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# OCELOTS

BY MADDIE DOWNEY - May 3, 2016

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*image from the san diego zoo*

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## Introduction

hi! i'm sweetie the ocelot and i am a small cute little cat that can be too cute sometimes!  
I live in a rainforest in south america.

this is a pic of me!



*image from <http://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/ocelot>*

you can call me sweetie but scientists call me *Leopardus pardalis*. my family is called felinae, and members of my family include: me, serval, cheetah, lynx, wildcat, cougar. whew! remembering all this to tell you is hard work!

we look light yellow but we also look reddish grey. i have a lot of both. we have stripes and spots too. i have thick fur and a long tail. i have normal housecat claws! i have pointy front teeth and i am about 20 inches long- very small for a ocelot, some ocelots could be 40 inches long! wow...i love running and climbing and swimming too.

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some of my friends live in texas, & their homes are getting destroyed! i feel so bad for them. why are they getting destroyed? well, people took away their habitats and that makes it hard for them to live. dr. jan janecka is trying to save the texas ocelots by studying the problems they have. i hope it works! (my friends deserve it!)

heres what it's like to be a ocelot (wow i don't know how i'm remembering this!) i like to be alone and hide. i am nocturnal! i sleep on a branch or hide in grass. i soft mew when other ocelots and i talk. if I'm looking for a mate i MEW LOUDLY!

i eat meat so i am a carnivore. some animals i hunt include: rabbits birds fish lizard and snakes. i hunt them at night. but things hunt me too! :( especially jaguars pumas and eagles. a while ago, people hunted me for fur. i got away every time. yay!

like i said earlier i live in a rainforest. but i am pretty easygoing. i can live in the dense jungle or tropical forests, marshes, or grass lands. i am also i good climber and swimmer so people have found me up high in the mountains and down in flooded forests.

fun fact: i could be a pet! but you would have to have a big backyard! i'm also in the game minecraft-you can tame me...i will be your house cat! and LOVE you too much! i have a friend named maddie.

i have to go now because it lunchtime for my little ocelot family but i hope you enjoyed this, bye! see you later!