

M A M M A L

American Badger



Scientific Name: *Taxidea taxus*

The badger is solitary except during the breeding season, when it pairs to mate. It marks its territory with a strong-smelling secretions from its anal glands. It spends most of the day resting in its burrow and emerges toward dusk to hunt. In the colder regions the badger remains in its burrow for much of the winter, living off a layer of body fat. Although its body processes slow down it is not a true hibernator, and it may feed above ground in mild weather.



STATUS: Although local populations have declined over the years, the badger seems to be stable across its range.



DIET IN THE WILD: The badger catches rabbits as well as other small mammals and even digs ground squirrels out of their burrows. This badger also feeds on invertebrates, bird's eggs and nestlings, carrion, and garbage scraps.

ZOO DIET: Science Diet Canine Maintenance Diet, Purina Monkey Chow.



FUN FACTS: The snout is long and pointed. It is used to sniff out prey. The animal has strong claws on its forepaws that enable them to dig very rapidly. When frightened by an intruder it snarls and growls. However, it rarely provokes an attack, preferring to retreat.