COMMON NAME: Northern Raccoon
SCIENTIFIC NAME: Procyon lotor
DIET: rodents, eggs, crayfish, frogs, fish, snakes, insects, nuts, vegetables, fruits, grains, small mammals and, sometimes, roadkill.
SIZE: 16 – 28 in
WEIGHT: 7.7 – 20 lbs

**FUN FACTS**

**Appearance and Attributes**
- The Raccoon’s most distinctive feature is its “bandit’s mask”.
- Raccoons often have a brown-black streak of color extending between their eyes from the forehead to the nose.
- Their body is covered in a mix of dark and light hair, which helps them blend into the dappled light of their forest habitat.
- About 90% of its hair is a thick undercoat which they start shedding in late winter.

**Life History and Diet**
- Raccoons are omnivorous and opportunistic.
- They can be a nuisance to farmers or gardeners when they raid poultry houses for eggs and chicks, or damage crops.
- Raccoons’ preferred habitat is wooded areas near water.

Northern Raccoons are native to North America and live throughout the United States, as well as parts of Mexico, Canada, and northern South America. They can live in a wide range of habitats from cold grasslands to warm, tropical areas. They need to be close by water and prefer to inhabit moist woodland areas. As with any wild animal, if you see a raccoon near your facility do not disturb it or try to feed it. If a Northern Raccoon on LaRC is hurt or showing unusual behavior, please call the LaRC Environmental Office (Ande Remington) at 757-864-8332. In an emergency, call 911 (from a Center phone) or 864-2222 (from a cell phone).

**SPECIES STATUS:** Least concern

Data obtained from the National Wildlife Federation, the Nature Conservancy, and the National Geographic.