## **Groundhog/Woodchuck**

Groundhog is another name for Woodchuck. This rodent is a type of marmot. This solitary mammal hibernates in burrows. Groundhogs are found in North America in forests and fields.

**Anatomy**: A groundhog grows up to 17 inches (43 cm) long. It has a tail that is about 5 inches (13 cm) long. This mammal has a bulky body and short limbs. The fur is brown-gray and the eyes are black. The hands and feet are black and have sharp claws. Like all rodents, their incisor teeth continue to grow throughout their life.

**Diet:** Groundhogs are mostly herbivores (plant-eater). They eat grass, seeds, leaves, flowers, fruits, eggs and some insects.

**Predators:** Groundhogs are hunted by many animals, including wolves, dogs, bobcats, foxes... Groundhogs cannot move very quickly, so their best defense is to retreat into their burrows.

