

River Otters of South Florida

ROSF



Otter Information

North American River Otter Ethogram

A comprehensive ethogram DOES NOT EXIST for the North American river otter (*Lontra canadensis*). As of December 2024, 94 articles have been published in the scientific literature on North American river otter behavior (Camp, V.L., 2024) and of these 85% were investigations in the wild.

In developing a comprehensive ethogram the minimum following information should be provided for each described behavior: (1) the title/name of the behavior and a two or, if necessary, a three letter abbreviation for the title/name; (2) Description of the behavior, i.e. how it appeared to the observer; (3) the context/situation in which the behavior is displayed/demonstrated; (4) It would be beneficial to have a photograph and/or an illustration reference of the behavior, (5) Descriptions of the behaviors need to be defined as being observed in the wild, in captivity, or both.

Should you be interested in learning more about North American river otter behavior you can access a North American river otter behavior bibliography in the River Otters Of South Florida website at: <https://www.riverotterssouthfl.org> and look in the Otter Information Section for: “North American River Otter Behavior Bibliography”.

An excellent ethogram on the family Felidae has been published by Stanton, Sullivan, and Fazio (2015). This publication is an example of what should be a benchmark for an ethogram on the Lutrinae.

References

Camp, V.L. (2024). A bibliography on the North American River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*). *IUCN Otter Specialist Group Bulletin*, Volume 41 Special/Camp_2024A.

Stanton, L.A., M.S. Sullivan, and J.M. Fazio, (2015). A standardized ethogram for the Felidae: A tool for behavioral researchers. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, **173**: 3-16.

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