



## Cougar

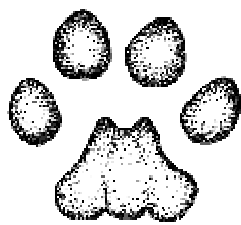
***Felis concolor* or Mountain Lion, Puma, Catamount, Deer Tiger, Indian Devil**

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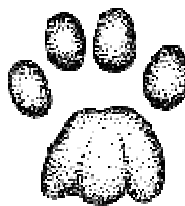
**Description** - The cougar is a large animal with fur that is short and reddish-brown to grey-brown with white on the underside; the tail is black-tipped. The head is fairly small with small, rounded ears and large feet. The average adult male weighs 125 pounds and the female 100 pounds. The cougar is the largest wild cat native to British Columbia.

**Distribution** - The cougar occurs in BC from the Canada/USA border to Big Muddy River on the Alaska Highway. Although they have not yet reached the Queen Charlotte Islands, they can be found on most other coastal islands. This animal is found only in the western hemisphere of the Americas generally in mountainous areas.

**Biology** - Although there is no fixed mating season, 1-6 young are usually born midsummer in a den where they are raised only with the female and remain with her for 1-2 years. The cougar is a strong, solitary, strongly territorial hunting species that requires an undisturbed game-rich wilderness. They feed on large animals to mice; the cougar is capable of killing a 600 pound moose or elk. An adult male needs no more than 14-20 mule deer per year to survive. The female cougar has a distinct scream that has been described as "nerve-wracking, demoniac, terror-striking, a trilling wail".



**FRONT**



**HIND**

**Tracks** - The cougars tracks rarely show evidence of the claw. The front feet are larger than the rear and generally the toes spread wider with speed. A distinctive feature of this creature in snowy areas is tail marks on the snow.

Straddle: 20 cm (8 in)

Stride: 40 - 50 cm (16 - 20 in)

Track: 8 cm (3.2 in) long / 8 cm (3.2 in) wide

**Info found at <http://www.bcadventure.com/>**