

Iberian Lynx

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Lynx pardinus

Iberian Lynx

With only 100 Iberian lynx cats living in Spain and Portugal, this small wildcat could be extinct in less than five years. The Iberian lynx would be the first cat species to become extinct since the saber-toothed tiger, 10,000 years ago. The Iberian lynx weighs 22 to 36 pounds. Its main threats in the wild have been hunters seeking trophies and landowners trying to protect their game. Also, the Iberian lynx's main prey — rabbits — has contracted deadly diseases in the recent past, which decimated lynx populations. Housing and road development are also threats because they separate the cat's territory and break up its populations. Major efforts are under way to save the species.

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