**Facts About Otters**

Since I was young, I have always liked otters and I think they are some of the most interesting animals in the world. Not only are they small and cute, they have many quirks about them that make them all the more adorable. From holding each other’s “hands” while sleeping to creating their own slip n’ slide when they play, otters are among the top best animals in the world.

Here is a list of 7 things you might not have known about otters:

1. **There are 13 different species of otters**

Each species of otters range in size. The largest species is known as the Giant Otter, which can grow up to 5 or 6 feet long. According to Alina Bradford from *Live Science*, “The giant otter may be the largest out of all the species, but it is not the heaviest. This distinction goes to the sea otter.” In fact, the average male sea otter can weigh up to 90 pounds. On the other hand, the smallest otter is known as the Asian small-clawed otter which only grows up to 3 feet long and weighs around 11 pounds.

1. **Baby otters are called pups and they aren’t good swimmers.**

These pups, while very buoyant, cannot swim on their own. In order to get from one place to another, their mothers have to carry them on their belly while swimming. This makes for a cute and easy way for the otters to travel.

**3. Otters often like to have play time**

When playing, otters often like to look for a sloped surface to slide down into the water, almost as if it is their own slip n’ slide. They also enjoy wrestling with each other for sport and are known to chase their own tails from time to time. Along with being playful, otters are very curious about the world around them. They enjoy investigating new things all the time.

**4. Otters often collaborate with humans to help them with marine jobs.**

Otters are very helpful to humans when it comes to marine fishing techniques. In fact, “fisherman in Bangladesh have trained otters to act as herders and chase large school of fish into the nets” (Keyser). This way, the fisherman have a good day's work, and the otters are able to “play” while unknowingly help out the fisherman.

**5. They are very good with tools and often keep them around for everyday use.**

One of their favorite things to eat is clams. However, they are not very good at cracking open the shells. In order to do so, otters use rocks that they keep with them to crack open the hard shells. Or, they will hit the clams off of a much larger rocks in hopes they will break open. Otters are very handy and are good and using resources to help them with everyday obstacles.

**6. They often keep these rocks with them in a special pouch.**

Otters have a little pouch under their forearm that they use to keep some of their favorite things in. Most of the time, otters keep rocks they use to crack open shells or food in these pouches. They also like to keep some of their other favorite items in these pouches. Whatever they find that they like and want to keep, they store there in the pouch.

**7. Otters have a lot of fur**

In fact, they have the thickest fur out of any mammal in the animal kingdom. Otters have two layers of fur, a thick under layer and the layer that we can see. With this much fur, otters are able to stay warm and dry even when in the water. This much fur also helps with their buoyancy. According to Cherilyn Jose from *WordPress*, “Sea Otters’ fur has 10x # of hairs per square inch than we have on our entire head. (Humans 100,000; otters 1,000,000).” Since otters have so much fur, they spend most of their day grooming themselves.

Work Cited

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