

Bobcat

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Lynx rufus

Bobcat

This medium-sized cat weighs between 12 and 29 pounds. The bobcat has a small bob-like tail as its name says and a small head for its long legs. The bobcat has ear tufts with white spots on the back. It lives in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The bobcat's terrain includes forests, scrub lands and desert brush.

The bobcat uses cover to stalk its prey, such as deer, hare and rodents. Bobcats use scent marking to communicate with other bobcats. During mating season, females' caterwauls can be heard as far as a mile away. Bobcats also have other calls such as yowls, snorts, chattering, gurgles, hisses and spits. The bobcat is part of some Native American belief systems, representing the hunting animal of the South and is used to assist Native Americans in their hunts. Ancient rock carvings of bobcats, as well as small rock carved bobcat figures known as "fetishes" have been found in the southwestern United States.

With the banning of furs from other wildcats, bobcats have become a huge target for hunters. Hunting bobcats is legal still in most places and in 1987 it was estimated that 90,000 to 100,000 bobcats were hunted in the United States and Canada.

Click here to learn more about the bobcat and how you can help its conservation.
Wildcats Article

<< Back to