

A Brief Field Guide To The Leeds Devil (*Diabolos caesariensis*)

Size:

Highly variable. Generally described as about the size of a full-grown German shepherd. Possibly the height (standing on hind legs) of a large man. Tracks in snow, running under fences, have indicated the creature can *shrink to a miniature form at will*.

General Appearance:

Highly variable. Most eyewitnesses have described the beast as *a conglomerate of several animals*. The head is similar to that of a horse or goat, with horns or sometimes deer-like antlers. Body is described as *kangaroo-like*, though the forelegs are armed with claws, and the hind feet take the shape of either deer or pony hooves. Note, especially, *large bat-like wings*. The *tail* is long, and either forked or pointed. Entire body usually covered with substantial *dark hair*, though some sightings indicate *alligator-like skin* covering the torso. The eyes possess a *bright, greenish-yellow glow*.

Sounds/Calls:

Highly variable. Voice frequently described as a *loud shriek*. Also likened to the noise (perhaps only in volume) of a *factory whistle*. Some observers indicate the call begins as a high, scratchy sound and ends as a *low, raspy whisper*. Also described as “*a combination of the hoot of an owl and the snarl of a hyena.*”

Other sounds include: the *stamping of hooves* on rooftops; a *low hiss*; the noise of the wings as the creature takes flight (“*like the sound of a buzz saw when it hits a rotten place in the wood*”); has been known to *shake the back doors of dwellings* as if trying to enter.

Habits:

Highly variable. Usually *nocturnal*. Seldom seen. Apparently shows itself deliberately on random occasions for reasons unknown. Anecdotal evidence indicates an ability to *fly great distances*, but may also *run quickly on hind legs* when approached. Has often been observed *cavorting on rooftops*. Lurks in dark places. Peeks in at windows. *Breathes fire* in self-defense. Scant evidence of minor attacks on humans. Some physical evidence suggests unprovoked, indiscriminate attacks on backyard pets and livestock.

Foods:

Will take *live chickens*, when available, but has a decided preference for *fish that it retrieves after breathing hot breath on water surface*. May randomly feast on cats, dogs, and whatever it can *scrounge from trash cans*.