

# River Otters of South Florida

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# *South Florida Otter News*

[www.riverotterssouthfl.com](http://www.riverotterssouthfl.com)

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## *About the South Florida Otter News*

The *South Florida Otter News* is intended to contain a variety of “Interesting Stories about Otters from South Florida” that may include information about river otters (*Lontra canadensis*) acquired from newspaper articles, word-of-mouth stories, descriptions of interesting and sometimes amusing otter behavior, and otter sightings of particular interest such as seeing otter pups, observations of locations where recent otter roadway mortalities have occurred in south Florida, and information on otter attacks of people and pets in Florida. *South Florida Otter News* will also include “News on Otter Species in Florida Zoos and Aquariums” and information on “Recent South Florida Otter Research”.

A projected time when the *South Florida Otter News* will be activated online, through this website, is mid to late 2021.

Thank you for patience.

Victor L. Camp  
03/06/21

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## *Interesting Stories about Otters in South Florida*

### **ABC 7 Orphaned otter pup taken to Sanibel wildlife hospital**

By Erin O'Brien

**11:39 PM EST, Thu February 11, 2021**

**SANIBEL, Fla. — Baby otter season is ramping up in Southwest Florida.**

Staff at the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife, located on Sanibel, have treated many baby birds of prey recently. Now, they have an orphan otter pup that was recently admitted to the animal hospital.

The pup is thought to be about four weeks old and was found all alone on the road in LaBelle. It arrived to CROW thin and dehydrated, but otherwise healthy.

North American otter pups stay with their mother for about seven to eight months or more.

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## *News on Otters in Florida Zoos and Aquariums*

### **North American River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*)**

#### **3 North American river otter pups born at Zoo Miami**

By **The Associated Press**

February 11, 2021, 8:36 AM

MIAMI -- Zoo Miami is celebrating the birth of three North American river otter pups. The Feb. 5 birth was the first for their mother, Zinnia, the zoo's communication director, Ron Magill, said in a news release. It was also the first birth of this species at the zoo.

The pups were born in a secluded den in the Florida: Mission Everglades exhibit and are being well cared for by their first-time mother, Magill said. It is still too early to determine their genders, he said.

Zinnia arrived at Zoo Miami from the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Rhode Island where she was born. She and her pups will remain isolated behind the scenes to ensure they have minimal disturbances while they bond and grow.

The pups' father is 5-year-old Edison, who came to Zoo Miami in October 2016 after being rescued as an orphan and hand-raised by a group called Wild Florida, the news release said. The father is separated from Zinnia and the pups, which is also the case in the wild, Magill said. Males do not participate in rearing the babies.

North American river otters are found in a variety of fresh water habitats throughout much of the U.S. and Canada. They can grow up to 4 feet (1.2 meters) and typically weigh between 12 (5.4 kilograms) and 25 pounds (11.3 kilograms).

by: **WESH 2 News Staff**

**Posted: Mar 4, 2021 / 03:59 PM EST / Updated: Mar 4, 2021 / 03:59 PM EST**

### **Asian Small-clawed Otter (*Aonyx cinerea*)**

**ORLANDO, Fla. (WESH) – Discovery Cove in Orlando announced Thursday that two adorable otters were recently born.**

They are the first otter kits to be born at Discovery Cove. Emmie and Binx were born on Oct. 13, 2020. "Emmie and Binx have hit all their milestones to date, and have been introduced into the main otter habitat at Discovery Cove, where they continue to receive world-class, expert care from our veterinary team. Discovery Cove is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and participates in the organization's Asian otter Species Survival Plan," Discovery Cove said.

Asian Small-Clawed Otters are the smallest of all 13 species of otters. When fully mature, they will reach 2-3 feet in length and weigh anywhere from 2-11 pounds.

Scent is the most important form of communication for these animals, with each otter having a scent as unique as a fingerprint.

Asian Small-Clawed Otters spend a great deal of time in and out of the water, living on fish, crustaceans and mollusks, and have an average lifespan of approximately 10-15 years.

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## *Recent South Florida Otter Research*

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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Courtesy Faculty/River Otter Research

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