

Mammals Identification Key: Animal Tracks

Diagonal Walkers

- Opposite limbs move at the same time
 - Front right & back left; front left & back right (like how a baby crawls)
- Feline (cats)
 - Retractable fingernails (4) usually don't show
 - C-Shape most commonly found in the front tracks of felines
- Canine (dogs)
 - Fingernails are shown (4)
 - An X-shape indicates canine track like that of red fox (~1.5" long), coyote (~2.5"), or wolf (~4.5")
- Ungulate (hooved animals)
 - Two-toed hooves with a split-heart shape
 - Deer: 2-3.5" long // Moose: 5-7" long (about the size of your hand)

Pacers

- Wide bodied animals
- Both limbs on one side move together
 - Front right & rear right; front left & rear left
- Raccoon: splayed toes, 5 toes on both feet, flat-footed tracks, elongated hind tracks
- Porcupine: four toes front and five toes hind
- Beaver: 5 toes, webbed hind feet
- Opossum: Five toes with claws on each foot. The rear foot has an **opposable thumb**
- Muskrat: found around water, not usually visible during winter. Four toes visible front foot, five toes hind foot. Long, slender toes.
- Black Bear: 5 toes on each foot, front print shorter than hind print

Bounders

- Long bodied, short legged animals
- Front feet together followed by rear feet together
- Rear feet land evenly behind the front
- Weasel: five-clawed toes, V-shape footpad
- Otter: 5 toes, webbed feet

Gallopers

- Jumping/hopping mammals
- Lift off with their rear feet (land ahead of front) & land with their front feet (land *uneven*)
- Squirrel: front feet often land side by side, 5 toes hind (outside) & 4 toes front (inside)
- Rabbit: tracks are after longer than they are wide, 4 toes on all

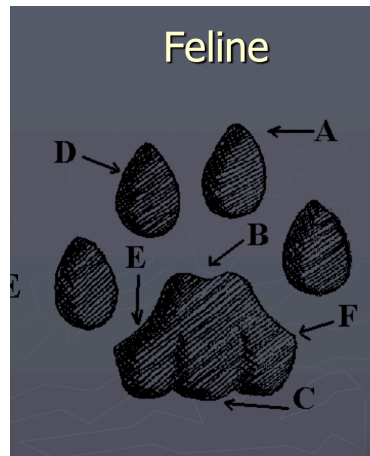
Gaits and Patterns

Diagonal walkers

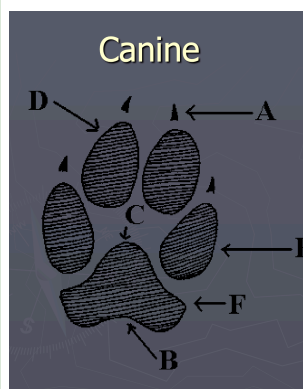
- Opposite limbs move at the same time
 - Front right & back left; front left & back right
 - Like how a baby crawls
- Examples: Cats, dogs, ungulates (large mammals with hooves)

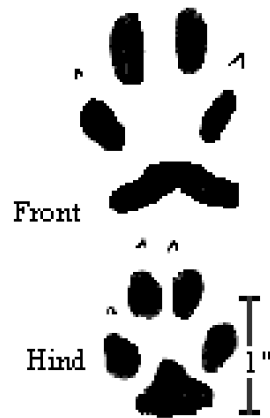


- **Feline (cats)**
 - Retractable fingernails usually don't show
 - C-Shape most commonly found in the front tracks of felines

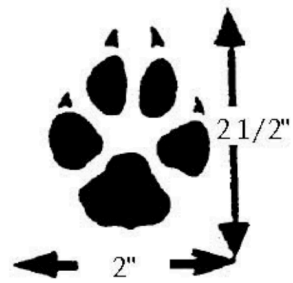


- **Canine (dogs)**
 - Fingernails are shown
 - An X-shape indicates a canine track like that of a red fox, wolf, or coyote

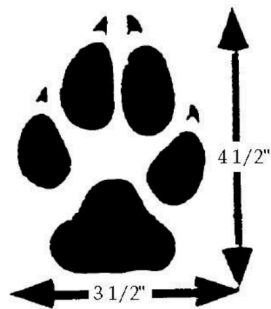




○ Fox:



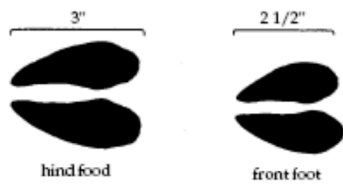
Coyote:



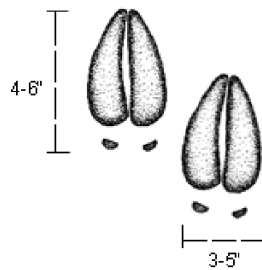
Wolf

- **Ungulate (hooved animals)**

- Deer: Two-toed hooves with a split-heart shape



- Moose:

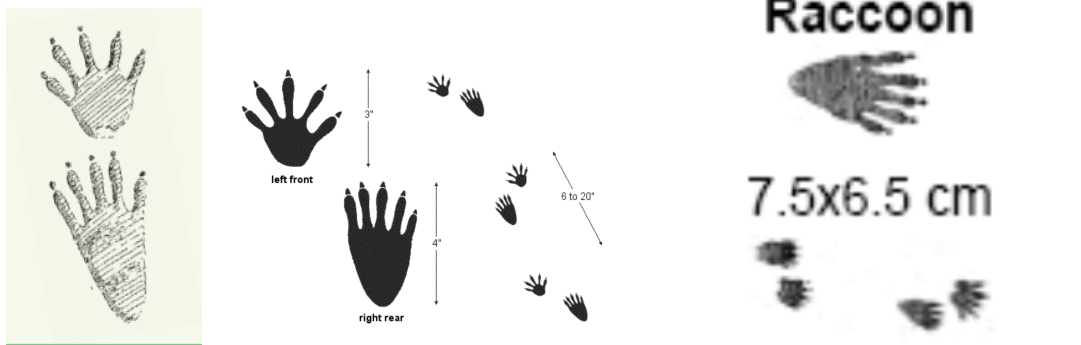


Pacers

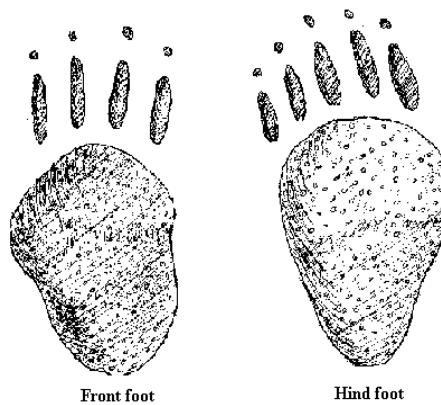
- Wide bodied animals
- Both limbs on one side move together
 - Front right & rear right; front left & rear left
- Examples: Bear, raccoon, opossum, beaver, muskrat, wolverine, skunk, badger, porcupine



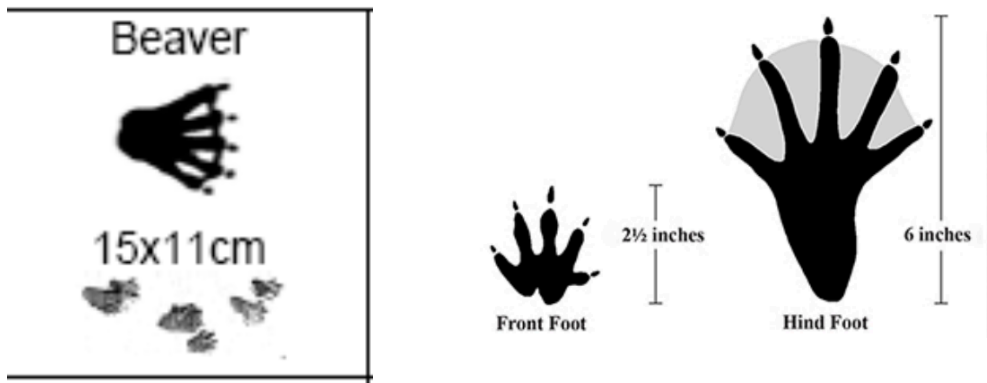
- Raccoon: splayed toes, 5 toes on both feet, flat-footed tracks, elongated hind tracks



- Porcupine: four toes front and five toes hind



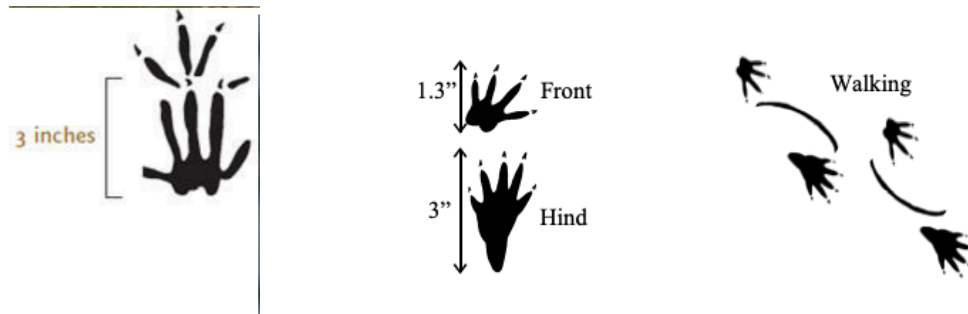
- Beaver: 5 toes, webbed hind feet



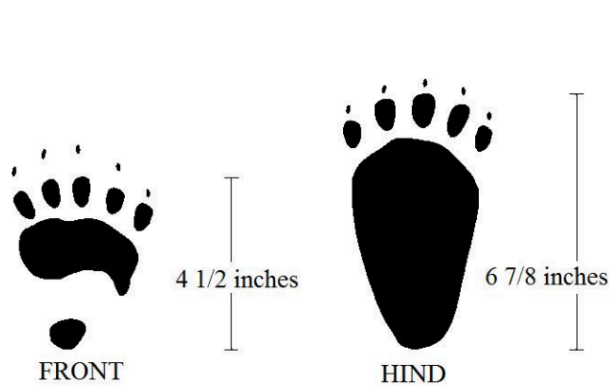
- Opossum: Five toes with claws on each foot. The rear foot has an **opposable thumb**, but it doesn't have a claw.



- Muskrat: found around water, not usually visible during winter. Four toes visible front foot, five toes hind foot. Long, slender toes.

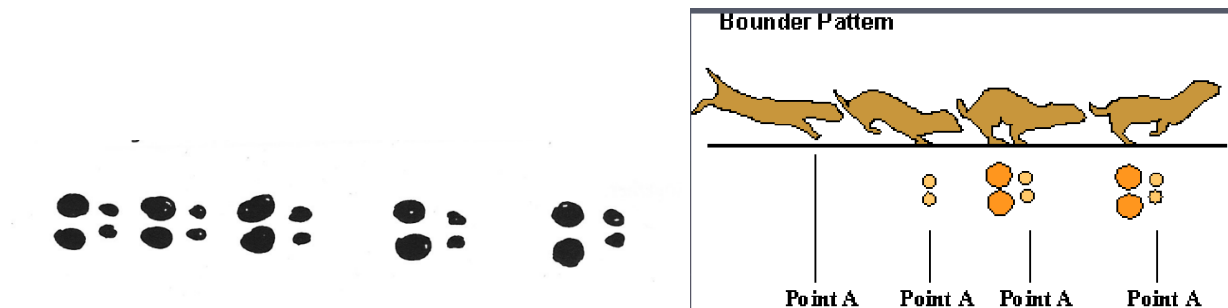


- Black Bear: Not usually seen during winter, often seen during summer around blueberries



Bounders

- Long bodied, short legged animals
- Front feet together followed by rear feet together
- Rear feet land evenly behind the front
- Examples: Weasel, mink, marten, fisher, otter



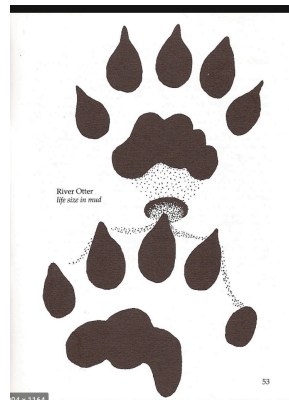
- Weasel: five-clawed toes, V-shape footpad



- Fisher:

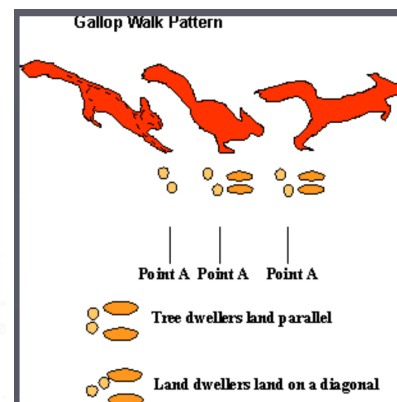


- Otter: webbed feet

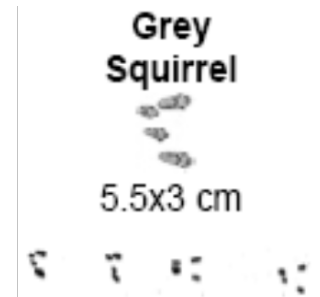


Gallopers

- Jumping/hopping mammals
- Rabbits, hares, squirrels, mice
- Lift off with their rear feet
- Land with their front feet
 - Front feet land *uneven*
- Rear feet land *even* and ahead of the front



- Squirrel: front feet often land side by side



- Rabbit: tracks are after longer than they are wide

