



**If you see a bobcat while in the woods.**

Consider yourself lucky to glimpse one of nature's most elusive predators. Please observe without disturbing; bobcats are afraid of humans.

**If you see a bobcat in your backyard.**

Bobcats will not permanently settle near human dwellings, so most likely any bobcat in your yard is just passing through. However, do keep in mind that bird and squirrel feeders may attract predators.

**Relocation - Can Big Cat Rescue catch and move a bobcat?**

Unfortunately "relocation and release" is not a feasible option, as bobcats are not easily trapped, and a captured animal will often severely injure itself trying to escape. Bobcats are also very territorial and will usually try to return to its home turf if relocated.

**Do bobcats carry rabies?**

Bobcats keep other disease carrying vermin in check. Bobcats can carry rabies and any aggressive bobcats that are acting strangely or unafraid of humans should be avoided at all costs.

For further information on Florida bobcats or for ways you can help Florida wildlife please visit [www.BigCatRescue.org](http://www.BigCatRescue.org) and email any questions to [info@BigCatRescue.org](mailto:info@BigCatRescue.org)



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# The *Florida* Bobcat



What to do if you  
encounter one.



# Bobcat Facts

## Where does the bobcat live?

In Florida, bobcats are found across the entire state from the upper keys to the pan handle. These cats are adaptable enough to thrive in all of Florida's ecosystems, from coastal swamps to hardwood forests to scrub prairies. Unfortunately, human development is depleting all of these environments.

## What size are bobcats?

Bobcats are medium size cats. They can weigh between 15-30 pounds and stand approximately 20-24 inches high and 30-36 inches long.

## What color are bobcats?

Bobcats coats can vary in color from light gray, yellowish-brown, buff-brown, and reddish-brown. Although often faint in Florida bobcats, they are always spotted. Also a defining point is their tails which are short and white on the bottom.

## What does the bobcat eat?

The primary diet for a bobcat consists of rats and other rodents as well as snakes. Bobcats are opportunistic and will prey on free-ranging domestic fowl such as chickens or ducks, but will generally avoid dogs and domestic cats. Bobcats are most active and do a majority of their hunting in the hours surrounding sunrise and sunset.

## Are Bobcats dangerous?

Bobcats are shy and healthy bobcats will avoid humans as a rule. They are non-threatening unless cornered and will fight back fiercely to avoid being trapped or contained.

## Do bobcats make good pets?

Absolutely not. Even though they are smaller in size, bobcats are fierce feline carnivores and belong in the wild. Despite their cuteness and playful disposition when young, bobcats cannot be house-broken or domesticated.

# Bobcats In The Wild

Big Cat Rescue answers many calls about Florida panthers every week. Almost all of these reports turn out to be Florida bobcats. Although panthers and bobcats are not even close in size, that is not easy to determine from a distance or in the dark. Tail length can help determine the cats identity: bobcat tails are just 3 to 4 inches long while a panther's tail can reach up to 3 feet long. Panthers are found in only a small area of the Everglades and Big Cypress swamps, but bobcats are common throughout the entire state. If you see a wild cat in your yard it is most likely a bobcat.



# Know Your Prints



## BOBCAT

The front two toes do not align and there are three lobes on the bottom of the paw. Track Size: 1.5 - 2.5 in. L x 1.5 -2.5 in. W



## COUGAR

Much like the bobcat yet the paw print will be quite larger. Track Size: 3 - 4 in. L x 3-5 in. W



## DOG

The front two toes are aligned and there are only two lobes on the bottom of the paw. Also, a dog's nails will be seen because they do not retract, like a cats, when it walks. Track Size: 2.5 - 3.5 in. L x 1.5-3 in. W

**THE BOBCAT THREAT.** This little cat was the most heavily harvested and traded member of the cat family for the past 20 years. Thankfully, the interest in bobcat pelts today is declining due to international awareness of the cruel methods of trapping and prohibitions against trade of animals trapped using these methods. According to 2001 statistics provided from actual sales of hunting permits, over 40,000 bobcats are still being killed each year. This figure does not include all the bobcats killed by hunters who do not buy licenses nor report their kills. Less than 6% of our population are hunters but they kill over 100 million animals each year for sport. The biggest threat to Florida bobcats is the ever growing human population and its destruction of all natural habitat in its path. As the natural environment continues to rapidly shrink bobcat/human encounters are on the increase as the bobcats must travel further to find food, mates, and ever safe solitude. Big Cat Rescue receives reports of dozens of road killed bobcats each month.