



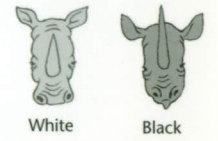
Common Hippopotamus
Hippopotamus amphibius
To 5 ft. (1.5 m) H



9-10 in.



White Rhinoceros
Ceratotherium simum
To 6 ft. (1.8 m) H
Has a square upper lip. The similar black rhinoceros has a pointed, prehensile upper lip.



White

Black



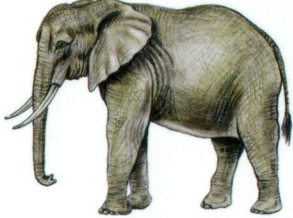
10-11 in.

White



9-10 in.

Black



African Elephant
Loxodonta africana
To 14 ft. (4.2 m) H
Hind print is oval-shaped.



20 in.

Forefoot



24-28 in.

Hind foot

This guide provides simplified field reference to familiar animal tracks. It is important to note that tracks change depending on their age, the surface they are made on, and the animal's gait (e.g., toes are often splayed when running). Track illustrations are ordered by size in each section and are not illustrated to scale.

Most animal illustrations show the adult male in breeding coloration. Colors and markings may be duller or absent during different seasons. Animal measurements usually denote approximate length (head and body length). Some measurements indicate the shoulder height of species (H).

Waterford Press produces reference guides that introduce novices to travel, languages, science and nature. Product information and hundreds of free educational games are featured on the website:

www.waterfordpress.com

By James Kavanagh
Illustrated by Raymond Leung
Text and illustrations copyright
© 2000 by Waterford Press, Inc.
All rights reserved.
To order, call 800-434-2555.
For permissions, or to share comments,
e-mail: editor@waterfordpress.com.
For information on custom-published
products, call 800-434-2555 or
e-mail us at info@waterfordpress.com.
Printed in China 073501

ISBN-10 1-58355-037-2 \$5.95
ISBN-13 978-1-58355-037-3

50595
9 781583 550373
00037
UPC
84682 00595 5
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

AFRICAN ANIMAL TRACKS — THE TRACKS & SIGNS OF FAMILIAR SPECIES

KAVANAGH/LEUNG

AFRICAN ANIMAL TRACKS

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE TRACKS & SIGNS OF FAMILIAR SPECIES

Hyena **Lion**

Hippopotamus **Giraffe**

Elephant **Giraffe**



WATERFORD PRESS



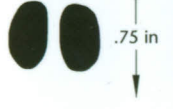
Dik-Dik
Madoqua spp.
To 17 in. (43 cm) H
Small antelope has a long, flexible snout.



.75 in.



Klipspringer
Oreotragus oreotragus
To 2 ft. (60 cm) H
Has dark 'tear stains' at the corner of the eyes. Downward-pointing hooves give the impression it walks on 'tiptoe'. Found in rocky habitats.



.75 in.



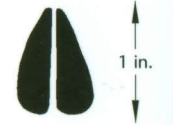
Steenbok
Raphicerus campestris
To 2 ft. (60 cm) H
Large ears are striped inside. Muzzle has a dark stripe.



1 in.



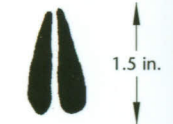
Common Duiker
Sylvicapra grimmia
To 28 in. (70 cm) H
Has a prominent black stripe on its snout. Inhabits woodlands and shrubby areas.



1 in.



Oribi
Ourebia ourebi
To 2 ft. (60 cm) H
Note short tail and black spot below ears. Inhabits grassland savannas.



1.5 in.



Springbok
Antidorcas marsupialis
To 30 in. (75 cm) H
Note white belly and dark flank stripe. Lyre-shaped horns have prominent ridges.



2 in.



Warthog
Phacochoerus africanus
To 30 in. (75 cm) H
Long canine tusks are key field marks. Holds tail aloft when running.



2 in.



Bushpig
Potamochoerus larvatus
To 3 ft. (90 cm) H
A hairy version of a domestic pig, it inhabits dense forested areas and reed beds. Tail is held down when running. The similar forest bush pig has a reddish coat.



2 in.

HOOFED MAMMALS



Bushbuck

Tragelaphus scriptus
To 32 in. (80 cm) H
Note white throat and white spots on flanks. The most widely distributed spiral-horned antelope.

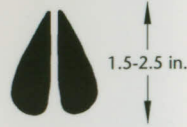


1.5-2.5 in.



Impala

Aepyceros melampus
To 40 in. (1 m) H
Note black banding on tail and rump. Widespread throughout the savanna.



1.5-2.5 in.



Grant's Gazelle

Gazella granti
To 3 ft. (90 cm) H
Prominent white rump patch is bordered in black. Common in East Africa.



1.5-2.5 in.



Thomson's Gazelle

Gazella thomsonii
To 42 in. (1.1 m) H
Note bold black stripe on flank and face. Common on East African plains.

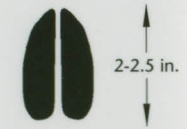


1.5-2.5 in.



Nyala

Tragelaphus angasii
To 42 in. (1.1 m) H
Male has a white chevron between its eyes, side stripes and a shaggy belly. Note yellow 'socks'.



2-2.5 in.



Common Reedbuck

Redunca arundinum
To 3 ft. (90 cm) H
Forward-curving horns are partially ridged. Found in reed beds near open water.

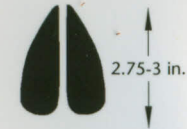


2.5 in.



Red Lechwe

Kobus leche
To 40 in. (1 m) H
Short forelegs cause body to slant forward. Always found near water, it feeds on grass and aquatic plants.



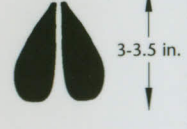
2.75-3 in.

HOOFED MAMMALS



Waterbuck

Kobus ellipsiprymnus
To 52 in. (1.3 m) H
Has a distinctive white ring around its tail. Found along rivers, marshes and in dry floodplains.



3-3.5 in.



Topi (Tsessebe)

Damaliscus lunatus
To 50 in. (1.25 m) H
Coat has a purplish sheen. Note dark patches on upper legs and face.



2.75-3.5 in.



Kudu

Tragelaphus spp.
To 56 in. (1.4 m) H
Tall, narrow-bodied antelope with 6-10 vertical side stripes. Males have long, spiralling horns.

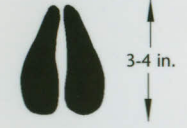


3-4 in.



Lichtenstein's Hartbeest

Alcelaphus lichtensteinii
To 4 ft. (1.2 m) H
Coat is tan and lacks black markings. Prefers woodland edges to open grasslands.



3-4 in.



Red Hartbeest

Alcelaphus buselaphus
To 4 ft. (1.2 m) H
Red-brown in color. Note dark marks on upper legs. Found in open grasslands and savanna regions.



4-4.75 in.



Blue Wildebeest (Brindled Gnu)

Connochaetes taurinus
To 5 ft. (1.5 m) H
Cow-like animal has dumpy horns. The similar black wildebeest has horns that curve upward and forward.



4-4.75 in.



Sable Antelope

Hippotragus niger
To 52 in. (1.3 m) H
Coat is brown to black. Note horns and white belly. Lives in open woodlands near water.



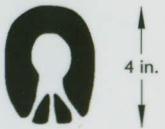
3.5-4 in.

HOOFED MAMMALS



Common Zebra

Equus burchellii
To 56 in. (1.4 m) H
One of several species of African zebra. Most species can be distinguished by the size and pattern of their stripes.



4 in.



Gemsbok (Oryx)

Oryx gazella
To 4 ft. (1.2 m) H
Both sexes have long, straight horns and black facial patches.

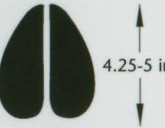


4-5 in.



Roan Antelope

Hippotragus equinus
To 56 in. (1.4 m) H
Told by black mask, white muzzle and curving, deeply ridged horns.

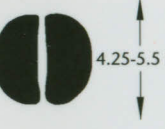


4.25-5 in.



Common Eland

Tragelaphus oryx
To 6 ft. (1.8 m) H
Large, thick-bodied antelope has prominent shoulder hump. Is independent of water and found in a variety of habitats.



4.25-5.5 in.



African Buffalo

Syncerus caffer
To 56 in. (1.4 m) H
Large cattle-like animal has prominent recurved horns.



4.75-6 in.



Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis
To 18 ft. (5.4 m) H
The tallest mammal in the world, it can reach leaves 6 m (20 ft.) high. Both males and females have short horns with rounded tips. Coat patterns vary among subspecies.



7.5-8 in.

TRACKS WITH CLAWS



African Hedgehog
Aterix albiventris
To 7 in. (18 cm)
Has coat of stiff spines. Rolls into a ball when threatened.



.75 in.



Tree Squirrel
Paraxerus cepapi
To 8 in. (20 cm)
Common on the savanna. Lives in holes in trees. One of 10 similar species.



1 in.



Striped Polecat (Zorilla)
Ictonyx striatus
To 15 in. (38 cm)
Black and white markings and bushy tail are unmistakable. When threatened, it sprays aggressors with a vile scent.



1 in.



Slender Mongoose
Herpestes sanguineus
To 12 in. (30 cm)
Tail is black-tipped. One of 24 species of African mongoose.



1 in.



Suricate (Meerkat)
Suricata suricatta
To 12 in. (30 cm)
Burrowing creature lives in large colonies in open arid areas. They often stand or sit upright.



1 in.



Bat-eared Fox
Otocyon megalotis
To 12 in. (30 cm) H
Told by huge ears and bushy, black-tipped tail. Feeds mainly on insects. The similar north African fennec fox is smaller and has a tan coat.



1.5 in.



Aardwolf
Proteles cristatus
To 20 in. (50 cm) H
Dog-like mammal feeds primarily on termites. Note long neck and side stripes.



1.5-2 in.



African Civet
Civettictis civetta
To 16 in. (40 cm) H
Cat-like nocturnal creature has a black mask and white muzzle. Feeds on insects, fruit and small animals.



1.5-2 in.

TRACKS WITH CLAWS



Black-backed Jackal
Canis mesomelas
To 16 in. (40 cm) H
Black 'saddle' is key field mark. The similar golden jackal found in northern Africa lacks a dark saddle.



2 in.



African Wild Dog (Cape Hunting Dog)
Lycan pictus
To 30 in. (75 cm) H
Blotched coat and white tail are key field marks. Lives and hunts in packs of up to 40 individuals.



2.75-3 in.



Southern African Crested Porcupine
Hystrix africae australis
To 30 in. (75 cm)
Large rodent has long coat of barbed quills that it rattles when threatened.



2.75-3.5 in.



Honey Badger (Ratel)
Mellivora capensis
To 30 in. (75 cm)
Varied diet includes bee hives and dung beetle balls (from which it extracts larvae). Is aggressive and has been known to attack humans.



3.25 in.



Striped Hyena
Hyaena hyaena
To 32 in. (80 cm) H
Note shaggy coat and prominent mane. Common throughout northern Africa.



3.5-4 in.



Spotted Hyena
Crocuta crocuta
To 32 in. (80 cm) H
Note spotted coat and sloping profile. Also called laughing hyena for its varied repertoire of calls.



4-4.75 in.



Cheetah
Acinonyx jubatus
To 32 in. (80 cm) H
Key field marks are slender profile and dark 'tear stains' under eyes. Claws are non-retractable and show clearly in tracks.



3.5-4 in.

TRACKS WITHOUT CLAWS



Large-spotted Genet
Genetta tigrina
To 22 in. (55 cm)
Cat-like animal is solely nocturnal. The similar small-spotted genet has a white-tipped tail.



1 in.



African Wildcat
Felis libyca
To 14 in. (35 cm) H
Resembles a gray domestic cat with long legs. Note dark rings on legs and tail.



1-1.5 in.



Serval
Felis serval
To 2 ft. (60 cm) H
Note long legs and large ears. Primarily nocturnal, it feeds on small animals and invertebrates.



1.5-1.75 in.



Cape Clawless Otter
Aonyx capensis
To 3 ft. (90 cm)
Aquatic mammal is found near water. Webbing between toes may be visible in soft mud.



2 in.



Caracal
Felis caracal
To 18 in. (45 cm) H
Told at a glance by its large, tasseled ears. Feeds on small to mid-sized mammals and birds.



2-2.5 in.



Leopard
Panthera pardus
To 2 ft. (60 cm) H
Thick-set cat is told by its spotted coat and long tail. A solitary, secretive species of renowned cunning.



3-4 in.



Lion
Panthera leo
To 4 ft. (1.2 m) H
The largest African cat is the only one that lives and hunts in a group (pride). Eats everything from mice to elephants.



4.75-5 in.

UNUSUAL TRACKS



Scrub Hare

Lepus saxatilis
To 2 ft. (60 cm)
Found in wooded and grassy areas with scrub cover. The similar cape hare is found in more open habitats.

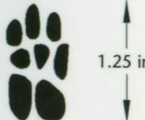


1 in.



Rock Dassie

Procavia capensis
To 2 ft. (60 cm)
Chubby, short-legged animal is found in rocky areas. Also called rock hyrax, it is one of six related African species.



1.25 in.



Springhare

Pedetes capensis
To 18 in. (45 cm)
Nocturnal creature hops about like a kangaroo. A burrowing mammal, it inhabits sandy areas and feeds on vegetation.



1-1.25 in.



Pangolin

Manis temminckii
To 2 ft. (60 cm)
Body is covered with heavy scales. Rolls into a ball when threatened. Eats primarily ants and termites.



1.5-2.75 in.

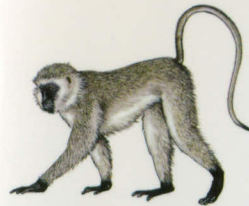


Armadillo

Oryzomys azer
To 52 in. (1.3 m)
Note elongate pig-like snout and large ears. Feeds primarily on ants and termites it digs up with its powerful claws.



3-3.5 in.



Vervet Monkey

Cercopithecus aethiops
To 20 in. (50 cm)
Note black face and long tail. Gregarious and social, it lives in troops of up to 20 individuals.



2.75-3.5 in.



Savanna Baboon

Papio cynocephalus
To 32 in. (80 cm)
Grizzled coat varies in color from olive to yellow.



6-6.25 in.

DUNG

The color, shape and consistency of dung (scat) is affected by many factors including diet, stress, age of scat and whether or not the animal is in motion as it defecates.

Dung reflects an animal's diet. Herbivore dung is fibrous and often loose. Carnivore dung is usually solid and contains hair and/or bone fragments. The following are generalized descriptions of the dung of a few common species.



Elephant

To 20 in. (30 cm)
An elephant's diet is about 80% grass and 20% shrubs, bark and seed pods. Fresh dung is olive in color and fades to yellow after about 6 hours.



Hippopotamus

To 8 in. (20 cm)
Hippo eat primarily grass. When on land they usually scatter their dung with a sideways wagging of their tail.



African Buffalo

To 12 in. (30 cm)
Similar to cow dung but darker in color. Often loose.



Giraffe

To .8 in. (2 cm)
Similar to antelope dung. As a result of falling such a long distance, pellets tend to be scattered over a broad area.



Otter

To 2 in. (5 cm)
Droppings are deposited in piles near water, and often contain fragments of crab shells or fish bones.



Black



White

Rhinoceros

To 12 in. (30 cm)
Usually defecates in communal piles and scatters pile with hind legs when finished. Black rhinos eat primarily shrubs and twigs and their dung is fibrous and woody, containing branches, wood chips and thorns. Grass-eating white rhinos have elephant-like dung that changes color from dark green to black as it ages.



Antelope & Allies

To 1.6 in. (4 cm)
Most have pellet-like dung that occurs singly or caked. In many, the dung is concave at one end and pointed at the other. Many defecate in communal dung piles that mark territorial boundaries. Dung size varies with size of species.



Zebra

To 3 in. (8 cm)
Elongate pellets are often cracked across the middle.



Wildebeest

To .8 in. (2 cm)
Pellets are found singly or in clusters.



Warthog

To 2 in. (5 cm)
Rounded pellets are green-brown in color.

DUNG



Lion/Cats

To 8 in. (20 cm)
Normally contains hair and may contain porcupine quills. When a lot of blood has been ingested, the dung is blackish and highly odorous. Other cat dung is similar, only smaller.



Fox/Dogs

To 6 in. (15 cm)
Elongate scat usually contains hair and bones of prey. Color varies from brown/olive to white. Dung size varies with size of species.



Hyena

To 6 in. (15 cm)
Dog-like droppings are green when fresh and white when dry (owing to the high bone and mineral content).



Mongoose

To 5 in. (13 cm)
Scat is usually dark and twisted and highly odorous. May be deposited in latrines near burrow entrance.



Porcupine

To 2 in. (5 cm)
Elongate pellets are often attached



Vervet Monkey

To 2 in. (5 cm)
Dung often contains fruit seeds, vegetable matter and grass.



Armadillo

To 3 in. (8 cm)
Oblong droppings are composed mostly of sand and are relatively heavy.



Baboon

To 4 in. (10 cm)
Droppings are often found concentrated beneath trees and places they roost.



Hedgehog

To .8 in. (2 cm)
Distinctive pellets are cylindrical and contain the exoskeletons of insects.



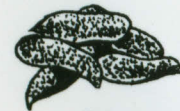
Rabbit/Hare

To .6 in. (1.5 cm)
Distinctive round scats are often found in large communal piles away from burrow entrances.



Mouse/Tree Squirrel

To .4 in. (1 cm)
Cylindrical scats are rice-like in shape and size.



Rat

To .8 in. (2 cm)
Larger versions of mouse scat.

