



Times Remembered
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and a smaller one. They are not as pretty as raccoons but they are more behaved.

They come up from the creek area to eat under the bird feeders and search for any other scraps I have put out for the critters. Usually, the possums stay on the ground near the back decks, but occasionally they venture upon the porch.

Late the other night we were watching TV when I heard a loud crunching noise coming from the back porch. I wondered, which one of the stray cats was eating dinner at this hour? I got up to check, and there was a large possum feeding at the cat bowl. He was brave and had marched right upon the porch and helped himself. Our cat, Si, was just sitting there watching the possum eat his food. It was like, Oh! help yourself there's plenty more in the bag!

The funniest thing happened a few years back. We heard the same noise on the back porch and just figured it was some animal getting into mischief. Bob gets up from his chair and walks out to the back porch and begins looking for something when he heard a loud growling noise. It sounded like it was coming from the grill. He lifted the grill cover up, and there sat the

Possum Visitors



possum; immediately he showed his razor sharp teeth. He jumped right down at Bob's feet, scared, and running as fast as he could. Meanwhile, Bob yelled Whoa! And stepped back; he practically fell over the wicker chair sitting behind him. The possum was as frightened as Bob! I thought it was funny!

All in all, possums are good to have around.

•They eat ticks: they consume thousands a day along with many other insects

- Possums are incredibly agile and they are smart critters
- Are the only known North American Marsupial outside of Mexico
- They are all thumbs, just like humans and other primates
- They aren't aggressive, but when threatened or harmed they will play possum
- They rarely have rabies
- Many large possums are immune to the venom of rattle snakes and pit vipers and regularly prey upon these snakes.

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