



MI'KMAW CONSERVATION GROUP
THE CONFEDERACY OF MAINLAND MI'KMAQ

MCG Animal Scat

ID Cards



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MCG Animal Scat

ID Cards

How to use these cards:

- Animal scat can help us to identify wildlife species, but be sure to be careful as animal scat can contain diseases.
- Do not breathe near or smell the scat as some diseases can be contracted through airborne particles.
- Scat identification is NOT easy. Simple changes to an animal's diet can dramatically change the color, shape and contents of the scat making it difficult to determine the source of the droppings.
- Scat comes in many sizes, shapes and colours. Terms used to describe shape include pellet, tubular, plop, and white.

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What to look for:

- Are the ends flat or pointed? Is one end flat and the other end pointed?
- Is it smooth from one end to the other or is it segmented like a natural fibered rope?
- Is there one dropping or multiple?
- Can you identify any hair or food particles in the droppings? Sometimes corn, berries, seeds, and insect wings aren't completely digested.
- What time of day did you find the droppings?
- Would they have been left at night or during the day?

What to bring:

- Retractable tape measure
- Notebook and Pencil
- Magnifying glass
- Disposable latex gloves



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Lentuk / Lintuk Deer

Odocoileus virginianus



What does their scat look like?

Shape: pellets

Size: < 1/2"



scat
pellet 0.3 in
pellet 0.8 cm

Characteristics:

White-tailed deer are herbivores. During the spring and summer they eat plants and berries. However, in fall and winter, they switch to woody materials, such as twigs and bark. Therefore, their scat can vary, but is typically in pellet form.

Tia'm Moose

Alces alces



What does their scat look like?

Shape: pellets, oval

Size: 1 - 1 3/4"



Characteristics:

Moose are herbivores. They consume twigs, leaves and aquatic plants. In late winter, when the food supply is low, moose will strip and eat the bark of some trees. In the summer moose will eat aquatic vegetation. This vegetation is used to replenish nutrients lost during winter and required for antler growth (bulls) and for producing milk (cows). Their scat varies from pellets to a plop form depending on the moisture, fibre and time of year.

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Muin Black Bear

Ursus americanus

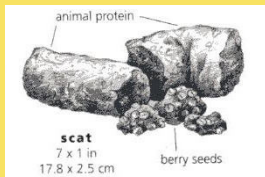


WARNING:
Do not feed bears people
food. They will adapt a
taste for it and become a
dangerous nuisance!

What does their scat look like?

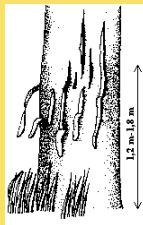
Shape: globular

Size: 1 ¼ to 2 ¾"



Characteristics:

Black bears are omnivores. They like to feed on grasses, roots, berries, and insects. However, they will also feed on carrion and fish. This means that their scat can change its appearance based on their diet.



Amaljikwej Raccoon

Procyon lotor



WARNING:
Do not handle
raccoon scat!
Contains Disease!

What does their scat look like?

Shape: tubular, blunt ends

Diameter: 1 ½" to 1"

Colour: reddish to yellow, black or shades of brown

Contents: insects, berries or grains

Location: Will often develop their own 'latrines' or toilets near a large tree or under rocks



Characteristics:

Raccoons are omnivores and they are known for their ability to eat just about anything. They eat insects, small invertebrates, crayfish, freshwater clams, muskrats, squirrels, rabbits, waterfowl eggs, nuts and berries. Their scat changes depending on their primary source of food.

Wowkwis

Red fox

Vulpes vulpes



What does their scat look like?

Shape: tubular, tapered ends

Diameter: under $\frac{5}{8}$ "

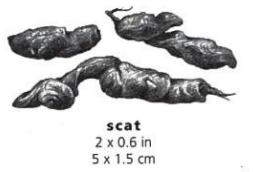
Colour: brown to black

Content: fruits, berries
(summer); fur, small bones
(winter)



Characteristics:

Red foxes are omnivores. They primarily eat small mammals, such as voles and rabbits; however, they do supplement their diet with plants and berries on occasion.



Matuses Porcupine

Erethizon dorsatum



What does their scat look like?

Shape: asymmetrical pellets

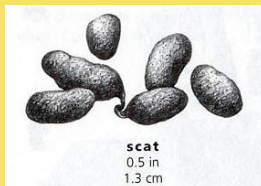
Length: $\frac{3}{16}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ "

Colour: greenish brown to dark brown

Contents: In winter, you can see pieces of tree fiber with a strong pine scent.

Characteristics:

Porcupines are herbivores. They often climb trees to find food. In summer they eat leaves, herbs, twigs, and green plants such as clover. In the winter, they may eat bark.



U'lukwej Coyote

Canis latrans



What does their scat look like?

Shape: tubular, tapered ends

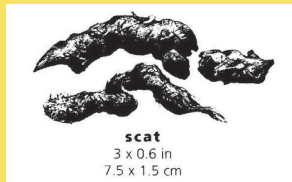
Diameter: over $\frac{3}{4}$ "

Content: fur



What do they eat?

Coyotes are known as opportunistic omnivores. They will prey on whatever is available and easy to scavenge or kill causing their diet to change seasonally.



Kopit Beaver

Castor canadensis

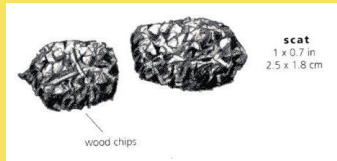


What does their scat look like?

Shape: pellets

Length: 1 ½"

Content: woody debris, sawdust



Characteristics:

Beavers are herbivores. In spring and summer, beavers will eat an assortment of fresh plants, including grasses, herbs, leaves, fruits, and aquatic plants. In the fall and winter, beavers will eat mainly inner bark on trees. A key indicator of beaver scat is the abundance of wood chips found in the scat.

Apikjilu Striped Skunk

Mephitis mephitis



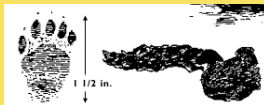
What does their scat look like?

Shape: pellets

Diameter: $\frac{3}{4}$ "

Colour: black

Contents: insects, hair or seeds



Characteristics:

Striped skunks are omnivores. Their diet is primarily composed of insects and small rodents, such as voles.



Pqajue'wj Bobcat

Felis rufus



What does their scat look like?

Shape: segmented, blunt ends

Diameter: $\frac{7}{16}$ - $\frac{7}{8}$ "

Colour: shades of brown

Content: rodent and snowshoe hare fur



Characteristics:

Bobcats are carnivores. They consume primarily snowshoe hares and small rodents.



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