

How to Take Identifiable Photos of Mammals for iNaturalist.ca

Pro Tip

Mammals range greatly in size and habitat; however, most are skittish near humans. If possible, use a **digital camera** instead of a phone camera for mammal observations. You can also upload **sound recordings** to iNaturalist, such as a wolf call.

1 Attempt to get a photo of the **coat and any patterns** that may be present (eg. beaver coats range in colour from yellow-brown to black) as well as the overall **body shape**.

7 Did you know you can add multiple photos to an observation on iNaturalist? Try taking a photo of the surrounding **habitat** to help others ID your observation. For example, beavers are usually found in or near lakes and rivers.

6 Try to photograph the **tail or lack of tail**. This beaver has a characteristically flat and wide hairless tail.

5 **Scat or other physical evidence** can also help identify mammals present in the area, such as a beaver dam.

4 The shape, size and number of **claws or toes** can be an indicator of species in mammals. You can also upload photos of **tracks** to iNaturalist! Use a scale (or a hand) to help others ID your observation.

Ear shape or position are great ways to help identify mammals.



3 **Teeth** size and shape can help identify a species of mammal. If you happen to come across **bones**, there is a chance they can be identified on iNaturalist. Skulls are particularly useful in identifying mammals.



For your safety and theirs, please do not harass wildlife. Keep your distance and move on after taking a few photos. It is the law in many national and provincial parks to keep a minimum distance away from wildlife. It is also illegal to harass species-at-risk anywhere in Canada.

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For more information, please visit iNaturalist.ca/help.