

dered by a large tract of forest would prove an ideal location. Amid such surroundings the beaver, once established, would thrive and multiply and would require neither food nor attention.

Otter live on terms of familiarity with the beaver, and would thrive in the same park or inclosure. It would be necessary to ensure them a constant supply of food, however, by keeping certain ponds well stocked with the fish, frogs, etc., upon which they thrive.

A Washington bulletin gives the following information upon raising and keeping otters:

"Given the proper conditions they are not difficult to manage and are capable of becoming great pets.

Otters are playful, docile, and intelligent. They come when called, and show attachment for their keepers. Water is their proper element, their structure being better adapted for swimming than for running.

Wild otters subsist mainly on fish, frogs, crawfish and other aquatic creatures. When these fail they kill warm-blooded animals. Young otters have been raised in confinement on a diet of milk and cornmeal mush, supplemented by fish or meat as they matured. A reliable source of fresh fish obtainable at slight cost is essential to success in raising otters for fur.

In the North, otters probably mate in February. The young are born about two months later, and are matured when one year old. The number in a litter ranges from one to five. Otters have been bred in confinement.

The den, two feet wide, two feet high, and five or six feet long, should be tightly built to exclude drafts. The entrance should be near the end of one of the sides.