

SEA OTTER

Enhydra lutris

Playful and fun to watch, sea otters are uniquely adapted to living year-round in cold ocean waters. They survive the cold and wet with dense fur and active lives fueled by large amounts of seafood. The sea otter is the smallest marine mammal in the Northern Hemisphere. They are members of the weasel family and are related to the mink, fisher and river otters. Almost extinct from overhunting by 1911, some sea otter populations are recovering, but poaching, overfishing, and oil spills still threaten the species.



Fun Facts

- Sea otters have the thickest fur of any marine mammal, averaging 850,000 to 1,000,000 per square inch!
- Sea otters are the only marine mammals that do not have blubber to keep them warm.
- Sea otters can see above and below the water just like a dolphin.
- Sea otters are the only marine mammals to use tools. They lie on their backs, place a small rock on their chests, and hit the clam or abalone on the rock.
- Adult sea otters can eat 25% to 30% of their body weight in a day!
- Sea otters can dive up to 330 feet.

Meet the Otters

Four playful and inquisitive sea otters will inhabit *Russia's Grizzly Coast*; three were orphaned in Alaska.

Capers

In the spring of 2006, a sea otter pup was found alone in Kachemak Bay, Alaska after his mother was found deceased nearby. Named "Capers," he was transported to the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward where he was cared for until he was transferred to the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, and later to the Minnesota Zoo.

Jasper

In July, 2007 a male sea otter pup was also found alone in Kachemak Bay, Alaska. Named "Jasper," he was picked up and delivered to the Alaska SeaLife Center where he was cared for until he came to the Minnesota Zoo.

Rocky

Found on July 31, 2007 near Craig, Alaska, "Rocky" was transported to the Alaska SeaLife Center where was cared for until he was transferred to the Minnesota Zoo with Jasper in August.

Kachemak

A female otter called "Kachemak" came to the Minnesota Zoo from the Shedd Aquarium to provide the young orphans an adult otter to befriend and to teach them how to be otters.