

BOBCATS



THE NORTH SHORE IS BOBCAT COUNTRY

Bobcat habitat varies widely, and the solitary cats can thrive on many landscapes: semi-deserts, brush lands, mountainous areas, and forests. A habitat rich in prey and vegetation for cover is ideal, making our dense temperate rainforest the perfect habitat for Canada's smallest wild cat.

Bobcats will make their main den in caves, hollow logs, or fallen trees. Brush piles, stumps, and rock ledges make good, less visited dens. Solitary and territorial, bobcats are active throughout all seasons. Their average lifespan in the wild is 10-12 years. Bobcats are not apex predators and need to evade predators such as cougars, coyotes, and birds of prey.

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

IF YOU MEET A BOBCAT IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Be loud. Clap your hands

Use a loud firm voice

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

IF A BOBCAT APPROACHES YOU

Be loud

Make yourself look big

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, rabbits, snowshoe hares, deer and occasionally outdoor cats.

Elusive and predominantly 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 in the community where they are at risk of being killed by cars.

- Feed your pets inside
- Take down birdfeeders and never scatter seed. Bird seed can attract rats, which in turn, can attract bobcats and other predators that prey on the rodents
- Pick fallen fruit, as that encourages rodents
- Use electric fencing if you keep livestock such as chickens
- Keep cats and small unattended dogs inside, especially at night, although attacks on dogs are extremely unlikely



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.