

Size : 5 to 8 cm

Lifespan : up to 15 months

Shrew

In the event of a food shortage or during the winter season, shrews are able to reduce the size of their vital organs and their skeleton in order to reduce their energy requirements (reduction of their brain by 30%, loss of 18% of their weight). They then enter a form of hibernation known as torpor.



Shrews are small mammals that eat larvae, aphids, spiders, cutworms, caterpillars, slugs, snails, earwigs, woodlice and many other insects. They have one of the fastest hearts in the animal kingdom, with the pygmy shrew's heart beating at up to 1,300 beats per minute. Because they have a fast metabolism, they need to eat a lot of food to cover their daily energy requirements. They can eat up to their own weight in food every day. This dependence on food leads them to be very territorial, often ending in a fight to the death.