Felines (11) <http://www.wotcat.com/wildlife/Mammal/South%20America.html>

1) Colocolo:

**Description**

The Colocolo is a small long-haired cat from Chile. The body is gray with brown stripes broken up into spots. These cats have fairly large pointed ears and a long bushy tail with dark bands. The Pampas Cat (Leopardus pajeros) used to be considered the same species as the Colocolo.

**Other Names**

Oncifelis colocolo

**Size**

Head and body length: 43cm - 70cm (average 57cm). Tail length: 22cm - 32cm. Weight: 3kg - 7kg (average 5kg).

**Habitat**

Open woodland, scrub thicket, forest, semi-arid desert regions, floodplains, mountain slopes.

**Food**

The Colocolo feeds on small mammals and ground birds and eggs. Will take poultry in areas of human settlement.

**Breeding**

Gives birth to a litter of one to three kittens after a gestation of 80 to 85 days.

**Range**

Chile

**Conservation Status**

The conservation status in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals is "near threatened".

**Classification**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Class: | Mammalia |
| Order: | Carnivora |
| Family: | Felidae |
| Genus: | Leopardus |
| Species: | colocolo |

**INTRODUCTION (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felidae)**

**“Felidae** is the [biological](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biology) family of the **cats**; a member of this family is called a **felid**. The most familiar felid is the domestic [cat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cat), which first became associated with humans about 10,000 years ago; but the family includes all other wild cats, including the [big cats](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_cat).

Extant felids belong to one of two subfamilies: [Pantherinae](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pantherinae) (which includes the [tiger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger), the [lion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lion), the [jaguar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaguar), and the [leopard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leopard)), and [Felinae](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felinae) (which includes the [cougar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cougar), the [cheetah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheetah), the [lynxes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lynx), the [ocelot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ocelot), and the domestic cat).

Felids are the strictest [carnivores](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnivore) of the 13 terrestrial families in the [order](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_(biology)) [Carnivora](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnivora), although the three families of marine mammals comprising the superfamily [Pinnipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinniped) are as carnivorous as the felids.”

Feline, or *felidae*, is the biological family of the cats; a member of this family is called a *felid*. The most familiar felid is the domestic cat. Felids are divided into two subfamilies: *pantherinae*—which includes the tiger, the lion, the jaguar, and the leopard— and *felinae*—which includes the cougar, the cheetah, the lynx, the ocelot, and the domestic cat. Of all the terrestrial families in the order *carnivora*, the felids are the strictest carnivores.

2)Geoffroy’s Cat

**Description**

Geoffroy's cat is similar in size of a large domestic cat. Male cats are slightly larger than females. The fur is silver grey to yellowish-brown with a pattern of small dark brown or black spots all over the body. There are two black streaks down each cheek. All-black individuals are fairly common. Animals from the northern part of the range have more yellow colour, and animals from the south are more silver grey.

**Other Names**

Oncifelis geoffroyi

**Size**

Head and body length: 42cm - 66cm (average 54cm). Tail length: 24cm - 36cm. Weight 3kg - 5kg (average 4kg).

**Habitat**

Geoffroy's Cat is found from sea level to 3,500m. It prefers dense vegetation near rivers. Also found in open woodland, savanna, and marshland. It often climbs trees and is a good swimmer.

**Food**

Feeds on small mammals such as hares and small rodents. Also eats birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish. It hunts in trees and on the ground.

**Breeding**

The breeding season is from December to May. Females may produce one litter of one to four cubs after a gestation period of 67 - 78 days. The kittens are born in a den in a tree hollow, under rocks or dense vegetation. The young are born blind and eyes open after 8 - 12 days and are weaned at 8 to 10 weeks. They stay with their mother until about eight months when they become completely independent.

**Range**

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay.

**Conservation Status**

The conservation status in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals is near threatened.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Class: | Mammalia |
| Order: | Carnivora |
| Family: | Felidae |
| Genus: | Leopardus |
| Species: | Geoffroyi |

3) Kodkod

**Description**

The Kodkod is a small wild cat from South America. The body is buff or grey brown with round black spots. The head and shoulders have some black streaks, and the backs of the ears are black with white spots. The tail has narrow black rings. All-black cats are quite common.

**Other Names**

Guigna

**Size**

Total length: 58cm - 68cm.

**Habitat**

Kodkod are found in moist temperate forests of the southern Andes and coastal ranges up to the treeline (up to 2500m). Also found in secondary forest and shrub and in cultivated areas.

**Food**

Eats small mammals and birds.

**Breeding**

Female cats produce a litter of two or three kittens.

**Range**

Argentina and Chile.

**Conservation Status**

The conservation status in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals is vulnerable.

**Classification**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Class: | Mammalia |
| Order: | Carnivora |
| Family: | Felidae |
| Genus: | Leopardus |
| Species: | Guigna |

4) Andean Cat

**Description**

Andean cats have a pale silver gray body with rust colored spots and stripes. The fur is long and thick. The forelegs and chest are marked with gray bars, and the underside is pale with dark spots. The tail is long and bushy with six to nine dark brown rings, and the tip of the tail is sometimes white. There are areas of white around the edges of the mouth, eyes and on the sides of the face. There is a dark stripe running down from each eye. Juveniles have more spots and narrower tail bands. Older cats have less spots and a lighter coat. The Andean Mountain Cat is similar to the Pampas cat, which is also found in the Andean mountains. Pampas cats have a shorter tail with fewer rings.

**Other Names**

Andean Mountain Cat

**Size**

Body length: 57cm - 85cm (average 66cm). Tail length: 41cm - 48cm. Average weight 4kg.

**Habitat**

Andean cats are found in arid and semi-arid regions of the Andes mountains. They prefer rocky habitat with scattered small shrubs above the tree line at 3000 to 4000 meters. They are also found in high mountain grasslands with wet grassy meadows and shrubs.

**Food**

Andean cats feed mainly on mountain chinchillas and mountain viscachas. They also eat reptiles, birds and other small mammals.

**Breeding**

Females produce a litter of one to three kittens.

**Range**

North west Argentina, south west Bolivia, north east Chile, southern Peru.

**Conservation Status**

The conservation status in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals is endangered.

**Classification**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Class: | Mammalia |
| Order: | Carnivora |
| Family: | Felidae |
| Genus: | Leopardus |
| Species: | jacobitus |

5)Pampas Cat

**Description**

The Pampas Cat is a small wild cat from the Pampas of Argentina and Chile. It used to be considered a subspecies of the Colocolo. It is similar in appearance to a domestic cat but somewhat larger. Pampas cats have very thick rust brown fur or pale brown fur with brown bands and rosettes. Some individuals are all black. The fur can be up to 7 cm thick. The head is relatively small compared to the sturdy body. They have bushy tails. Pampas Cats are fairly widely distributed in South America.

**Other Names**

Grass Cat

**Size**

Length about 60cm. Tail length: about 30cm

**Habitat**

Found in a wide range of habitat from grassland, scrub, woodland, forest to mountain habitat.

**Food**

Feeds on small mammals and birds at night.

**Breeding**

A litter of one to three kittens is born after a gestation period of 80 to 85 days. The breeding season in the wild is unknown.

**Range**

Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru.

Conservation Status: (<http://www.wildcatconservation.org/wild-cats/south-america/pampas-cat/>) Classified as near threatened in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals.

**Classification**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Class: | Mammalia |
| Order: | Carnivora |
| Family: | Felidae |
| Genus: | Leopardus |
| Species: | pajeros |

6) Ocelot

**Description**

The Ocelot has short tawny or reddish brown fur with black spots and rosette-shaped marks. The belly is white. The face has two black stripes down each side. There is a white spot behind each ear and white marks round the eyes and mouth. The tail is banded with black bands.

**Size**

Head and body length 55cm - 100cm. Tail length 30cm - 45cm. Weight: males 10 - 11.5 kg; females 8.8 - 9.4 kg.

**Habitat**

Forest, scrub, rainforest, mountain habitat with dense cover.

**Food**

Small mammals such as rabbits, rodents. Also frogs, fish, reptiles.

**Breeding**

One or two young are born after gestation of 79 - 85 days.

**Range**

Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, USA (Texas, Arizona), Uruguay, Venezuela.

Conservation Status: (<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/ocelot/>) Threatened

**Classification**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Class: | Mammalia |
| Order: | Carnivora |
| Family: | Felidae |
| Genus: | Leopardus |
| Species: | pardalis |

7) Oncilla

**Description**

The Oncilla is similar in appearance to the Ocelot and the Margay. The Oncilla is the smallest of the three with shorter tail and relatively larger eyes and ears. The fur is tawny brown along the back and whiter on the underside. The body is patterned with rosette-shaped spots. Kittens are also spotted. All-black cats are common.

**Other Names**

Little spotted cat, Tiger cat

**Size**

Head and body length: 45cm - 65cm. Tail length: 25cm - 33cm. Weight: 1.5kg - 3kg (average 2.25kg). Males are slightly larger than females.

**Habitat**

Found in subtropical forests and mountain cloud forests to 3,000m. Also found in thorn scrub, dry deciduous forests, and areas affected by deforestation.

**Food**

Feed on small mammals such as rodents and small birds. Sometimes catch small primates in Brazil.

**Breeding**

Female cats give birth to a litter of 1 to 3 (average two) kittens after a gestation period of 74 - 78 days. The young are weaned after about 55 days.

**Range**

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Panama, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela.

**Conservation Status**

The conservation status in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals is "vulnerable".

8)Margay

**Description**

The Margay is a small cat, and resembles a small ocelot. It is a spotted cat with tan, grayish or cinnamon colored fur with rows of dark brown spots along the body. The belly is white. The coat is thick and soft.

**Size**

Head and body length: 46cm - 79cm. Tail length: 33cm - 51cm. Weight: 2.6kg -3.9kg.

**Habitat**

Subtropical forests, tropical rainforest.

**Food**

Mammals, birds, eggs, amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, fruit.

**Breeding**

One or two kittens are born after gestation of 76 to 84 days. The young start to wean at around 8 weeks.

**Range**

Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, USA (Texas), Uruguay, Venezuela.

**Conservation Status**

The conservation status in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals is near threatened.

9)Jaguar

**Description**

The Jaguar is a large tan cat with black spots and rings. Some Jaguars are all black. Jaguars are similar in appearance to leopards but are stockier and have a larger head.

**Other Names**

Tigre

**Size**

Length: 1.2m. Height 0.8m - 1.0m . Tail length: 50cm - 75cm. Weight: 30kg - 150kg.

**Habitat**

Dense rainforest, coastal forest, scrubland, open country with cover.

**Food**

Medium to large mammals (such as deer or peccaries). Also feeds on fish, frogs, and reptiles.

**Breeding**

A litter of 1-4 cubs are born after gestation of 93 - 110 days. The cubs remain in the cover of the den for the first 2 weeks. They learn to hunt after about 6 months, and live with their mother for up to two years.

**Range**

Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela.

**Conservation Status**

The conservation status in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals is near threatened.

10)Cougar

**Description**

The Cougar is a large, slender cat. The fur is short and color varies from yellow brown to gray brown above, with a pale underside. The chest and throat are white. The nose is pink with a black border. The long tail is tipped with black. The legs are relatively short and strong.

**Other Names**

Puma, Mountain Lion

**Size**

Length: males 1.0m-1.5m; females 0.85m-1.3m. Tail length 63cm - 93cm. Weight: average 62kg for males and 42kg for females.

**Habitat**

Coniferous forests, tropical forests, grassland, brush country, swamps. Found in areas with rock crevices or dense vegetation for cover and shelter.

**Food**

Large mammals such as moose, elk, and deer. Also eats smaller mammals such as squirrels, muskrat, beaver, raccoon, and birds. Sometimes preys on domestic animals such as poultry, sheep, and goats.

**Breeding**

A litter of 3 to 6 cubs is born after a gestation of 82 - 96 days. (Average litter is 3 - 4 cubs). Cubs weigh 225g - 450g at birth. Cubs are fully weaned after about 40 days, but remain with their mother for around fifteen months.

**Range**

Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela.

**Conservation Status**

The conservation status in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals is near threatened.

11)Jaguarundi

**Description**

The Jaguarundi is small cat, not much bigger than a domestic cat. It has a long body and fairly short legs compared with other American cats. There are two main color variations - a dark grey black form and a reddish brown form. The coat is fairly uniform in color, without spots or markings. The underside is paler. Cats from the tropical rainforest habitat tend to be darker, while those from open drier country are lighter in color. Kittens are sometimes spotted at birth but lose their spots as they mature into adults.

**Size**

Head and body length: 50cm - 77cm. Tail length: 33cm - 60cm.

**Habitat**

Tropical rainforest, grassland, shrub land, deciduous forest, scrubland. Often found near water.

**Food**

Small mammals, birds, reptiles, frogs, fish.

**Breeding**

A litter of 1 - 4 kittens is born after gestation of 63 to 75 days. The kittens leave the den after about 4 weeks and are fully weaned after about 6 weeks.

**Range**

Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, USA (Arizona, Texas, Florida – introduced), Venezuela.

Conservation Status: (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaguarundi>) 4 of the jaguarundi’s sub-species are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.