

ANDEAN MOUNTAIN CAT

Chile's Elusive Small Wild Cat

BACKGROUND

The **Andean Mountain Cat** (*Leopardus jacobita*), is a wild cat species native to the mountainous regions of South America. This fluffy spotted cat is a small and elusive species that has rarely been seen by humans.



DESCRIPTION

Scientific name: *Leopardus jacobita*

Height: 14 inches

Tail Length: 16-19 inches

Weight: 12 pounds →

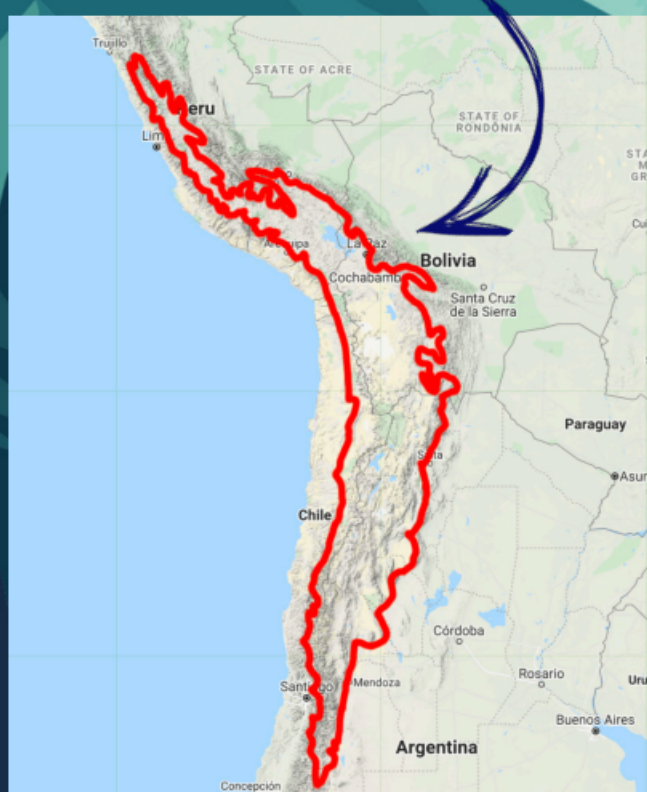
Size comparison: Bigger than a domestic house cat

Number of kittens: 1 per year, can have up to 3



HABITAT

This species of cat calls the Andean Mountains home, hence their name! They mostly live in Chile but can also be found in parts of Argentina, Peru, and Bolivia.



FAVORITE FOODS

- Viscachas
- Chinchillas
- Reptiles
- Birds



FUN FACTS

Locally I'm called huana titi meaning "cat from dry places"!

My excellent hearing helps me find food when hunting.

I mew, growl, or scream instead of roaring like most big cats do!

My super long tail helps me keep my balance while running.

I have a black nose and mouth compared to most cats that have pink ones!



CONSERVATION STATUS

- Only 1378 are thought to live in the wild
- Hard to find and watch
- Considered an endangered species
- Threats include:
 - Habitat loss
 - Hunting
 - Farming
 - Mining
 - Cutting trees
- Education is important to protect these cats!

Learn more here and at:

<https://gatoandino.org/en/>



Audience:

My intended audience for this project is the general public (lay audience) that may visit a zoo or sanctuary where this species is located. The aim was to create content that was visually attractive and suitable in language that even children would be able to understand. This was accomplished by using pictures as well as text to inform the public of this exhibition.

Purpose:

The purpose of this exhibition label is to provide some background into the life of the Andean Mountain cat to an audience that may have never heard of this species before and make the audience aware of the existence of this species. This is accomplished through providing a description of the species, where it lives, what it eats, and its conservation status in the wild due to various threats. Various images were utilized to fulfill this purpose as well.

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