

Short Tailed Opossums Information



Size: length from 3 to 6.5 inches
Weight: 2 to 3 ounces
Tail: prehensile
Pouch: does not have an abdominal pouch like most marsupials
Active hours: Nocturnal
Diet: Omnivore
Living arrangement: Solitary
Hygiene: very clean and tidy animals. Will use litter pan.
Scent: males feces tends to be musky
Life Span: up to 4 years in captivity.

Feeding:

Variety of live insects and frozen mice
Fromm Kitten, Orijen Original, Marshall Pet Premium Ferret Food, Hedgehog Precision
Occasional fruits and vegetables

Water:

Easily dehydrate. Always keep water available!

Housing:

20 gallon tall aquarium with wire screen top with branches and items to climb, play on, and nesting pouches, hides, boxes. If using wire cages, be curious of spacing.

Bedding: pine, aspen shavings, or care fresh

8" exercise wheel

Litter pan or small litter box for their designated area is helpful

Temperature: 70-75 degrees Fahrenheit.

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Enclosure & Supplies Shopping List

All the items listed below are necessary to provide an appropriate home for a shot tailed opossum.

- Aquarium must be a minimum of 20 gallon tall (24.3" x 12.5" x 16.8") with screen lid, Zoo Med ReptiBreeze Large (18" x 18" x 36"), or Zilla Fresh Air Screen Habitat Large (30" x 18" x 30") are recommended. A Critter Nation cage is acceptable for adult size STOs.
- 8" wheel
- A Hide. This can be a large tree trunk, igloo, vertical hides, or snuggle sacks.
- 2 shallow bowls 4" diameter x 1.5" depth. Living World Ergonomic Small Pet Dishes or All Living Things Ceramic Bowls are recommended.
- 8 oz. water bottle can be used in addition to a water bowl.
- Bedding. Can be Aspen, Kiln-Dried Pine, fleece, Care Fresh, Uber, or Kaytee Clean & Cozy. (NO CEDAR!)

