



Virginia Opossum *(Didelphis virginianis)*

Instant ID

- A housecat-sized mammal with a pointed face
- Overall gray coloration with grizzled pattern (white hair interspersed)
- Has hairless tail, paws and ears
- Uses a prehensile (grasping) tail

Native Niches

- Found throughout most Florida habitats, preferring forested and urban areas
- Only marsupial (animal which carries its young in a pouch) native to North America



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Favorite Foods

- Omnivore (eats both plants and animals)
- Eats carrion (meat from dead animals), small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, fruits and vegetables

Critter Characteristics

- Has opposable thumbs (like human hands) on its hind feet
- When encountering a new smell, they self-anoint (lick the smell's source and cover body with the saliva generated)
- Play dead when startled, yet will get back up if left alone

Population Protection

- Opossums often visit roads to eat carrion, so be careful when driving