

Water vole facts

- Will eat approximately 80% of their body weight every day.
- Sometimes commonly known as the water rat or water dog
- Lives on water banks of slow moving waterways.
- In 55 years their numbers dropped by 90 to 95%.
- Babies predated by the invasive American mink.
- Ratty in Kenneth Grahame's 'The Wind in the Willows', was actually a water vole.
- Water voles are very strong swimmers. They can swim up to 500m on the surface or 15m underwater.
- Water voles live in burrows which consist of nesting chambers and a food store for the long winter months. Their burrows will have several underwater entrances. This allows them to escape from the clutches of predators.
- Water voles will have up to five litters a year, ranging from three to seven young.



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