Mammal Quick Guide:

**Bear, Ursus americanus**

**Color:** Primarily black, but can also be brown, blond or red. Their muzzle is brown and their chest can have a white patch.

**Size:** 47.2-78.7 Inches in length.

**Signs:** It is not uncommon to see bears around human-associated foods, such as those in trash cans, bird feeders and pet food. Tree markings from scratches, biting, and rubbing are common amongst male bears.

If you see a bear, make sure to make him aware of your presence by yelling or making a loud sound while moving away from the scene without removing your eyes from the bear.

Photo credit to [Mass Audubon](https://www.massaudubon.org) and [Lynn Smith](https://www.lynnsmithphotography.com)

**Moose, Alces alces**

**Color:** Light to dark brown.

**Size:** Up to 6 feet in length with legs that extend 3 to 4 feet. Males have antlers that can grow up to 7 feet across.

**Description:** The head of the moose is very large and resembles that of the horse, although they contain a bell, which is a unique flap of skin that dangles on their chin. Moose are most often found in the months of September and October during their mating season.

Photo credit to [Lynn Smith](https://www.lynnsmithphotography.com) and [Wiki Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org)
**Deer, Odocoileus virginianus**

*Color:* Red-brown in the summer, and gray-brown in the winter, with white on their belly and the underside of their tail.

*Size:* Up to 6 feet and a height of 3 feet at the shoulder.

*Description:* The bucks can grow antlers. The deers are mostly active during dusk.

Photo credit to [Wiki Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org) and [Lynn Smith](https://www.lynnsmith.com)

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**Coyotes, Canis latrans**

*Color:* Primarily gray or rusty.

*Size:* Males are 44.5 - 63.0 inches long while females are 43.0 - 61.8 inches long.

*Description:* Larger than red foxes and gray foxes. Coyotes tend to run with their tail down, while domestic dogs run with their tail anywhere from down to up.

Photo Credit to [Wiki Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org) and [Lynn Smith](https://www.lynnsmith.com)

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**Bobcat, Felis ruglus**

*Color:* Yellowish to reddish brown with black spots all over their body and whitish undersides.

*Size:* 28 - 47 inches in length

*Description:* Short, “bobbed” tail, face ruff, and tufted ears that are black at the top and back. Identifying sounds include scowling, snarling and spitting.

Photo credit to [Lynn Smith](https://www.lynnsmith.com) and [Wiki Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org)
Gray fox, *Urocyon cinereargenteus*

**Color:** Grizzled gray, with rusty red fur separating the gray upper body from the white underbelly, interior of the legs, and throat. They have a dark stripe that runs across their back to the tip of their tail.  
**Size:** 32.5 - 44.5 inches long.  
**Description:** Small canines with a small, pointed face and ears, as well as a long slightly-puffy grey tail with a dark stripe on top.

Photo credit to [Wiki Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/) and [Lynn Smith](http://lynnsmith.com/)

Red fox, *Vulpes vulpes*

**Color:** Red, with white underbellies, throats and a distinctive white tip of the tail, as well as black “stockings” and ears.  
**Size:** 36.8 - 43.7 inches long, and height is often around 13.8 - 15.7 inches tall at the shoulder.  
**Description:** Small canines with pointed face and ears, as well as a puffy tail that ends with a white tip.

Photo credit to [Lynn Smith](http://lynnsmith.com/) and [Wiki Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/)
**American Mink,** *Mustela vison*

*Color*: shiny dark brown or dark reddish-brown fur, possible white spots on the chin and chest.

Unlike Martens, they don’t have yellow throats.

*Size*: 18.5 - 27.6 inches long, usually smaller than otters and fishers

*Description*: Long, slender bodies, pointed noses, and small ears, along with a hairy, thin tail about one third of their body length.

Photo credit to [Wiki Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/) and [Lynn Smith](https://www.lynnsmith.com/)

**Fisher,** *martes pennanti*

*Photo credit to* [Roland Kays](https://www.rolandkays.com/) and [Mass Audubon](https://www.massaudubon.org/)

*Color*: Brown to black with gray patches of fur on their head and shoulders. Some may also have white/gray patches on their chest and lower abdomen

*Size*: 2 - 3 feet long (24 - 36 inches), about the length of a house cat.

*Description*: Long, slim body, short legs, pointed face with large, round ears and a furry tail that measures up to a third of its body length. In the winter they are mostly active during the day and in the summer they are active at nighttime.

**American Marten,** *martes americana*

Also called the Pine Marten

*Color*: Golden orange with a yellow patch on their chest/throat.

*Size*: 18 - 26 inches long

*Description*: Long and slender-bodied weasel with a flat skull, and small pointed ears with edges that are white.

Photo credit to [Wiki Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/) and [Keweenaw Bay Indian Community](https://www.keweenawbayindiancommunity.com/).
Ermine (*Mustela erminea*)

Also called **Stoat** or **Short-tailed weasel**

**Color:** In the warmer months, their coats are reddish-brown to sandy brown, with white or cream underbellies, throats, and inner legs. In the winter months, their coat transitions fully to white, cream, or even yellow.

**Size:** 7.6 - 11.6 inches long.

**Description:** Slender bodies and short legs. They have a shorter tail than the similar long-tailed weasel, being only \( \frac{1}{3} \) of its body length. The black-tip on their tail differentiates them from least weasels.

Photo credit to [Wiki Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org) and [Karen Powers](https://www.flickr.com/photos/20559689@N03)

Long-tailed weasel (*Mustela frenata*)

Photo credit to [Wiki Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org) and [Lynn Smith](https://www.flickr.com/photos/lynn.smith)

**Color:** Its summer coat is reddish-brown to sandy brown with white or cream throats and similarly colored or yellow or orange bellies and inner legs. In the winter their coat becomes white, save for the black tip of their tail that remains year round.

**Size:** 12.0 - 17.6 inches long.

**Description:** long, slender bodies and short legs. Their black-tipped tail helps to differentiate them from least weasels, while their longer tail length (at least half of their body length) and often larger size allows them to be distinguished from the ermine.
**Striped Skunk** *(Mephitis mephitis)*

**Color:** Primarily black with four white stripes running along their backs  
**Size:** 22.4 - 31.5 inches long and 7.09 - 15.4 inches tall.  
**Description:** Triangular heads, and have bushy, black tails that are commonly white tipped. They excrete a foul-smelling odor when threatened.  

Photo credit to [Wiki Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Special:FilePath/Mephitis_mephitis.jpg) and [Lynn Smith](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Special:FilePath/Mephitis_mephitis.jpg)

**Porcupine, Erethizon dorsatum**

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Erethizon_dorsatum_1.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Erethizon_dorsatum_1.jpg)  
**Color:** Brown to yellowish brown, except for their face, inner thighs, belly and the underside of the tail.  
**Size:** 23.6 - 35.43 inches  
**Description:** Porcupines are known for their quills which they use as defense to poke their predators.  
**Warning:** If a quill is embedded into the skin it is crucial to remove it as soon as possible because it can work itself into the body as time goes on and be harder to remove. The quills can cause swelling and infection.  

Photo credit to [Wiki Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Special:FilePath/Erethizon_dorsatum_1.jpg) and [Wildlife Learning Center](https://wildlifelearningcenter.org/)

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**Center**

[Image of a porcupine being fed by a person]
**Virginia Opossum, *Didelphis virginiana***

**Color:** A grizzled white color, especially on their face, and scattered black hairs all over their body with a pink nose, dark ears with pink tips and short dark legs.

**Size:** 2 - 3 feet long (24 - 36 inches) about the length of a house cat.

**Description:** Their ears, and tail, which resembles that of a rat, are hairless. Mostly active at night and reside in burrows, tree holes, hollow logs and brush piles. When they are threatened they growl, hiss and show their teeth or flee to the nearest tree for them to climb.

*Photo credit to Lynn Smith and Wiki Commons*

**Northern Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*)**

**Color:** Mostly grey to black overall, with black markings appearing like a mask on their face and black rings on their light-colored, bushy tail.

**Size:** 29.1 - 41.3 inches long.

**Description:** Characteristic black mask on a small, pointed white face and a puffy ringed-tail.

*Photo credit to Wiki Commons and Lynn Smith*
References
SOURCES


https://animaldiversity.org/site/accounts/information/Ursus_americanus.html

https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Erethizon_dorsatum/