Otters in my Neighbourhood

I have seen otters in my urban neighbourhood, far from any waterway. How have they come to be here and what should I do?

Otters are found in our waterways with fish, but also travel over land, using parks, park connectors and may pass though urban estates near waterways.



Otters are wild animals and cannot differentiate between wild and pet fish. Pet fish or ornamental fish in a pond are an easily caught source of food for them.





Otters can slip through 10cm gaps in fencing or under gates, and scale1.3m barriers to get to a pond.



Once they find an accessible pond with fish, they are likely to return



We usually see the same ofter family in an area. Resident ofters compete for limited living and feeding spaces, and will drive away rival ofter families.

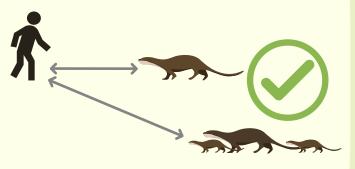


A lone adult otter will reunite with its family or may be seeking a partner and new territory.



What to do when you encounter otters

Observe from a distance at all times.



If there are pups, the family will be more protective. Even more reason not to approach the family. Do not approach, touch, chase, corner, or disturb the otters.



Do not talk loudly and do not use flash photography.



Do keep your dog on a taut leash.





Globally, Smooth-coated otters are vulnerable to extinction, and locally, they are protected under the Wildlife Act of Singapore.



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