

WHY BE CONCERNED?

Nutria:

- Burrow into levees
- Destroy wetlands
- Damage agricultural crops
- Rapidly reproduce
- Can disperse up to 50 miles



Burrowing damage from nutria in Oregon. (Photo by USFWS)

WHAT ARE NUTRIA?

- Large semi-aquatic rodents
- Considered highly invasive
- Also known as 'coypu'
- Found in CA's Central Valley since 2017



HOW TO HELP

Report sightings:

 (866) 440-9530

 invasives@wildlife.ca.gov

For private landowners:

- Grant CDFW access to your property for nutria surveys

Learn more:

- Visit wildlife.ca.gov/nutria for the current distribution map, private access permits, and more information

NUTRIA POCKET GUIDE



A Guide to Identifying Nutria and Other Aquatic Mammals



ADULT SIZE

FEET AND TRACKS

BODY AND TAILS

NUTRIA FEATURES

NUTRIA
NON-NATIVE



2' body
1' tail
10-20 lbs

Partially webbed rear feet
4 front toes show in tracks



White whiskers
Tail still while swimming;
propels body with feet

Round, rat-like
Bristly hairs



Dark colored ears, with lighter colored fur below
Blocky head, often with orange teeth

MUSKRAT
NATIVE



1' body
9" tail
2-5 lbs

No webbing on feet
Often have pink nails



Black whiskers
Rapid side-to-side tail motion when swimming

Flattened side-to-side (wedge shape)



OTTER
NATIVE



>2' body
>1' tail
10-25 lbs

Fully webbed front and rear feet



White whiskers
Slender, elongated body

Thick with dense, fine fur



Hunched appearance on land
Primarily active at night

BEAVER
NATIVE



>2' body
1' tail
40+ lbs

Fully webbed rear feet
5 front toes show in tracks



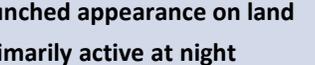
Black whiskers
Slap water with tail when disturbed

Oval-shaped, flat



Cylindrical, 2-3" scats; may float in water
Spanish word for otter is 'nutria'



	ADULT SIZE	FEET AND TRACKS	BODY AND TAILS	NUTRIA FEATURES	
NUTRIA NON-NATIVE	 2' body 1' tail 10-20 lbs	Partially webbed rear feet 4 front toes show in tracks 	White whiskers Tail still while swimming; propels body with feet	Round, rat-like Bristly hairs 	Dark colored ears, with lighter colored fur below Blocky head, often with orange teeth 
MUSKRAT NATIVE	 1' body 9" tail 2-5 lbs	No webbing on feet Often have pink nails 	Black whiskers Rapid side-to-side tail motion when swimming	Flattened side-to-side (wedge shape) 	 Hunched appearance on land Primarily active at night Cylindrical, 2-3" scats; may float in water Spanish word for otter is 'nutria' 
OTTER NATIVE	 >2' body >1' tail 10-25 lbs	Fully webbed front and rear feet 	White whiskers Slender, elongated body	Thick with dense, fine fur 	
BEAVER NATIVE	 >2' body 1' tail 40+ lbs	Fully webbed rear feet 5 front toes show in tracks 	Black whiskers Slap water with tail when disturbed	Oval-shaped, flat 	

WHY BE CONCERNED?

Nutria:

- Burrow into levees
- Destroy wetlands
- Damage agricultural crops
- Rapidly reproduce
- Can disperse up to 50 miles



Burrowing damage from nutria in Oregon. (Photo by USFWS)

WHAT ARE NUTRIA?

- Large semi-aquatic rodents
- Considered highly invasive
- Also known as 'coypu'
- Found in CA's Central Valley since 2017



HOW TO HELP

Report sightings:

 (866) 440-9530

 invasives@wildlife.ca.gov

For private landowners:

- Grant CDFW access to your property for nutria surveys

Learn more:

- Visit wildlife.ca.gov/nutria for the current distribution map, private access permits, and more information

NUTRIA POCKET GUIDE



A Guide to Identifying Nutria and Other Aquatic Mammals