

Animal Track Guide

A beginner field sheet for reading tracks and wildlife signs.

Best for Wildlife signs	Format Printable PDF	Use Print or save offline
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Record First

- Date and time:
- Place or habitat:
- Weather:
- Track surface: snow, mud, sand, dust, or soil.
- Photo taken with scale nearby:

Track Shape

- Toe count:
- Claw marks visible:
- Front and rear prints different:
- Overall shape: round, oval, hoofed, hand-like, or long.
- Approximate width and length:

Movement Pattern

- Direction of travel:
- Walking, trotting, bounding, or hopping:
- Prints paired, alternating, or staggered:
- Stride or distance between prints:

Nearby Signs

- Scat, fur, feathers, bones, or feeding marks.
- Burrow, nest, den, trail, scratch mark, or rub.
- Water, food plants, cover, or crossing point nearby.
- Other tracks from the same or different animals.

Cautious ID

- Best broad guess: mammal, bird, canine, cat, hoofed animal, rodent, or unknown.
- Evidence supporting the guess:
- What still feels uncertain:

Respect wildlife: Do not follow fresh tracks toward animals, dens, nests, or resting places. Photograph signs and leave them in place.