



SEPTEMBER 5, 2022

# **HENRY CO VIRGINIA INVESTIGATION**

# North American Dogman Project (VA Chapter) Preliminary Investigation

By  
Ricardo Atristain, Steven Woods, & Bobbie Atristain

**Virginia Case Number:** VA20220826-01

**Date:** September 5, 2022

**Location:** Henry County, Virginia

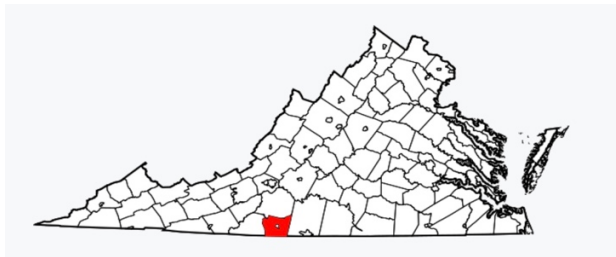
**Investigator(s):** Rick Atristain, Steven Woods

**Status:** Inconclusive

**Files:** [Witness Howling Clip](#) | [VA NADP Howling Clip](#)

## Background:

On August 23, 2022, VANADP received a report of unusual “screams/ howls” coming from a rural residence in Henry County, just outside of Martinsville, Virginia. The witness submitted a short video featuring a wooded hilltop accompanied by strange “screams/ howls” that seemed to emanate from the hilltop itself. The video was short in duration but, according to the witness, lasted for ten to fifteen minutes.



Location of Henry County, Virginia

I was able to contact the property owner and interview him later that same day. He was at home in his detached workshop when he heard a series “screams/ howls”. He exited the workshop and made the determination that these sounds were coming from an adjacent, wooded hilltop about two to three hundred yards distant. His wife then decided to record a small portion of the sounds with her smart phone and post it on her Facebook page. She was asking if anyone could identify the animal. The property owner subsequently agreed to an interview and investigation of the property.

On August 26, 2022, Steven Woods and I visited the owner at his home. He was interviewed, and we conducted a brief investigation of the property. The homeowner appeared to be forthright and honest. According to him, they've lived on the property for approximately twenty years and never heard these animal sounds in the past. He said they've had brief encounters with deer, coyotes, and bears over the years. He searched the internet for various types of animal sounds and believes the sounds probably came from a bobcat but couldn't be certain. Being the property in question belongs to his neighbor, we obtained permission to investigate a portion of the property and a creek at the base of this hilltop.

1

**Investigation:**

We searched both sides of the creek, creek bed and a game trail that ran along it. We found a "circular" print in the bed itself and a strange print along the game trail. We couldn't properly cast the print in the creek bed because of the water. However, we were able to cast the print on the game trail. This print wasn't well defined, but it did seem to possess "pads" and a strange indentation at the rear. Both prints were documented by photos.



View of Creek Bed



Print in the Creek Bed with Scale

2



Print on the Game Trail with Scale



Print Cast



Cast with limited definition

3

We also found a deer carcass along the same creek bed. It appeared to have been there about a week and showed signs of predation. The property owner said he also found a second deer carcass up the hill on the opposite side of his property. It also appeared to have been there a week. From what we could determine, the carcass along the creek appeared to be that of a healthy deer. We documented the carcass along the creek with photos.

We concluded our investigation by thanking the property owner for his cooperation and asking him to notify us if they experienced any additional activity.



Deer Carcass (head)



Deer Carcass (body)

Since our initial investigation, Steven Woods was able to interview additional residents in the area; to include a person who had a strange “UFO” sighting. As part of this record, I’m including his report of the interview with one of these residents:

*“After speaking with my friend, who lives a half mile from our investigation site. He offered up his own strange occurrences. During the last big snow, he noticed tracks coming out of his back yard in the wood line approximately 130 yards from his house, around two different buildings, continuing through*

*his yard and across the road. There are no houses or buildings behind his house, just wilderness. He noted that the tracks appeared to be odd. This is rural area. He's seen lots of wildlife including bear, deer, coyote, fox, bobcat, and others and their tracks. These tracks appeared to be different. So different in fact that he decided to investigate them. He went and got his wife and the two decided to investigate. After getting his tape measure, the tracks appeared to be ten to twelve inches long by five to six inches wide with a roughly thirty-six-inch stride. He followed the tracks in the snow from the wood line to the road. However, he did not cross the road to see where they went as that was not his property. He stated a snowplow had been down that road and cleared the remainder of tracks. He did note that it the tracks were one in front of the other like a person walks.*

*A few months after this incident (spring or summer), he was standing on his back porch, looking down into his back yard and began to hear a continuous, loud growling, grunting noise. This was neither a bear nor deer. The sound kept getting closer and closer and seemed to be coming toward him at a tremendous speed. He didn't want to see what it was as it cleared the top of the ridge, so he reached inside the door, grabbed his shotgun, made sure there was a shell in the chamber and stepped back outside. Upon stepping back to his porch, the loud growling immediately stopped as if it knew he had a shotgun. He said the strange tracks and this incident makes him think there's something strange in his area."*

Incidentally, Steven was also able to record some unusual animal sounds at the Blue Ridge Regional Airport on or about August 1, 2022. The airport is approximately eighteen to twenty miles from the witness' property.

Currently, we are classifying these accounts as "**Inconclusive**" due to the current lack of sufficient evidence. However, we will monitor this area for additional activity. In the future, we may plan some type of excursion into this area in order to develop some additional information/ evidence. Links to both the airport and witness' recordings will be linked below.

All witness information will be kept **confidential** by VA-NADP but will remain available for future investigative efforts.