Eurasian Beaver

Castor fiber

BEAVER TRUST

Although short-sighted it is believed beavers can see colour. They also have a third, clear eyelid, (nictating membrane) which allows them to see underwater.

Vital for finding food, identifying family members and detecting danger, a beaver's sense of smell is it's most important and one of its strongest senses.

An excellent sense of hearing both on land and underwater allows them to identify predators and family. The inner ear is full of dense fluffy hairs which trap air and prevent water from getting in.

Beavers have 2 layers of fur. A short dense underfur which acts as an insulator and an outer layer of longer guard hairs which repel water.

With a lung capacity roughly 3 times that of an adult human beavers can remain underwater for up to 15 minutes at a time.





Beavers teeth are reinforced with iron which gives them their distinctive orange colour and allows them to gnaw through wood.

104

Beaver fossils and other archaeological remains have been discovered at 104 different sites across Britain.

Up to
1.5 feet (0.5m)



Large, flat and scaly tail mainly used as a rudder when swimming. Also used to slap the water's surface to deter predators and notify other beavers of danger.

Weigh up to:
30kg

Up to
5 feet (1.5m)

27

27 European countries have reintroduced beavers since the 1920's. The European population is estimated at 1.5 million individuals but Britain only has an estimated 2,000.



Hand-like forepaws allow beavers to easily grasp food and materials. But unlike us it is the outer digit of the hand which is opposable (imagine your thumb and pinky swapped places).



Large webbed hind feet (up to 7 inches) which are mainly used to propel beavers through water up to speeds of 5mph.

2nd
Largest rodent in the world

Out of 4,660 known species of rodent, the beaver is second only to the Capybara from South America in size.