.
- Deer are the primary prey but will eat smaller prey.
- Litters have 2-5 young.
- Kittens are wooly and spotted.
- The young will stay with their mother for a year or more.
- Very rare in Oklahoma but there have been a few documented sightings.
- Nocturnal and extremely secretive.
- Distinguishing characteristics: its tail is more than half of the length of its body, it has black tips on the tail and ears, and is primarily tan in color.
- Males' territories can be up to 200 square miles.
- Generally, hunt at dawn or dusk.
- They will hide uneaten portions of their kills to eat later.
- They are carnivores.
- Hunting: There is no hunting season on mountain lions. However, mountain lions can be taken year-round when committing or about to commit depredation on any domesticated animal or when deemed an immediate safety hazard.

Sources: Oklahoma Furbearers, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and (www.wildlifedepartment.com).



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