



LYNX

(*Lynx canadensis*)

Cat Family/Carnivore



The Canadian lynx is a solitary and territorial cat found in the northern United States, Canada and Alaska. Because it is secretive and mostly active at night, it is rarely seen. They may stalk a person for hours, but are not known to attack. After breeding, the male lynx leaves the female.



Newborns weigh about 280 grams and are 25 cm in length. Born with a spotted fur coat, these spots disappear as they get older. Newborns open their eyes by 10 days of age and are **weaned** at 2 months. At about three months of age, the female begins teaching the young to capture mice.

Once their hunting skills improve, they will prey mainly on snowshoe hares. **Kits** leave the female between 6 to 9 months of age.

Special features: Lynx have a sturdy body, long, muscular legs and large feet with furry footpads that keep their feet warm and act like snowshoes on deep snow. Their black-tipped tail is very short, their large ears are triangular and they have long tufts of hair on the ear tips and cheeks. Their **mottled** tawny-grey coat is much shorter in summer than the winter coat.

The lynx stands taller at the shoulder than its relative the bobcat and has longer ear tufts, larger feet and a tail with a full black tip. The weight of an adult lynx averages 7.7 kg, and may range from 5.0 to 15.9 kg. They are between 90 to 110 cm in length.

Lynx are powerful fighters, excellent climbers and good swimmers but are not fast runners except for short distances. They have excellent sight and hearing.

Food: Snowshoe hare. Sometimes birds, rodents, squirrels, rabbits, skunks, porcupines, eggs and fish, weakened deer and other large **ungulates, carrion.**



Each lynx can eat up to 170 snowshoe hares in one year. Their survival depends on a good supply for them to hunt.

Denning: Dens are made under rock ledges, fallen trees or underbrush piles or in hollow logs or rock crevasses.

Predators: Wolverines, other lynx, cougars, wolves and coyotes. **Kits** also preyed on by large owls.

LYNX

(*Lynx canadensis*)

Cat Family/Carnivore

Distribution:

All Provinces and Territories
except Nova Scotia and P.E.I.

Maturity:

1 year

Average life span:

5 to 7 years

Mating:

February and March

Young born:

April and May

Gestation:

60 to 65 days
1 litter a year/1-4 kits

Habitat:

Mature forests with dense undergrowth,
regenerating forests, rocky areas
or tundra.

Management Issues:

Lynx population follows the population cycle of its main prey, the snowshoe hare. Over 200 years of fur trapping records trace a closely linked natural 10-year cycle of population peaks and crashes between the two species. When hare populations crash in an area, 40 percent of the lynx may starve to death. Others may migrate up to 800 km to better hunting grounds.

