

Virginia Opossum

Didelphis virginiana



WHY ARE OPOSSUMS GOOD TO HAVE IN YOUR YARD?

Opossums unfortunately have a reputation for being creepy and dirty, but that's the exact opposite of the truth! They happily eat the fleas, ticks, and mites from your grass, helping to keep you and your animals safe.

DO THEY REALLY HANG FROM THEIR TAILS?

No. Their long pink tails aren't strong enough to hang from, although a baby might be able to get away with it for a few moments. Opossums actually use their tails to help them balance as they climb in trees.



Dennis Church



Tony Alter

IS IT TRUE THAT OPOSSUMS PRETEND TO BE DEAD?

Yes. The opossum in the photo to the left got up and walked away after this photo was taken! "Playing dead" is an involuntary response to stress. They even release an odor that smells like a rotting body!

DID YOU KNOW?

An opossum has 50 teeth!



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AT SHAKER LAKES