



# Reading the Forest

Indirect Signs of Tiger, Co-predators, and Prey Species

[www.kans.org.in](http://www.kans.org.in)



## What to look for:

- › Pugmarks, Hoofmarks
- › Scats
- › Scrapes
- › Rakes

## Where to look for Signs:

- › Forest Roads and Paths
- › Animal Trails
- › River and Nullah Beds
- › Near Water Holes
- › Trees



## CAT FAMILY

Claw-marks not visible unless on a slippery ground  
Less gap between pad and two middle toes  
Large Pads  
Scrape mark found with scat  
Scat deposited on vegetation cover



## DOG FAMILY

Claw marks visible  
Large gap between pad and two middle toes  
Small Pads  
Scrape mark not found with scat  
Scat deposited on bare ground





## Tiger and Leopard





## TIGER PUGMARK

Large pad and toes  
More distance between toes  
Notches are not clearly visible  
Widely splayed



## LEOPARD PUGMARK

Small pad and toes  
Less distance between toes  
Notches are clearly visible  
Narrow





## TIGER SCAT

Large size and diameter  
Less coiled  
Larger distance between constrictions  
Terminal end doesn't have hooked tip



## LEOPARD SCAT

Smaller size and diameter  
More coiled  
Smaller distance between constrictions  
Terminal end has hooked tip





## TIGER SCRAPE

Larger width  
Deep and thick impressions of claw  
marks visible on the soil



## LEOPARD SCRAPE

Smaller width  
Deep and thick impressions of claw  
marks NOT visible on the soil





## TIGER RAKE

Deep and long rake marks on trees



## LEOPARD RAKE

Shorter rake marks that are not very deep





## TIGER KILL

Feeds from the rump region



## LEOPARD KILL

Feeds from any part of the body  
May drag the kill up trees



**KENNETH  
ANDERSON**



**NATURE SOCIETY**

**Hyena**



**Dhole**



**Jackal**



**Fox**



**Wolf**





Hyena



Dhole



Jackal

Hyena - Curved toes (characteristic feature). Absent in dhole and jackal

Gap present between pad and two middle toes in dhole and jackal except hyena

Hyena pugmark larger than dhole and jackal

Jackal - No significant gap between toes compared to dhole



Hyena – Characteristically whitish due to presence of large amount of bones, ball shaped

Dhole – Elongated and twisted in appearance, usually a group of scats deposited on junction and wheel track.

Jackal – Smaller in diameter than dhole and hyena

Hyena and jackal scat not found in groups



Sloth Bear



KENNETH  
ANDERSON

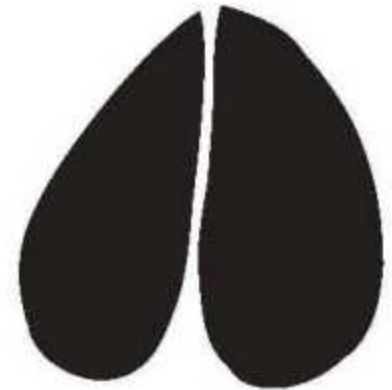


NATURE SOCIETY

## Chital



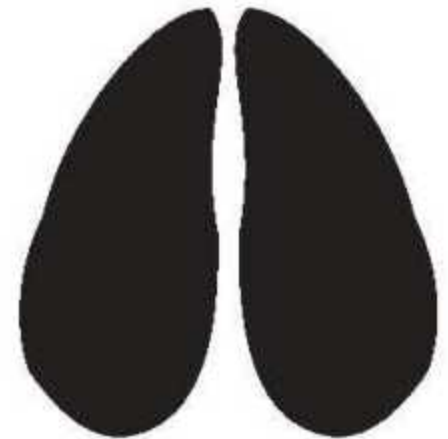
Front Foot



## Sambar



Front Foot



**KENNETH  
ANDERSON**



**NATURE SOCIETY**

**Mouse Deer**



**Barking Deer**

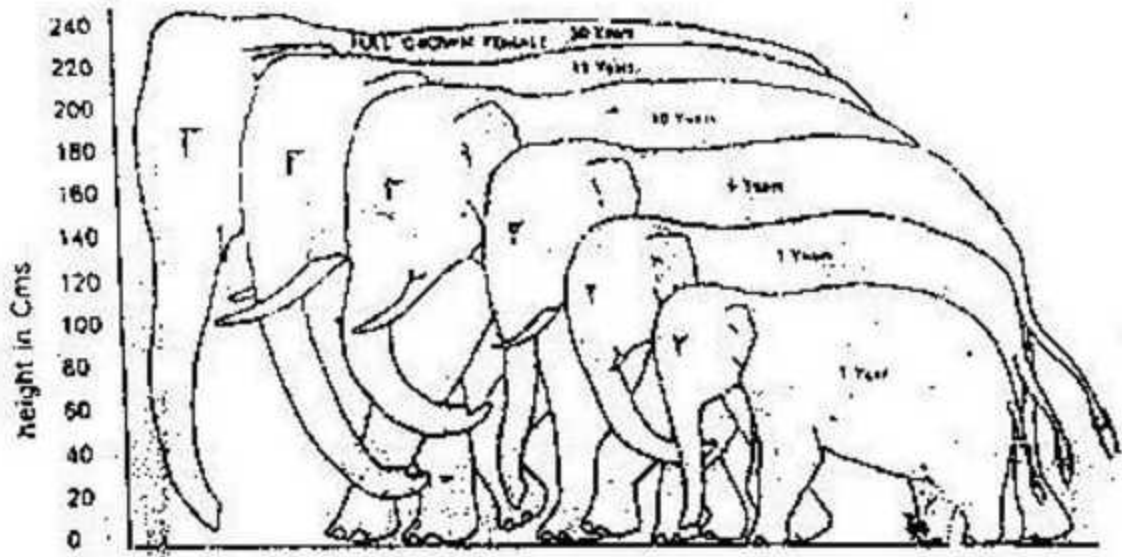


**Four Horned Antelope**

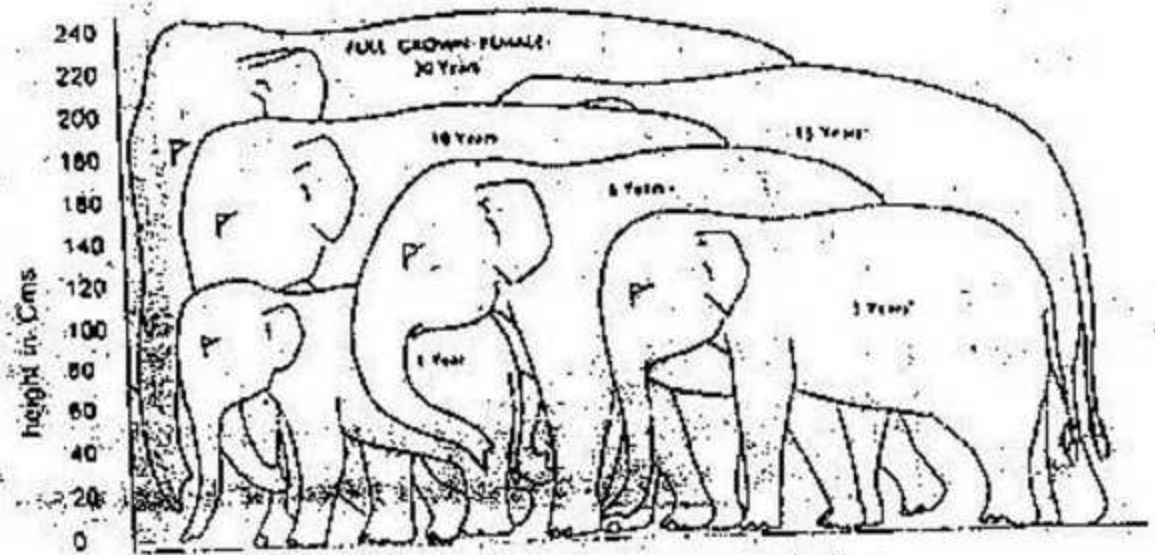


**Gaur**





field key for ageing young male elephants



field key for ageing young female elephants

Height (Cm)	Weight (kg)	Tusks in male
-------------	-------------	---------------

# Common langur

**KENNETH  
ANDERSON**



**NATURE SOCIETY**

# Bonnet macaque



# Wild Boar

**KENNETH  
ANDERSON**



**NATURE SOCIETY**

# Porcupine

