



Eurasian Lynx

Lynx lynx

Range: Can be found in northern Europe and Asia and into central Asia.

Habitat: Eurasian lynx prefer to live in forested areas, but in Central Asia, they occur in more open, thinly wooded areas.

Diet: They prey upon small to fairly large sized mammals and birds including hares, rabbits, marmots, squirrels, dormice, grouse, red foxes, wild boar, chamois, moose, deer, and other ungulates.

Lifespan: Between 10-12 years in the wild and up to 20 years in captivity.

Description: Eurasian lynx are the largest of all lynx weighing in at 33 to 57 lbs. and measuring 3-5 feet from nose to the tip of the tail. Like other lynx species, they have large ears with black tufts, long cheek hair that hangs down to form a facial ruff, a long and dense coat, and a short tail. Their shorter, summer coat tends to be more reddish or brownish and their winter coat tends to be more silver-gray or grizzled grayish-brown. Some individuals may also have black spots while others do not. During the winter, their large paws are covered in long, dense, shaggy fur that provides a snowshoe effect when traveling through deep snow.

Breeding: Mating season for the Eurasian lynx typically lasts from January to April. Pregnant females construct dens in secluded locations, often protected by overhanging branches or tree roots. The den may be lined with feathers, deer hair and dry grass to provide bedding for the young. Gestation lasts between 67-74 days after which 1-4 kittens are born blind and helpless. They nurse from their mother and begin to eat solid food at 6-7 weeks old, but are not fully weaned until they are about 6 months old. They abandon their den when the young are about 3 months old, but kittens do not leave their mother until they are about 10 months old.

Behavior/Adaptations: For the most part, Eurasian lynx are crepuscular, but can and will hunt at any hour of the day. Like most other cats, they are solitary, only spending time with others during mating season and with their offspring (for females). Lynx use various scent marks including urine, feces, and scrapes to mark their territory and communicate with their neighbors.

Predators: No natural predators other than humans.

Conservation: They are considered to be a species of Least Concern because of their wide range, but in some European areas, they are considered to be Endangered or Critically Endangered due to depletion of prey, the fur trade, and are viewed as a threat to livestock.

The Zoo's Eurasian Lynx: Felix is a female born in 2007.

Interesting Facts:

- Eurasian lynx are the third largest predators in Europe after the brown bear and gray wolf.
- Other lynx species (i.e. Canada lynx) tend to be specialized hare hunters, whereas the Eurasian lynx predominately hunts ungulates.

Information taken from the following sources:
<http://www.arkive.org/eurasian-lynx/lynx-lynx/>
http://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Lynx_lynx/