

EURASIAN OTTER *Lutra lutra*



My coat is made of two layers, one thick and short, and one sparse and long, which makes it very warm and waterproof

My body is long and slender, definitely hydrodynamic!

To help me see underwater, I have a muscle around my eye that changes the curvature to adapt to underwater view

I can close my nose and ears as I submerge into the water

I have long whiskers called vibrissae which are able to feel every little vibration in the water and locate the prey with extreme precision

My tail is long, thick and strong, and I use it just like a rudder to change direction when I'm in the water

I have webbed feet to aid my aquatic lifestyle

My canines are strong and sharp; suitable to firmly grasp the prey and tear the meat that I've caught for my dinner

Where do I live?

We are the most wide-spread otter species, stretching across Europe, parts of Asia and Africa. We live in highland or lowland lakes, rivers, marshes and coastline.

Thanks to protection and less polluted rivers we have made a spectacular comeback in Europe. We live in clean water.

What's for Dinner?

We mainly eat frogs, small fish, crabs and crayfish. When we locate prey we dive and catch it in our mouths, and use our fore paws to keep a firm hold.

Poo - what's that smell!

Otter poo is called scat - traces of scat tell you that an otter has been here. Otters' poo can be found in well visible places along the rivers and coast to mark their territory and signal their presence to other otters. Scat consists of food remains such as fish bones, fish scales maybe crab or crayfish parts, and is often green and slimy.

You know I've been here...

...when you see my footsteps in the sand or mud along the banks of the rivers. They are easily recognised by other mammals by their characteristic shape.



If you look along the banks, between the rocks and at the base of trees you can find traces of the food I've eaten, for example the remains of crab.



Our Holts are well hidden!

Very often, the entrance to shelters or the passageways to enter the water can be seen along the banks or rivers.

