

TRACKS & SIGNS

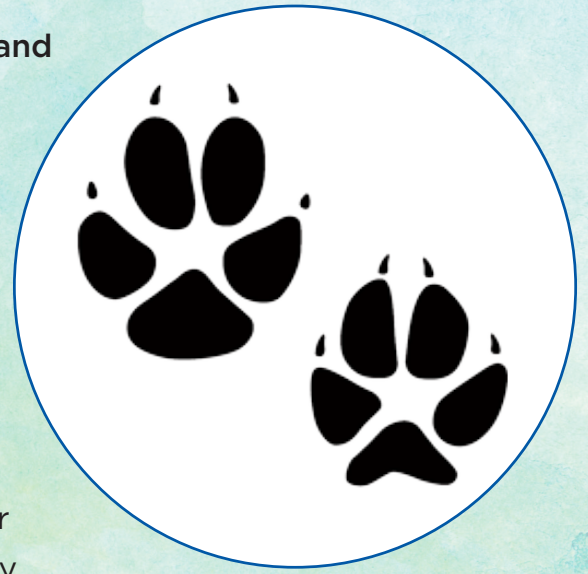
FOX

PRINT DESCRIPTION

Size: About 1.5" wide and 2" long

Both front and hind fox paws have four slender toes and a chevron-shaped heel pad. This gives their tracks a distinctive oval- or diamond-shape. Sometimes, the fox's claws are visible in the tracks as well as the hair at the bottom of its paws.

In comparison with similar tracks, coyotes are larger than fox and their tracks are about 3" long, while cats are smaller with tracks about 1" long. For dogs, it's more complex because there are dogs of all sizes but dog tracks have a rounded-shape because of their large heel pads and fat toes. Also, fox trails are usually straighter than the erratic course that is frequently taken by dogs.



PATTERN OF TRACKS

Walkers (also called perfect steppers): Animals that use this pattern walk very carefully by placing their hind foot in the same spot (or slightly behind) where the front foot landed. To determine how quickly an animal is moving, you can measure the stride of the tracks, which is the distance between tracks left by the same foot. Usually, foxes move with a stride of 12" or less.

OTHER SIGNS

Other signs of fox can help you to confirm their presence. You can smell a fox's scent, find prey remains, and encounter their scat. Fox regularly mark out their territory and the pungent smell can linger in the air. Fox are also messy eaters and frequently leave remains of prey scattered on the ground. As for fox droppings, they may contain hair, bones, and undigested seeds.

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