



American Badger

Taxidea taxus

-Badgers are aerodynamically designed burrow dwellers with a wide flat body, short legs and long claws perfect for digging.

-In Bandelier badgers may be found in the Pinon-Juniper woodlands and the Ponderosa pine forests. Badgers are more common on the adjacent Valles Caldera National Preserve.

-Primarily nocturnal, but sometimes active during the day, badgers are rarely seen.

-Members of the weasel family, badgers are known for their fierceness and ability to hold their ground with even the most dangerous adversary. Rattlesnakes are often no match for their fighting skills and are a common foodsource as are prairie dogs, field mice, and other small mammals or birds.

-Badgers live solitary lives except for females with young offspring. The young disperse in late summer.



-A digging badger can quickly outpace a person digging with a shovel.

-Badgers do not hibernate but can enter a torpid state during the coldest part of winter and remain inactive for as much as a couple of weeks.

-Like house cats, badgers bury their droppings.



-On hot days badgers can swim or sit in standing water to cool off.

-Badgers will dig new burrows and move frequently, as often as daily.

-Badgers are important in controlling rodent populations in agricultural areas.

