

# Culture & History

The Salish and Pend d'Oreille word for mountain lion is *Sk<sup>w</sup>tismyé*, which means 'large predator'. The Kootenai word is *Swa'*.

Mountain lions were not typically hunted for food but could be eaten when necessary.

The Salish and Pend d'Oreille name *Sk<sup>w</sup>tismyé* is pronounced like the sound a cat makes.

Mountain lions are often in Kootenai animal stories about place names. For example, Black Lake gets its Kootenai name, "stink lake", from a battle between *Swa'* and Skunk.

Today, mountain lion hunting is allowed within the state of Montana from December to April with a license. However, there is no mountain lion hunting allowed within the Flathead Indian Reservation.

## Be Big, Be Loud!

While most mountain lions will not attack adult humans, they can pose a risk to small children and pets. The best way to avoid a mountain lion attack is to travel in groups, keep children close to adults, and leash your dogs.

If you do encounter a mountain lion, you should make yourself seem as large as possible. Wave your arms or a large stick and make loud noises. You can also throw sticks or rocks in the animal's direction. However, do not bend over or crouch down, as this will make you seem less threatening.

Do not approach the mountain lion or run away. Above all, stay calm and do not panic. The less prey-like you appear, the less likely the mountain lion will attack.

If the mountain lion continues to move towards you, bear spray can be an effective deterrent. As a last resort, you can also fight back. Most predators will not continue to attack if their prey is too much effort.

# MOUNTAIN LION



*Sk<sup>w</sup>tismyé* - *Swa'*

**If you are interested in learning more about our wildlife, contact us at :**

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# Interesting Facts

Mountain lions have many names, including puma and cougars, but they are all the same species. As of 2017, there are two recognized subspecies but traditionally there are thought to be at least six. The subspecies, *puma concolor* is the subspecies found in North America.

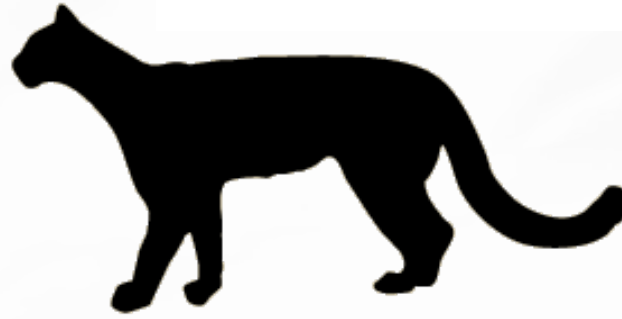
Mountain lions have a wide range and can be found in a variety of habitats. They are ambush predators that primarily feed on deer but will hunt any prey available, including insects, rabbits, and even moose.

Mountain lion attacks on humans are actually very rare. Though there have been reports of attacks on human children and dogs, usually these animals will only attack when provoked.

Mountain lions are nocturnal but also like to active during dawn and dusk.

Though they can't roar, mountain lions make a variety of chirping, hissing, or growling noises. During mating season, their mating calls have been compared to the sound of a woman screaming.

## Mountain Lion



Females: 85-120 lbs (38-54 kgs)  
Males: 120-180 lbs (54-82 kgs)

## Bobcat



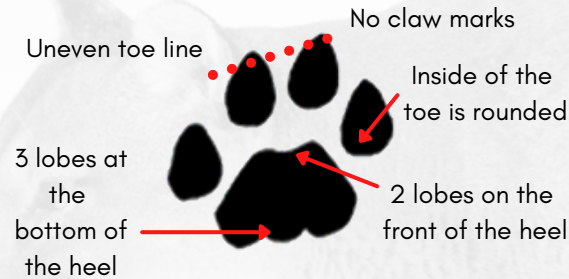
Females: 9-34 lbs (4-15 kgs)  
Males: 14-40 lbs (6-18 kgs)

## House cat

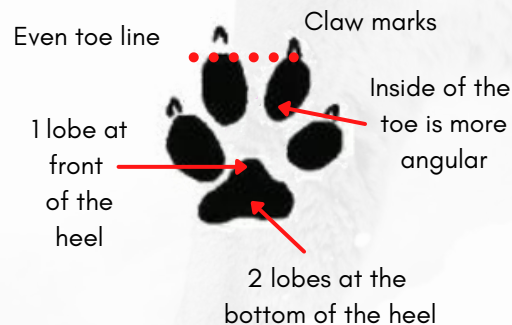


7-10 lbs (3-5 kgs)

## Mountain Lion



## Domestic Dog



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# Mountain Lion: A Visitor Guide