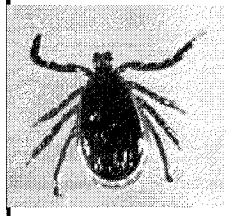
Toby Tick wants you to know:

Several species of us live around here. We like to stay in grasses and weeds or on leaves in the woods. We particularly love the thick Virginia pines and honeysuckle found around Philpott. We are parasites and will rub off onto your clothing or skin when you pass by. We will attach to your flesh and drink your blood. We may transmit serious diseases to you, like Rocky Mountain spotted fever or Lyme disease. We don't like insect spray that contains Deet and we hate light colored clothing. If you go into the woods or weeds, you should carefully examine yourself to make sure we haven't burrowed in. If we bite you, you should properly treat the bite.



EMERGENCY & USEFUL NUMBERS:

Dial 911 for Game Warden
and Animal Control

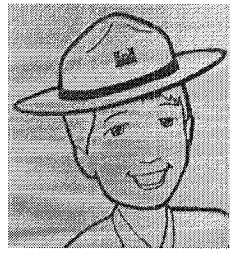
Henry Co-Martinsville Health Dept.
(276) 638-2311

Patrick County Health Department
(276) 694-3188

Franklin County Health Department
(540) 484 0292

To report wildlife violations call
1-800-237-5712

Ranger Dan remarks:



Wow! It seems like we have some very smart animals in the park. In addition to the ones we heard from, many other species of animals abound in the Philpott area. The list includes different kinds of snakes and reptiles, bobcats, groundhogs, coyotes, bats, skunks, rabbits, opossums, muskrats, beavers, chipmunks, squirrels, birds of many species, small rodents, mink, insects, and spiders. All can be potentially harmful by biting, stinging, pecking, or scratching. We encourage everyone to enjoy our wealth of wildlife, but, do so from a distance and use common sense. Don't ever feed, attract or attempt to touch these animals. Remember, there's a reason why our animals are referred to as WILD-life.

Philpott Lake
Visitor Assistance Center
1058 Philpott Dam Road
Bassett, VA 24055

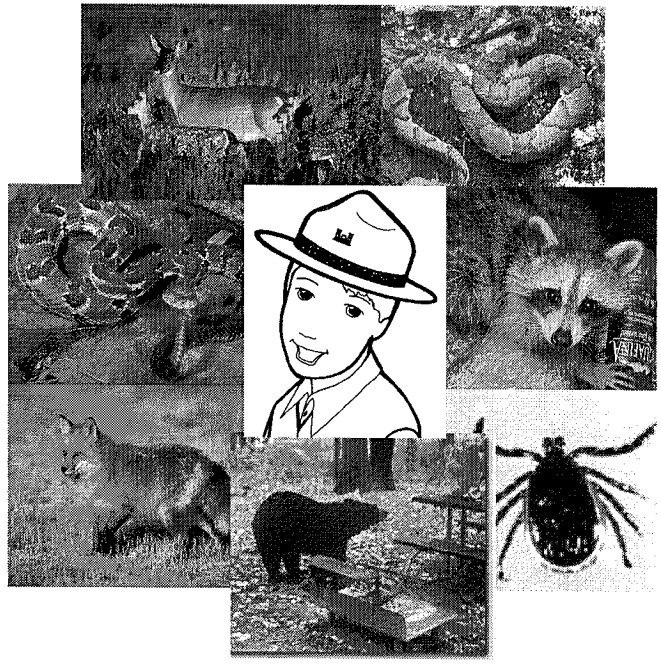
Telephone: (276)629-2703
Fax: (276)629-3493
E-mail: philpott@usace.army.mil
Website: www.saw.usace.army.mil/philpott/index.htm
www.CorpsLakes.us

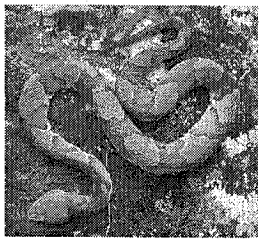
US Army Corps of Engineers ®
Wilmington District

Constructive CRITTER-cisms

From the Animals of Philpott Lake

(and the Rangers too!)

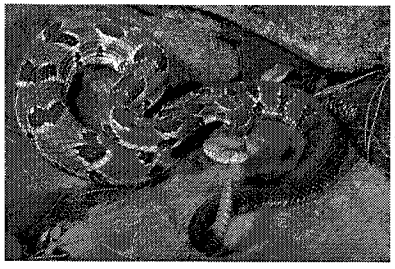




Connie Copperhead warns:

I am a master of camouflage. My hourglass patterns enable me to hide unseen in many types of cover. I love to hunt where mice and other small rodents live. This may be in tall grass, around a wood pile, around rocks, or around brush and logs. If you go on trails or into the woods, you better wear your boots and be alert, because you may walk too close and frighten me and cause me to bite you. If I bite you, seek medical attention immediately .

Teddy Timberrattler cautions:



Like my friend the copperhead, I too am a master of camouflage and hang out in many of the same places. I love to lay beside of logs and wait to bite my next meal. Some people say I always rattle to warn my victim before I bite. But that's not true. I may strike, lightning fast, and inflict a very serious, painful bite with no warning. My venom is strong and can be fatal. If you cause me to bite you, go to the hospital as soon as you can. If you attract mice or small rodents to your campsite by throwing out food scraps, I may show up there too.

Ben Bear says:

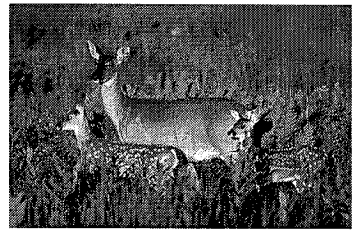
I'm the biggest animal in this neck of the woods, but I'm not a bully. However, if you leave your food out, I'll come by for an easy meal. I'm always hungry, so I may tear into your tent or camper, if I smell food. If I keep stealing food, the rangers may need to have me trapped and sent away, or even worse—destroyed. You should never feed me because I'll just keep coming back for more and more. Enjoy seeing me when I cross the road or swim the lake, but remember, a fed bear is a dead bear.

Randy Raccoon asks:

Why do you think I wear this mask? Because I'm a bandit. I love to come out at night and raid your campsite. I'm very smart and my paws are just like your hands. I can open containers and coolers and I love human food. I'm usually healthy, but sometimes my species gets rabies. When we have rabies we are very dangerous and can attack humans and other animals. If I seem too friendly or too aggressive and you see me in the daytime, tell a ranger. Stay away from me. And if you don't want me raiding your campsite, put your food away.

Freida Fox says:

My color is red. But my cousins may be gray. I seldom come out in the daytime, so you may never see me. Like my friend the raccoon, I can also get rabies. I'm a canine, like a dog, but don't try to pet me. I really don't like people very much. No offense, I hope. If you see me hanging around in the daytime, tell a ranger. I may be sick. Don't throw your table scraps on the ground because you may attract me to your campsite.

Debbie Deer urges:

You'll see me just about everywhere. I love to browse on tender leaves and grass. I slip around your campsite at night and I love to swim across the lake. Because humans have built roads through my home, I must cross from one side to the other to get the three things I must have to live: food, water and cover. Please watch for me crossing the road or swimming in the lake. Thousands of my friends are killed by vehicles every year. Obey speed limits. And PLEASE, don't bother my fawns if you should find one. I may attack you with my razor sharp hooves and hurt you. I'm just protecting my young.