



Bobcat

(*Felis rufus*)

Order: Carnivora Family: Felidae

SIZE: Weight, 20-40 lbs.; length, 30-36 inches. Males larger than females.

DESCRIPTION: Tawny with black spots. Short, stubby tail with 2-3 black bars and black tip above, and white on the underside. Ears slightly tufted. Retractable claws allow it to hunt silently and maintain sharp claws.

LOCOMOTION: When stalking prey, it will slink along the ground on its belly, almost touching the ground and then pounce. Capable of speed, but tires quickly. Expert tree climbers. When walking, the bobcat tends to place hind feet in the tracks of the front feet.

COMMUNICATION: Generally a silent animal, but will growl or scream when threatened. Male bobcats yowl most often during breeding season. Communicate moods through expressive body positions, using tail, ears, facial expressions, and body positions.

HABITS: Found in rocky terrain, dense underbrush, open deserts, broken forests. Bobcats are solitary animals except during mating season. They are nocturnal, but will also hunt during the day. Very shy and extremely elusive. Female is territorial. Will use urine, scent from anal glands and feces to signal "no trespassing" signs on the boundaries of their home ranges. Powerful fighters.

DIET: Rabbits, rodents, birds, squirrels, small deer and sheep. Will travel up to 20 miles per night for hunting.

RANGE: Throughout the United States, Southwestern Canada, to Southern Mexico.

FAMILY LIFE: One to four kittens are born late April, early May after a gestation period of 60-63 days. Males play no part in the upbringing. He is driven away from the den by the mother. Kittens are weaned after about 2 months and will stay with the mother for 9 months to one year.

NESTING: Make homes in caves, cavities deep in the rocks, hollow logs, or other protected place.

ENEMIES: Man continues to hunt and trap them for their beautiful pelts. Occasionally killed by mountain lions. Kittens may be taken by mountain lions or coyotes.

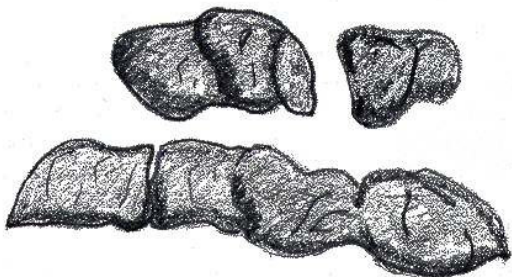
DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

- The six inch tail with white underneath acts as a "follow me" signal for young kittens when it is raised.
- In the wild, bobcats may live 10-15 years; in captivity perhaps 25 years.
- The bobcat gets its name from its stubby or "bobbed" tail.

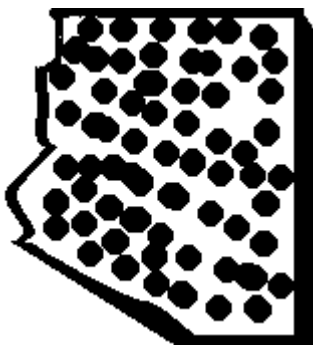
Track

Large round print, no claws showing, 4 toes.

About twice the size of a house cat.



Scat



Range

Throughout the United States, Southwestern Canada, to Southern Mexico.