Pumas are large, cat-like animals/ which are found in America. When reports /came into London Zoo/ that a wild puma had been spotted forty-five miles south of London, they were not taken seriously. However, as the evidence began to accumulate, experts from the Zoo/ felt obliged [əˈblaɪdʒd] to investigate, for the descriptions given by people who claimed to have seen the puma /were extraordinarily [ɪkˈstrɔrdn:ˌɛrɪlɪ] similar.

The hunt for the puma began in a small village/ where a woman /picking blackberries /saw a large cat /only five yards away from her. It immediately [ɪˈmi:diətli] ran away/ when she saw it, and experts confirmed/ that a puma will not attack a human being/ unless it is cornered. The search proved difficult, for the puma/ was often observed at one place in the morning /and at another place twenty miles away/ in the evening. Wherever it went, it left behind it /a trail of dead deer and small animals /like rabbits. Paw prints were seen in a number of places/ and puma fur was found clinging to bushes. Several people com’plained of "cat-like noises' at night /and a businessman on a fishing trip /saw the puma up a tree. The experts were now fully convinced [kənˈvɪnst] /that the animal was a puma, but where had it come from? As no pumas had been reported missing from any zoo /in the country, this one /must have been in the possession [pəˈzeʃn] /of a private [ˈpraɪvət] collector /and somehow /managed to escape [ɪˈskeɪp]. The hunt went on for several weeks, but the puma /was not caught. It is disturbing [dɪˈstɜ:bɪŋ] to think/ that a dangerous wild animal/ is still at large/ in the quiet countryside.