



BOBCATS

TIPS FOR REDUCING HUMAN-BOBCAT CONFLICTS:

- **Do not feed wildlife.** This increases the chance that the animal will lose its natural fear of humans.
- **Feed dogs and cats indoors and clean up after them.** Water, pet food, and droppings can attract wildlife, including bobcats.
- **Do not leave unattended dogs and cats outdoors, especially from dusk to dawn.** Left outside at night, small pets may become prey to bobcats.
- **Do not move "abandoned" baby bobcats.** Mothers leave their babies alone while they hunt for food. Baby bobcats found alone are typically not orphans.
- **A leashed dog is a safer dog.** When out for a walk, keep your pet leashed to greatly reduce the chance of a negative wildlife encounter.
- **Enclose pet birds and poultry in a secure pen or house.** Properly secure domestic birds to reduce their risk of becoming prey to bobcats.

BENEFITS OF BOBCATS

Bobcats play an important ecological role. They are effective predators of small mammals, such as rodents and rabbits, helping to keep population numbers of these and other herbivores in check.

Bobcats occasionally take larger mammals, such as deer, usually culling the weak ones. This limits over-browsing by deer and prevents unmanageable population increases.

NATURAL HISTORY

- Bobcats are members of the feline family. Their range covers the entire continental United States. They inhabit places with dense vegetation and plenty of prey. However, as their native habitats shrink, they are increasingly common in urban areas. Bobcats live in dens, which can be in a tree trunk, cave, brush pile, or fallen tree.
- Bobcats are carnivores, meaning they eat only meat. Their preferred food is rabbit, but they will also eat rodents, insects, birds, and even deer! The bobcat sneaks up on its prey before ambushing it with a lethal bite.
- A female bobcat's territory is approximately 5 square miles. Females are very territorial and their ranges never overlap. Alternatively, a male bobcat's territory is approximately 30 square miles and may overlap with other male cats.
- Bobcats are crepuscular- meaning they are most active during dawn and dusk.