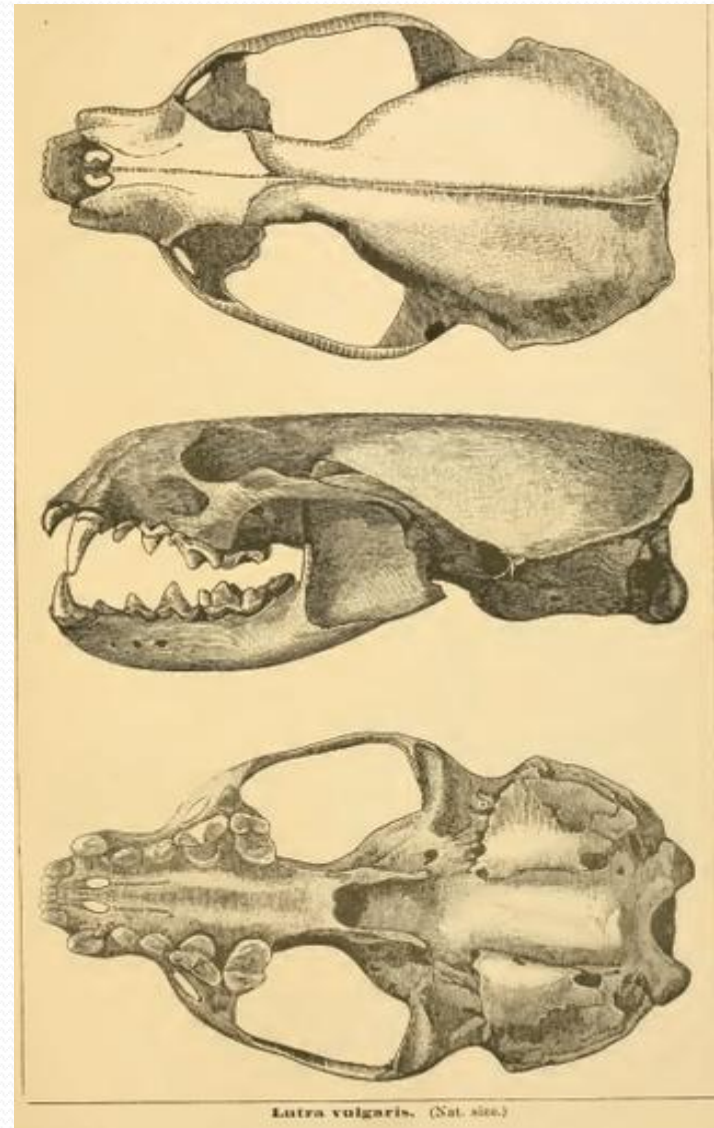


Lutra Lutra (European otter)

***Presentation by:
Martin Delevski***

Classification

- **Kingdom**-----Animalia
- **Phylum**-----Chordata
- **Class**-----Mammalia
- **Order**-----Carnivora
- **Family**-----Mustelidae
- **Genus**-----**Lutra**



Basic Description

- The European otter (*Lutra lutra*), also known as the Eurasian otter, Eurasian river otter, common otter, and Old World otter, is a European and Asian member of the Lutrinae or otter subfamily, and is typical for freshwater otters.



Morphology

- Brown above and cream below, these long, slender creatures are well-equipped for their aquatic habits
- This species is 57 to 95 cm (23–37 in) long, not counting a tail of 35–45 cm (14–18 in)
- The female is shorter than the male
- Average body weight is 7 to 12 kg



Diet

- Fish is their most preferred choice of food
- During the winter and in colder environments, though, fish consumption is lower, and the otters use other sources of food
- Including amphibians, insects, birds and sometimes small mammals, including young beavers



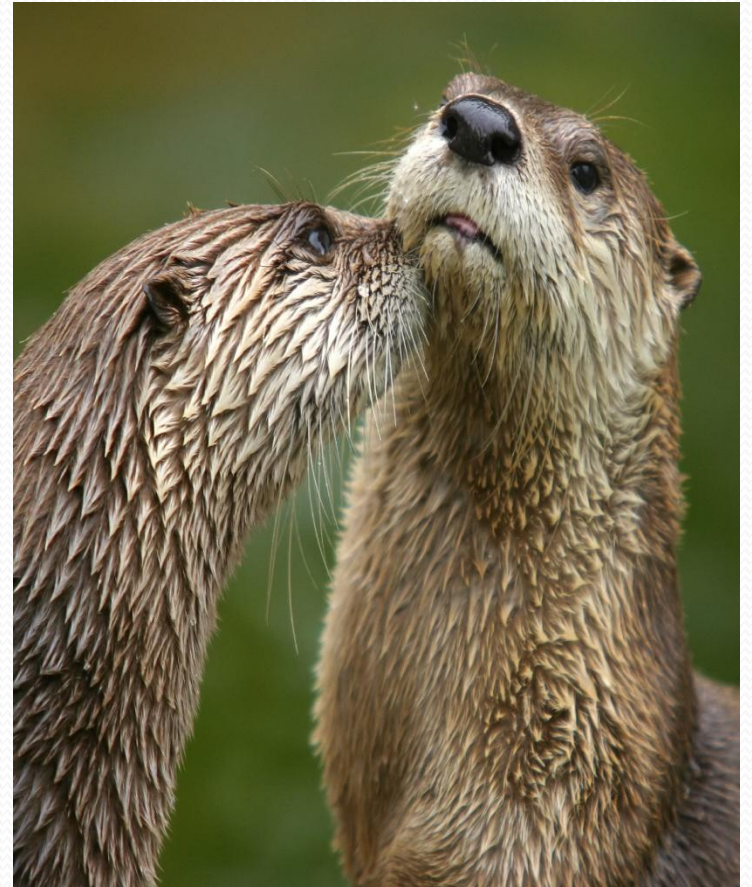
Behaviour

- European otters are strongly territorial, living alone for the most part
- The European otter uses its feces, spraints, to mark its territory and prioritize the use of resources to other group members
- The territories are only held against members of the same sex, so those of males and females may overlap



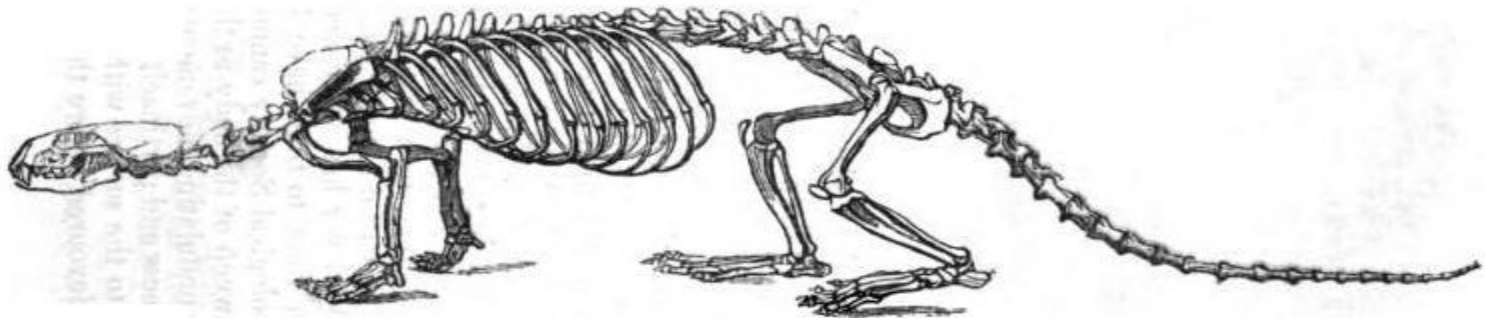
Reproduction

- Mating takes place in water.
- Eurasian otters are nonseasonal breeders
- Female otters are sexually mature between 18 and 24 months old
- Gestation for *L. lutra* is 60–64 days
- The male plays no direct role in parental care



Conservation

- Threats are habitat loss and hunting, both legal and illegal
- European otter populations are now recovering in many parts of Europe. In the UK, the number of sites with an otter presence increased by 55% between 1994 and 2002



82.—Skeleton of European River-Otter.





***Thank you very much for
your attention!!!***

