



## SOME FACTS ABOUT BOBCATS

### **APPEARANCE**

Bobcats are the size of a medium dog with fur varying from buff to reddish color. Occasionally mistaken for mountain lions, the bobcat has a short tail (six to seven inches long) with a black end, tipped with white and tall ears with short tufts of hair. The males weight approximately 25 pounds. Females weigh approximately 15-20 pounds.

### **HABITAT**

Bobcats have adapted to a wide variety of habitats. They do well in small-forested areas, and open grasslands, as well as brush land, as long as cover is available.

### **DIET**

Bobcats are opportunistic carnivores. The general preference for prey falls in the range of rabbits up to raccoons. Where an abundance of rabbits occur the best feeding conditions for bobcats exist.

### **BEHAVIOR**

Bobcats do not cause any public health or safety problems for humans. They can be an important, perhaps even critical, part of the balance of nature, even in areas that are densely settled by people. Their almost exclusively carnivorous habits and their preference for rabbits and rodents as prey means that they can help control the populations of these animals. Bobcats tend to be active during the evening and early morning hours. However during the spring and summer months you may see mom and her cubs out during the daylight hours. As the cubs get older they are often seen out playing together, however mom is near by keeping an eye on her young.

### **DETERRENTS**

- Control food sources in your yard: don't leave pet food outside, limit the use of birdseed because bobcats are attracted to the animals that feed there.
- Keep your yard trimmed and clear of excess brush with woodpiles that may serve as housing for predators or prey.
- Outdoor lights, and noise can be used in yards to deter predators.
- Keep trash in sturdy containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Don't leave food or water out for any wildlife.
- Don't allow pets to run loose at anytime.
- Make a lot of noise: clap your hands, yell, bang pots and pans together, make yourself look as big as possible. Never turn your back and run from the animal.
- Never try to pet any wild animal.



### **BOBCAT PRINTS**

