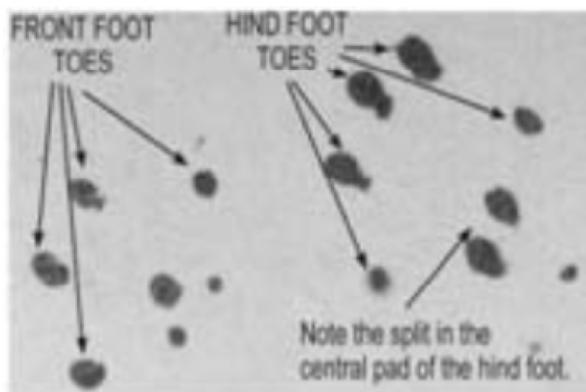


Guide to Animal Tracks



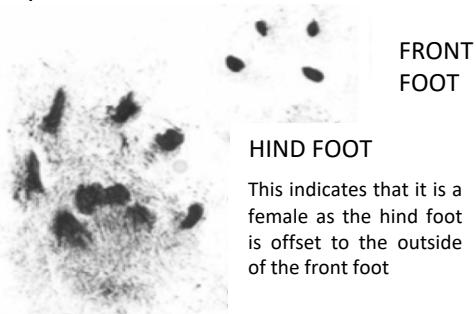
RAT

Rats have four toes on the front foot & five on the hind foot. All feet are the same width. Females hind footprints are placed wider than the front (males approximately same width). Foot size ranges from 8-22 mm, at the widest point.



Ferrets have hairs in between the pads and toes causing blurring of the print. They have four toes on the front & five on the hind foot. The hind pad of the foot is an obvious feature. Prints show four separate sections for the pad, as well as the toe marks.

FERRET

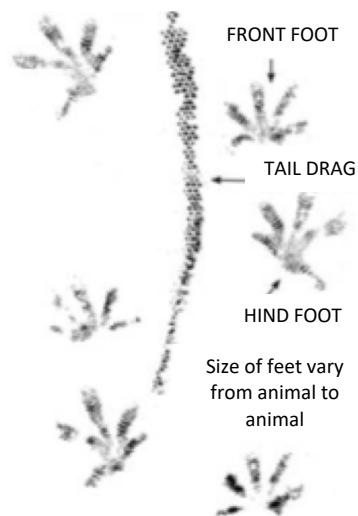


Gecko and skink prints are very different from the mammalian tracks. Each foot has five fingers/toes arranged in a palm shaped pattern. No separate pad is seen. Tracks may also show signs of a tail. Each footprint is unique to a species of gecko or skink.

GECKO & SKINK

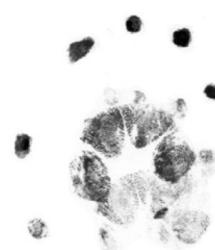


Different footprint shapes and patterns of Gecko species.



POSSUM

Possum prints show claw marks rather than toes (smaller, clearer dot at the front of the print). Claws are 1 to 1.5 cm in front of the central pad. The pad shows four distinct sections. The feet are circular in shape overall and the front feet are smaller than the hind feet.



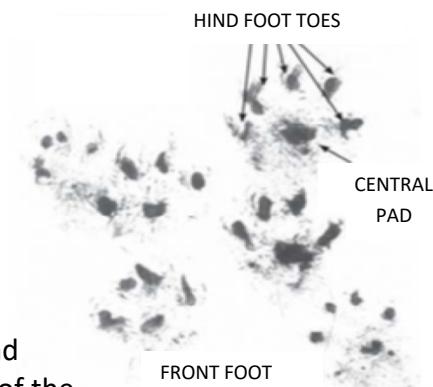
Experts classify tracks by describing the:

1. Size (overall length, width)
2. Shape (pads, rounded, triangular)
3. Components (number of toes)
4. Patterns (ridges or bumps)
5. Damage (cuts, scars etc.)

STOAT



Stoats have a round pad in the middle of the foot with five toes on the hind foot & four on the front. They tend to walk on 'tip-toes' so the print does not splay with the toes moving outwards. Size of prints will be very consistent for the same animal. In females the front foot may be smaller than the hind foot. Stoats have hairs on their feet which means the tracks show blurring in the middle of the foot pad.



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All text and photos are courtesy of **Warren Agnew**
Inventor of the Black Trakka traps

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