

BIG CATS: BOBCATS



WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BOBCAT

Bobcat habitat varies widely and the cats can thrive on many landscapes: semi-deserts, brush lands, mountainous areas, and forests. A habitat rich with vegetation and prey is ideal, making our dense temperate rainforest the perfect habitat for this shy cat.

Bobcats will make their main den in caves, hollow logs, or fallen trees. Brush piles, stumps, and rock ledges make good, less visited shelter dens. Solitary and territorial, female bobcats will never share their territory. Male territories, which are much bigger, may overlap. Bobcats aren't at the top of the food chain and need to evade predators such as cougars, coyotes, and owls.

Conflicts between bobcats, humans, and domestic pets are extremely rare.

IF YOU MEET A BOBCAT

Be loud. Clap your hands

If possible throw water at the cat. Let it know it isn't welcome

Back away slowly



WHAT BOBCATS EAT

The most common wildcat, the bobcat, is named after its short, bobbed tail. An average of 25 pounds, bobcats are roughly twice the size of domestic cats. Stealthy, patient hunters, bobcats can kill prey much bigger than themselves. However, their diet generally consists of insects, bats, mice, rats, birds, squirrels, and other small game.

Elusive and mostly nocturnal, bobcats are rarely seen. Yet, like all wild animals trying to survive, their search for food can sometimes bring them into urban areas. Make sure they don't find a food reward that will encourage them to stay.

- Feed your pets inside
- Take down birdfeeders. Bird seed can attract rats, which in turn, can attract bobcats and other predators that prey on the rodents
- Pick fallen fruit
- Use electric fencing if you keep livestock such as chickens
- Keep cats and small unattended dogs inside, especially at night, although attacks on pets are rare



Bobcats mate in late winter and produce 1-6 kittens in early spring. A female bobcat is solely responsible for raising her young. Bobcat kittens are first taught to hunt at around 5 months old. When the kittens are between 8-11 months old, they leave their mother and are forced to find their own territory.