



## Bobcats - Quick Reference Sheet<sup>1</sup>

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Table 1.

<b>Common Name:</b>		bobcat
<b>Other Names:</b>		bay lynx
<b>Scientific Name:</b>		<i>Felis rufus</i>
<b>Appearance:</b>	<b>Size:</b>	head and body, 25-30 inches long
	<b>Weight:</b>	15-35 pounds
	<b>Color:</b>	black spots on a reddish buffy, or gray ground color
	<b>Distinguishing features:</b>	very short tail and triangular ears
<b>Range:</b>		Florida race occurs statewide as far south as Lower Matecumbe Key, Monroe County
<b>Habitat:</b>		swamps and forests
<b>Diet:</b>		small mammals and birds
		occasionally decaying animal remains if not tainted
<b>Reproduction:</b>		breeding occurs primarily between January and June
		gestation period 50-60 days
		litters contain from 2-4 kittens
<b>Behavior:</b>		mostly nocturnal and solitary

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	dens in rock crevices, hollow logs
	territorial and home ranges can vary from approximately 0.5-15 square miles
<b>Problems:</b>	May prey on small farm animals, poultry and small household pets
	occasionally dig holes in yards
<b>Solutions:</b>	keep brush cut from around ranch or farmstead
	eliminate routes of connective vegetation from habitat to potential predation sites
	pen or secure small animals after dark
	after dark, repel with white flashing lights or bright continuous lighting
	barking dogs may be temporarily useful
	bobcats can be removed by permitted nuisance wildlife trappers
	as a last resort bobcats may be destroyed by a landowner when causing property damage
<b>Legal Aspects:</b>	killing of bobcats by property owners is permitted when bobcats are destroying livestock or property
	the use of steel or leg-hold traps is prohibited unless authorized by a permit
<b>Fact Sheet Available:</b>	yes