While walking through the woods, look out for signs that animals have been there before you. Check the soft ground like sand, mud or snow, for animal tracks. Mammals of the dog and cat families walk on four toes. You can see the claws in dog’s prints, but cats retract their claws. Bears, raccoons, and rodents walk on five toes. Some animals have human-like hands, and others have hooves.

The animals pictured below are all **North American Animals**.

**When you go on hikes, carry this checklist and check off the animal tracks you see.**

- Bear
- Coyote
- Deer
- Bobcat
- Raccoon
- Opossum
- Fox
- Wild Turkey
- Badger
- Wolf
- Porcupine
- Squirrel
**ZIG-ZAGGERS**
Zigzaggers usually have long legs. Their back print lands on or next to the front print so that you can at least see part of both. This conserves energy and is more efficient when walking in the snow!
Examples: Elk, Deer, Moose, Mountain Lion, Dog, Coyote, Foxes, Human

![Zigzag Footprints](image1.png)

**LEAPERS AND HOPPERS**
Leapers and Hoppers have bigger back legs than front legs. Front feet land first, then back feet land in front!
Examples: Rabbits, Hares, Field Mice, Squirrels, Voles

![Leaper and Hopper Footprints](image2.png)

**BOUNDERS**
Bounders have long bodies and all legs are the same size.
Examples: Weasels, Ferrets, Pine Martens, Running cats and dogs

![Bounding Footprints](image3.png)

**WADDLERS/ “FATTIES”**
Waddlers are usually slow and drag their bellies when they walk. They have short legs.
Examples: Beaver, Porcupine, Bear, Skunk

![Waddler Footprints](image4.png)