



## MAMMALS

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/mammals.html>

### Three Banded Armadillo

*Tolypeutes matacus*

Peoria Zoo Exhibit Education Programs

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/education.html>

**Habitat:** Open grassy areas, forests and marshes

**Range:** Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay

**Activity Cycle:** Nocturnal— active at night

**Size:** Length: 12-14 inches  
Weight: 4-7 pounds

**Social Structure:** Usually solitary  
If the temperature gets too cold, armadillos will huddle together to stay warm.

**Distinguishing Features:** The hard shell is called a carapace is made of bone and is covered with scutes made of keratin (like our fingernails). They have claws on each forefoot to help dig up food. Three strips of toughened skin in the middle of their back is where they get their name. They have a long snout for smell and long tongue for scooping up fleeing insects. They are a light brown in color.

**Diet:** Ants, termites, other insects, fruit, and some small invertebrates.

**Life Span:** 12-15 years

## Did you know?

***When threatened they will curl into a ball which protects them from most predators.***