

Coatimundi

Species Description

Scientific name: *Nasua nasua*

AKA: Coatis, Coatis-mondis, Cwatimwndi (Welsh)

Native to: South America

Habitat: Forest and grassland

The coatimundi is similar in size to a small dog, weighing up to 5.5 kg and the head-to-tail length ranging from 80 to 130 cm with a little more than half the length being tail. It has short forelegs, long hind legs, black feet, a pointed snout with black facial markings and a distinctive long, banded tail. It has a harsh red-brown and black coat which lightens to yellow-brown on the underparts. Coatimundi walk with a bear-like gait.

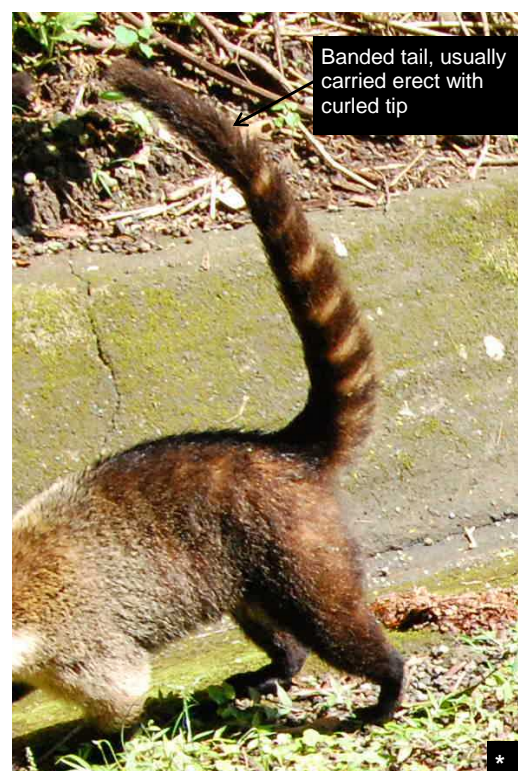
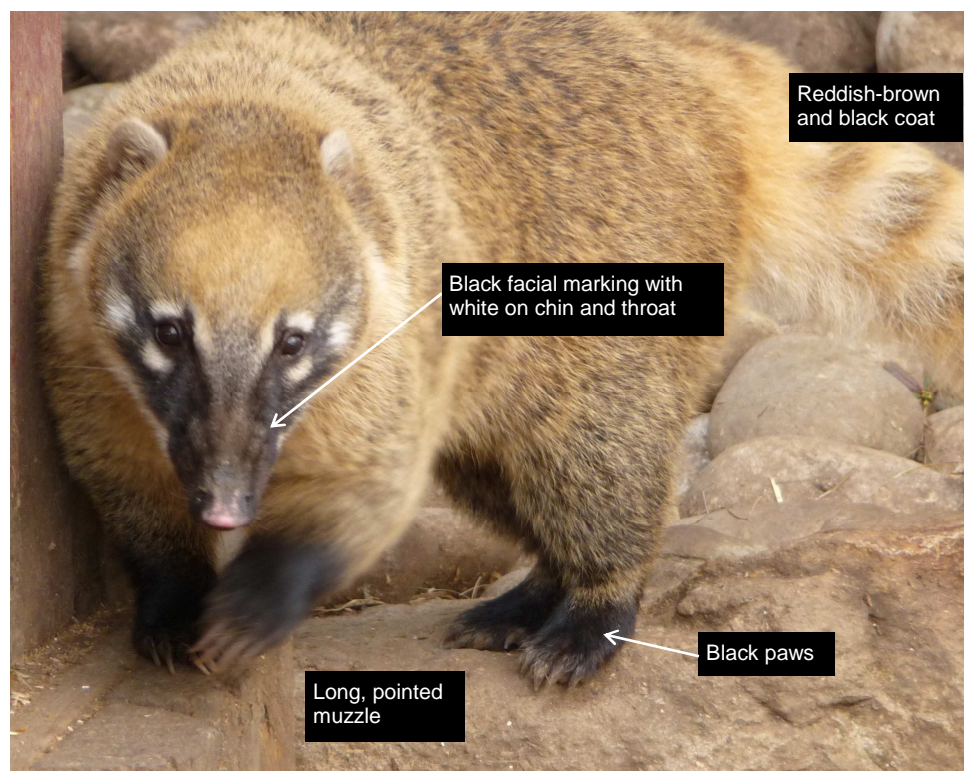
Coatimundi spend much of their time in trees, retiring to them for sleep and spending some of their foraging time looking for fruit.

The presence of coatimundi in the wild in the UK is the result of escapes from zoos or collections, though some may be the result of deliberate release. Since 2005, sightings of coatimundi have been reported in Cumbria, though the number of animals present is not known.

For details of legislation go to www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation.



Key ID Features

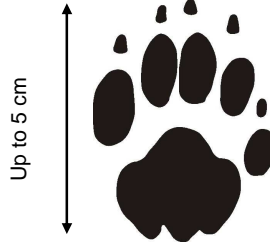


Identification throughout the year

The coat colour of the coatimundi does not vary throughout the year.

Field Signs

Coatimundi tracks show five long toes around a central pad. Their droppings are 7-15 cm long and up to 2.5 cm in diameter.



Similar Species

Badger

Native
(*Meles meles*)

Body length
75 - 90 cm

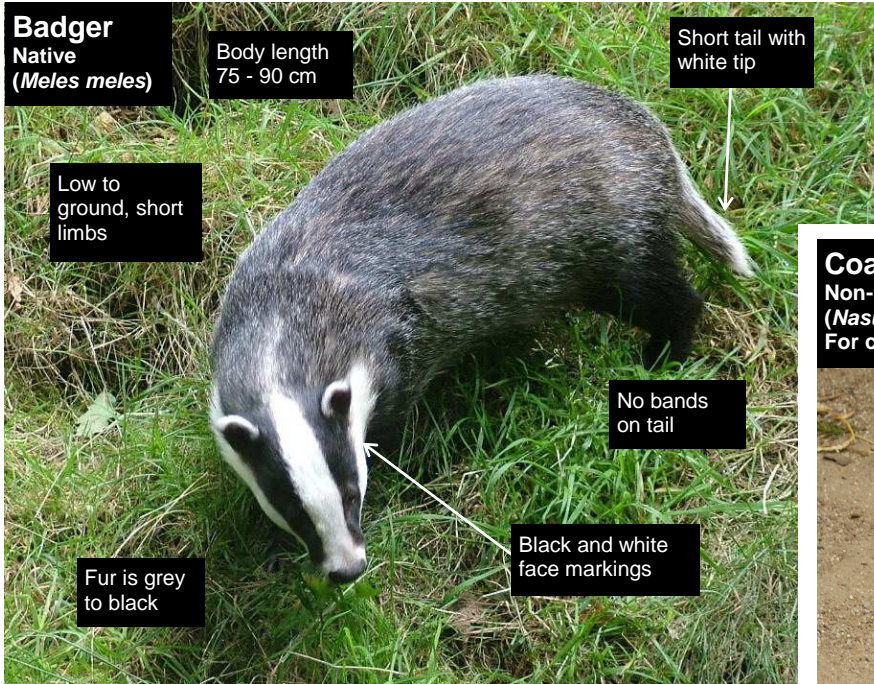
Short tail with
white tip

Low to
ground, short
limbs

No bands
on tail

Fur is grey
to black

Black and white
face markings



Coatimundi

Non-native
(*Nasua nasua*)
For comparison



Coati by Olivier Duquesne, Creative Common BY-SA
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/dafyduke/3644277763/sizes/o/>

Red Fox

Native
(*Vulpes vulpes*)

Ears erect
and pointed
with black
backs

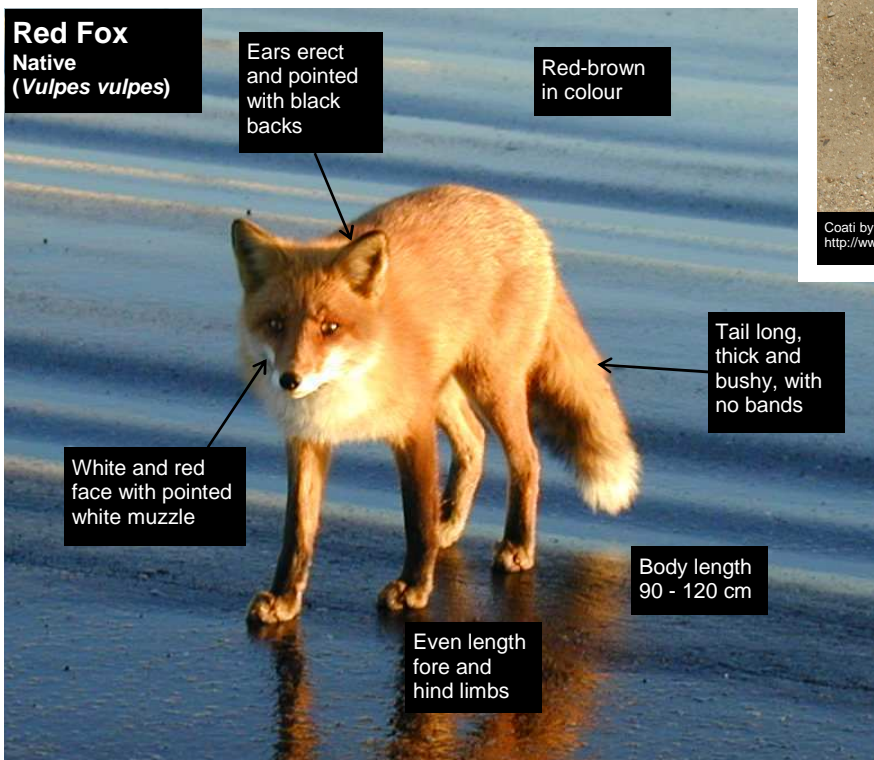
Red-brown
in colour

Tail long,
thick and
bushy, with
no bands

White and red
face with pointed
white muzzle

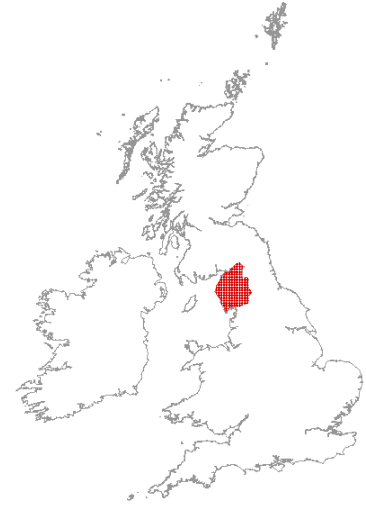
Body length
90 - 120 cm

Even length
fore and
hind limbs



Distribution

One wild population of coatimundi is known to reside in Cumbria.



Source: Various

References and further reading:

Nowak, R M (editor) (1999) "Walker's Mammals of the World" Volume 2, 5th edition. John Hopkins University Press

Brown, R, Lawrence, M J and Pope J (2004) "Animals Tracks Trails and Signs" Hamlyn

MacDonald, D and Barrett, P (1993) "Mammals of Britain and Europe". Collins