

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN TRYING TO IDENTIFY TRACKS

1. What is the size? (both length and width)
2. What is the shape?
 - ▶ round?
 - ▶ oval?
 - ▶ oblong?
3. Are claw marks visible? How many?
4. Are pads visible? How many? What shape?
5. Are toes visible? How many?
6. Is there more than one track of the same animal?
 - ▶ What is the distance between tracks?
7. What type of habitat is the track in – woods, urban, suburban, agricultural, etc?
8. Can you determine what the animal was doing?

GENERAL INFORMATION

Wolf, coyote, fox, dog, bear, badger, skunk, weasel, and otter tracks usually show claw marks.

Skunks, bears and badgers leave 5-toed tracks often with a heel mark.

Bobcats, mountain lion, and feral cats are 4-toed and usually don't show claw marks. Front tracks are slightly larger than hind tracks.

Raccoon front feet are "hand-like" and back feet are longer. Not all toes show.

All rodents, from the smallest mouse to the largest beaver, have 4-toed front feet and 5-toed hind feet.

Cottontail rabbits and jackrabbits have 5-toed front feet; hind tracks are usually placed side-by-side.