

Giant River Otter

Pteronura brasiliensis

Order: Carnivora Family: Mustelidae



Range: northern South America

Size: ♂ 1.5 and 1.7 m (4.9 and 5.6 ft)
♀ 1 and 1.5 m (3.3 and 4.9 ft)

Tail length: 45-65 cm (17 -26 in)

Weight: ♂ 26 -45.3 kg (57 - 100 lb)
♀ 22 - 26 kg (49 - 57 lb)

Habitat: rivers and lakes

Diet: catfish and perch

Breeding: monogamous

Group: 2- 20

Gestation : 65-72 days

Sexual maturity: 2-3 years



The largest of the thirteen species of otters the Giant river otter is native to the lakes and rivers of northern South America. They prefer slow moving water ox bow lakes are a favorite habitat. Giant river otters live in strong family groups that range from two to twenty. The groups consists of a dominant breeding pair and young of different ages. The groups are active during the day and are very noisy. Seven distinct vocalizations have been identified.

The Giant river otter is listed as endangered by the IUCN. Hunting is a major threat due the a pelt that is one of the densest of any mammal. Other threats include habitat loss, pollution, and disease from domestic animals.