

Bobcat

Lynx rufus



Range: Canada to central Mexico

Size: ♂: 60-100 cm (23-39 in)

♀: 50-90 cm (19-35 in)

Weight: ♂ 4.5-18 kg (9.9-40 lbs)

♀: 3.6-15.7 kg (7.9- 34.5 lb)

Tail: 17 cm (6.7 in)

Habitat: swamp, boreal forest,
Grassland, urban

Estrus cycle: 44 days

Estrus length: 5- 10 days

Gestation: 57-65 days

Litter: 2-3

Weaning : 12 weeks

Sexual maturity: 9-24 months

Social: solitary and polygynous

Circadian: crepuscular

Food: small mammals mainly
rabbits and rodents

IUCN: least concern

Subspecies : 12

Longevity: captive: 30 wild: 12-13

Order: Carnivora Family: Felidae

A highly adaptable cat, the bobcat is common throughout the United States. It is a small cat about twice the size of a house cat and is named for its short bobbed tail. The bobcat is dependent on cover for both hunting and protection. An ambush predator it feeds on a variety of small animals however a large population of either rabbits or rodents are essential to sustain the bobcat. In the northern part of its range the bobcat has been recorded killing and feeding on deer. Although a good climber bobcats spend most of their time on the ground.

The fur trade along with habitat loss are the major threat to the bobcat. At this time the population appears stable but hunting must be monitored to avoid over exploitation.