

Who's that cryptid?  
**Shortnose Sturgeon**



 *Acipenser brevirostrum* Length: 5-9 ft Weight: 27kg

**Ancient Fish**

Shortnose Sturgeon have been in the bay for at least 70 million years. These toothless fish suck in their food and digest it in an organ similar to a gizzard.

In the 1800s their meat and caviar was highly sought. Sadly these days Shortnose Sturgeons are threatened by habitat loss

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Cryptid Species  
Chessie



*Chesapus americanus* Length: 9-15 ft Weight: 21.7kg

### Brackish Beast

Reported as a massive, snake-like creature, often seen arching its back or reaching out a flipper from the Chesapeake Bay waters. It is most likely a very large fish like a sturgeon, a wandering manatee, or another marine mammal.

Legend originated in 1936 from a helicopter fly over. Chessie is also now an environmental icon!

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Mangy Fox



*Vulpes vulpes* Length: 500-700cm Weight: 2-4kg

### Sarcoptic Mange

Sarcoptic Mange is an infestation of mites on the animal's skin, which causes hair loss and severe irritation to the skin of the fox and crusting at the site of hair loss.

Foxes infected with sarcoptic mange will usually look skinny and have bald patches. It is easy to see why someone assume it is a completely different creature .

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Cryptid Species  
Chupacabra



*Suctus capraens* Length: 500-700cm Weight: 2-4kg

### Goat Sucker

Chupacabra literally means goat sucker and the name originated in Puerto Rico when an individual allegedly found goats and chickens with their blood sucked out.

Most likely a canine species infected with mange, a mammalian skin disease caused by a mite. Rabies could be responsible for explaining reports of odd behavior.

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**Who's that cryptid?  
Jumping Coyote**



*Canis latrans* Length: 256-834cm Weight: 3-5kg

**Pounce**

Sometimes coyotes stand on their hind legs to appear larger, other times they pounce on small prey or while play fighting with litter mates. Either way sightings on them on their hind legs have prompted skeptics to think they have seen a cryptid.

Coyotes did not appear in Maryland until the early 1970s and without wolves around, are one of a few species that have thrived with urban development and human population increase.

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**Cryptid Species  
Dewayo**



*Canis ercryptus* Length: 256-834cm Weight: 3-5kg

**Bipedal Stance**

Most likely a coyote exhibiting defensive behavior. This can include “raised hackles” and rearing up on hind legs to appear larger or get a better view of surroundings.

Legend originated in 1940s in Frederick County . Apparently the Dewayo is the mortal enemy of the Snallygaster and apparently has some similarities with the Hexenwolf.

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**Cryptid Species**  
**Goatman**



 *Caprus sapiens* Length: 195 cm Weight: 90 kg

**Weregoat**

A local legend, some variations say he was once a scientist at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center who was the victim of his own backfiring experiment and turned into something resembling a were-goat, half man and half goat.

Most likely just a shaggy human who behaves badly, but could be an injured deer with piebaldism or a skin disease such as mange, lice, or a bacterial infection.

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Who's that cryptid?  
Piebald Deer



Poliosis & leukoderma Length: 195 cm Weight: 90kg

### Piebaldism

Piebaldism refers to the absence of mature melanin-forming cells in certain areas of the skin and hair and has been documented to occur in humans and other mammals. The condition is very common in mice, rabbits, dogs, goats, and deer.

Less than 2% of white-tailed deer are piebald but with around 200,000-250,000 deer in Maryland that means there might be around 4-5 thousand piebald deer here.

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Who's that cryptid?  
Great Blue Heron



 *Ardea herodias* Length:115–138 cm Weight: 2.4 kg

**Opportunity**

Great Blue Herons in the northeastern U.S. and southern Canada have benefited from the recovery of beaver populations, which have created a patchwork of swamps and meadows well-suited to foraging and nesting.

Thanks to specially shaped neck vertebrae, Great Blue Herons can quickly strike prey at a distance. They also have a white variant only found in the south of Florida, the Yucatan peninsula and the Caribbean called the Great White Heron.

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**Cryptid Species  
Snallygaster**



*Chimera americana* Length: 40-70cm Weight: 1 kg

**Alarming Squawk**

Dragon-like, half-reptile, half-bird with sharp teeth and claws, large wings, and sometimes one eye or tentacles. Most likely a great blue heron, stork, crane, or other large bird, possibly with prey in its beak.

Hérons are known to produce a variety of very loud, alarming sounds when disturbed.

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**Who's that cryptid**  
**Deer (Multi-species)**



 Image Above: (Fallow Deer) Length: 2-5 ft Weight: 250lbs

**Bipedal Stance**

Many species of deer can stand on their hind legs to fend off attackers and also to reach tree leaves that are too high to reach while on all fours.

There have been sightings in Maryland of white-tailed deer reaching for higher leaves and standing on their back legs. There are 200,000 to 250,000 white-tailed deer in Maryland.

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**Cryptid Species  
Wendigo**



*Wendingus americanus* Length: 2 m Weight: 100 kg

**Shapeshift**

Wendigos would have the ability to shapeshift into human form according to the lore, being able to transform other living beings!

Legend dates back to the folklore of Indigenous peoples living in Maryland at a time when elk were still present (before the late 1800s). Elk and deer will often stand on their hind legs and use their front legs to push higher on a tree and reach tasty leaves.

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