

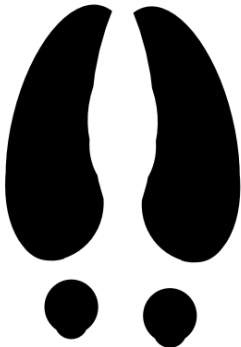
Common White-tailed Deer Sign

White-tailed deer can be found throughout Maryland. Males (bucks) typically have antlers, females (does) very rarely have antlers, and juveniles (fawns) have a spotted coat. Some white-tailed deer have color mutations which include larger patches of white on their bodies. This coloration is known as piebald.

While they aren't always visible, they leave quite a bit of sign behind in the form of tracks, scat, and other sign.



Tracks: In Maryland, white-tailed deer have distinct tracks that consist of two toes that form an upside-down heart shape. When running, the toes can be spread wide apart. The tracks can vary in appearance based on the substrate (mud, snow, sand, etc).



Rubs and Feeding: In the fall, bucks will rub their antlers on trees and shrubs that are either young or small. In the winter time, you may also view incisor scrapes where bark has been removed for food. During the growing season, deer will browse on plants. Since deer lack upper incisors, deer browsed plants will have ragged tears.



Antler Rub



Incisor Scrape w/ Scat



Browse

Common W-T Deer Sign (Cont'd)

Scat: Scat (aka droppings) are a good way to determine if white-tailed deer have been in the area. Below are some pictures of deer scat as well as common lookalikes.



Eastern Cottontail

by: Matthew Grey

Description: 0.15-0.4" in diameter. Rounded balls, often contains bits of grass and other materials.



White-tailed Deer

by: Mara Koenig, USFWS

Description: 0.2-0.5" in diameter, 0.5-1" in length. Oval in shape, usually shiny and dark when fresh. Lacks distinct pieces of food.



Black Bear

by: Cephas, CC by SA 3.0

Description: 1.2-2.5" in diameter, 5-12" in length. Varies by diet as bears are omnivores. Often contains seeds and can be amorphous.



White-tailed Deer

by: Kerry Wixted

Description: 6-9" in diameter, 8-14" in length. Varies by diet. High moisture foods like berries and apples will cause clumping. Look for pellet shapes in mass.