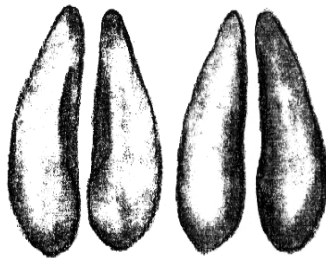


If you can recognise this animal tracks, will it be more fun in your next winter hike?

Michael Tam

Deer

The shape of the deer track varies somewhat with the type of ground on which the animal lives. On soft soil, as in some woodlands, the toes are likely to be relatively more pointed. On hard, rocky ground the hoofs are worn enough to produce blunt tips. Generally the length of an adult deer track is between 2 3/8 and 3 1/4 inches long. Tracks left by fawns are generally 1 3/8 inches long.



Front Hind

Bobcat

Bobcat tracks are fairly distinctive. A typical bobcat track is about 1 3/4 inches long by 1 7/8 inches wide. The track is more rounded than that of the coyote or dog and shows no claw marks. The ball pad of the bobcat is distinct from that of the coyote in that the front border is two-lobed. The principal difference between the front and hind tracks is the somewhat smaller ball pad of the hind foot. Tracks tend to be slightly longer than wide, though this is not always evident, as it depends on the spread of the toes.



Front Hind

Coyote

The coyote's front foot is larger than the hind foot. Front tracks in soft mud are 2 1/4 to 2 3/4 inches long and 1 3/4 to 2 3/8 inches wide. The hind tracks in mud are 2 to 2 3/8 inches long and 1 1/2 to 1 7/8 inches wide. Note the differing patterns in the heel pads of the front and hind tracks in the figure. When the imprint is not on soft ground, coyote tracks may not show the

claws. Some dog tracks may be easily confused with Coyote tracks even when the tracks are well defined. Coyote tracks tend to be more oval-shaped and compact than those of dogs. Nail marks also are less prominent and the tracks tend to follow a straight line more closely than those of dogs.



Front Hind

Black Bear

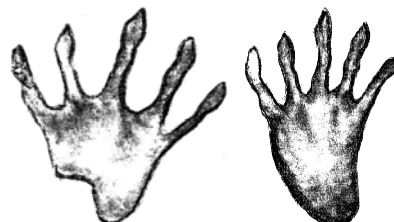
In general the front tracks are 3 1/2 inches wide, while the hind tracks are 7 inches long and 3 1/2 inches wide. The round pad of the front foot may not always register and the claw marks are not always present. The "big" toe of the bear foot is the outer one, not the inner one as with the human foot. Often the "little" (inside) toe leaves no mark in dust or shallow mud, so the footprint appears to be four-toed.



Front Hind

Raccoon

The raccoon track is distinctive and easily identified. Raccoons have five toes on the front and hind feet. In general the front tracks are about 2 1/4 inches long, while the hind tracks are about 3 1/8 inches long. Raccoon tracks also are usually paired, with the left hind foot placed beside the right forefoot as the animal walks along.



Front Hind

Other websites give you more detail animal tracks photos and information

Animal Tracks of Humboldt County

<http://www.humboldt.net/~tracker/index.html>

Here are a few photographs of wildlife tracks in the snow.

<http://www.hopkins.k12.mn.us/Pages/District/NatCor/Collections/AnimalTracks/index.htm>