

# Cougar

*Puma concolor*

## Description

The Cougar, Alberta's biggest cat, can be found in wild areas along the full length of western North America, and Mexico, Central America and South America. Adult males can weigh up to 90 kg while females average 45 kg. Adults are well camouflaged with tawny to grey-brown fur and black tips on their tails and backs of their ears. Their heads are small and round and their eyes are brown with large pupils. Cougars are apex predators and are excellent hunters. They have a killing bite with sharp teeth to tear off chunks of meat and a rough tongue to clean traces of meat from their prey's bones. Their hind legs are longer than their front ones to give better spring to pounce on their prey; their claws are razor sharp for brining down their prey and climbing trees, and their skeletons bend easily for jumping, stretching and twisting. These cats have an excellent sense of smell and their large pupils help them see their prey in dim light. Cougars hunt moose, caribou and deer.

## FUN FACTS



- Despite their wide distribution, cougars are seldom spotted by humans.
- Cougars are solitary animal unless they are with their young.
- Cougars find a den in rock piles, caves or under fallen trees to give birth.
- Cubs stay with their mother until they can hunt on their own between 13 and 24 months.




If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal in distress, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at **403-214-1312** for tips, instructions and advice, or visit the website for more information [www.calgarywildlife.org](http://www.calgarywildlife.org)



## Contact Us

 11555—85th Street NW, Calgary, AB T3R 1J3  
 403-214-1312

 [admin@calgarywildlife.org](mailto:admin@calgarywildlife.org)  
 [calgarywildlife.org](http://calgarywildlife.org)

 @calgarywildlife  
 @calgarywildlife  
 @Calgary\_wildlife