

# Friends of the Kaw



This is a list provided by Dr. Raymond Pierotti of the common mammals that can be seen near or in the Kansas River.

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## **Opossums (Family Didelphidae)**

Virginia Opossum *Didelphis virginiana*  
The only Marsupial native to North America.

## **Hares and Rabbits (Family Leporidae)**

Eastern Cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus*  
The only rabbit (of 4 Kansas species) likely to be seen along the Kaw.

## **Squirrels (Family Sciuridae)**

Southern Flying Squirrel *Glaucomys volans* +  
Beautiful and graceful, likely to be seen at night. Has huge dark eyes.  
Woodchuck *Marmota monax* +  
Fox Squirrel *Sciurus niger*

## **Beavers (Family Castoridae)**

Beaver *Castor canadensis* \*

## **New World Mice and Rats (Family Cricetidae)**

Woodland Vole *Microtus pinetorum*

Small dark mouselike creature, with small ears and short tail.

Eastern Woodrat *Neotoma floridana*

Big and attractive, look for its nests which are complex piles of sticks.

Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus* \*

Smaller than a beaver, does not have a flat tail.

White-footed Mouse *Peromyscus leucopus*

Small, beautiful mice with large ears and big dark eyes.

## **Dogs (Family Canidae)**

Coyote *Canis latrans*

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Gray Fox *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* +

Graceful, with small ears, moves like a cat. Can even climb trees.

## **Procyonids (Family Procyonidae)**

Raccoon *Procyon lotor*

## **Weasels (Family Mustelidae)**

River Otter *Lutra canadensis* \*

Big and playful. Slides down muddy banks.

Striped skunk *Mephitis mephitis*

Long-tailed Weasel *Mustela frenata* +

Mink *Mustela vison* \*

Smaller than otter. Might be confused with a small dark cat.

## Cats (Family Felidae)

Mountain Lion *Felis concolor* +

Look for the big long tail. It is unmistakable.

Bobcat *Lynx rufus* +

Short tail. Might be mistaken for a big short-tailed housecat.

## Deer (Family Cervidae)

White-tailed Deer *Odocoileus virginianus*

Mule Deer *Odocoileus hemionus*

Big ears. Only seen in the western counties along the river.

### Notes:

Species accounts can be found online at

[http://www.ksr.ku.edu/libres/Mammals\\_of\\_Kansas/list.html](http://www.ksr.ku.edu/libres/Mammals_of_Kansas/list.html)

\* Aquatic species: likely to be seen in the river itself

+ Rare or exceptionally shy: Sightings of this species are special



For more information contact:

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