

River Otters of South Florida

**ROSF**



## **Otters and People**

### **The NA Zoos & Aquariums with Otters UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

An update of the “Otters in Zoos and Aquariums in North America: 2017” (below) is being developed for 2023. This update did not include information from the Mexican zoos, wildlife centers and aquariums, as a viable link with these institutions did not appear to exist at the time the 2017 database was compiled. It is the intent of this author to investigate if there is an otter data base, held by a Mexican institution, containing the species, sexes, and numbers of otters in the respective institutions. If no database exists an attempt will be made by this author, with help of the Mexican institutions and otter scientists in Mexico, Canada, the United States, as well as members of the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums(AZA) to aid in the development and support the Mexican institutions’ management of this database for the long-term. The 2017 compilation (below) is derived from the River Otters of South Florida website where it was originally presented in 2018.

### **Otters in Zoos and Aquariums in North America: 2017**

by

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### **Where to Find Otters in North American Zoological Parks, Aquariums and Wild Life Conservation and Nature Centers**

by Victor L. Camp

Introduction: This is a revision of Janice Reed-Smith’s 1999 compilation of When and Where to See Otters in Zoological Parks, Aquariums and Conservation Centers. (Reed-Smith, J. 1999). More than

likely several smaller institutions holding otters were not determined, by this author, during in online search for institutions holding otters. The information presented here is current as of August 2017. The institutions indicated by an asterisk may not have recorded their information in or are not members of ZIMS (Zoological Information Management System). Those institutions that are new to this listing are indicated by a "bullet." These latter two institutions were contacted directly to confirm the presence of otter species in their collections.

Janice Reed-Smith's compilation offered some excellent suggestions when you visit a zoo. These are those suggestions: "When you are going to a zoo to see otters, there are a few things you can do to increase your chances of actually "seeing" them. After all, they are generally most active in the morning or early evening, not the times when most of us visit a zoo. First, go when the zoo opens or go later in the afternoon and plan on staying until it closes. Second, if you don't see them at first, look around-especially under trees, bushes, logs, etc. Third, if you still do not see them, go and see some of the other animals and try again later. Fourth, ask an employee (or keeper if you can find one) when the animals might be active. Animals frequently have typical activity patters, and the animal you see sleeping at 11:00 a.m. may often be up and swimming at noon."

NOTE: The abbreviation NA refers to North American.

## **CANADA**

### **Alberta**

Calgary, Calgary Zoo - NA river otter

\*Edmonton, Edmonton Valley Zoo - NA river otter

Granby, Zoo de Granby/Granby Park Zoo - spotted-necked otter

### **British Columbia**

Vancouver Aquarium - sea otter

### **Newfoundland**

\*St. Johns, Salmonier Nature Park - NA river otter

### **Ontario**

Toronto, Toronto Zoo - NA river otter

### **Quebec**

Montreal, Montreal Biodome - NA river otter

## **UNITED STATES**

### **Alabama**

Birmingham, Birmingham Zoo - giant otter and NA river otter

### **Alaska**

Seward, Alaska Sea Life Center - sea otter

### **Arizona**

Phoenix, Phoenix Zoo - spotted-necked otter

Tucson, Arizona Sonora Desert Museum - NA river otter

Tucson, Reid Park Zoo - NA river otter and spotted-necked otter

### **Arkansas**

Little Rock, Little Rock Zoo - NA river otter and spotted-necked otter

### **California**

Eureka, Sequoia Park Zoo - NA river otter

Fresno, Fresno Chaffee Zoo/Chaffee Zoo - spotted-necked otter

Long Beach, Aquarium of the Pacific - sea otter

Los Angeles, Los Angeles Zoo - giant otter

Monterey, Monterey Bay Aquarium - sea otter  
Oakland, Oakland Zoo - NA river otter  
Sacramento, Sacramento Zoo - NA river otter  
San Diego, San Diego Aquarium - sea otter  
San Diego, San Diego Zoo – African(Cape) clawless otter  
San Francisco, Aquarium of the Bay - NA river otter  
San Francisco, San Francisco Zoo - NA river otter  
San Mateo, CuriOdyessy - NA river otter  
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens - Asian small-clawed otter

### **Connecticut**

Bridgeport, Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo - NA river otter  
Norwalk, Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk - NA river otter

### **Colorado**

Colorado Springs, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo - NA river otter  
Denver, Denver Zoo - NA river otter  
Denver, Downton Aquarium Denver - NA river otter  
Pueblo, Pueblo Zoo - NA river otter

### **Delaware**

Wilmington, Brandywine Zoo - NA river otter

### **District of Columbia**

Washington D.C., Smithsonian National Zoological Park - Asian small-clawed otter and NA river otter

### **Florida**

\*Clearwater, Clearwater Marine Aquarium - NA river otter  
\*Ft. Lauderdale, Flamingo Gardens - NA river otter  
•Ft. Lauderdale, Museum of Discovery and Science – NA river otter  
Gainesville, Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo - Asian small-clawed otter  
\*Gulf Breeze, Gulf Breeze Zoo - Asian small-clawed otter  
\*Homosassa Springs, Homosassa Springs State Park - NA river otter  
Jacksonville, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens - Asian small-clawed otter and giant otter  
Melbourne, Brevard Zoo - NA river otter  
Miami, Zoo Miami - Asian small-clawed otter, giant otter, and NA river otter  
Orlando, Disney's Animal Kingdom - Asian small-clawed otter  
\*Panama City Beach, ZooWorld Zoological and Botanical Conservatory - NA river otter  
Sanford, Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens - NA river otter  
•Sarasota, Mote Marine Aquarium - NA river otter  
\*Tallahassee, Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science - NA river otter  
Tampa, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo - NA river otter  
Tampa, The Florida Aquarium - NA river otter  
West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Zoo at Dreher Park - NA river otter

### **Georgia**

Atlanta, Atlanta Georgia Aquarium - Asian small-clawed otter and sea otter  
Atlanta, Zoo Atlanta/Atlanta Zoo - giant otter (0.0.2)

### **Idaho**

Idaho Falls, Tautphaus Park Zoo - NA river otter

### **Illinois**

Bloomington, Miller Park Zoo - NA river otter  
Chicago, Brookfield Zoo/Chicago Zoological Park - Asian small-clawed otter and NA river otter  
Chicago, John G. Shedd Aquarium - sea otter  
Chicago, Lincoln Park Zoo - NA river otter  
\*Peoria, Wildlife Prairie Park - NA river otter  
\*Springfield, Henson Robinson Zoo - NA river otter

#### **Indiana**

Evansville, Mesker Park Zoo and Botanical Garden - NA river otter  
Fort Wayne, Ft. Wayne Children's Zoo - NA river otter  
South Bend, Potawatomi Zoo - NA river otter

#### **Iowa**

Des Moines, Blank Park Zoo - NA river otter  
Dubuque, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium - NA river otter

#### **Kansas**

Hutchinson, Hutchinson Zoo - NA river otter  
Kansas City, Kansas City Zoo - Asian small-clawed otter and NA river otter  
Manhattan, Sunset Zoo - Asian small-clawed otter  
Topeka, Topeka Zoo - NA river otter  
Wichita, Sedgwick County Zoo - NA river otter

**Kentucky:** None

#### **Louisiana**

Alexandria, Alexandria Zoological Park - NA river otter  
Baton Rouge, BREC's Baton Rouge - Zoo NA river otter  
\*Broussard, Zoo of Acadiana - NA river otter  
New Orleans, Audubon Zoo - Asian small-clawed otter and NA river otter  
New Orleans, Audubon Aquarium of the Americas - sea otter

#### **Maryland**

Baltimore, Maryland Zoo - NA river otter  
Salisbury, Salisbury Zoological Park - NA river otter

#### **Massachusetts**

Attleboro, Capron Park Zoo - NA river otter  
Boston, New England Aquarium - sea otter  
•Milton, Massachusetts Audubon's Blue Hills Trailside Museum - NA river otter  
New Bedford, Buttonwood Park Zoo - NA river otter  
\*Stoneham, Stone Zoo - NA river otter  
\*Worcester, Ecotarium/Worcester Science Center- NA river otter

#### **Michigan**

Detroit, Detroit Zoological Institute/Detroit Zoo - NA river otter  
Grand Rapids, John Ball Zoological Gardens - NA river otter  
Lansing, Potter Park Zoo - NA river otter  
Saginaw, Children's Zoo at Celebration Square - NA river otter

#### **Minnesota**

Apple Valley, Minnesota Zoo - NA river otter and sea otter

#### **Missouri**

Springfield, Dickerson Park Zoo - NA river otter  
Saint Louis, Saint Louis Zoological Park - NA river otter

**Montana**

Billings, Zoo Montana - NA river otter

**Nebraska**

Omaha, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo - Asian small-clawed otter and spotted-necked otter

\*Lincoln, Riverside Discovery/Lincoln Children's Zoo - NA river otter

**New Hampshire**

Holderness, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center - NA river otter

**New Jersey**

Cape May County, Cape May County Park Zoo - NA river otter

West Orange, Turtle Back Zoo - NA river otter

**New Mexico**

Albuquerque, Albuquerque Biological Park - NA River otter

**New York**

Binghamton, Binghamton Park Zoo at Ross Park/Ross Park Zoo - spotted-necked otter

Brooklyn, Prospect Park Zoo - NA river otter

Bronx, Bronx Zoo - Asian small-clawed otter

Buffalo, Buffalo Zoo - NA river otter

Millbrook, Trevor Zoo - NA river otter

New York, New York Aquarium - sea otter

Rochester, Seneca Park Zoo - NA river otter

Syracuse, Rosamond Gifford Zoo/Burnett Park Zoo - NA river otter

Staten Island, Staten Island Zoo - NA river otter

**North Carolina**

Asheboro, North Carolina Zoo - NA river otter

Ashville, Western North Carolina Nature Center - NA river otter

Greensboro, Greensboro Science Center - Asian small-clawed otter

Pine Knoll Shores, North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores - NA river otter

Manteo, North Carolina Aquarium at Roanoke Island - NA river otter

**North Dakota**

Bismarck, Dakota Zoo - NA river otter

Fargo, Red River Zoo - NA river otter

Minot, Roosevelt Park Zoo - NA river otter

Whapeton, Chahinkapa Zoo - NA river otter

**Ohio**

Akron, Akron Zoo - NA river otter

Cincinnati, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden - NA river otter

Cleveland, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo - Asian small-clawed otter

Columbus, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium - Asian small-clawed otter and NA river otter

Dayton, Boonshoft Museum of Discovery - NA river otter

Toledo, Toledo Zoo - spotted-necked otter

**Oklahoma**

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City Zoo - NA river otter

Tulsa, Tulsa Zoo - NA river otter

**Oregon**

\*Bend, High Desert Museum - NA river otter

Newport, Oregon Coast Aquarium - sea otter

Portland, Oregon Zoo/Washington Park Zoo - sea otter and NA river otter

### **Pennsylvania**

Erie, Erie Zoo - NA river otter

Hershey, Zoo America - NA river otter

Norristown, Elmwood Park Zoo - NA river otter

Philadelphia, Philadelphia Zoo - giant otter

Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium - sea otter

Schnecksville, Lehigh Valley Zoo/Trexler Lehigh Nature Preserve - NA river otter

### **Rhode Island**

Providence, Roger Williams Zoo - NA river otter

### **South Carolina**

Charleston, South Carolina Aquarium - NA river otter

Columbia, Riverbanks Zoo and Garden - NA river otter

Murrels Inlet, Brookgreen Gardens - NA river otter

### **Tennessee**

Chattanooga, Tennessee Aquarium - NA river otter

Knoxville, Knoxville Zoo - NA river otter

Memphis, Memphis Zoo - Asian small-clawed otter

### **Texas**

Abilene, Abilene Zoo - NA river otter

Corpus Christi, Texas State Aquarium - NA river otter

Dallas, Dallas World Aquarium - giant otter

Dallas, Dallas Zoo - Asian small-clawed otter

Galveston, Aquarium and Rainforest at Moody Gardens - giant otter

Houston, Houston Zoo - NA river otter

Lufkin, Ellen Trout Zoo - NA river otter

San Antonio, San Antonio Zoological Gardens & Aquarium - Asian small-clawed otter

Tyler, Caldwell Zoo - NA river otter

\*Victoria, The Texas Zoo – NA river otter

Waco, Cameron Park Zoo: NA river otter

### **Utah**

Salt Lake City, Utah's Hogle Zoo - NA river otter

### **Virginia**

New Port News, Virginia Living Museum - NA river otter

Norfolk, Virginia Zoological Park - Asian small-clawed otter

Roanoke, Mill Mountain Zoo - Asian small-clawed otter

Virginia Beach, Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center - NA river otter

### **Washington**

Eatonville, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park - NA river otter

Seattle, Woodland Park Zoological Gardens - Asian small-clawed otter and NA river otter

Seattle, Seattle Aquarium - NA river otter and sea otter

Tacoma, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium - Asian small-clawed otter and sea otter

### **West Virginia**

Wheeling, Ogelsby's Good Zoo - NA river otter

### **Wisconsin**

Green Bay, Northeastern Wisconsin Zoo - NA river otter

Madison, Henry Villas Zoo - NA river otters

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Citation: Reed-Smith, J. (1999). When and where to see otters in zoological parks, aquariums and conservation centers. *The River Otter Journal*, Fall 1999.