

**Account:** South Carolina State Parks

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## South Carolina State Parks

at 12:00:00 on 8/23/2016 UTC

Did you know opossums are one of our biggest allies in the fight against Lyme disease? It turns out opossums are excellent at grooming themselves and are therefore very efficient at eliminating foraging ticks (including ticks that can spread Lyme disease) from their body! One Opossum can kill up to 4,000 ticks in a week! Who knew they were so handy to have around?



**Spring Slagle** I think I read someplace that turkeys eat ticks too! :)

at 12:05:45 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Adina Goforth** They also eat copperheads!!

at 12:37:02 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Thomas McCaskill** Justin Stroud

at 12:37:13 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Mike Turner** disgusting can't stand them

at 12:54:27 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Tom Cole** You can have them!

at 13:05:04 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Lucy Stark** They are cute and good to have around, just wish they would stay off the streets!

at 13:09:03 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Libby Rawls Langford** I have seen them covered in ticks coming out of the woods this year!

at 13:17:07 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Elaine Chartier** We have a possum family that visits our birdfeeders each evening. We sit on the porch nearby and watch them as they eat. They move slowly but aren't afraid and Mama possum even brings the babies. So adorable 😊

at 13:25:06 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Amber Gude Murley** We had one that hung out in the backyard with our cat.

at 13:49:17 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Lori Smith** Justin Smith

at 13:49:45 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Jamie Dale Wingo** those toes



at 14:09:31 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Lee Anne Leland** On occasion a baby gets lost and needs rescue.



at 14:15:19 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Mary N Russell Glover** Well, and I thought they were just oversized, bad tempered woods rats!

at 14:34:01 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**David Danforth** Just wait until momma with her babies and a million fleas take up residence in your crawl space. We don't have pets, and suddenly we were infested with fleas. All gone now thanks to a critter trapper company and an exterminator (and a lot of money).

at 15:13:02 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Lower Savannah River Alliance** Great news!

at 15:31:32 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Michel Collins** Linda DeLeonardis

at 16:07:19 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Kim Purzner** Great to know and have around. Love when you see them and there little ones are trailing behind. Look at there little toes. So cute!

at 16:39:00 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Tyler Proctor** Things you may now know: The opossum is a marsupial, NOT a rodent! Opossums have a remarkably robust immune system, and show partial or total immunity to the venom of rattlesnakes, cottonmouths, and other pit vipers. Opossums are about eight times less likely to carry rabies than wild dogs, and about one in eight hundred opossums is infected with this virus. They don't really "play" possum. The reaction to a threat is involuntary! They actually fall unconscious!!! Despite the hissing, they are NOT aggressive!

at 18:28:23 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Kelly Fritz McCombs** Dawn Linton Tielens

at 19:09:16 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Jane Pagura** Love having possums. Our cat is friends with a young one we see each night. Make your crawl space secure and let them live.



at 19:25:02 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Tyler Proctor** They most likely feel the same about you!

at 19:35:17 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**David Black** Dylan Black, read Tyler's comment😊

at 23:14:24 on 8/23/2016 UTC



**Matt Smith** Travis Laffin, show this to Charlie

at 0:52:58 on 8/24/2016 UTC

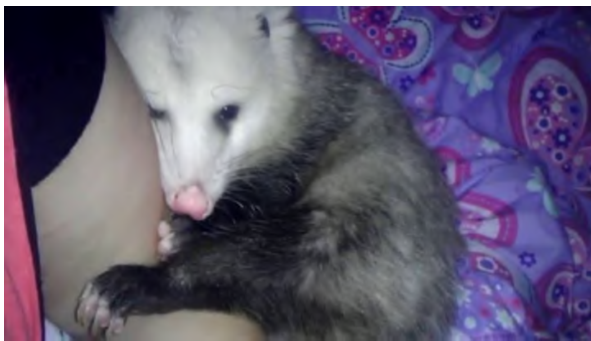


**Judy Finley Williams** I love possums!

at 12:33:33 on 8/24/2016 UTC



**Tiffi Dee** Thank you for posting this!! It's about time public perception starts changing about this wonderful, beautiful and courteous creature!!



at 14:45:59 on 8/24/2016 UTC



**Cassandra Barlow** You are sadly misinformed. You do not need to own an animal to get a flea infestation. Fleas can hitch rides on your pants and socks and all it takes is one female inside to lay a thousand eggs. Very sad that you did not call a wildlife rehabber to remove the animal. Keep in mind that unless they used an IGR eggs will continue to hatch. Do not allow visitors to bring their pets into your home either. Opossum are great to have around. They eat ticks, and rodents who will bring Fleas to your home. Tbh, I wouldn't be surprised if you didn't have a rodent problem. Next time you'll make sure to properly secure your home won't you? ;)

at 14:55:32 on 8/24/2016 UTC



**Cassandra Barlow** It's a good thing opossum can eat up to 1,000 ticks per day! They are great groomers and groom more than cats. They are nature's natural defense against Lyme disease. How awesome is that?!

at 14:57:06 on 8/24/2016 UTC

**Cassandra Barlow** Opossum are actually very placid animals. They will growl or hiss if threatened and open their mouth to show you all 50 of their glorious teeth in an attempt to



scare you away. Opossum rarely bite and would rather play dead (an involuntary reaction to a threat) instead of try to harm you.

at 14:59:03 on 8/24/2016 UTC



**Heather Padgett** They will bite if provoked though.

at 15:47:59 on 8/24/2016 UTC



**Chasity Smith Simms** Who wouldn't bite or anything if provoked. I have a Lil guy I have named Flash who comes and eats at my house every night and he now no longer hisses or anything at me he knows my voice and will even take food from my hand and he isn't a pet but since I haven't been mean or anything he knows he is ok to come to my porch to eat.

at 15:56:00 on 8/24/2016 UTC



**Chasity Smith Simms** I was fixen to say the same thing some people are disgusting but they live and are free to roam.

at 16:00:27 on 8/24/2016 UTC



**Christopher Kueny** I saw one on top of a chain link fence last night and stopped the car Walked up to him and he let me pet him!

at 18:42:11 on 8/24/2016 UTC



**Christopher Kueny** 8,000 ticks a month gone. Love 'em.

at 2:45:01 on 8/25/2016 UTC



**Christopher Kueny** Ok, I distracted his open mouth with one hand while I petted him with the other. But all the time I was telling him he is a good boy in my sappiest sing songy puppy loving voice.

at 2:48:45 on 8/25/2016 UTC



**Christopher Kueny** Yum!

at 2:49:50 on 8/25/2016 UTC



**Christopher Kueny** I petted one yesterday while he was walking the rail of a chain link fence. I wish I would have had a banana i would have so fed his calm self.

at 2:51:11 on 8/25/2016 UTC



**Mary Donofri** So how do you train them to stay out of the veggie garden ?!!! Anyone succeed?

at 15:37:34 on 8/25/2016 UTC



**Mary N Russell Glover** Sorry, Tyler, didn't mean to offend you. And yes, I do know the opossum is a marsupial. While I don't want to hurt any opossum's feelings, I still find nothing charming about them. You know what they say: different strokes for different folks. On the other hand, raccoons are adorable!

at 18:44:54 on 8/25/2016 UTC



**Ralph Martin** They also carry encephalitis and will transfer to your horses and you.

at 5:13:44 on 8/26/2016 UTC



**Katlin Donnelly** Have to share!

at 5:14:50 on 8/26/2016 UTC



**Pamela Nilles-johnson** And they don't carry rabies either

at 14:03:51 on 8/26/2016 UTC



**Tom Martin** Ralph Martin encephalitis? Really? Armadillos carry Hansen's disease, (leprosy) and salmonella.

at 17:40:24 on 8/24/2019 UTC



**Ralph Martin** Tom Martin and your "really" point??

at 18:25:55 on 8/24/2019 UTC



**Ralph Martin** Tom Martin Where have you been? It took you two years to troll that posting. LOL. By the way turtles have salmonella also if you are making a list for your next troll.  
at 18:35:17 on 8/24/2019 UTC



**Eric Freedman** Great info  
at 21:54:23 on 8/24/2019 UTC



**Tom Martin** First time I've seen the post. I guess I should read the date on everything I see on facebook, so I can troll more date-appropriately. Please forgive my lackadaisical attitude about encephalitis. Though that was not the intent, it appears to have sunk in that way.  
at 0:36:11 on 8/25/2019 UTC



**Ralph Martin** Tom Martin I am no expert on encephalitis. I am just going by what my veterinarian told me about opossums getting into the horse grain and hay and pooping. Encephalitis will kill a horse.  
at 1:33:08 on 8/25/2019 UTC