

**Skulls and Dental Formulas  
of  
Common  
North Carolina Mammals**

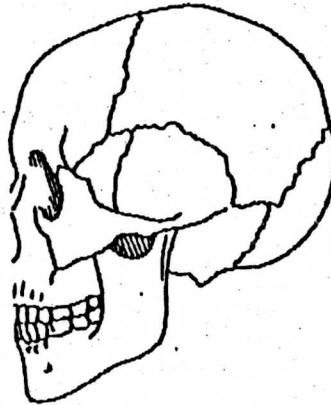
A simple look at a mammal's skull can reveal much about the animal and its characteristics. Eye orbits on the side of the skull usually indicate good peripheral vision. Most herbivores have this type of vision. Eye orbits located in front are typical of most carnivores. Other interesting characteristics are the length and size of the nasal areas (or rostrum), massiveness of the bones in the skull, and overall shape. However the teeth are probably the best clues for identifying the mammal. Dental formulas can be used to assist with the identification of many mammalian species in North Carolina. It may be necessary to use reference pictures and other skulls as a comparison. The formulas list the types of teeth that are found in one half of the upper and lower jaw. This formula will provide one half of the animal's teeth. To determine the total number, double the total for the upper and lower jaws.

I = Incisors      C = Canines      P = Premolars      M = Molars

Example: 
$$\frac{\text{Upper Jaw}}{\text{Lower Jaw}} \quad I \frac{3}{3} \quad C \frac{1}{1} \quad P \frac{4}{4} \quad M \frac{2}{2} = \frac{10 \times 2}{10} = 40 \text{ teeth}$$

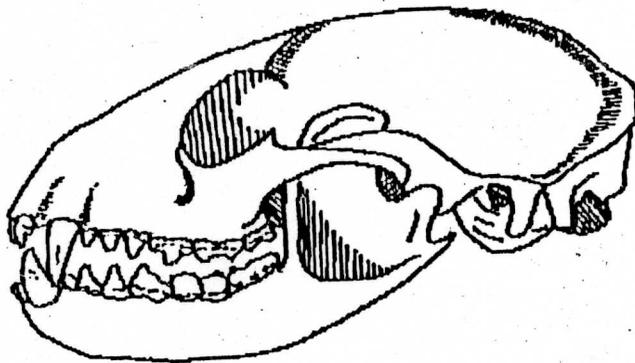
### Human

2-1-2-3  
2-1-2-3  
 Length: 19.5 cm  
 Width: 17 cm  
 Height: NA



### Raccoon

3-1-4-2  
3-1-4-2  
 Length: 13 cm  
 Width: 7.5 cm  
 Height: 6 cm



## Black Bear

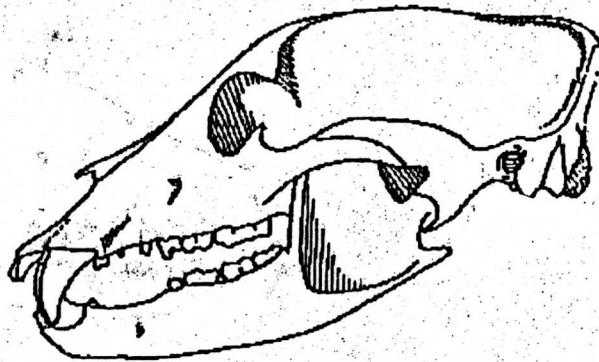
3-1-4-2

3-1-4-3

Length: 26 cm

Width: 16 cm

Height: 13 cm



## Opossum

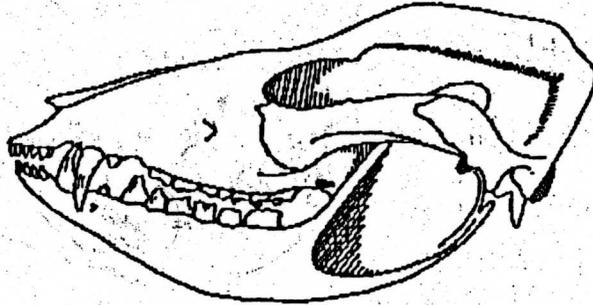
(Virginia) 5-1-3-4

4-1-3-4

Length: 11 cm

Width: 6 cm

Height: 5 cm



## Bobcat

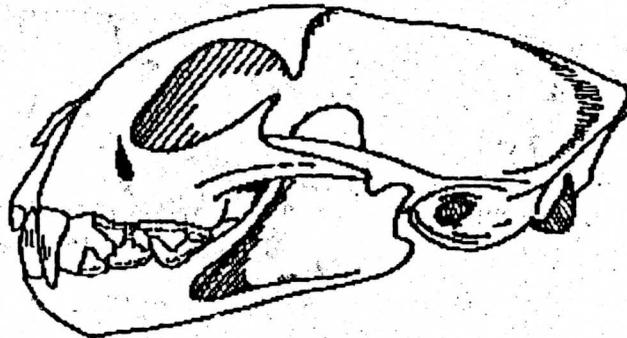
3-1-2-1

3-1-2-1

Length: 14 cm

Width: 10 cm

Height: 7 cm



## Coyote

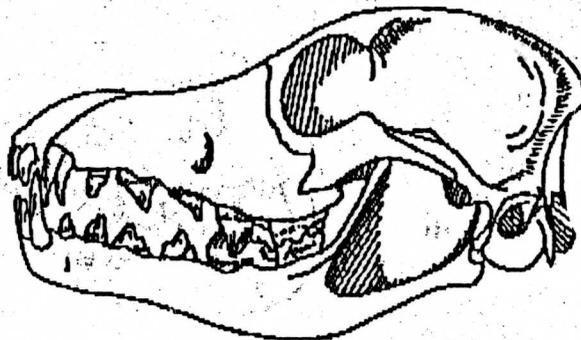
3-1-4-2

3-1-4-3

Length: 20 cm

Width: 10 cm

Height: 8 cm



## Red Fox

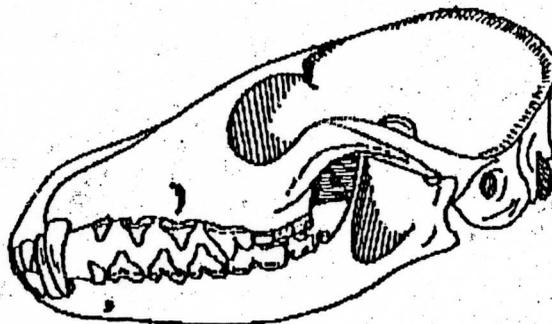
3-1-4-2

3-1-4-3

Length: 15 cm

Width: 7.5 cm

Height: 6 cm



## Beaver

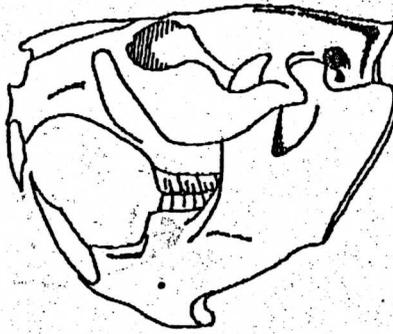
1-0-1-3

1-0-1-3

Length: 12 cm

Width: 16 cm

Height: 13 cm



## Gray Squirrel

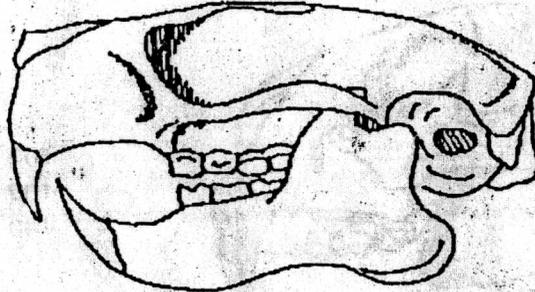
1-0-2-3

1-0-1-3

Length: 6 cm

Width: 3.5 cm

Height: 3 cm



## Muskrat

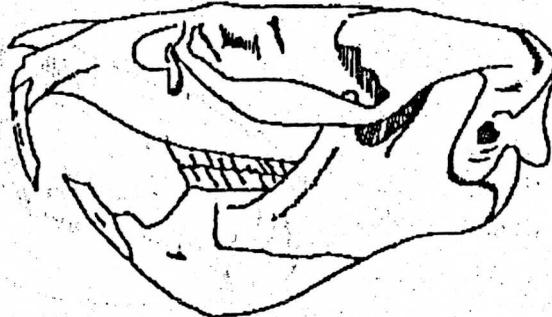
1-0-2-4

1-0-2-4

Length: 6 cm

Width: 4 cm

Height: 3.5 cm



## Chipmunk

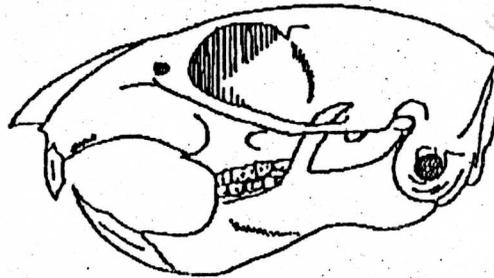
1-0-2-3

1-0-1-3

Length: 3.5 cm

Width: 2 cm

Height: 2 cm



## Whitetail Deer

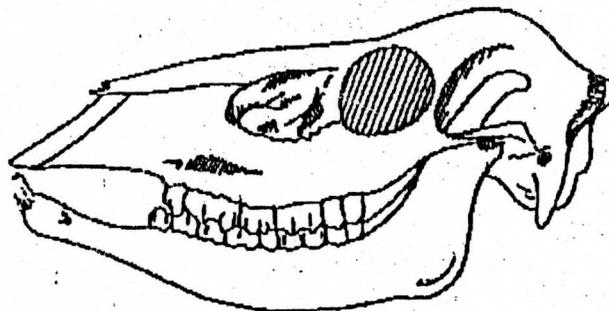
0-0-3-3

3-0-3-3

Length: 29 cm

Width: 12 cm

Height: 13 cm

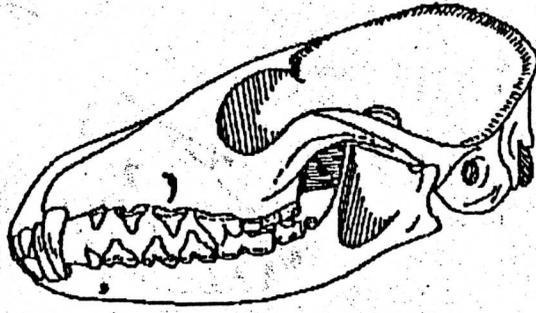


## Gray Fox

3-1-4-2

3-1-4-3

Length: 14 cm  
Width: 7 cm  
Height: 5 cm



## Weasel

3-1-3-1

3-1-3-2

Length: 4 cm  
Width: 2 cm  
Height: 2 cm

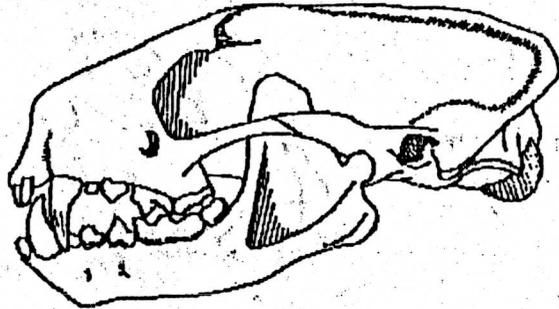


## Striped Skunk

3-1-3-1

3-1-3-2

Length: 7 cm  
Width: 4 cm  
Height: 4 cm

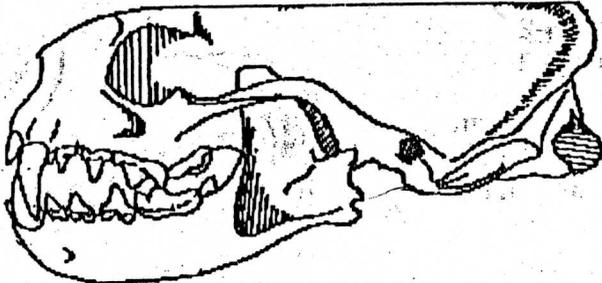


## River Otter

3-1-4-1

3-1-3-2

Length: 13 cm  
Width: 8 cm  
Height: 5.5 cm

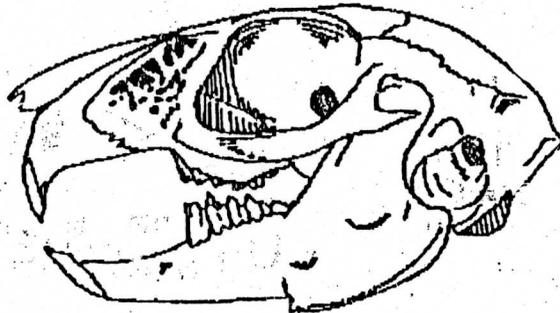


## Rabbit

2-0-3-3

1-0-2-3

Length: 8 cm  
Width: 4 cm  
Height: 5 cm



## Wild Boar

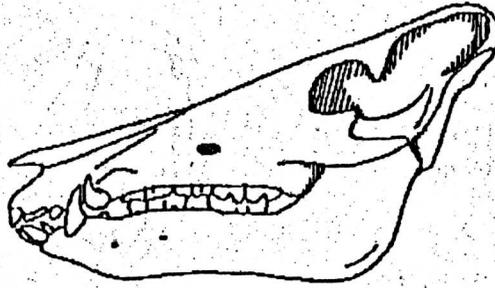
3-1-4-3

3-1-4-3

Length: 24 cm

Width: 13 cm

Height: NA



## Cougar

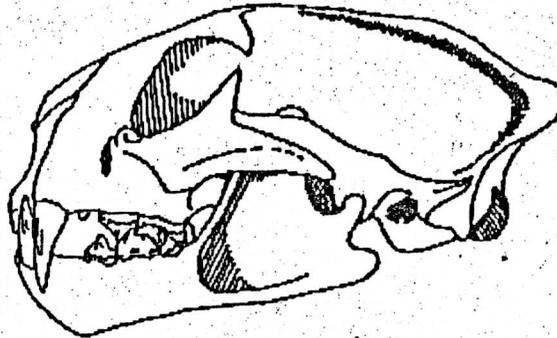
3-1-3-1

3-1-2-1

Length: 23 cm

Width: 15 cm

Height: 12 cm



## Wolf

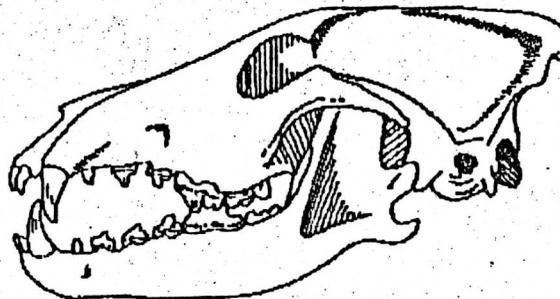
3-1-4-2

3-1-4-3

Length: 26 cm

Width: 15 cm

Height: 12 cm

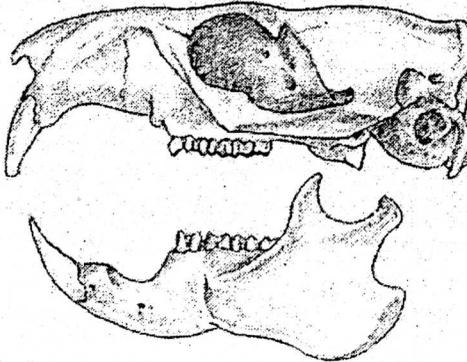


## Woodchuck

1-0-2-3

1-0-1-3

Length: 9 cm



## Mink

3-1-3-1

3-1-3-2

Length: 8 cm

