



# Asian small-clawed Otter

## Fast Facts



**Scientific Name:** *Amblonyx cinereus*

**Conservation Status:** Vulnerable



**Body Length:** 45–61 cm

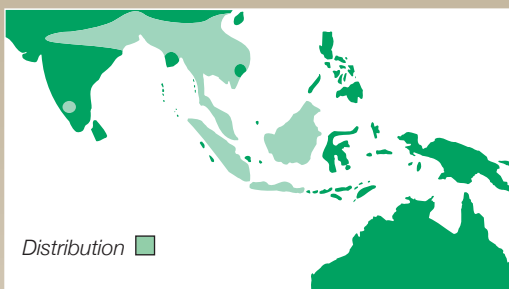
**Weight:** 1–5 kg

**Gestation:** 60–64 days

**Number of young:** 1–6

**Habitat:** Rivers, streams, lakes, rice paddies and estuaries

**Distribution:** North-west India to south-east China, Malay Peninsula, Indonesia, Sumatra



## Description

The Asian Small-clawed Otter is the smallest of the otters. Its short, sleek coat is dark brown. They have reduced webbing on their feet and hands which gives them greater touch and dexterity. This species of otter can be seen 'playing' with sticks and pebbles.

## Diet

Small-clawed Otters are carnivores and eat crabs, fish, and small molluscs including snails.

## In the wild

Asian Small-clawed Otters are highly social, forming small groups of relatives of 4–12 animals and pairing for life. The female is dominant and the male will hunt for the female and her pups as they develop. The young are independent after 80 days of age.

## Threats

All 13 otter species are threatened by the destruction of their aquatic habitats through pollution, urban development and the agriculture industry. Otters are still hunted for their skins and are caught and injured in fishing nets. Land-bound otter species are regularly killed on roads which pass through their natural habitats.

## At Perth Zoo

Perth Zoo's Asian Small-clawed Otters can be seen playing in their exhibit in the Asian Rainforest.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Asian Small-clawed Otters have been trained by Indian fishermen to catch fish.

Otters close their nostrils and ears when they swim.