

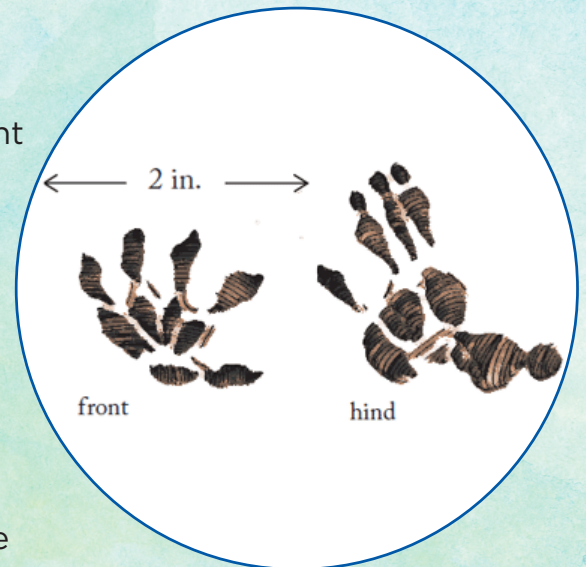
TRACKS & SIGNS

OPOSSUM

PRINT DESCRIPTION

Size: 2" wide (hind feet slightly larger)

Opossums tracks are very unique because they have **opposable thumbs on their hind feet**. The hind imprint shows five toes with the three middle toes aligned next to each other in the same direction, while the outer small toe is a bit offset and the big opposable thumb points in the opposite direction. Their front feet also have five toes that are spread apart and their tiny inner toe can help you to determine the left tracks from the right. On detailed tracks, you can observe the imprint of the claws - only the opposable thumb lacks claws. Opossums may drag their tails too, which leaves a distinctive straight line imprint, especially after a fresh snowfall!



PATTERN OF TRACKS

Waddlers: Animals with this pattern tend to walk by moving one side of the body then the other. Other animals that move using this pattern include skunks, porcupines, beavers, black bears, raccoons, woodchucks, and muskrats. Opossums tend to stagger when they walk and sometimes their hind tracks land on top of their front tracks giving the impression that the tracks belong to a much larger animal.

OTHER SIGNS

Another sign of opossums in the wild is their scat! Opossums prefer to defecate in protected leafy areas near the trail they are using. Opossum's droppings are about 1 to 3 inches long and often pointed. However, they can vary greatly in shape and size depending on the opossum's diet. If you encounter opossum scat, it is best to stay away from it as it can cause serious diseases.