

The Woodchuck - 60-Second – Captioned for the Visually Impaired

MUSIC: "HINTERLAND WHO'S WHO" THEME

ANNOUNCER: (V.O.):

The woodchuck, also called the groundhog, is one of the larger Canadian rodents. A mature adult may weigh up to 17 pounds.

[A woodchuck in the snow]

In winter it depends almost entirely on body fat until April when new plant food reappears.

[A woodchuck eating leaves]

Like the beaver, the woodchuck's front gnawing teeth grow continuously, except during hibernation. Constant grinding trims them down.

The breeding period lasts three months, and from four to five young are usual.

[Woodchuck youngs]

In May, at about seven weeks, the young are weaned, and cautiously begin to forage on their own. However, they still depend almost entirely on their mother to warn them of impending danger.

For more information on the woodchuck, contact the Canadian Wildlife Service in Ottawa.