

## Raccoon

The Raccoon is a mammal, weighing between 15-30 pounds. Their diet consists of small rodents, fish, crawdads, birds, poultry, cats, eggs and other small mammals. The Raccoon begins mating January, and goes through February. The gestation period is 63 days. Most babies are born in April and May. An average litter is between 3-5. Raccoons are generally found in areas near water, forests, farmlands, etc. They rarely use ground dens, and prefer a den in a hollow tree.

Raccoons can be very devastating on chickens, and can rip through thinner wire such as hardware cloth to get into a chicken house. High populations of Raccoons can lead to a distemper outbreak over a period of time, because it is easier to spread quickly if an outbreak occurs. Raccoons are also susceptible to Rabies, and many Coons carry a roundworm in the stomach. Raccoon tracks look almost like a baby's bare feet, and closely resemble a bear track, just on a smaller scale.

