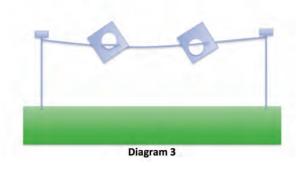


Fall is a busy time for squirrels. In most parts of the US, you'll see them everywhere -- walking on wires, searching for food, and driving dogs crazy. How long do they live? Is a squirrel a rodent? How do they stay warm in the winter? Lets learn more.

- 1. How long do squirrels live? Compared to a dog or a cat, not that long -- on average about one to two years. Some free roaming grey squirrels have actually surpassed 10 years in age, and one squirrel lived in captivity for 20 years. Learn more at $\frac{\text{bitly.com}}{2003\text{GV}}$
- **2. Which is faster, an elephant or a squirrel?** According to bitly.com/2yWeBmD squirrels run about 12 miles per hour. An elephant's top speed is 25 miles per hour. The elephant wins this race, but elephants can't climb trees.
- **3. How far can a squirrel jump... and fall?** Squirrels are amazing jumpers... up to 10 feet straight up. See for yourself at https://youtu.be/j7-TtjltFWo. They can also survive falls of up to 40 feet by using their tail as a parachute. Learn more at http://bitly.com/2youlSu.
- **4. Where do squirrels go in the winter?** They don't hibernate, but they do sleep a lot... wrapped in their warm fuzzy tail. They might make a nest inside a hollow tree, or perhaps your attic. Read more at the Lincoln Park Zoo site http://www.lpzoo.org/blog/what-do-squirrels-do-winter.
- **5. Is a squirrel a rodent?** You'll find a good discussion about this questions at Mental Floss bitly.com/2xRabQq. Squirrels are rodents belonging to the family Sciuridae. This is a large family of species that include chipmunks, prairie dogs, groundhogs (also called woodchucks), marmots, and flying squirrels.

APPLICATION

Set up a Squirrel obstical course in your backyard. We found guidebook (by Darrington, Gardner, Sims and Spivey) that provides step by step plans for making a cours that can keep a squirrel busy -- and you entertained. bitly.com/2xYSRbB.





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Squirrels on YouTube

Want more? Here's a video playlist that go along with this column https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcBVHzUUEKwnYjdV4Aj1wweYa4ADu6Ptc

