Common Small Mammals of Northeast Iowa

All mammals give birth to live young (not eggs), they all have hair, and they all produce milk to feed their young. There are many different mammals in Iowa.

Striped Skunk

- Look for: black body with white stripes and thin, white stripe down nose
- Eats: insects, birds, plants, and garbage
- Digs burrows under logs or buildings

Least Weasel

- Look for: thin, flexible body only 6 inches long
- Eats: mice, voles, and small rodents
- Fur is chocolate-brown in summer, white in winter

Mink

- Look for: chocolate-brown body with a white chin
- Eats: fish, frogs, small mammals and birds
- Lives near water

Raccoon

- Look for: black “mask” on a white face and long, bushy tail with rings
- Eats: fish, eggs, mice, insects, nuts, berries, crops, and trash
- Very sensitive front paws

Fox: Red and Gray

- Red fox: has red fur, white belly and neck, dark legs, and fluffy tail with a white tip
- Gray fox has red fur only on the legs, ears and neck. Has gray fur on the back, and a black-tipped tail
- Eats: mice, voles, rabbits, birds, and fruits
- Gray fox is one of only two kinds of dogs that can climb trees

Red Fox

Gray Fox

Cottontail Rabbit

- Look for: brown-gray fur all year long and white tail that looks like a ball of cotton
- Eats: plants
- Front teeth never stop growing, so has to gnaw on wood to keep them the right size

13-lined Ground Squirrel

- Look for: small, brown body with white and dark brown lines running down back
- Eats: seeds, caterpillars, and grasshoppers
- Stands up outside its burrow, then dives down when it senses danger

Chipmunk

- Look for: red-brown back and head, white stomach, and dark and light lines down back
- Eats: seeds, fruits, nuts, plants, insects, and worms
- Carries food in cheek pouches

Woodchuck

- Look for: thick body with gray fur that look “frosted,” a short tail, and short limbs
- Eats: grasses and berries
- Also called a groundhog or as Punxsutawney Phil!

Squirrel: Fox and Gray

- Fox squirrel has gray bodies and large, bushy tails with orange hairs
- Gray squirrel has gray bodies and large, bushy tails with gray hairs
- Eats: seeds, acorns, nuts, corn, and birdseed

Fox Squirrel

Gray Squirrel