

# Outdoor Recreation

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# Outdoor Education

## Learning About New Mexico's Wildlife Coati

### **White-nosed coati (*Nasua narica*)**

New Mexico, Arizona and Texas are the only states lucky enough to have all three species of Procyonidea (a family omnivorous) that occur in North America; the raccoon, the ringtail and the white-nosed coati, sometimes called the coatimundi. All have five toes, are plantigrade (meaning that they walk on the soles of their feet, like bears and humans do) and have a series of dark rings around their tails. Coatis weigh from 8-16 pounds. They have a white muzzle, a long upturned nose, heavy foreclaws for digging and a long ringed tail. Many people think that the tail is prehensile (meaning an animal can use its tail to grab things), like monkeys, but it is not. Also, whereas the raccoon and the ringtail are primarily solitary and active only at night (nocturnal), the coati is mostly active during the day (diurnal) and is very social.

There are four species of coatis, all found in the Western Hemisphere; white-nosed, brown-nosed, the mountain coati and one found only on San Cozumel Island. The white-nosed coati is the only one that makes it up to the United States. In New Mexico, most coatis live in the mountain areas of the southwestern corner of the state, in Hidalgo, Grant, Catron and Luna counties.



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

[www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)

888-248-6866

