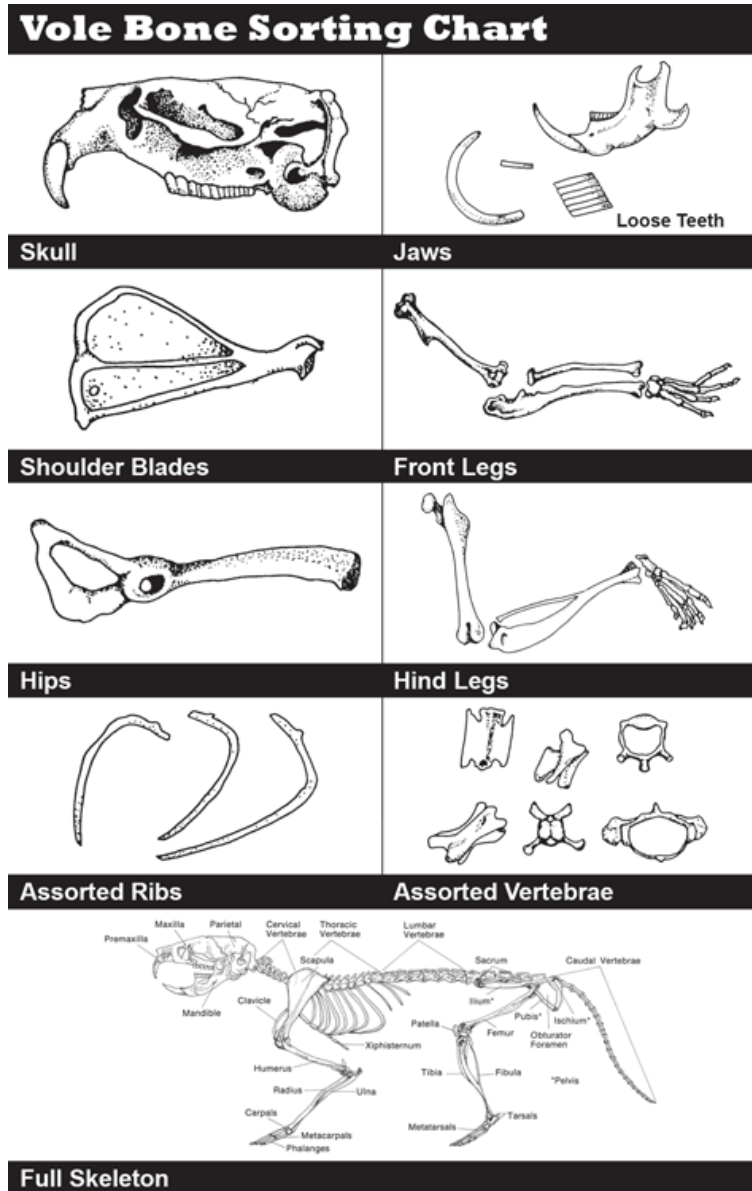
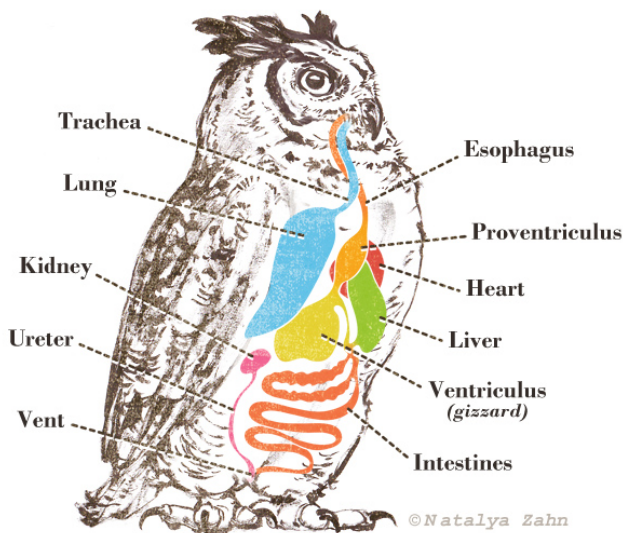


Owl Pellets

- **Owls** like to eat little animals, like birds, mice, frogs, and moles – and even rabbits and skunks!
- **Owls** do not have teeth to chew their food like we do. Instead, they use their beaks to tear at the food and swallow large pieces whole – like a snake.
- An **owl's** stomach has two parts. The second part of the stomach (called the *gizzard*) prevents bones, hair, and fur passing through the owl's digestive system.
- Since an **owl** cannot digest bones, hair, or fur, it must vomit those things back up. This is called an owl *pellet*.
- The pellet can stay in the **owl** for a few hours, but it must be gagged up before the **owl** can eat again.
- Since the **owl** eats animals whole, you can find animal skeletons and other interesting bones inside an **owl** pellet.



Sources:

<http://kidwings.com/nests-of-knowledge/virtual-pellet/>
<http://www.carolina.com/teacher-resources/Interactive/basic-information-on-owl-pellets/tr11103.tr> (great dissection bone charts)
<http://natalyazahn.typepad.com/.a/6a0120a63266f6970b01630678b699970d-800wi> (owl image credit)
<http://lib.store.yahoo.net/lib/discoverthis/owl-pellet-vole-a.gif> (vole chart image credit)

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