

ANIMAL TRACES

DEBARKED TREE



Deer or Elk
Long area on small tree



Woodpecker
Small or large holes



Black Bear
Scratch marks and deep gouges



Beaver
Gnaw at tree base
Porcupine
Gnaw on tree trunk or branches

FEEDING SIGNS



Rabbit
Clean cut



Deer
Torn end



Beaver
Sharp point and stripped bark



Squirrel, Chipmunk, or Rodent
Chewed nuts and pinecones



Insect
Chewed leaf



Owl, Eagle, or Hawk pellet
Regurgitated fur, feathers, and bones

SCAT

Scat diameter: Size varies depending on animal size.
Composition depends on diet.



Rabbit
3/8"
Plants



Deer
5/8"
Elk
3/4"
Plants



Red Fox
1/2"
Fur, bones, berries, plants



Coyote
3/4"
Fur, bones, fruit, berries



Domestic Dog
1"
Uniform consistency



Raccoon
3/4"
Berries, insects, fish, shellfish



Skunk
3/4"
Insects, plants, fur, bones



Mouse 1/16"
Rat 1/8"
Chipmunk 1/4"
Squirrel 1/2"



Black Bear
2"
Seeds, plants, berries, insects, fur



Goose, Duck, Turkey, or Grouse
White, green, or brown

TRACES

In addition to tracks, many other animal traces give clues about animal habits and activities. Debarked trees, feeding signs, scat, fur, antlers, feathers, bones, nests, holes, tunnels, animal paths, and bedding areas indicate animal activity that may help identify wildlife species.

Always use a stick to safely investigate animal scat and traces.

PROTECT AND PRESERVE

Please make your visit safe and enjoyable. Obey all posted rules and regulations and respect fellow visitors and the resources of the park.

- Be prepared and bring the proper equipment. Natural areas may possess hazards. Your personal safety and that of your family are your responsibility.
- Be aware of hunting seasons, and wear fluorescent orange to be easily seen in the forest.
- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.
- Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be physically controlled, attended at all times, and on a leash, caged, or crated. Electronic fences and leashes are prohibited. Pets are prohibited in swimming areas.
- Protect wild animals by cleaning up after your pet. Pet feces may contain diseases that can infect wildlife.
- Please recycle. Place trash accumulated during your stay in proper receptacles or take it home with you.

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pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Animal Tracks and Traces

















ANIMAL TRACKS

F= Front foot H= Hind foot T= Tail drag may be present















Walkers

Track Pattern

Walkers		Track Pattern													
		F/H	F/H	F/H	F/H	F/H	F/H	F/H	F/H	F/H	F/H	F/H	F/H	F/H	F/H
F		3"		4.5"		2.5"		2.25"		1.5-5"		2"		1.75"	
H		3.5"		4.5"		2.25"		2"		1.5-5"		2"		1.75"	
	Deer		Elk		Coyote		Red Fox		Domestic Dog		Bobcat		House Cat		









Pacers

Track Pattern

Pacers		Track Pattern		F	H	F	H	or		F H	F H	F H	F H	
F		2.5"		2"		1.25"		1.75"		3.75"		3"		1.5"
H		4"		2"		2"		2.75"		8"		6"		2.5"
Raccoon		Striped Skunk		Opossum(T)		Porcupine(T)		Black Bear		Beaver (T)		Muskrat (T)		







Gallopers

Track Pattern

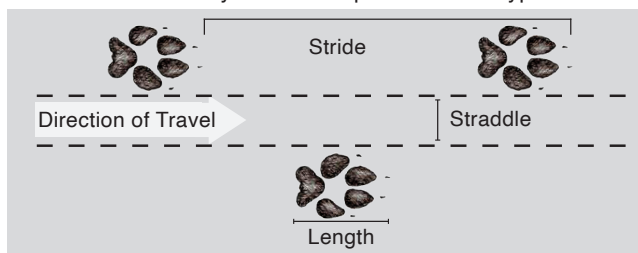
Gallopers		Track Pattern		F		H		
				F	H	F	H	
F		1/4"		1/2"		1.5"		1"
H		1/2"		1"		2.5"		3.5"
	Mouse (T)		Chipmunk		Gray Squirrel		Rabbit	

Bounders

Track Pattern

Bounders		Track Pattern		<div><div>H</div><div>F</div></div> <div><div>H</div><div>F</div></div> <div><div>H</div><div>F</div></div>				
F		3"	F		1"	F		1.25"
H		4.5"	H		1"	H		1.5"
Otter (T)			Weasel			Mink		

Track sizes noted are the maximum length for an adult animal. Tracks vary based on speed and soil type.



TRACKING TIPS

WHEN: Look for tracks in early morning, after a coating of snow, or after a light rain. Winter and spring are usually better times for tracking.

WHERE: Most animal tracks are found in mud, snow, damp sand, near a food or water source, in a narrow corridor, or at the edge of a habitat such as a tree line or water body. With deeper snow or mud, tracks are less clear.

WHO: Look at the track pattern, number of toes, webbing between toes, claw/nail marks, size of front and hind prints, and a visible tail drag to find clues on the animal species. Walkers and bounders usually have similar-sized front and hind feet. Typically, pacers and gallopers have a smaller front foot and a larger back foot.

HOW: Walk beside tracks to keep from disturbing the track pattern. When following tracks that are less visible, use a string to measure the stride (length between prints) to help find the next track. To determine differences between species with very similar tracks, measure the straddle (the distance between the left and right tracks). Smaller species have a smaller straddle.

PRESERVATION: Easily preserve tracks with a photograph. Position yourself so the sun and shadows provide the most contrast. For physical preservation of size and details, use a casting form and plaster-of-paris.



Animal tracks tell a story of who, where, and sometimes why. What animal stories can you find outside?