

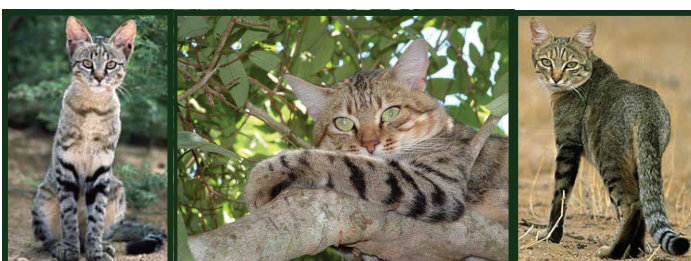


# AFRICAN WILD CAT

*Felis silvestris*



African Wild Cats look very much like domestic cats. Their short fur can vary in color from tan to gray to dark brown. There is a well-defined pattern of dark stripes on the entire body, which may be more or less pronounced depending on habitat preference. African Wild Cats are solitary animals that are primarily nocturnal. The home ranges of males usually overlap with the home ranges of three or four females. Males mark their territories by spraying urine on various objects. Both males and females have glands on their foreheads and at the base of their tails, which they rub on objects to leave scents associated with mating and territoriality.



## SPECIES QUICK FACTS

### SIZE

African Wild Cats have a body length of 20 to 30 inches, with an additional tail length of 8 to 13 inches.

### WEIGHT

African Wild Cats weigh between 8 and 11 pounds. Males are slightly larger than females.

### FOOD HABITS

African Wild Cats are carnivorous animals that primarily eat rodents. Small birds are also eaten.

### HABITAT

African Wild Cats can be found in a variety of habitats. They avoid rainforests. In deserts, they are restricted to mountainous areas with some water.

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

African Wild Cats are found in appropriate habitat throughout Africa. They are also found on the Arabian Peninsula.

### FUN FACT

The African Wild Cat is the species from which domestic cats were developed. These cats were first domesticated in Egypt about 4,000 years ago.