

# Leopard

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The **leopard** (***Panthera pardus***) is one of the five extant [species](#) in the [genus](#) ***Panthera***. It has a pale yellowish to dark golden fur with dark spots grouped in [rosettes](#). Its body is slender and muscular reaching a length of 92–183 cm (36–72 in) with a 66–102 cm (26–40 in) long tail and a shoulder height of 60–70 cm (24–28 in). Males typically weigh 30.9–72 kg (68–159 lb), and females 20.5–43 kg (45–95 lb).

The leopard was first [described](#) in 1758, and several [subspecies](#) were proposed in the 19th and 20th centuries. Today, eight subspecies are recognised in its wide range in [Africa](#) and [Asia](#). It initially evolved in Africa during the [Early Pleistocene](#), before migrating into Eurasia around the [Early–Middle Pleistocene](#) transition. It was present across Europe, but became extinct in the region at the end of the [Late Pleistocene](#), around 11,000 years ago.

It is adapted to a variety of habitats ranging from [rainforest](#) to [steppe](#), including [arid](#) and montane areas. It is an [opportunistic](#) predator, hunting mostly [ungulates](#) and [primates](#). It relies on its spotted pattern for [camouflage](#) as it stalks and ambushes its prey, which it sometimes drags up a tree. It is a [solitary animal](#) outside the mating season and when raising cubs. Females usually give birth to a litter of 2–4 cubs once in 15–24 months. Both male and female leopards typically reach [sexual maturity](#) at the age 2–2.5 years.

It is listed as [Vulnerable](#) on the [IUCN Red List](#) because leopard populations are threatened by [habitat loss](#) and fragmentation, and are declining in large parts of the global range. Leopards have had cultural roles in [Ancient Greece](#), [West Africa](#) and modern Western culture. Leopard skins have been popular in fashion.

## Etymology

The English name "leopard" comes from [Old French](#) *leupart* or [Middle French](#) *liepart*, that derives from [Latin](#) *leopardus* and [ancient Greek](#) λέοπάρδος (*leopardos*). *Leopardos* could be a [compound](#) of λέων (*leōn*), meaning 'lion', and πάρδος (*pardos*), meaning 'spotted'.<sup>[3][4][5]</sup> The word λέοπάρδος originally referred to a [cheetah](#) (*Acinonyx jubatus*).<sup>[6]</sup>

"Panther" is another common name, derived from Latin *panther* and ancient Greek πάνθηρ (*pánthēr*);<sup>[3]</sup> The [generic name](#) *Panthera* originates in Latin *panthera*, a hunting net for catching wild beasts to be used by the [Romans](#) in combats.<sup>[7]</sup> *Pardus* is the [masculine singular](#) form.<sup>[8]</sup>

## Characteristics

The leopard's fur is generally soft and thick, notably softer on the belly than on the back.<sup>[9]</sup> Its skin colour varies between individuals from pale yellowish to dark golden with dark spots grouped in [rosettes](#). Its underbelly is white and its ringed tail is shorter than its body. Its pupils are round.<sup>[10]</sup> Leopards living in arid regions are pale cream, yellowish to ochraceous and rufous in colour; those living in forests and mountains are much darker and deep golden. Spots fade toward the white underbelly and the insides and lower parts of the legs.<sup>[11]</sup> Rosettes are circular in East African leopard populations, and tend to be squarish in Southern African and larger in Asian leopard populations. The fur tends to be grayish in colder climates, and dark golden in [rainforest](#) habitats.<sup>[12]</sup> Rosette patterns are unique in each individual.<sup>[13][14]</sup> This pattern is thought to be an adaptation to dense vegetation with patchy shadows, where it serves as [camouflage](#).<sup>[15]</sup>

### Leopard

**Temporal range:**

**Early Pleistocene – Present**



Male [African leopard](#) in [Maasai Mara National Reserve](#), [Kenya](#)

### Conservation status



**Vulnerable** (IUCN 3.1)<sup>[2]</sup>

**CITES Appendix I** (CITES)<sup>[2]</sup>

### Scientific classification

Domain:	<a href="#">Eukaryota</a>
Kingdom:	<a href="#">Animalia</a>
Phylum:	<a href="#">Chordata</a>
Class:	<a href="#">Mammalia</a>
Order:	<a href="#">Carnivora</a>
Suborder:	<a href="#">Feliformia</a>
Family:	<a href="#">Felidae</a>
Subfamily:	<a href="#">Pantherinae</a>
Genus:	<a href="#">Panthera</a>
Species:	<i><b>P.<span> </span>pardus</b></i> <sup>[1]</sup>

### Binomial name

***Panthera pardus***<sup>[1]</sup>  
([Linnaeus](#), 1758)

### Subspecies

See [text](#)

Its white-tipped tail is about 60–100 cm (23.6–39.4 in) long, white underneath and with spots that form incomplete bands toward the end of the tail.<sup>[16]</sup> The guard hairs protecting the basal hairs are short, 3–4 mm (0.1–0.2 in) in face and head, and increase in length toward the flanks and the belly to about 25–30 mm (1.0–1.2 in). Juveniles have woolly fur that appear to be dark-coloured due to the densely arranged spots.<sup>[13][17]</sup> Its fur tends to grow longer in colder climates.<sup>[18]</sup> The leopard's rosettes differ from those of the [jaguar](#) (*Panthera onca*), which are darker and with smaller spots inside.<sup>[10]</sup> The leopard has a [diploid chromosome](#) number of 38.<sup>[19]</sup>

Melanistic leopards are also known as [black panthers](#). [Melanism](#) in leopards is caused by a [recessive allele](#) and is inherited as a [recessive trait](#).<sup>[20][21][22][23]</sup> In India, nine pale and white leopards were reported between 1905 and 1967.<sup>[24]</sup> Leopards exhibiting [erythrism](#) were recorded between 1990 and 2015 in South Africa's [Madikwe Game Reserve](#) and in [Mpumalanga](#). The cause of this [morph](#) known as a "strawberry leopard" or "pink panther" is not well understood.<sup>[25]</sup>

### Size

The leopard is a slender and muscular cat, with relatively short limbs and a broad head. It is [sexually dimorphic](#) with males larger and heavier than females.<sup>[16]</sup> Males stand 60–70 cm (24–28 in) at the shoulder, while females are 57–64 cm (22–25 in) tall. The head-and-body length ranges between 92 and 183 cm (36 and 72 in) with a 66 to 102 cm (26 to 40 in) long tail. Sizes vary geographically. Males typically weigh 30.9–72 kg (68–159 lb), and females 20.5–43 kg (45–95 lb).<sup>[26]</sup> Occasionally, large males can grow up to 91 kg (201 lb). Leopards from the [Cape Province](#) in South Africa are generally smaller, reaching only 20–45 kg (44–99 lb) in males.<sup>[17][18][27]</sup> The maximum recorded weight of a wild leopard in Southern Africa was around 96 kg (212 lb), and it measured 262 cm (103 in).<sup>[28]</sup> In 2016, an Indian leopard killed in [Himachal Pradesh](#) measured 261 cm (103 in) with an estimated weight of 78.5 kg (173 lb); it was perhaps the largest known wild leopard in India.<sup>[29][30]</sup>

The largest recorded skull of a leopard was found in India in 1920 and measured 28 cm (11 in) in [basal](#) length, 20 cm (7.9 in) in breadth, and weighed 1 kg (2.2 lb). The skull of an African leopard measured 286 mm (11.3 in) in basal length, and 181 mm (7.1 in) in breadth, and weighed 790 g (28 oz).<sup>[31]</sup>

### Taxonomy

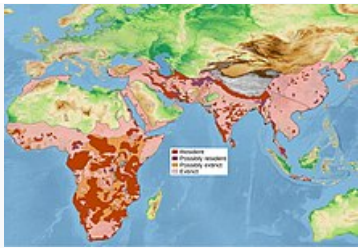
*Felis pardus* was the [scientific name](#) proposed by [Carl Linnaeus](#) in 1758.<sup>[32]</sup> The [generic name](#) *Panthera* was first used by [Lorenz Oken](#) in 1816, who included all the known spotted cats into this group.<sup>[33]</sup> Oken's classification was not widely accepted, and *Felis* or *Leopardus* was used as the generic name until the early 20th century.<sup>[34]</sup>

The leopard was designated as the [type species](#) of *Panthera* by [Joel Asaph Allen](#) in 1902.<sup>[35]</sup> In 1917, [Reginald Innes Pocock](#) also subordinated the [tiger](#) (*P. tigris*), [lion](#) (*P. leo*), and [jaguar](#) (*P. onca*) to *Panthera*.<sup>[36][37]</sup>

### Living subspecies

Following Linnaeus' first description, 27 leopard [subspecies](#) were proposed by naturalists between 1794 and 1956. Since 1996, only eight subspecies have been considered [valid](#) on the basis of [mitochondrial](#) analysis.<sup>[38]</sup> Later analysis revealed a ninth valid subspecies, the [Arabian leopard](#).<sup>[39]</sup>

In 2017, the Cat Classification Task Force of the Cat Specialist Group recognized the following eight subspecies as valid taxa:<sup>[40]</sup>



Present and historical distribution of the leopard<sup>[2]</sup>



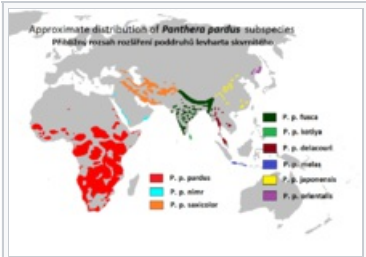
Mounted skeleton



Rosettes of a leopard











A melanistic leopard or black panther



Map showing approximate distribution of leopard subspecies

Subspecies	Distribution	Image



<p><b>African leopard</b> (<i>P. p. pardus</i>) (Linnaeus, 1758)<sup>[1]</sup></p>	<p>It is the most widespread leopard subspecies and is native to most of Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>[2]</sup></p>	
<p><b>Indian leopard</b> (<i>P. p. fusca</i>) (Meyer, 1794)<sup>[41]</sup></p>	<p>It occurs in the Indian subcontinent, Myanmar and southern Tibet.<sup>[2][40][42]</sup></p>	
<p><b>Javan leopard</b> (<i>P. p. melas</i>) (Cuvier, 1809)<sup>[43]</sup></p>	<p>It is native to Java in Indonesia and has been assessed as Endangered in 2021.<sup>[44]</sup></p>	
<p><b>Arabian leopard</b> (<i>P. p. nimr</i>) (Hemprich and Ehrenberg, 1830)<sup>[45]</sup></p>	<p>It is the smallest leopard subspecies and considered endemic to the Arabian Peninsula.<sup>[46]</sup> As of 2008, the population was estimated to comprise 45–200 individuals in Saudi Arabia, Oman and Yemen, and has been assessed as regionally critically endangered in 2011.<sup>[47]</sup> It is thought to be regionally extinct in Israel, Jordan, the Sinai Peninsula and United Arab Emirates.<sup>[2]</sup></p>	
<p><i>P. p. tulliana</i> (Valenciennes, 1856)<sup>[48]</sup></p>	<p>It is native to eastern Turkey, the Caucasus, southern Russia, the Iranian Plateau and the Hindu Kush. It is considered Endangered.<sup>[2]</sup> The Balochistan leopard population in the south of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan is separated from the northern population by the Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut deserts.<sup>[49]</sup></p>	
<p><b>Amur leopard</b> (<i>P. p. orientalis</i>) (Schlegel, 1857)<sup>[50][51]</sup></p>	<p>It is native to the Russian Far East and northern China, but is locally extinct in the Korean peninsula.<sup>[2]</sup></p>	
<p><b>Indochinese leopard</b> (<i>P. p. delacouri</i>) Pocock, 1930<sup>[52]</sup></p>	<p>It occurs in mainland Southeast Asia and southern China.<sup>[2]</sup></p>	
<p><b>Sri Lankan leopard</b> (<i>P. p. kotiya</i>) Deraniyagala, 1956<sup>[53]</sup></p>	<p>It is native to Sri Lanka.<sup>[2]</sup></p>	

Results of an [analysis of molecular variance](#) and pairwise [fixation index](#) of 182 African leopard museum specimens showed that some African leopards exhibit higher genetic differences than Asian leopard subspecies.<sup>[54]</sup>

## Evolution

Results of [phylogenetic](#) studies based on [nuclear DNA](#) and [mitochondrial DNA](#) analysis showed that the last

common ancestor of the *Panthera* and *Neofelis* genera is thought to have lived about 6.37 million years ago. *Neofelis* diverged about 8.66 million years ago from the *Panthera* lineage. The tiger diverged about 6.55 million years ago, followed by the snow leopard about 4.63 million years ago and the leopard about 4.35 million years ago. The leopard is a sister taxon to a clade within *Panthera*, consisting of the lion and the jaguar.<sup>[55][56]</sup>

Results of a phylogenetic analysis of chemical secretions amongst cats indicated that the leopard is closely related to the lion.<sup>[59]</sup> The geographic origin of the *Panthera* is most likely northern Central Asia. The leopard-lion clade was distributed in the Asian and African Palearctic since at least the early Pliocene.<sup>[60]</sup> The leopard-lion clade diverged 3.1–1.95 million years ago.<sup>[57][58]</sup> Additionally, a 2016 study revealed that the mitochondrial genomes of the leopard, lion and snow leopard are more similar to each other than their nuclear genomes, indicating that their ancestors hybridized with the snow leopard at some point in their evolution.<sup>[61]</sup>

The oldest unambiguous fossils of the leopard are from Eastern Africa, dating to around 2 million years ago.<sup>[62]</sup> Leopards first arrived in Eurasia during the late Early-early Middle Pleistocene around 1.2<sup>[63]</sup> to 0.6 million years ago.<sup>[62]</sup>

Leopard-like fossil bones and teeth possibly dating to the Pliocene were excavated in Perrier in France, northeast of London, and in Valdarno, Italy. Until 1940, similar fossils dating back to the Pleistocene were excavated mostly in loess and caves at 40 sites in Europe, including Furninha Cave near Lisbon, Genista Caves in Gibraltar, and Santander Province in northern Spain to several sites across France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Germany, in the north up to Derby in England, in the east to Přerov in the Czech Republic and the Baranya in southern Hungary.<sup>[64]</sup> Leopard fossils dating to the Late Pleistocene were found in Biśnik Cave in south-central Poland.<sup>[65]</sup> Four European Pleistocene leopard subspecies were proposed. *P. p. begoueni* from the beginning of the Early Pleistocene was replaced about 0.6 million years ago by *P. p. sickenbergi*, which in turn was replaced by *P. p. antiqua* around 0.3 million years ago.<sup>[66]</sup> The most recent, *P. p. spelaea*, appeared at the beginning of the Late Pleistocene and survived until about 11,000 years ago in the Iberian Peninsula.<sup>[66][67]</sup> Leopard fossils dating to the Pleistocene were also excavated in the Japanese archipelago.<sup>[68]</sup> Leopard fossils have also been found in Taiwan.<sup>[69]</sup>

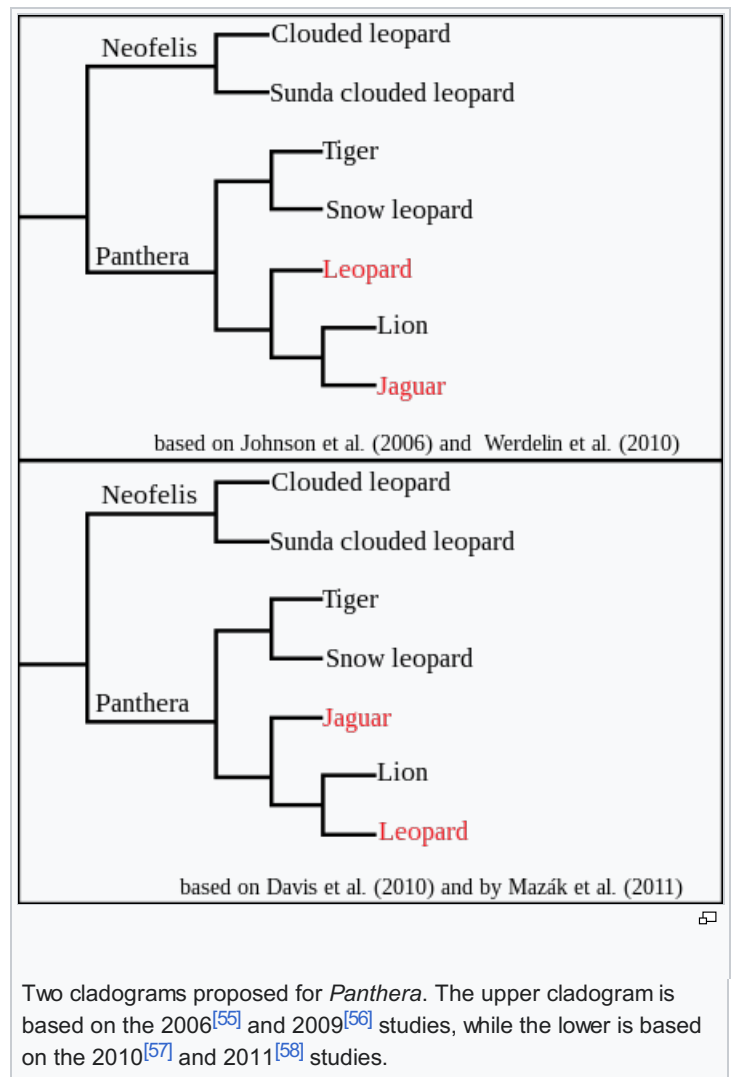
## Hybrids

Main articles: *Panthera hybrid* and *Pumapard*

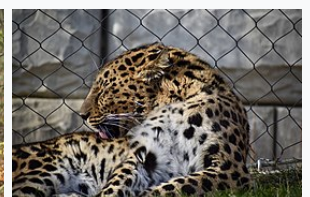
In 1953, a male leopard and a female lion were crossbred in Hanshin Park in Nishinomiya, Japan. Their offspring known as a leopon was born in 1959 and 1961, all cubs were spotted and bigger than a juvenile leopard. Attempts to mate a leopon with a tigress were unsuccessful.<sup>[70]</sup>

## Distribution and habitat

The leopard has the largest distribution of all wild cats, occurring widely in Africa, the Caucasus and Asia, although populations are fragmented and declining. It is considered to be extirpated in North Africa.<sup>[2]</sup> It inhabits foremost savanna and rainforest, and areas where grasslands, woodlands, and riverine forests remain largely undisturbed.<sup>[12]</sup> In sub-Saharan Africa, it is still numerous and surviving in marginal habitats where other large cats have disappeared. There is considerable potential for human-leopard conflict due to leopards preying on livestock.<sup>[71]</sup>



Leopard in a tree in India



A leopard grooming himself

Leopard populations in the [Arabian Peninsula](#) are small and fragmented.<sup>[72][73][74]</sup> In southeastern [Egypt](#), a leopard killed in 2017 was the first sighting of the species in this area in 65 years.<sup>[75]</sup> In western and [central Asia](#), it avoids deserts, areas with long snow cover and close proximity to urban centres.<sup>[76]</sup>

In the [Indian subcontinent](#), the leopard is still relatively abundant, with greater numbers than those of other *Panthera* species.<sup>[2]</sup> As of 2020, the leopard population within forested habitats in [India](#)'s tiger range landscapes was estimated at 12,172 to 13,535 individuals. Surveyed landscapes included elevations below 2,600 m (8,500 ft) in the [Shivalik Hills](#) and [Gangetic plains](#), [Central India](#) and [Eastern Ghats](#), [Western Ghats](#), the [Brahmaputra River](#) basin and hills in [Northeast India](#).<sup>[77]</sup> Some leopard populations in the country live quite close to human settlements and even in semi-developed areas. Although adaptable to human disturbances, leopards require healthy prey populations and appropriate vegetative cover for hunting for prolonged survival and thus rarely linger in heavily developed areas. Due to the leopard's stealth, people often remain unaware that it lives in nearby areas.<sup>[78]</sup>

In Nepal's [Kanchenjunga Conservation Area](#), a melanistic leopard was photographed at an elevation of 4,300 m (14,100 ft) by a camera trap in May 2012.<sup>[79]</sup> In Sri Lanka, leopards were recorded in [Yala National Park](#) and in unprotected forest patches, [tea estates](#), grasslands, home gardens, [pine](#) and [eucalyptus](#) plantations.<sup>[80][81]</sup> In Myanmar, leopards were recorded for the first time by camera traps in the hill forests of Myanmar's [Karen State](#).<sup>[82]</sup> The Northern [Tenasserim Forest Complex](#) in southern Myanmar is considered a leopard stronghold. In Thailand, leopards are present in the [Western Forest Complex](#), [Kaeng Krachan-Kui Buri](#), [Khlong Saeng-Khao Sok](#) protected area complexes and in [Hala Bala Wildlife Sanctuary](#) bordering Malaysia. In [Peninsular Malaysia](#), leopards are present in [Belum-Temengor](#), [Taman Negara](#) and [Endau-Rompin National Parks](#).<sup>[83]</sup> In Laos, leopards were recorded in [Nam Et-Phou Louey National Biodiversity Conservation Area](#) and [Nam Kan National Protected Area](#).<sup>[84][85]</sup> In Cambodia, leopards inhabit deciduous [dipterocarp forest](#) in [Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary](#) and [Monduliri Protected Forest](#).<sup>[86][87]</sup> In southern China, leopards were recorded only in the [Qinling Mountains](#) during surveys in 11 nature reserves between 2002 and 2009.<sup>[88]</sup>

In Java, leopards inhabit dense [tropical rainforests](#) and dry [deciduous forests](#) at elevations from sea level to 2,540 m (8,330 ft). Outside protected areas, leopards were recorded in mixed [agricultural land](#), [secondary forest](#) and [production forest](#) between 2008 and 2014.<sup>[89]</sup>

In the Russian Far East, it inhabits [temperate coniferous forests](#) where winter temperatures reach a low of −25 °C (−13 °F).<sup>[39]</sup>

## Behaviour and ecology

The leopard is a solitary and [territorial](#) animal. It is typically shy and alert when crossing roadways and encountering oncoming vehicles, but may be emboldened to attack people or other animals when threatened. Adults associate only in the mating season. Females continue to interact with their offspring even after weaning and have been observed sharing kills with their offspring when they can not obtain any prey. They produce a number of vocalizations, including growls, snarls, meows, and purrs.<sup>[17]</sup> The [roaring](#) sequence in leopards consists mainly of grunts,<sup>[90]</sup> also called "sawing", as it resembles the sound of sawing wood. Cubs call their mother with an *urr-urr* sound.<sup>[17]</sup>

The whitish spots on the back of its ears are thought to play a role in communication.<sup>[91]</sup> It has been hypothesized that the white tips of their tails may function as a 'follow-me' signal in [intraspecific](#) communication. However, no significant association were found between a conspicuous colour of tail patches and behavioural variables in carnivores.<sup>[92][93]</sup>

Leopards are mainly active from dusk till dawn and will rest for most of the day and some hours at night in thickets, among rocks or over tree branches. Leopards have been observed walking 1–25 km (0.62–15.53 mi) across their range at night; wandering up to 75 km (47 mi) if disturbed.<sup>[17][27]</sup> In some regions, they are [nocturnal](#).<sup>[94][95]</sup> In western African forests, they have been observed to be largely [diurnal](#) and hunting during twilight, when their prey animals are active; activity patterns vary between seasons.<sup>[96]</sup>

Leopards can climb trees quite skillfully, often resting on tree branches and descending headfirst.<sup>[12]</sup> They can run at over 58 km/h (36 mph; 16 m/s), leap over 6 m (20 ft) horizontally, and jump up to 3 m (9.8 ft) vertically.<sup>[90]</sup>

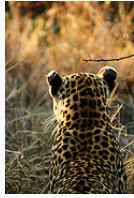


Leopards [grooming each other](#)



A leopard [rubbing his head](#) on a bush





A female leopard with white markings on the backs of her ears.



A female leopard showing white spots on the tail



A leopard climbing down a tree



A leopard hunting a bushpig

Video of a leopard in the wild

## Social spacing

In [Kruger National Park](#), most leopards tend to keep 1 km (0.62 mi) apart.<sup>[98]</sup> Males occasionally interact with their partners and cubs, and exceptionally this can extend beyond to two generations.<sup>[26][99]</sup> Aggressive encounters are rare, typically limited to defending territories from intruders.<sup>[18]</sup> In a South African reserve, a male was wounded in a male–male territorial battle over a carcass.<sup>[94]</sup>

Males occupy [home ranges](#) that often overlap with a few smaller female home ranges, probably as a strategy to enhance access to females. In the [Ivory Coast](#), the home range of a female was completely enclosed within a male's.<sup>[100]</sup> Females live with their cubs in home ranges that overlap extensively, probably due to the association between mothers and their offspring. There may be a few other fluctuating home ranges belonging to young individuals. It is not clear if male home ranges overlap as much as those of females do. Individuals try to drive away intruders of the same sex.<sup>[17][27]</sup>

A study of leopards in the Namibian farmlands showed that the size of home ranges was not significantly affected by sex, rainfall patterns or season; the higher the prey availability in an area, the greater the leopard population density and the smaller the size of home ranges, but they tend to expand if there is human interference.<sup>[101]</sup> Sizes of home ranges vary geographically and depending on habitat and availability of prey. In the [Serengeti](#), males have home ranges of 33–38 km<sup>2</sup> (13–15 sq mi) and females of 14–16 km<sup>2</sup> (5.4–6.2 sq mi);<sup>[102][103]</sup> but males in northeastern Namibia of 451 km<sup>2</sup> (174 sq mi) and females of 188 km<sup>2</sup> (73 sq mi).<sup>[104]</sup> They are even larger in arid and montane areas.<sup>[18]</sup> In Nepal's [Bardia National Park](#), male home ranges of 48 km<sup>2</sup> (19 sq mi) and female ones of 5–7 km<sup>2</sup> (1.9–2.7 sq mi) are smaller than those generally observed in Africa.<sup>[105]</sup>



A male leopard [scent-marking](#) his territory<sup>[97]</sup>

## Hunting and diet

The leopard is a [carnivore](#) that prefers medium-sized prey with a body mass ranging from 10–40 kg (22–88 lb). Prey species in this weight range tend to occur in dense habitat and to form small herds. Species that prefer open areas and have well-developed anti-predator strategies are less preferred. More than 100 prey species have been recorded. The most preferred species are [ungulates](#), such as [impala](#) (*Aepyceros melampus*), [bushbuck](#) (*Tragelaphus scriptus*), [common duiker](#) (*Sylvicapra grimmia*) and [chital](#) (*Axis axis*). [Primates](#) preyed upon include [white-eyelid mangabeys](#) (*Cercocebus* sp.), [guenons](#) (*Cercopithecus* sp.) and [gray langurs](#) (*Semnopithecus* sp.). Leopards also kill smaller carnivores like [black-backed jackal](#) (*Lupulella mesomelas*), [bat-eared fox](#) (*Otocyon megalotis*), [genet](#) (*Genetta* sp.) and cheetah.<sup>[106]</sup>

The largest prey killed by a leopard was reportedly a male [eland](#) weighing 900 kg (2,000 lb).<sup>[90]</sup> A study in [Wolong National Nature Reserve](#) in southern China demonstrated variation in the leopard's diet over time; over the course of seven years, the vegetative cover receded, and leopards opportunistically shifted from primarily consuming [tufted deer](#) (*Elaphodus cephalophus*) to pursuing [bamboo rats](#) (*Rhizomys sinense*) and other smaller prey.<sup>[107]</sup>

The leopard depends mainly on its acute senses of hearing and vision for hunting.<sup>[108]</sup> It primarily hunts at night in most areas.<sup>[17]</sup> In western African forests and Tsavo National Park, they have also been observed hunting by day.<sup>[109]</sup> They usually hunt on



Leopard stalking



Leopard caches a kill in a tree

the ground. In the Serengeti, they have been seen to ambush prey by descending on it from trees.<sup>[110]</sup>

It stalks its prey and tries to approach as closely as possible, typically within 5 m (16 ft) of the target, and, finally, pounces on it and kills it by suffocation. It kills small prey with a bite to the back of the neck, but holds larger animals [by the throat and strangles them](#).<sup>[17]</sup> It caches kills up to 2 km (1.2 mi) apart.<sup>[26]</sup> It is able to take large prey due to its powerful jaw muscles, and is therefore strong enough to drag carcasses heavier than itself up into trees; an individual was seen to haul a young giraffe weighing nearly 125 kg (276 lb) up 5.7 m (18 ft 8 in) into a tree.<sup>[109]</sup> It eats small prey immediately, but drags larger carcasses over several hundred meters and caches it safely in trees, bushes or even caves; this behaviour allows the leopard to store its prey away from rivals, and offers it an advantage over them. The way it stores the kill depends on local topography and individual preferences, varying from trees in Kruger National Park to bushes in the plain terrain of the Kalahari.<sup>[18][111]</sup>

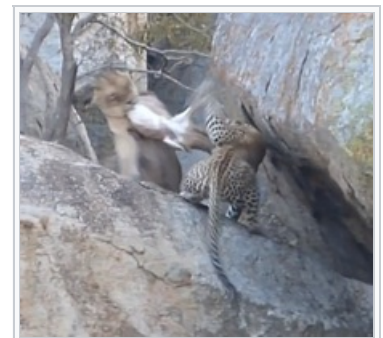


A male leopard with a warthog kill resting in an acacia tree in Naboisho Conservancy, Kenya

Average daily consumption rates of 3.5 kg (7 lb 11 oz) were estimated for males and of 2.8 kg (6 lb 3 oz) for females.<sup>[98]</sup> In the southern [Kalahari Desert](#), leopards meet their water requirements by the bodily fluids of prey and [succulent plants](#); they drink water every two to three days and feed infrequently on moisture-rich plants such as [gemsbok cucumbers](#) (*Acanthosicyos naudinianus*), [watermelon](#) (*Citrullus lanatus*) and Kalahari [sour grass](#) (*Schmidtia kalahariensis*).<sup>[112]</sup>

## Enemies and competitors

In parts of its range, the leopard is [sympatric](#) with other large predators such as the [tiger](#) (*Panthera tigris*), [lion](#) (*P. leo*), [cheetah](#) (*Acinonyx jubatus*), [spotted hyena](#) (*Crocuta crocuta*), [striped hyena](#) (*Hyaena hyaena*), [brown hyena](#) (*Parahyaena brunnea*), [African wild dog](#) (*Lycaon pictus*), [dhole](#) (*Cuon alpinus*), [wolf](#) (*Canis lupus*) and up to five [bear](#) species. Some of these species steal its kills, kill its cubs and even kill adult leopards. Leopards retreat up a tree in the face of direct aggression, and were observed when killing or preying on smaller competitors such as black-backed jackal, [African civet](#) (*Civettictis civetta*), [caracal](#) (*Caracal caracal*) and [African wildcat](#) (*Felis lybica*).<sup>[12][113]</sup> Leopards generally seem to avoid encounters with adult bears, killing vulnerable bear cubs instead. In [Sri Lanka](#), a few recorded fights between leopards and [sloth bears](#) (*Melursus ursinus*) apparently result in both animals winding up either dead or grievously injured.<sup>[114][115]</sup> Leopards generally avoid large packs of African wild dogs and dholes and will flee up a tree at the sight of them.<sup>[116][117]</sup>



A lioness steals a leopard kill in <sup>63</sup>Kruger National Park

While interspecies killing of full-grown leopards is generally rare, given the opportunity, both the tiger and lion readily kill and consume both young and adult leopards.<sup>[110][113][118][119]</sup> In the [Kalahari Desert](#), leopards frequently lose kills to brown hyenas, if they are unable to move the kill up a tree. Single brown hyenas have been observed charging at and displacing male leopards from kills.<sup>[120][121]</sup> Lions occasionally fetch leopard kills from trees.<sup>[111]</sup>

[Resource partitioning](#) occurs where leopards share their range with tigers. Leopards tend to kill smaller prey, usually less than 75 kg (165 lb), where tigers are present.<sup>[12]</sup> In areas where leopards and tigers are sympatric, coexistence is reportedly not the general rule, with leopards being few where tigers are numerous.<sup>[118]</sup> Tigers appear to inhabit the deep parts of the forest while leopards are pushed closer to the fringes.<sup>[122]</sup> In tropical forests, leopards do not always avoid the larger cats by hunting at different times. With relatively abundant prey and differences in the size of the selected prey, tigers and leopards seem to successfully coexist without competitive exclusion or interspecies dominance hierarchies that may be more prevalent in the leopard's co-existence with the lion in savanna habitats.<sup>[123]</sup>

[Nile crocodiles](#) (*Crocodylus niloticus*) occasionally prey on leopards. In one occasion, a large adult leopard was grabbed and consumed by a large crocodile while attempting to hunt along a river bank in [Kruger National Park](#).<sup>[98][26]</sup> [Mugger crocodiles](#) (*C. palustris*) reportedly killed an adult leopard in [Rajasthan](#).<sup>[124]</sup> An adult leopard was recovered from the stomach of a 5.5 m (18 ft 1 in) [Burmese python](#) (*Python bivittatus*).<sup>[125]</sup> In the [Serengeti National Park](#), troops of around 30–40 [olive baboons](#) (*Papio anubis*) were observed mobbing and attacking a female leopard and her cubs.<sup>[126]</sup>

## Reproduction and life cycle

In some areas, leopards mate all year round. In [Manchuria](#) and [Siberia](#), they mate during January and February. On average, females begin to breed between the ages of 2½ and three, and males between the ages of two and three.<sup>[12]</sup> The female's [estrous cycle](#) lasts about 46 days, and she is usually in heat for 6–7 days.<sup>[127]</sup> [Gestation](#) lasts for 90 to 105 days.<sup>[128]</sup> Cubs are usually born in a [litter](#) of 2–4 cubs.<sup>[129]</sup> The mortality rate of cubs is estimated at 41–50% during the first year.<sup>[98]</sup> Lions and spotted hyenas are the biggest cause for leopard cub mortality during their first year. Male leopards are known to cause





[infanticide](#), in order to bring the female back into heat.<sup>[26]</sup> Intervals between births average 15 to 24 months, but can be shorter, depending on the survival of the cubs.<sup>[12]</sup>

Females give birth in a cave, crevice among boulders, hollow tree or thicket. Newborn cubs weigh 280–1,000 g (9.9–35.3 oz), and are born with closed eyes, which open four to nine days after birth.<sup>[90][18]</sup> The fur of the young tends to be longer and thicker than that of adults. Their pelage is also more gray in colour with less defined spots. They begin to eat meat at around nine weeks.<sup>[26]</sup> Around three months of age, the young begin to follow the mother on hunts. At one year of age, cubs can probably fend for themselves, but will remain with the mother for 18–24 months.<sup>[130]</sup> After separating from their mother, sibling cubs may travel together for months.<sup>[12]</sup> Both male and female leopards typically reach sexual maturity at 2–2½ years.<sup>[26]</sup>

The [generation length](#) of the leopard is 9.3 years.<sup>[131]</sup> The average life span of a leopard is 12–17 years.<sup>[90]</sup> The oldest leopard was a captive female that died at the age of 24 years, 2 months and 13 days.<sup>[132]</sup>

## Threats

The leopard is primarily threatened by [habitat fragmentation](#) and conversion of forest to agriculturally used land, which lead to a declining natural prey base, [human–wildlife conflict](#) with livestock herders and high leopard mortality rates. It is also threatened by [trophy hunting](#) and [poaching](#).<sup>[2]</sup> Contemporary records suggest that the leopard occurs in only 25% of its historical range.<sup>[133][134]</sup>

Between 2002 and 2012, at least four leopards were estimated to have been poached per week in India for the [illegal wildlife trade](#) of its skins and bones.<sup>[135]</sup> In spring 2013, 37 leopard skins were found during a 7-week long market survey in major Moroccan cities.<sup>[136]</sup> In 2014, 43 leopard skins were detected during two surveys in Morocco. Vendors admitted to have imported skins from sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>[137]</sup>

Surveys in the Central African Republic's [Chinko](#) area revealed that the leopard population decreased from 97 individuals in 2012 to 50 individuals in 2017. In this period, [transhumant pastoralists](#) from the border area with Sudan moved in the area with their livestock. Rangers confiscated large amounts of [poison](#) in the camps of livestock herders who were accompanied by armed merchants. They engaged in poaching large herbivores, sale of [bushmeat](#) and trading leopard skins in [Am Dafok](#).<sup>[138]</sup>

In Java, the leopard is threatened by illegal hunting and trade. Between 2011 and 2019, body parts of 51 Javan leopards were seized including six live individuals, 12 skins, 13 skulls, 20 canines and 22 claws.<sup>[139]</sup>

The leopard is locally extinct in [Morocco](#), [Mauritania](#), [Togo](#), [Libya](#), [Tunisia](#), [Lebanon](#), [Syria](#), Israel, Jordan, [Kuwait](#), the United Arab Emirates, [Uzbekistan](#), [Tajikistan](#), [Hong Kong](#), [Singapore](#), [South Korea](#) and most likely in [Gambia](#), [Lesotho](#), [Laos](#), [Vietnam](#) and [North Korea](#).<sup>[2]</sup>

## Conservation

The leopard is listed on [CITES Appendix I](#), and hunting is banned in Botswana and Afghanistan; in 11 sub-Saharan countries, trade is restricted to skins and body parts of 2,560 individuals.<sup>[2]</sup> In 2007, a leopard reintroduction programme was initiated in the Russian Caucasus, where captive bred individuals are reared and trained in 0.5–0.9 ha (1.2–2.2 acres) large enclosures in [Sochi National Park](#); six individuals released into [Caucasus Nature Reserve](#) and [Alaniya National Park](#) in 2018 survived as of February 2022.<sup>[140]</sup>

## Cultural significance

Leopards have been featured in art, mythology and folklore of many countries. In [Greek mythology](#), it was a symbol of the god [Dionysus](#), who was depicted wearing leopard skin and using leopards as means of transportation. In one myth, the god was captured by pirates but two leopards rescued him.<sup>[141]</sup> Numerous Roman mosaics from North African sites depict fauna now found only in [tropical Africa](#).<sup>[142]</sup> During the [Benin Empire](#), the leopard was commonly represented on engravings and sculptures and was used to symbolise the power of the king or [oba](#), since the leopard was considered the king of the forest.<sup>[143]</sup> The [Ashanti people](#) also used the leopard as a symbol of leadership, and only the king was permitted to have a ceremonial leopard stool. Some African cultures considered the leopard to be a smarter, better hunter than the lion and harder to kill.<sup>[141]</sup>

In [Rudyard Kipling](#)'s "How the Leopard Got His Spots", one of his [Just So Stories](#), a leopard with no spots in the [Highveld](#) lives with his hunting partner, the Ethiopian. When

Leopards mating



A female in estrus fights with a male attempting to mate with her



Leopards on the [Magerius Mosaic](#) from modern [Tunisia](#)



they set off to the forest, the Ethiopian changed his brown skin, and the leopard painted spots on his skin.<sup>[144]</sup> A leopard played an important role in the 1938 Hollywood film *Bringing Up Baby*. African chiefs, European queens, Hollywood actors and *burlesque* dancers wore coats made of leopard skins.<sup>[141]</sup>

The leopard is a frequently used motif in *heraldry*, most commonly as *passant*.<sup>[145]</sup> The heraldic leopard lacks spots and sports a mane, making it visually almost identical to the *heraldic lion*, and the two are often used interchangeably. Naturalistic leopard-like depictions appear on the *coat of arms of Benin*, *Malawi*, *Somalia*, the *Democratic Republic of the Congo* and *Gabon*, the last of which uses a black panther.<sup>[146]</sup>

## Attacks on people

*Main article: Leopard attack*

The *Leopard of Rudraprayag* killed more than 125 people; the Panar Leopard was thought to have killed over 400 people. Both were shot by British hunter *Jim Corbett*.<sup>[147]</sup> The *spotted devil of Gummalapur* killed about 42 people in Karnataka, India.<sup>[148]</sup>

## In captivity

The *ancient Romans* kept leopards in captivity to be slaughtered in *hunts* as well as *execute* criminals.<sup>[141]</sup> In Benin, leopards were kept and paraded as mascots, totems and sacrifices to deities.<sup>[143]</sup> Several leopards were kept in a menagerie originally established by King *John of England* at the *Tower of London* in the 13th century; around 1235, three of these animals were given to *Henry III* by Holy Roman Emperor *Frederick II*.<sup>[149]</sup> In modern times, leopards have been *trained* and *tamed* in *circuses*.<sup>[141]</sup>

## See also

- Leopard pattern*
- List of largest cats*
- Panther (legendary creature)*

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Rock art of *P. pardus spelaea* in Chauvet cave



Leopard head ornament from the Court of Benin



Animal trainer with leopard

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## External links



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***Panthera pardus*** (category)

- IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group: *Panthera pardus* in Africa  and *Panthera pardus* in Asia
- "Leopard" . *Encyclopædia Britannica* (11th ed.). 1911.

<span>v</span> · <span>t</span> · <span>e</span>	Extant <b>Carnivora</b> species
Kingdom: <span>Animalia</span> · Phylum: <span>Chordata</span> · Class: <span>Mammalia</span> · Infraclass: <span>Eutheria</span> · Superorder: <span>Laurasiatheria</span>	
Suborder <b>Feliformia</b>	
<div></div>	



<b>Nandiniidae</b>	<b><i>Nandinia</i></b>	African palm civet ( <i>N. binotata</i> )
<b>Herpestidae</b> (Mongooses)	<b><i>Atilax</i></b>	Marsh mongoose ( <i>A. paludinosus</i> )
	<b><i>Bdeogale</i></b>	Bushy-tailed mongoose ( <i>B. crassicauda</i> ) • Jackson's mongoose ( <i>B. jacksoni</i> ) • Black-footed mongoose ( <i>B. nigripes</i> )
	<b><i>Crossarchus</i></b>	Alexander's kusimanse ( <i>C. alexandri</i> ) • Angolan kusimanse ( <i>C. ansorgei</i> ) • Common kusimanse ( <i>C. obscurus</i> ) • Flat-headed kusimanse ( <i>C. platycephalus</i> )
	<b><i>Cynictis</i></b>	Yellow mongoose ( <i>C. penicillata</i> )
	<b><i>Dologale</i></b>	Pousargues's mongoose ( <i>D. dybowskii</i> )
	<b><i>Helogale</i></b>	Ethiopian dwarf mongoose ( <i>H. hirtula</i> ) • Common dwarf mongoose ( <i>H. parvula</i> )
	<b><i>Herpestes</i></b>	Angolan slender mongoose ( <i>H. flavescens</i> ) • Egyptian mongoose ( <i>H. ichneumon</i> ) • Somali slender mongoose ( <i>H. ochracea</i> ) • Cape gray mongoose ( <i>H. pulverulenta</i> ) • Common slender mongoose ( <i>H. sanguinea</i> )
	<b><i>Ichneumia</i></b>	White-tailed mongoose ( <i>I. albicauda</i> )
	<b><i>Liberiictus</i></b>	Liberian mongoose ( <i>L. kuhni</i> )
	<b><i>Mungos</i></b>	Gambian mongoose ( <i>M. gambianus</i> ) • Banded mongoose ( <i>M. mungo</i> )
	<b><i>Paracynictis</i></b>	Selous's mongoose ( <i>P. selousi</i> )
	<b><i>Rhynchogale</i></b>	Meller's mongoose ( <i>R. melleri</i> )
	<b><i>Suricata</i></b>	Meerkat ( <i>S. suricatta</i> )
	<b><i>Urva</i></b>	Small Indian mongoose ( <i>U. auropunctata</i> ) • Short-tailed mongoose ( <i>U. brachyura</i> ) • Indian grey mongoose ( <i>U. edwardsii</i> ) • Indian brown mongoose ( <i>U. fusca</i> ) • Javan mongoose ( <i>U. javanica</i> ) • Collared mongoose ( <i>U. semitorquata</i> ) • Ruddy mongoose ( <i>U. smithii</i> ) • Crab-eating mongoose ( <i>U. urva</i> ) • Stripe-necked mongoose ( <i>U. vitticollis</i> )
	<b><i>Xenogale</i></b>	Long-nosed mongoose ( <i>X. naso</i> )
<b>Hyaenidae</b> (Hyenas)	<b><i>Crocuta</i></b>	Spotted hyena ( <i>C. crocuta</i> )
	<b><i>Hyaena</i></b>	Striped hyena ( <i>H. hyaena</i> )
	<b><i>Parahyaena</i></b>	Brown hyena ( <i>P. brunnea</i> )
	<b><i>Proteles</i></b>	Aardwolf ( <i>P. cristata</i> )
<b>Felidae</b>	Large family listed below	
<b>Viverridae</b>	Large family listed below	
<b>Eupleridae</b>	Small family listed below	

Family Felidae		
Felinae	<i>Acinonyx</i>	Cheetah ( <i>A. jubatus</i> )
	<i>Caracal</i>	African golden cat ( <i>C. aurata</i> ) • Caracal ( <i>C. caracal</i> )
	<i>Catopuma</i>	Bay cat ( <i>C. badia</i> ) • Asian golden cat ( <i>C. temminckii</i> )
	<i>Felis</i>	Chinese mountain cat ( <i>F. bieti</i> ) • Domestic cat ( <i>F. catus</i> ) • Jungle cat ( <i>F. chaus</i> ) • African wildcat ( <i>F. lybica</i> ) • Sand cat ( <i>F. margarita</i> ) • Black-footed cat ( <i>F. nigripes</i> ) • European wildcat ( <i>F. silvestris</i> )
	<i>Herpailurus</i>	Jaguarundi ( <i>H. yagouaroundi</i> )
	<i>Leopardus</i>	Pampas cat ( <i>L. colocola</i> ) • Geoffroy's cat ( <i>L. geoffroyi</i> ) • Kodkod ( <i>L. guigna</i> ) • Southern tiger cat ( <i>L. guttulus</i> ) • Andean mountain cat ( <i>L. jacobita</i> ) • Ocelot ( <i>L. pardalis</i> ) • Oncilla ( <i>L. tigrinus</i> ) • Margay ( <i>L. wiedii</i> ) • Nariño cat ( <i>L. narinensis</i> )
	<i>Leptailurus</i>	Serval ( <i>L. serval</i> )
	<i>Lynx</i>	Canada lynx ( <i>L. canadensis</i> ) • Eurasian lynx ( <i>L. lynx</i> ) • Iberian lynx ( <i>L. pardinus</i> ) • Bobcat ( <i>L. rufus</i> )
	<i>Otocolobus</i>	Pallas's cat ( <i>O. manul</i> )
	<i>Pardofelis</i>	Marbled cat ( <i>P. marmorata</i> )
	<i>Prionailurus</i>	Leopard cat ( <i>P. bengalensis</i> ) • Sunda leopard cat ( <i>P. javanensis</i> ) • Flat-headed cat ( <i>P. planiceps</i> ) • Rusty-spotted cat ( <i>P. rubiginosus</i> ) • Fishing cat ( <i>P. viverrinus</i> )
	<i>Puma</i>	Cougar ( <i>P. concolor</i> )
Pantherinae	<i>Panthera</i>	Lion ( <i>P. leo</i> ) • Jaguar ( <i>P. onca</i> ) • <b>Leopard (<i>P. pardus</i>)</b> • Tiger ( <i>P. tigris</i> ) • Snow leopard ( <i>P. uncia</i> )
	<i>Neofelis</i>	Sunda clouded leopard ( <i>N. diardi</i> ) • Clouded leopard ( <i>N. nebulosa</i> )
Prionodontidae		
<i>Prionodon</i>	Banded linsang ( <i>P. linsang</i> ) • Spotted linsang ( <i>P. pardicolor</i> )	

Family Viverridae		
Paradoxurinae	<i>Arctictis</i>	Binturong ( <i>A. binturong</i> )
	<i>Arctogalidia</i>	Small-toothed palm civet ( <i>A. trivirgata</i> )
	<i>Macrogalidia</i>	Sulawesi palm civet ( <i>M. musschenbroekii</i> )
	<i>Paguma</i>	Masked palm civet ( <i>P. larvata</i> )
	<i>Paradoxurus</i>	Asian palm civet ( <i>P. hermaphroditus</i> ) • Brown palm civet ( <i>P. jerdoni</i> ) • Golden palm civet ( <i>P. zeylonensis</i> )
Hemigalinae	<i>Chrotogale</i>	Owston's palm civet ( <i>C. owstoni</i> )
	<i>Cynogale</i>	Otter civet ( <i>C. bennettii</i> )
	<i>Diplogale</i>	Hose's palm civet ( <i>D. hosei</i> )
	<i>Hemigalus</i>	Banded palm civet ( <i>H. derbyanus</i> )
Viverrinae	<i>Civettictis</i>	African civet ( <i>C. civetta</i> )
	<i>Viverra</i>	Malabar large-spotted civet ( <i>V. civettina</i> ) • Large-spotted civet ( <i>V. megaspila</i> ) • Malayan civet ( <i>V. tangalunga</i> ) • Large Indian civet ( <i>V. zibetha</i> )
	<i>Viverricula</i>	Small Indian civet ( <i>V. indica</i> )
Genettinae	<i>Genetta</i> (Genets)	Abyssinian genet ( <i>G. abyssinica</i> ) • Angolan genet ( <i>G. angolensis</i> ) • Bourlon's genet ( <i>G. bourloni</i> ) • Crested servaline genet ( <i>G. cristata</i> ) • Common genet ( <i>G. genetta</i> ) • Johnston's genet ( <i>G. johnstoni</i> ) • Letaba genet ( <i>G. letabae</i> ) • Rusty-spotted genet ( <i>G. maculata</i> ) • Pardine genet ( <i>G. pardina</i> ) • Aquatic genet ( <i>G. piscivora</i> ) • King genet ( <i>G. poensis</i> ) • Servaline genet ( <i>G. servalina</i> ) • Hausa genet ( <i>G. thierryi</i> ) • Cape genet ( <i>G. tigrina</i> ) • Giant forest genet ( <i>G. victoriae</i> ) • South African small-spotted genet ( <i>G. felina</i> )
	<i>Poiana</i>	Central African oyan ( <i>P. richardsonii</i> ) • West African oyan ( <i>P. leightoni</i> )

Family Eupleridae		
Euplerinae	<i>Cryptoprocta</i>	Fossa ( <i>C. ferox</i> )
	<i>Eupleres</i>	Eastern falanouc ( <i>E. goudotii</i> ) • Western falanouc ( <i>E. major</i> )
	<i>Fossa</i>	Malagasy civet ( <i>F. fossana</i> )
Galidiinae	<i>Galidia</i>	Ring-tailed vontsira ( <i>G. elegans</i> )
	<i>Galidictis</i>	Broad-striped Malagasy mongoose ( <i>G. fasciata</i> ) • Grandidier's mongoose ( <i>G. grandidieri</i> )
	<i>Mungotictis</i>	Narrow-striped mongoose ( <i>M. decemlineata</i> )
	<i>Salanoia</i>	Brown-tailed mongoose ( <i>S. concolor</i> ) • Durrell's vontsira ( <i>S. durrelli</i> )




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<b>Otariidae</b> (Eared seals) (includes <b>fur seals</b> and <b>sea lions</b> ) (Pinniped inclusive)	<b><i>Arctocephalus</i></b>	South American fur seal ( <i>A. australis</i> ) • Australasian fur seal ( <i>A. forsteri</i> ) • Galápagos fur seal ( <i>A. galapagoensis</i> ) • Antarctic fur seal ( <i>A. gazella</i> ) • Juan Fernández fur seal ( <i>A. philippii</i> ) • Brown fur seal ( <i>A. pusillus</i> ) • Guadalupe fur seal ( <i>A. townsendi</i> ) • Subantarctic fur seal ( <i>A. tropicalis</i> )
	<b><i>Callorhinus</i></b>	Northern fur seal ( <i>C. ursinus</i> )
	<b><i>Eumetopias</i></b>	Steller sea lion ( <i>E. jubatus</i> )
	<b><i>Neophoca</i></b>	Australian sea lion ( <i>N. cinerea</i> )
	<b><i>Otaria</i></b>	South American sea lion ( <i>O. flavescens</i> )
	<b><i>Phocarcotos</i></b>	New Zealand sea lion ( <i>P. hookeri</i> )
	<b><i>Zalophus</i></b>	California sea lion ( <i>Z. californianus</i> ) • Galápagos sea lion ( <i>Z. wolfebaeki</i> )
<b>Odobenidae</b> (Pinniped inclusive)	<b><i>Odobenus</i></b>	Walrus ( <i>O. rosmarus</i> )
<b>Phocidae</b> (Earless seals) (Pinniped inclusive)	<b><i>Cystophora</i></b>	Hooded seal ( <i>C. cristata</i> )
	<b><i>Erignathus</i></b>	Bearded seal ( <i>E. barbatus</i> )
	<b><i>Halichoerus</i></b>	Grey seal ( <i>H. grypus</i> )
	<b><i>Histiophoca</i></b>	Ribbon seal ( <i>H. fasciata</i> )
	<b><i>Hydrurga</i></b>	Leopard seal ( <i>H. leptonyx</i> )
	<b><i>Leptonychotes</i></b>	Weddell seal ( <i>L. weddellii</i> )
	<b><i>Lobodon</i></b>	Crabeater seal ( <i>L. carcinophagus</i> )
	<b><i>Mirounga</i></b> (Elephant seals)	Northern elephant seal ( <i>M. angustirostris</i> ) • Southern elephant seal ( <i>M. leonina</i> )
	<b><i>Monachus</i></b>	Mediterranean monk seal ( <i>M. monachus</i> )
	<b><i>Neomonachus</i></b>	Hawaiian monk seal ( <i>N. schauinslandi</i> )
	<b><i>Ommatophoca</i></b>	Ross seal ( <i>O. rossi</i> )
	<b><i>Pagophilus</i></b>	Harp seal ( <i>P. groenlandicus</i> )
	<b><i>Phoca</i></b>	Spotted seal ( <i>P. largha</i> ) • Harbor seal ( <i>P. vitulina</i> )
	<b><i>Pusa</i></b>	Caspian seal ( <i>P. caspica</i> ) • Ringed seal ( <i>P. hispida</i> ) • Baikal seal ( <i>P. sibirica</i> )
<b>Canidae</b>	Large family listed below	
<b>Mustelidae</b>	Large family listed below	

Family <b>Canidae</b> (includes <b>dogs</b> )	
<b>Atelocynus</b>	Short-eared dog ( <i>A. microtis</i> )
<b>Canis</b>	Golden jackal ( <i>C. aureus</i> ) • Domestic dog ( <i>C. familiaris</i> ) • Coyote ( <i>C. latrans</i> ) • African wolf ( <i>C. lupaster</i> ) • Wolf ( <i>C. lupus</i> ) • Eastern wolf ( <i>C. lycaon</i> ) • Red wolf ( <i>C. rufus</i> ) • Ethiopian wolf ( <i>C. simensis</i> )
<b>Cerdocyon</b>	Crab-eating fox ( <i>C. thous</i> )
<b>Chrysocyon</b>	Maned wolf ( <i>C. brachyurus</i> )
<b>Cuon</b>	Dhole ( <i>C. alpinus</i> )
<b>Lupulella</b>	Side-striped jackal ( <i>L. adustus</i> ) • Black-backed jackal ( <i>L. mesomelas</i> )
<b>Lycalopex</b>	Culpeo ( <i>L. culpaeus</i> ) • Darwin's fox ( <i>L. fulvipes</i> ) • South American gray fox ( <i>L. griseus</i> ) • Pampas fox ( <i>L. gymnocercus</i> ) • Sechuran fox ( <i>L. sechurae</i> ) • Hoary fox ( <i>L. vetulus</i> )
<b>Lycaon</b>	African wild dog ( <i>L. pictus</i> )
<b>Nyctereutes</b>	Common raccoon dog ( <i>N. procyonoides</i> ) • Japanese raccoon dog ( <i>N. viverrinus</i> )
<b>Otocyon</b>	Bat-eared fox ( <i>O. megalotis</i> )
<b>Speothos</b>	Bush dog ( <i>S. venaticus</i> )
<b>Urocyon</b>	Gray fox ( <i>U. cinereoargenteus</i> ) • Island fox ( <i>U. littoralis</i> )
<b>Vulpes</b> (Foxes)	Bengal fox ( <i>V. bengalensis</i> ) • Blanford's fox ( <i>V. cana</i> ) • Cape fox ( <i>V. chama</i> ) • Corsac fox ( <i>V. corsac</i> ) • Tibetan fox ( <i>V. ferrilata</i> ) • Arctic fox ( <i>V. lagopus</i> ) • Kit fox ( <i>V. macrotis</i> ) • Pale fox ( <i>V. pallida</i> ) • Rüppell's fox ( <i>V. rueppelli</i> ) • Swift fox ( <i>V. velox</i> ) • Red fox ( <i>V. vulpes</i> ) • Fennec fox ( <i>V. zerda</i> )
Family <b>Mustelidae</b>	



<b>Helictidinae</b> (Ferret-badgers)	<b>Melogale</b>	Vietnam ferret-badger ( <i>M. cucphuongensis</i> ) • Bornean ferret badger ( <i>M. everetti</i> ) • Chinese ferret-badger ( <i>M. moschata</i> ) • Javan ferret-badger ( <i>M. orientalis</i> ) • Burmese ferret-badger ( <i>M. personata</i> ) • Formosan ferret-badger ( <i>M. subaurantiaca</i> )
<b>Guloninae</b> (Martens and wolverines)	<b>Eira</b>	Tayra ( <i>E. barbara</i> )
	<b>Gulo</b>	Wolverine ( <i>G. gulo</i> )
	<b>Martes</b> (Martens)	American marten ( <i>M. americana</i> ) • Pacific marten ( <i>M. caurina</i> ) • Yellow-throated marten ( <i>M. flavigula</i> ) • Beech marten ( <i>M. foina</i> ) • Nilgiri marten ( <i>M. gwatkinsii</i> ) • European pine marten ( <i>M. martes</i> ) • Japanese marten ( <i>M. melampus</i> ) • Sable ( <i>M. zibellina</i> )
	<b>Pekania</b>	Fisher ( <i>P. pennanti</i> )
<b>Ichtonychinae</b> (African polecats and grisons)	<b>Galictis</b>	Lesser grison ( <i>G. cuja</i> ) • Greater grison ( <i>G. vittata</i> )
	<b>Ichtonyx</b>	Saharan striped polecat ( <i>I. libyca</i> ) • Striped polecat ( <i>I. striatus</i> )
	<b>Lyncodon</b>	Patagonian weasel ( <i>L. patagonicus</i> )
	<b>Poecilogale</b>	African striped weasel ( <i>P. albinucha</i> )
	<b>Vormela</b>	Marbled polecat ( <i>V. peregusna</i> )
<b>Lutrinae</b> (Otters)	<b>Aonyx</b>	African clawless otter ( <i>A. capensis</i> ) • Asian small-clawed otter ( <i>A. cinereus</i> ) • Congo clawless otter ( <i>A. congicus</i> )
	<b>Enhydra</b>	Sea otter ( <i>E. lutris</i> )
	<b>Hydrictis</b>	Spotted-necked otter ( <i>H. maculicollis</i> )
	<b>Lontra</b>	North American river otter ( <i>L. canadensis</i> ) • Marine otter ( <i>L. felina</i> ) • Neotropical otter ( <i>L. longicaudis</i> ) • Southern river otter ( <i>L. provocax</i> )
	<b>Lutra</b>	Eurasian otter ( <i>L. lutra</i> ) • Hairy-nosed otter ( <i>L. sumatrana</i> )
	<b>Lutrogale</b>	Smooth-coated otter ( <i>L. perspicillata</i> )
	<b>Pteronura</b>	Giant otter ( <i>P. brasiliensis</i> )
<b>Melinae</b> (Eurasian badgers)	<b>Arctonyx</b>	Northern hog badger ( <i>A. albogularis</i> ) • Greater hog badger ( <i>A. collaris</i> ) • Sumatran hog badger ( <i>A. hoevenii</i> )
	<b>Meles</b>	Japanese badger ( <i>M. anakuma</i> ) • Caucasian badger ( <i>M. canescens</i> ) • Asian badger ( <i>M. leucurus</i> ) • European badger ( <i>M. meles</i> )
<b>Mellivorinae</b>	<b>Mellivora</b>	Honey badger ( <i>M. capensis</i> )
<b>Mustelinae</b> (Weasels and minks)	<b>Mustela</b> (Weasels and ferrets)	Sichuan weasel ( <i>M. aistoodonnivalis</i> ) • Mountain weasel ( <i>M. altaica</i> ) • Stoat/Beringian ermine ( <i>M. erminea</i> ) • Steppe polecat ( <i>M. eversmannii</i> ) • Ferret ( <i>M. furo</i> ) • Haida ermine ( <i>M. haidarum</i> ) • Japanese weasel ( <i>M. itatsi</i> ) • Yellow-bellied weasel ( <i>M. kathiah</i> ) • European mink ( <i>M. lutreola</i> ) • Indonesian mountain weasel ( <i>M. lutreolina</i> ) • Black-footed ferret ( <i>M. nigripes</i> ) • Least weasel ( <i>M. nivalis</i> ) • Malayan weasel ( <i>M. nudipes</i> ) • European polecat ( <i>M. putorius</i> ) • American ermine ( <i>M. richardsonii</i> ) • Siberian weasel ( <i>M. sibirica</i> ) • Back-striped weasel ( <i>M. strigidorsa</i> )
	<b>Neogale</b>	Amazon weasel ( <i>N. africana</i> ) • Colombian weasel ( <i>N. felipei</i> ) • Long-tailed weasel ( <i>N. frenata</i> ) • American mink ( <i>N. vison</i> )
<b>Taxidiinae</b>	<b>Taxidea</b>	American badger ( <i>T. taxus</i> )

<div> <div>v · t · e</div> <div>Mammals in culture</div> </div>	
Topics	<div> <div>Animal husbandry · Draft animal · Fur farming · Hunting · Animals in sport · Laboratory animal · Livestock · Pack animal · Pet · Equestrianism · Service animal · Animal-assisted therapy · Working animal</div> </div>
Types	<div> <div> <div> <div>Bats · Bears (Bear-baiting · Bear hunting · Teddy bear) · Cats · Coyotes · Dogs · Deer · Elephants · Foxes · Horses (Horses in art · Horse worship) · Jaguars in Mesoamerican cultures · Kangaroos · Koalas · Lions · Pigs · Simians (Gorillas · Monkeys in Chinese culture · Orangutans) · Seal hunting · Spotted hyenas · Tigers (Tiger in Chinese culture · Tigers in Korean culture) · Weasels · Whales (Whaling · Whale watching · Whale worship) · Wolves (Werewolf)</div> <div>  </div> </div> </div> </div>
Taxon identifiers	
<i>Panthera pardus</i>	<div> <div>Wikidata: <span>Q34706</span> · Wikispecies: <span>Panthera pardus</span> · ADW: <span>Panthera_pardus</span> <span></span> · BioLib: <span>2022</span> <span></span> · BOLD: <span>73504</span> <span></span> · CoL: <span>4CGXR</span> <span></span> · CMS: <span>panthera-pardus</span> <span></span> · ECOS: <span>1563</span> <span></span> · EoL: <span>328673</span> <span></span> · EPPO: <span>PNTHPA</span> <span></span> · Fossilworks: <span>72185</span> <span></span> · GBIF: <span>5219436</span> <span></span> · iNaturalist: <span>41963</span> <span></span> · IRMNG: <span>10200769</span> <span></span> · ISC: <span>70717</span> <span></span> · ITIS: <span>183804</span> <span></span> · IUCN: <span>159548</span> <span></span> · MSW: <span>14000250</span> <span></span> · NBN: <span>NHMSYS0000377062</span> <span></span> · NCBI: <span>9691</span> <span></span> · Species+: <span>8619</span> <span></span> · TSA: <span>12801</span> <span></span></div> </div>
<i>Felis pardus</i>	<div> <div>Wikidata: <span>Q47450956</span> · GBIF: <span>4969816</span> <span></span> · ZooBank: <span>B22785BC-F90D-4948-9FE3-8ECCE4A2ECD2</span> <span></span></div> </div>
Authority control databases <span></span>	
National	<div> <div>Spain <span></span> · France <span></span> · BnF data <span></span> · Germany <span></span> · Israel <span></span> · United States <span></span></div> </div>
Other	<div> <div>NARA <span></span></div> </div>

Categories:

IUCN Red List vulnerable species

Leopards

Big cats

Felids of Africa

Felids of Asia

Mammals described in 1758

National symbols of Benin

National symbols of Malawi

National symbols of Somalia

National symbols of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Panthera

Taxa named by Carl Linnaeus