

# Coatimundi

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information



## Species Description

**Scientific name:** *Nasua nasua*

**AKA:** Coatis, Coatis-mondis

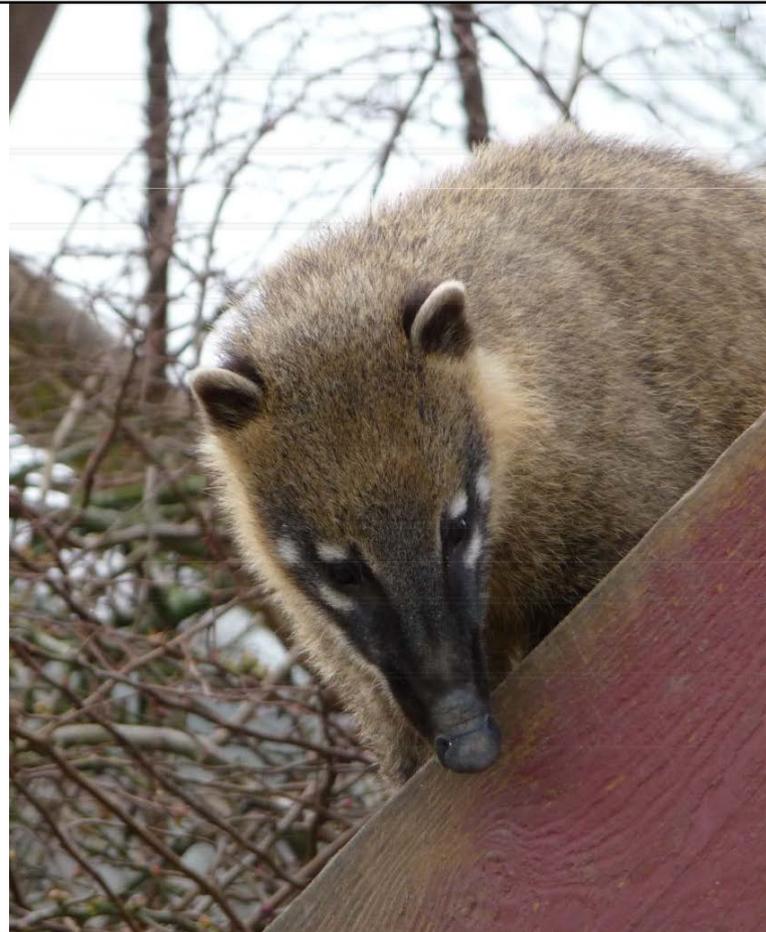
**Native to:** South America

**Habitat:** Forest and grassland

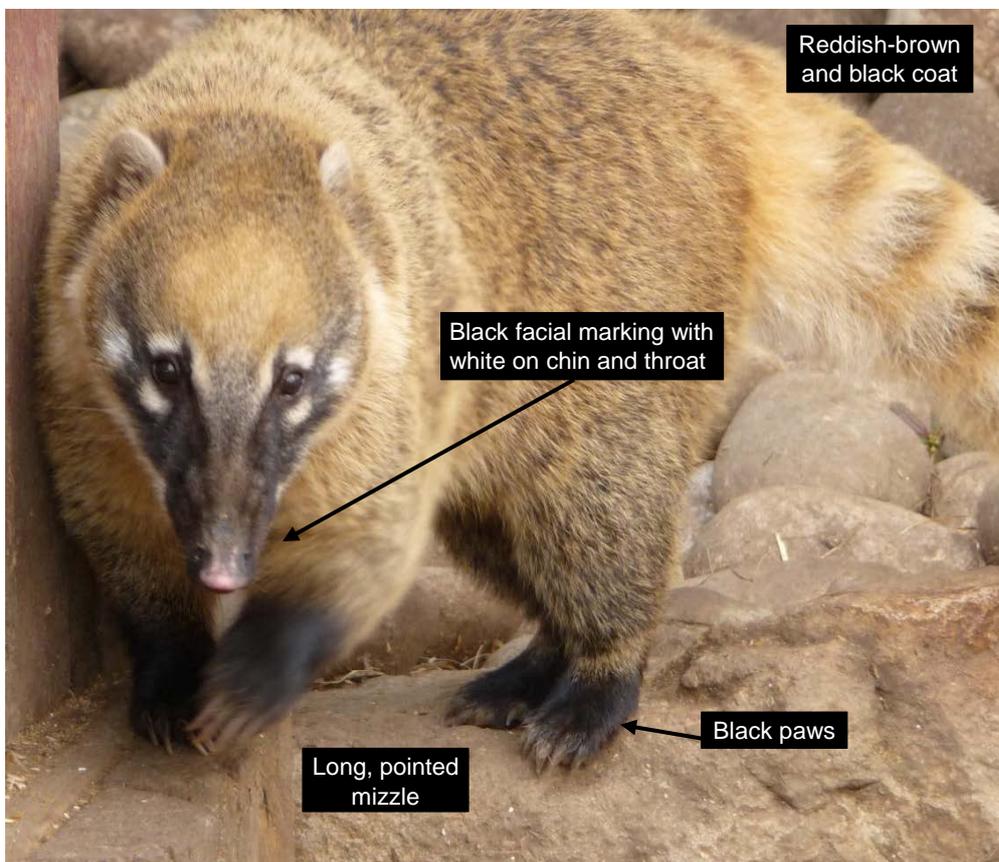
Coatimundi are similar in size to a small dog, weighing up to 5.5 kg and the head-to-tail length ranging from 80 to 130 cm with a little more than half the length being tail. It has short forelegs, long hind legs, black feet, a pointed snout with black facial markings and a distinctive long, banded tail. It has a harsh red-brown and black coat which lightens to yellow-brown on the underparts. Coatimundi walk with a bear-like gait.

*Nasua nasua* spend much of their time in trees, retiring to them for sleep and spending some of their foraging time looking for fruit. Coatimundi are not present in the wild in Northern Ireland.

**Under the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019 it is offence to intentionally keep; breed; transport to, from or within Northern Ireland, use or exchange Coatimundi; or to release it into the environment.**



## Key ID Features



\* Coati swarm by j / f / photos, Creative Common BY-ND <http://www.flickr.com/photos/good-karma/401110526/sizes/o/>

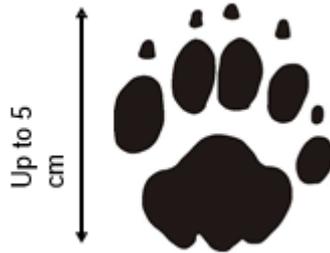
Report any sightings via; CEDaR Online Recording - <https://www2.habitas.org.uk/records/ISI>,  
iRecord app or Invasive Species Ireland website - <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/report-sighting>

# Identification throughout the year

The coat colour of the coatimundi does not vary throughout the year.

## Field Signs

Coatimundi tracks show five long toes around a central pad. Their droppings are 7 - 15 cm long and up to 2.5 cm in diameter.



## Similar Species

### Badger

Native  
(*Meles meles*)

Body length  
75 - 90 cm

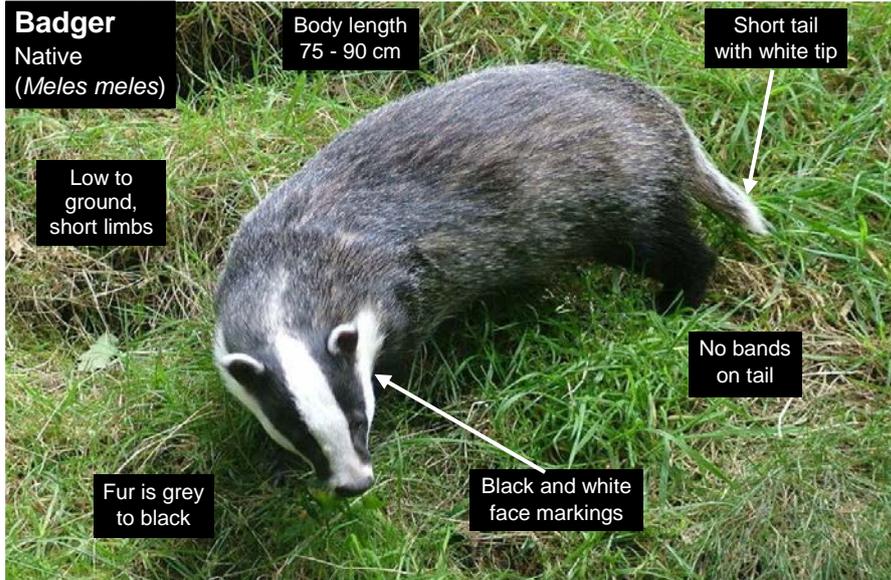
Short tail  
with white tip

Low to  
ground,  
short limbs

Fur is grey  
to black

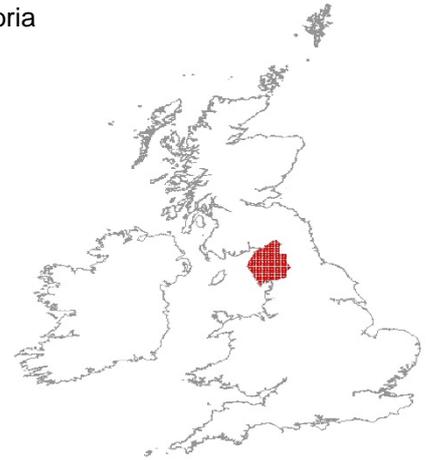
Black and white  
face markings

No bands  
on tail



## Distribution

Although Coatimundi is not present in Northern Ireland, a wild population is known to reside in Cumbria



Source: Various

### Coatimundi

Invasive non-native  
(*Nasua nasua*)  
For comparison



### Red Fox

Native  
(*Vulpes vulpes*)

Ears erect and pointed  
with black backs

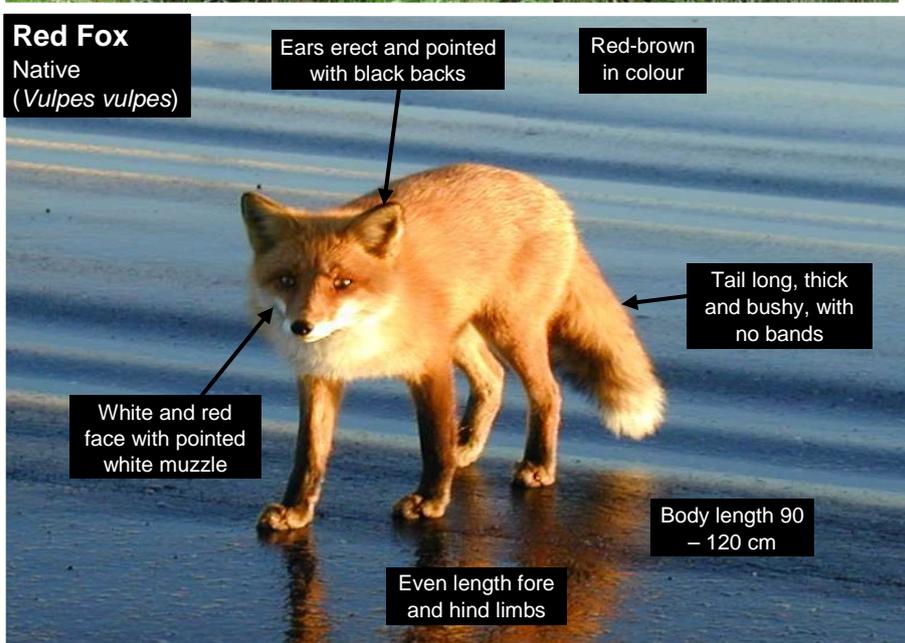
Red-brown  
in colour

White and red  
face with pointed  
white muzzle

Tail long, thick  
and bushy, with  
no bands

Body length 90  
- 120 cm

Even length fore  
and hind limbs



## References and further reading:

Nowak, R M (editor) (1999) "Walker's Mammals of the World" Volume 2, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. John Hopkins University Press  
Brown, R, Lawrence, M J and Pope J (2004) "Animals Tracks Trails and Signs" Hamlyn  
MacDonald, D and Barrett, P (1993) "Mammals of Britain and Europe". Collins  
Photos from: Danial Winchester, j / f / photos, Olivier Duquesne

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

Adapted for Northern Ireland  
Environment Agency 2020