

It is generally accepted that a badger spends nine hours or underground for every hour it spends out of the sett above ground. The badger's life style is to surface cautiously sometime shortly after dark, take the scent from the passing evenings breeze. Perhaps after a visit to the nearest latrine it will amble off along one of the trails to where the badger clan has decided is the best foraging patch on this particular night and will endeavour to gorge itself to extreme limits of repletion. After ambling back to the sett, several hours will be spent in a deep more or less torpid state. Later, time will be spent working in the tunnel system of the sett for maybe five days or more before further foraging.

The badger's front feet have five toes almost equal in length with long slightly hooked claws, which they use very effectively for digging for some kinds of food and excavation work in the tunnels. The back feet usually have shorter hair over the toe areas and very short claws and act as shovels throwing the material cut away by the claws of the front feet several feet behind. The short toenails and short hair ensures that the back feet do not get clogged up with wet mud and the like. In soft sandy ground a badger, when disturbed will sometimes bury him where he stands, sooner than take to his heels, going virtually straight down like a mole. The badger is probably one of nature's best tunnelling experts; its skin is very pliant, which allows the animal to wriggle round immovable obstructions like large tree roots in the tunnels.

It has the ability to close its nose up, and like pigs, has very strong muscles around its nose allowing the animal to root around in grass and tree surface roots for insect larvae. If the front claws were used, earthworms and other delicate morsels would get torn to pieces and be inedible.