

Possum Poop vs Cat Poop: Size, Pictures & How to Tell the Difference

Meta Description: Learn to identify possum droppings vs cat poop by size, shape, and location patterns. Northern VA homeowners: discover when to call a professional wildlife removal service.



Alt text: Close-up shot of a possum, a common nocturnal wildlife pest.

Key Takeaways

- Possum droppings are larger (about 3/4 inch diameter, 1–2 inches long) with smooth sides and curved, tapered ends, while cat feces are smaller and distinctly segmented with blunt ends.
- Location patterns provide crucial identification clues: possums defecate randomly throughout their territory without burying, while cats typically bury waste in soft soil or use consistent latrine locations.
- Possum feces may contain visible seeds and fruit remnants from their omnivorous diet, while cat droppings often contain fur and bone fragments from grooming and hunting.
- Both types pose significant health risks—possum droppings can carry leptospirosis and Salmonella, while cat feces may contain Toxoplasma parasites dangerous to pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals.

- If you discover possum droppings in your attic or large accumulations anywhere on your property, contact [Connor's Pest Pros](#) for professional identification, safe cleanup, and exclusion services.

Overview of Possum Poop vs Cat Poop

Finding mysterious droppings in your yard or attic? Distinguishing between possum and cat poop can help you identify which animal is visiting your property. With possums becoming increasingly common in urban environments, this identification skill is more valuable than ever for homeowners.

Animal droppings tell a story about the creatures sharing our spaces. While both possums and cats are nocturnal creatures that might frequent similar areas, their fecal matter differs in several key ways, making identification possible even for the untrained eye.

Connor's Pest Pros: Family-Owned Pest Control Experts

Same-Day Service with 100% Satisfaction Guarantee

Choose Your Pest Protection Solution:

- **Comprehensive Pest Management:** Customized, ongoing protection against common household pests with pet and child-friendly treatments that adjust seasonally to keep your home pest-free year-round.
- **Specialized Pest Elimination:** Expert solutions for challenging infestations including bed bugs, termites and rodents, with 24/7 emergency response for urgent pest situations.
- **Wildlife & Seasonal Control:** Humane removal and exclusion of wildlife pests like raccoons and squirrels, plus targeted seasonal treatments for mosquitoes, moles and other periodic invaders.

Customer Praise:

★★★★★ "Quick to answer my call and available same-day... I recommend them to anyone looking for pest control in NOVA." - Jacquelyn L.

Why Choose Connor's Pest Pros:

- Family-owned business serving the D.C. metro area
- 415+ 5-star reviews on Google and our website
- Member of National Pest Management Association
- Angi Super Service Award Winner (2024)
- Free re-treatments until you're 100% satisfied

[SCHEDULE YOUR SAME-DAY SERVICE →](#)

Possum Poop: Size, Shape, & Appearance



Caption: Possum droppings showing characteristic curved shape with smooth sides and tapered ends, typically found randomly distributed throughout their territory. (Image source: Reddit)

Alt text: Possum droppings being compared to a coin size.

Typical Size & Measurements

[Possum droppings](#) typically measure 1 to 2 inches in length, with a diameter of approximately 1/4 to 3/4 inch, and appear as individual, larger pieces rather than pellets.

This substantial size makes them easily visible in your yard, attic, or under decks where possums might frequent. The dimensions can vary slightly depending on the possum's age and size, with younger animals producing smaller waste.

Color Variations & What They Indicate

Fresh possum droppings undergo noticeable color changes as they age. When fresh, they appear dark brown to nearly black, moist, and slightly sheened, indicating recent possum activity within the past 24 to 48 hours.

As the droppings age, they fade to a lighter brown, may develop whitish mould growth in humid conditions, and gradually lose moisture, becoming drier. The color of possum droppings can also reveal information about their diet.

A purple or reddish tint suggests the possum has been consuming mostly fruit, while darker coloration indicates more insect content in the diet. This variable appearance reflects their omnivorous, opportunistic feeding habits. These dietary indicators can help confirm your identification and give insight into what might be attracting possums to your property.

Distinctive Shape Features

The most telling characteristic of possum droppings is their distinctive shape. They feature smooth sides without segmentation and tapered ends rather than blunt ones. They also display a noticeable curve or twist rather than appearing perfectly straight, and they form as single pieces rather than connected segments.

This curved appearance is particularly helpful when distinguishing possum waste from [raccoon](#) droppings, which have blunter ends and a more segmented appearance, and from cat feces, which show clear segmentation.

Common Locations for Possum Droppings

Possums are not particularly selective about their bathroom habits and often defecate wherever it is convenient during their nighttime wanderings. Typical locations include decks, patios, and garden paths, as well as along fence lines and travel routes.

You may also find droppings under decks and in crawl spaces, in attics if possums have found entry, and scattered throughout their territory without any particular concentration.

Unlike cats, possums do not attempt to bury their waste, making their droppings readily visible on hard surfaces and in leaf litter. Finding droppings in elevated locations such as attics, fence tops, or shed roofs strongly suggests possum activity, as these animals are excellent climbers.

Cat Poop: Characteristics & Identification

Cat feces, whether from domestic or feral cats, have several distinguishing characteristics that set them apart from other animal waste. Unlike the variability seen in possum droppings, cat waste tends to be more consistent in appearance.



Caption: Cat droppings showing characteristic segmented appearance with visible breaks between sections and blunt ends, typically found buried in soft soil or garden beds. (Image source: Reddit)

Alt text: Cat droppings showing a segmented appearance on the soil.

Average Size & Shape

Cat droppings are typically smaller and more uniform than possum waste, measuring 2 to 3 inches in length for feral cats and 4–6 inches for domestic cats, with a diameter of 1/2 to 3/4 inch.

The most distinctive feature is their clear segmentation with visible breaks between sections, which creates a somewhat linked appearance, almost like small sausages connected together—a characteristic rarely seen in possum waste.

The ends of cat droppings are usually blunt rather than tapered, providing another key differentiating factor. When fresh, cat feces maintain a firm, well-formed shape that holds together, reflecting the high protein content in their diet and their efficient digestive systems.

Color & Texture Indicators

Healthy cat droppings are consistently dark brown. Indoor cats fed commercial food produce more uniformly colored waste, while outdoor cats with varied diets show more color variation.

In terms of texture, fresh cat droppings have a firm consistency that is neither too hard nor too soft, with a matte surface rather than a shiny one. As they age, the droppings dry harder and develop a chalky outer layer. Unlike possum droppings, cat feces do not typically develop mould.

Domestic Cats vs. Feral Cats: Behavior Differences

Domestic outdoor cats have a strong instinct to bury their waste and tend to select soft soil or mulched garden beds for easy digging. They typically return to consistent locations, though they may occasionally leave waste uncovered as a territorial marker.

Feral cats, on the other hand, may establish community latrine areas where multiple cats deposit waste in the same general location. These areas often feature visible depressions in soft soil from repeated digging. Feral cats also tend to carry a higher parasite load than domestic pets.

Possum Poop vs Cat Poop Comparison Table

Characteristic	Possum Droppings	Cat Droppings
Size	1–2 inches long, 1/4 to 3/4 inch diameter	2–3 inches long, 1/2–3/4 inch diameter
Shape	Curved with smooth sides, tapered ends	Segmented with visible breaks, blunt ends
Fresh Color	Dark brown to black	Dark brown
Aged Color	Lightens and may develop whitish mold	Dries harder, develops a chalky surface
Texture	Moist, slightly shiny when fresh	Firm, matte surface
Contents	Seeds, berry skins, fruit remnants	Fur, bone fragments (from grooming/hunting)
Smell	Musty, earthy with sour notes	Strong ammonia-like odor

Location Pattern	Random throughout the territory, not buried	Buried in soft soil, consistent latrine areas
Primary Health Risk	Leptospirosis, Salmonella	Toxoplasmosis, hookworms, and roundworms

Connor's Pest Pros: Your Professional Wildlife Removal Services



Caption: When droppings indicate [wildlife](#) has moved in, especially in your attic, crawl space, or other indoor areas, Connor's Pest Pros delivers a complete solution.

Alt text: An exterminator.

At [Connor's Pest Pros](#), our wildlife specialists have the proper equipment, training, and protocols to safely manage these situations, identify and seal entry points to prevent future problems.

We begin with expert identification to assess the animal's type and activity patterns, and conduct a thorough inspection of entry points and den sites. We then carry out [humane removal](#) through trapping in accordance with Virginia wildlife regulations and coordinate with wildlife rehabilitation when appropriate.

Our professional cleanup services include the removal of droppings and contaminated materials, disinfection, odor elimination, and, when necessary, insulation replacement.

Finally, we perform comprehensive exclusion by sealing all entry points and providing habitat modification recommendations to keep wildlife out for good.

Our 415+ five-star reviews and 2024 Angi Super Service Award reflect our commitment to getting the job done right. As a family-owned business, you talk to decision-makers directly, not a call center.

[We offer same-day service](#) when you call before noon, and our guarantee is straightforward: if wildlife returns through an entry point we sealed, we come back free of charge.

[Contact us today for your free quote!](#)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can I get sick from touching possum poop?

Yes, direct contact with possum droppings can potentially transmit several diseases, including leptospirosis and salmonellosis. Bacteria can enter your body through small cuts or abrasions, or through mucous membranes if you touch your face after handling waste.

Even brief contact without proper hand protection poses a health risk. Disturbing dry droppings can release pathogen-containing dust particles that might be inhaled. Always wear protective gloves and a mask, and wash thoroughly after any potential exposure.

How long does possum poop remain infectious?

Bacterial pathogens in possum droppings can remain viable for extended periods, depending on environmental conditions—typically weeks to months in cool, damp environments such as attics or crawl spaces.

Salmonella bacteria can survive for up to 9 months in suitable conditions, while leptospirosis bacteria may remain infectious for up to 6 weeks in moist environments.

Do possums use the same spot to defecate as cats do?

No, possums typically do not establish dedicated latrine areas or return to the same defecation locations. Their bathroom habits are much more opportunistic and random, with droppings deposited throughout their territory as they forage at night.

This scattered pattern contrasts sharply with cats, which select specific areas with loose soil as designated elimination spots and return repeatedly.

What should I do if I find possum poop in my attic?

Finding possum droppings in your attic indicates an active infestation requiring prompt attention. First, avoid disturbing the waste until properly equipped for safe cleanup, as improper handling can aerosolize pathogens.

[Contact Connor's Pest Pros](#) for a professional assessment—we can safely remove the animal, identify and seal entry points, and provide guidance on proper waste cleanup and disinfection.

****Image Disclaimer:*** Some images used in this blog post are sourced from third-party websites and remain the property of their respective owners unless otherwise stated. We do not claim ownership of these images and use them for illustrative purposes only.