

The Scoop On Poop!

Deer



Mule Deer and White-tailed Deer are both common in Alberta. The scat is usually oval shaped pellets, 1.5—2 cm long.

Occasionally droppings may be in soft pellets packed together in clumps.

Moose



Moose are the largest members of the deer family. The scat is usually a rounded oval pellet 4—4.5 cm long.

Often thought of as animal of northern forests, moose can be found in many habitats across Alberta excepting for dry grasslands.

Black Bear



Bear scat can be variable and confusing. It may range from large piles to tube shaped scat 3.5 cm thick.

Often piles will show evidence of berry seeds, grasses, insects or woody debris. Grizzly bear scat is similar, but larger.

Snowshoe Hare



Snowshoe hares bound across Alberta anywhere there may be forest or shrub. Scat are round pellets 1—1.2 cm.

Hares eat the green pellets they expel first to gain more nutrients from their food. The second round of pellets often look like pressed sawdust.

Coyote



Coyotes are found across Alberta. Scat is tubular, 2 cm. in diameter, twisted and often full of hair.

Coyotes prey mostly on small mammals, but may form loose packs to hunt larger prey. They are common in our urban and wild areas.

Birds



Birds expel some waste products in the form of uric acid or guanine. It is a white paste-like material.

Bird droppings contain the white paste as well as poop. The white paste waste helps birds conserve water.

Earthworm



The waste expelled by earthworms is often called “castings” we most often see this after rainy periods.

Worm castings are prized as a soil fertilizer. They can contain a range of nutrients and minerals that enrich the soil.

Deer Mouse



Mouse droppings can be hard to find in the wild. Indoors we find them as tiny pellets.

Never handle mouse scat as it may harbour Hantavirus.

Domestic Dog



Dogs are welcome in Alberta Parks, but their poop is not. Please pick up after your dog and dispose of waste properly.

Did you know there are no off leash areas in our provincial parks? Please be sure pets are leashed and under control at all times.