

A circular logo with a dark green background. The outer ring contains various animal tracks and scat in a lighter green color, including paw prints, bird tracks, and a fish-shaped scat. The text is centered within the circle.

Ontario Animals

Facts, Tracks & Scat

Métis Nation
of Ontario 

English & Michif



Location: North – Central Ontario



Bobcat
Chaw sawvaj



Carnivore

Average Life Span: 10–14 years

Can survive in ***all climates*** of North America.

Quiet, skilled hunters that stalk their prey for long periods of time before striking.

Bobcats use their ***whiskers like fingertips*** to feel around their spaces.



Females:
Queens



Males:
Tom



Babies:
Bobkittens

Bobcat Scat

1.7 inches

4 inches





Bobcat Tracks

Location: North – Central Ontario



Cougar
Kougawr



Carnivore

Average Life Span: 8 – 13 years

Cougars are known by **40 different names**, including panther, mountain lion and puma.

Cougars **purr and hiss** like house cats.

A cougar's tail is $\frac{1}{3}$ the length of their overall body.



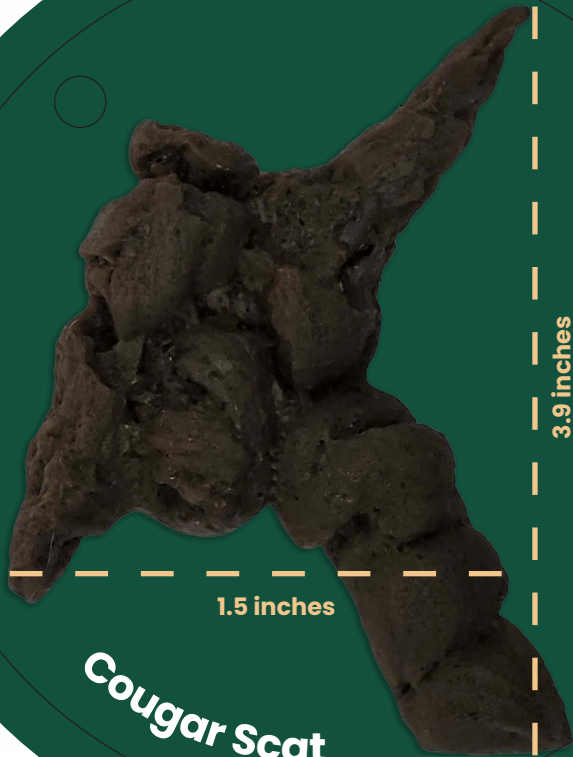
Females:
Cougar



Males:
Cougar



Babies:
Kitten/Cub



1.5 inches

3.9 inches

Cougar Scat



3.5 inches

3 inches

Cougar Tracks

Location: All of Ontario



Coyote
Kawyawt



Omnivore

Average Life Span: 3 – 5 years

Can run 64–70 km/h

The first coyote fossil was recorded **850,000 years ago**, and modern coyotes emerged 1000 years ago.

Coyotes mate for life.

Coyotes actually run **faster** than roadrunners.



Females:
Coyote



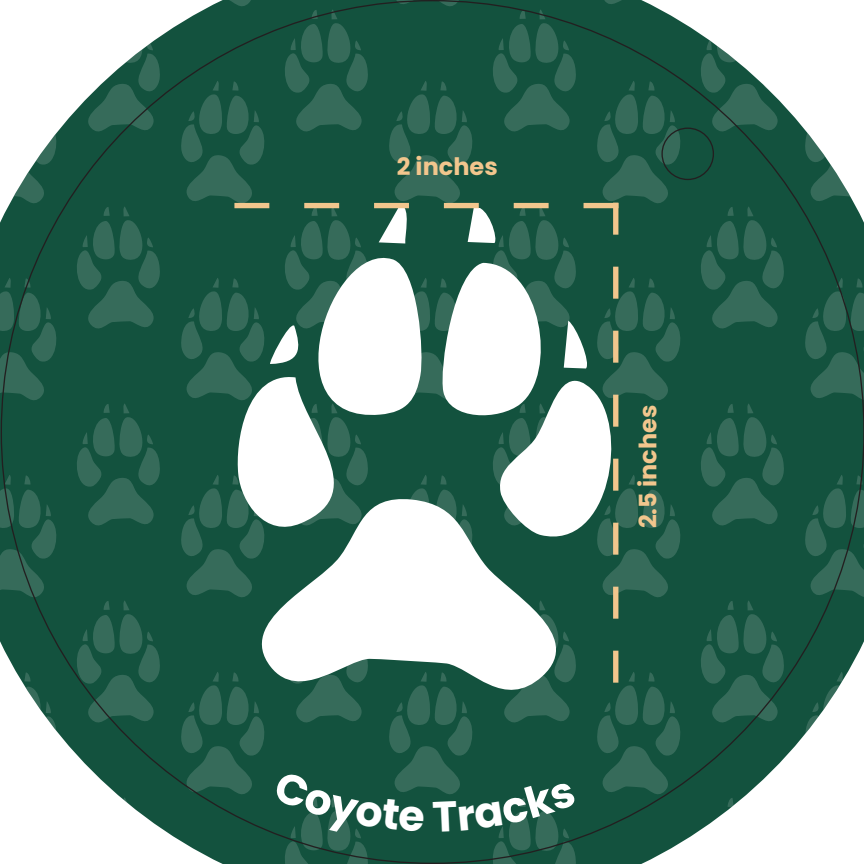
Males:
Coyote



Babies:
Pup



Coyote Scat



2 inches

2.5 inches

Coyote Tracks

Location: All of Ontario



Eastern Wild Turkey

Dind sawvaj



Omnivore

Average Life Span: 3 – 4 years

Wild Turkeys sleep (aka roost) in trees at night.

Wild turkeys are the **largest game birds** in North America.

Their waddle (chin skin) and snood (bill skin) can change colours and size based on their moods.

Wild turkeys have between **5000–6000 feathers**.



Females:
Hen



Males:
Tom

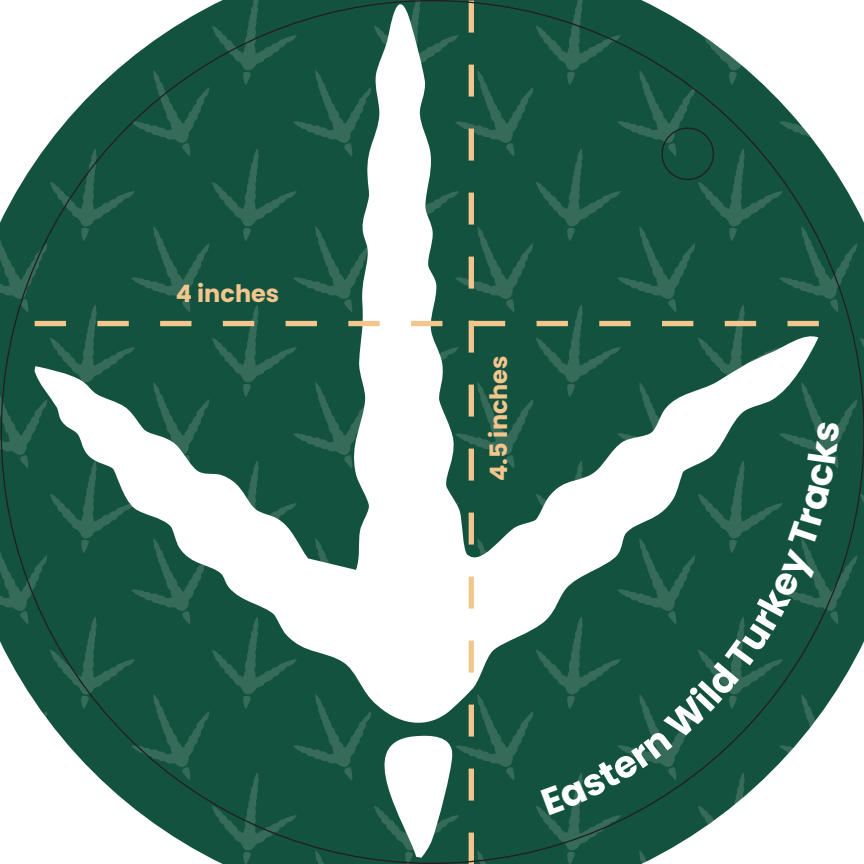


Babies:
Poults



2.7 inches

Eastern Wild Turkey Scat



4 inches

4.5 inches

Eastern Wild Turkey Tracks

Location: Southern and Eastern Ontario



Opossum
Chawrawgn



Omnivore

Average Life Span: 1 – 2 years

Opossums have **5 toes** on each foot, but carry their thumbs on the back.

Their tails act like a 5th hand to hold onto branches.

Opossums are the ***only marsupials*** in North America.

Marsupial means the moms carry and feed their babies in a pouch.

Opossums ***“play dead”*** as a way to protect themselves.



Females:
Jill



Males:
Jack



Babies:
Joey



2 inches

2.3 inches

Opossum scat



Opossum Tracks

Location: All of Ontario



Canadian Goose
Outard



Herbivore

Average Life Span: 10 – 24 years

Geese use their feet for steering when flying.

When migrating, the Canadian goose can fly up to **2414 km in 1 day**.

A Canadian Goose has between **20,000 – 25,000 feathers**.

Although Canadian Geese are considered herbivores, they are also known as “opportunistic omnivores” because they will sometimes ***eat insects and other items*** when protein is needed or their environment requires it.



Females:
Goose



Males:
Gander



Babies:
Goslings



2.5 inches

2.7 inches

Canadian Goose scat



3.5 inches

3 inches

Canadian Goose Tracks

Location: All of Ontario



Ruffed Grouse / Partridge

Padri



Omnivore

Average Life Span: 1 – 2 years

Ruffed grouse often grow feathers ***on their legs***, toes and nostrils for the winter.

Ruffed grouse are ***ground-dwelling*** birds.

When trying to find a mate, male ruffed grouse puff up their feathers and make noise that echoes throughout the forest.



Females:
Hen



Males:
Drummer



Babies:
Rufflings



Ruffed Grouse scat



2.75 inches

2.5 inches

Ruffed Grouse Tracks

Location: All of Ontario



Porcupine
Pawrkepiik



Herbivore

Average Life Span: 15 – 18 years

The name porcupine comes from Middle French and means “**thorny pig**”.

There are **27 species** of porcupines.

It is a myth! Porcupines can not throw their quills. When attacked, they will puff up to look threatening and will hit the predator, leaving their quills behind.



Females:
Sow



Males:
Boar



Babies:
Porcupette



3.5 inches

2.5 inches

Porcupine Scat

A circular graphic with a dark green background featuring a repeating pattern of lighter green paw prints. In the center are two white silhouettes of porcupine tracks. The left track is larger and has a vertical dashed orange line with the text 'Hind Foot 3.6 inches' written vertically next to it. The right track is smaller and has a vertical dashed orange line with the text 'Front Foot 2.5 inches' written vertically next to it. A small white circle is located in the upper right area of the graphic.

Hind Foot 3.6 inches

Front Foot 2.5 inches

Porcupine Tracks

Location: Northern Ontario



Brown Bear
Our Brun



Omnivore

Average Life Span: 20 – 25 years

At birth, bear cubs weigh roughly 400-600g
(barely 1 lb).

If found by the coasts, they are called brown bears,
inland they are called grizzly bears.

They can **run up to 56km/h** and lower their heart rate
during hibernation from 70-90 BPM to 8-12 BPM.



Females:
Sow



Males:
Boar



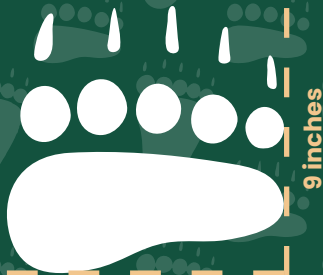
Babies:
Cub



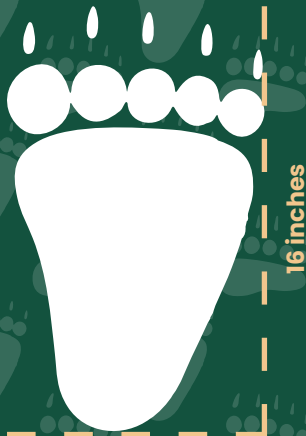
6.1 inches

3.9 inches

Brown Bear Scat *Not to Scale



Front Foot 8 inches



Hind Foot 10.5 inches

Brown Bear Tracks *Not to Scale

Location: All of Ontario



Beaver
Kastawr



Herbivore

Average Life Span: 10 – 12 years

Beavers are the **2nd largest** rodent in the world.

Beaver's teeth never stop growing

Only their back feet are webbed.

A beaver can chew through an 8 foot tree in as little as **5 minutes**.

Quills have barbed ends and are hollow. If one is stuck in the skin, cut the top off.



Females:
Dam



Males:
Buck



Babies:
Kit



3 inches

3 inches

Beaver Scat



6 inches

4 inches

Beaver Tracks *Not to Scale

Location: Northern Ontario



Moose
Arnyal



Herbivore

Average Life Span: 15 – 25 years

Male moose grow a new set of antlers each year and they can reach up to **6 feet wide**.

Moose are great swimmers and can hold their breath underwater for about 30 seconds.

Their name comes from the Algonquin and it means ***"twig-eaters"***.

A baby moose can outrun a human by the time they are 5 days old!



Females:
Cow



Males:
Bull



Babies:
Calf



2.5 inches

2 inches

Moose Scat



6 inches

5 inches

Moose Tracks *Not to Scale

Location: All of Ontario



Black Bear
Our Nwér



Omnivore

Average Life Span: 15 – 25 years

Smallest bear in Ontario

Most prevalent bear in Ontario.

Can run up to **56km/h.**

May spend up to ***six months in hibernation***, during which they do not eat, drink, or expel waste.



Females:
Sow



Males:
Boar



Babies:
Cub



6.1 inches

3.9 inches

Black Bear Scat *Not to Scale



Front Foot 5 inches



Hind Foot 4 inches

Black Bear Tracks *Not to Scale

Location: All of Ontario



Great Horned Owl

Ibou



Carnivore

Average Life Span: 20 – 30 years

There are **11 species of owls** in Ontario.

An owl can turn its head up to **270 degrees** due to a special bone in their neck and flexible veins.

Owls have eye tubes (not eye balls) for better depth perception. The funnel shaped feathers around their eyes guide sound to their ears to better pinpoint their prey.

Owl's feathers are designed for **silent flight**.



Females:
Owl



Males:
Owl



Babies:
Owlet



1.5 inches

2.3 inches

Great Horned Owl Scat

The logo is a circular emblem with a dark green background. It features a repeating pattern of light green owl tracks. In the center is a large, white, stylized owl track. To the left of this central track is a vertical dashed orange line with the text "8 inches" written vertically next to it. Below the central track is a horizontal dashed orange line with the text "8 inches" written below it. At the bottom of the circle, the text "Great Horned Owl Tracks" is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font, following the curve of the circle. To the right of this text, the phrase "*Not to Scale" is written in a smaller, white, italicized font.

8 inches

8 inches

Great Horned Owl Tracks **Not to Scale*

Location: All of Ontario



Chipmunk
Swis



Omnivore

Average Life Span: 3 years

Live in underground tunnels with different ***“rooms”*** for different uses.

Are excellent swimmers.

They do not officially hibernate, but will do their best to stay underground in the winter eating from their ***“storage room”***.

Can run up to **33km/h.**



Females:
Doe



Males:
Buck



Babies:
Kit/Kitten/Pup



Chipmunk Scat



Chipmunk Tracks

Location: All of Ontario



Rabbit
Lapin



Herbivore

Average Life Span: 9 years

Rabbits and hares are considered ***different species***.

Rabbits live in groups in underground tunnels called ***warrens***, whereas hares live alone or in pairs in nests above ground.

Rabbits are born hairless and blind, whereas hares are born fully furred with their eyes open.

Humans have been able to domesticate rabbits, but not hares.



Females:
Doe



Males:
Buck



Babies:
Kit



Rabbit Scat



3 inches

Hind Foot 1.25 inches



1 inch

Front Foot 1 inch

Rabbit Tracks

Location: All of Ontario



Whitetail Deer
Chevreuy



Herbivore

Average Life Span: 2 – 6 years

Deer antlers are the ***fastest-growing tissue*** on Earth.

A deer's eyes are on the side of their head which gives them ***310° of vision*** to watch out for predators.

Deer can swallow food whole and cough it up later to chew.

Fawns are nearly scentless and stay very still, helping them avoid predators. By keeping their distance, mothers protect their young, returning only to feed them a few times a day.



Females:
Doe



Males:
Stag



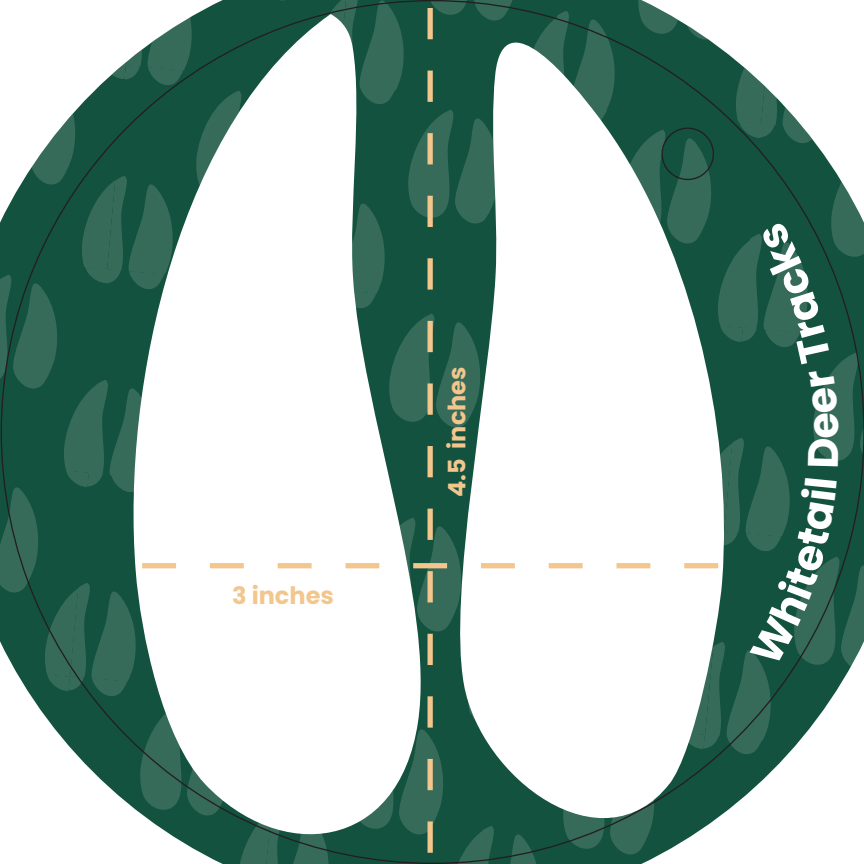
Babies:
Calf



1.9 inches

2.3 inches

Whitetail Deer scat



3 inches

4.5 inches

Whitetail Deer Tracks

Location: All of Ontario



Raccoon
Kounn



Omnivore

Average Life Span: 2 – 3 years

Have funny nicknames such as masked bandits, trash pandas and dumpster divers.

Raccoons usually ***wash their food*** before eating.

Raccoons can make over ***51 different sounds*** including purring, whimpering and growling.

They are so smart and adaptive that they can live in nearly any environment.



Females:
Sow



Males:
Boar



Babies:
Kit



Raccoon Scat



3.8 inches

3.2 inches

Raccoon Tracks

Location: All of Ontario



Red Fox

Rnawr Rouj



Omnivore

Average Life Span: 3 – 4 years

Solitary animals.

Can hear a mouse squeak from 100 feet away.

Can run up to **72 km/h**.

Their pee has a strong “**skunky**” odor.



Females:
Vixen



Males:
Tod



Babies:
Kits/Cubs/Pups



2.9 inches

1.7 inches

Red Fox Scat



Red Fox Tracks

Location: All of Ontario



Striped skunk
Bèt puant



Omnivore

Average Life Span: 2 – 3 years

They can spray up to **15 feet away** and it can be smelled for up to 2.5 kms away.

Skunks are immune to bee stings, rattlesnake venom, and scorpion stings and they will eat all of them!

Baby skunks are born both blind and deaf.

A group of skunks is called a **surfeit**.



Females:
Doe



Males:
Boar



Babies:
Kit



Striped skunk scat



Striped Skunk Tracks

Location: All of Ontario



Squirrel
Ékurey



Omnivore

Average Life Span: 5 – 10 years

You cannot tell if a squirrel is male or female just by looking at them. They are the same size and colour as each other.

Like a beaver, squirrels have teeth that never stop growing.

Can run **32 km/h**.

They use **mapping techniques** such as using landmarks to remember where they hid their food.



Females:
Doe



Males:
Buck



Babies:
Kit



2 inches

2 inches

Squirrel Scat



1.5 inches

1.75 inches

Squirrel Tracks

Location: North – Central Ontario



Gray Wolf
Lou gri



Carnivore

Average Life Span: 6 – 8 years

A wolf's howl can be heard up to **16 kms away**.

Live in packs up to 30 wolves and work as a family unit.

Wolves mate for life, and only the alpha male and female are usually allowed to breed; the rest contribute to helping "raise" the pups. It's a strategy called **alloparenting**.

Wolves play a vital role in maintaining ecological balances on the land.



Females:
Wolf



Males:
Wolf



Babies:
Pup

A photograph of a dark, irregularly shaped piece of wolf scat centered on a dark green circular background. A vertical dashed white line runs through the middle of the scat. A horizontal dashed white line intersects the vertical one at the widest part of the scat. Two small white circles are located in the upper left quadrant of the green background. The text "2.5 inches" is written in white to the left of the horizontal dashed line. The text "4.5 inches" is written in white to the right of the vertical dashed line, near the bottom. The text "Gray Wolf Scat" is written in white, curved along the bottom right edge of the green circle.

2.5 inches

4.5 inches

Gray Wolf Scat



3.5 inches

4.5 inches

Gray Wolf Tracks



Developed by: The Métis Nation of Ontario

metisnation.org

Photos: Pexels.com



Métis Nation
of Ontario 