

# 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.



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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](https://iNaturalist.ca/help).