Raccoon Facts

Raccoons love to eat plants and other animals. If they live near a stream, they might eat frogs, turtles, crayfish, clams, snails and fish. They also like bird and turtle eggs. And they eat all kinds of fruits, berries, and nuts when they can find them.

What raccoons eat changes with the season and what they can find. In the spring, they might eat other animals. In fall and winter, they look for plants and nuts.

Raccoons are always on the lookout for a quick meal and usually eat whatever they can find. And they're very clever, which is why they go through garbage cans. Food in a garbage can is an easy meal for them. And, they might raid a garden to eat any fruit or vegetable they can find.

For the first few months after they're born, raccoon kits don't leave their den. When the kits are about two months old, their mother will take them on trips to forage for food. They might roam as much as several miles from their den.

A mother raccoon teaches her kits how to hunt on their own and how to climb trees to escape danger. As the kits move about, they learn about their surroundings and how to find food for themselves.

By the time raccoons are around 5 months old, they regularly forage for food on their own as well as with their mother. Even when they're are old enough to find food for themselves, they may stay in the den with their mother for up to a year.

Raccoons do not hibernate but they may sleep through the most severe winter days. During the winter, a raccoon family stays together in the same den.

For more information:

http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/facts/raccoon_k6.html

https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/raccoon