



# Bobcat

## *Lynx rufus*



**Description:** The bobcat is a stout-bodied, medium-sized feline, with a short "bobbed" tail, a prominent face ruff and tufts of black hair on its pointed ears. The sides and flanks are usually yellowish-brown or reddish-brown with distinct or faint black spots. The under parts are white. The back is



often tawny-colored with a dark middorsal line. The tail may have one to several indistinct dark bands and a tip that is black on top and whitish below.



**Geographic Range/Habitat:** The bobcat primarily occurs in scrub country and broken forests but adapts to swamps, farmlands and arid lands if they are rocky or brushy. They are spottily distributed from coast to coast throughout North America. The bobcat dens in rock crevices, hollow logs and thick brush.

**Behavior:** Bobcats are mostly nocturnal active just after dusk and before dawn. They are secretive, solitary and seldom observed tending to hunt and travel in areas of thick cover. Bobcats rely on their keen eyesight and hearing for locating enemies and prey. Their sense of smell is not acute. They are very patient and ambush their prey. They can leap up to 10 feet to catch an animal. It ranges usually within a two mile radius, but may wander as far as 25 to 50 miles. Like the mountain lion, it mates briefly and the females raise the cubs alone. The cubs leave their mother within a year to live on their own. Bobcats live 10 to 12 years.



**Diet:** Mostly rabbits, wood rats, squirrels and mice but will also eat birds, reptiles and amphibians

**Status:** Common

**Amarillo**  
**ZOO**