



SEATTLE AQUARIUM

What are the  
differences between  
**sea otters** and  
**river otters**?



SEA OTTER  
CONSERVATION  
SEATTLE AQUARIUM

# Sea Otters



River and sea otters are both relatives of the weasel.

<b>Body:</b>	adults between 50-100 pounds	adults approximately 20-25 pounds
<b>Tail:</b>	flattened, less than 1/3 body length	rounded, more than 1/2 body length
<b>Land behavior:</b>	rarely come ashore awkward movement on land	often come ashore swift, agile movement
<b>Water behavior:</b>	floats high in water swims primarily on back found in salt water eats while floating on back paddles with rear flippers and tail	body mostly submerged swims belly down found in salt and fresh water rarely eats in water paddles with webbed feet
<b>Pups:</b>	single pup	up to four pups
<b>Diet:</b>	urchins, crabs, clams, shrimp, fish, invertebrates	fish, frogs, crayfish, snails, rodents, and birds
<b>Insulation:</b>	dense fur, no blubber	coarser fur, fat layer
<b>Resting:</b>	usually in kelp beds or open water	usually on shore in dens
<b>Social:</b>	usually found in small to large groups	found alone or in family groups

# River Otters



# Sea Otters



Swimming



Side view



Front paws, rear flippers

# River Otters



All feet similar size