

# Leopards

Leopards are known as big cats. They have many features that are the same as pet cats. They have black spots on their fur, which are sometimes rose-shaped. There are also black leopards, which have darker fur.

## Habitat

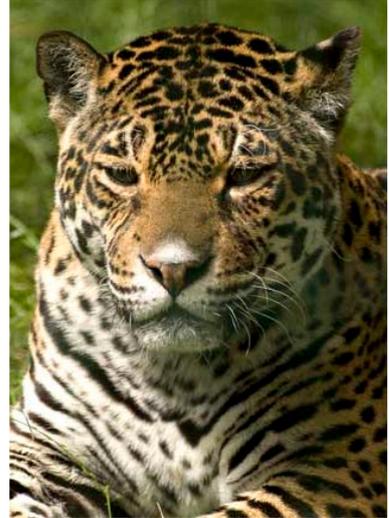
Leopards live in lots of different places. They can live in jungles, mountains, swamps or even grasslands. They can be found in African and Asian countries, including India and China. Leopards tend to live alone, except when they have babies to look after.

## Diet

Leopards like to hunt for food at night. They like to eat meat such as deer, fish, monkeys and birds. They will often watch their prey from high up in the trees where they can blend in with the leaves. Then they will pounce down to surprise their prey.

## Fun Facts

- A baby leopard is called a cub.
- Cubs learn how to climb, run and swim by watching their mother.
- A leopard's tail is very long. It is the same length as the leopard's body.
- There are lots of different kinds of leopards, such as African leopards, Asian leopards and snow leopards.
- Leopards can run at around 58km per hour!



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# Leopards

Leopards are part of the cat family, which also includes lions, tigers and even pet cats. They have light-coloured fur with dark spots, often called rosettes because they look rose-shaped. Some leopards have dark fur and are called 'black leopards'. The spots can be difficult to see as their fur is so dark. Due to the colour of their fur, black leopards are often mistaken for panthers.

## Habitat

Leopards can live in many different places. Some like to live high up in the mountains, whilst others prefer to live in jungles or deserts. They are mostly found in some African countries, as well as central Asia, India and China. Leopards tend to live alone, except when they are raising their babies.

## Diet

Leopards are nocturnal, which means they hunt at night and sleep during the day. They like to sleep in trees or hide in caves where it is cooler. Leopards are carnivores, which means they eat meat. They will hunt for food (or prey) such as deer, fish, monkeys, birds or grubs. Leopards 'stalk' their prey by keeping very quiet and bending low so that they can't be seen. They will then pounce!

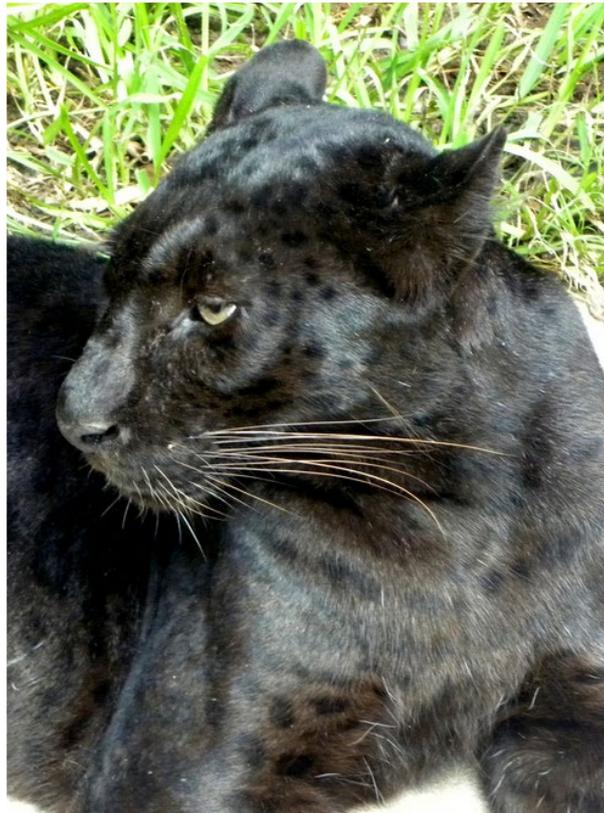


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## Fun Facts

- A leopard's body helps it to climb, swim and run. It has a long, thin body which is powerful and strong. This helps the leopard to run quickly.
- Leopards can run at around 58km per hour. That is faster than a car is allowed to drive in places with lots of houses!
- A leopard's tail is very long. It is the same length as the leopard's body. This helps them to balance along thin branches and enables them to make quick, sharp turns.
- Leopards are endangered animals.



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# Leopards

Leopards come from the same family as cats and share many characteristics with domestic cats. They are mammals, which means they are warm blooded, have fur and give birth to live babies, not eggs. They are ferocious hunters that hunt for any prey they can find. Most leopards have light-coloured fur with dark spots on it called 'rosettes'. They have this name due to their shape, which look like roses. Some leopards are named 'black leopards' due to the colour of their fur. The spots can be difficult to see as their fur is so dark. Due to the colour of their fur, black leopards are often mistaken for panthers.



## Habitat

Leopards can be found in many different countries around the world. They can be found in sub-Saharan Africa, central Asia, India and China. Leopards are very adaptable and can live in a variety of places. They can be found in mountains, woodlands, rainforests and even swamps. In fact, they live in more places than any other big cat. Leopards are solitary animals, which means they generally live alone.



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## Diet

Being nocturnal, leopards hunt at night. They spend the majority of the day resting in trees or hiding in caves. Leopards are carnivores and have a varied diet. They will hunt for fish, grubs, birds, monkeys, antelope and deer. When a leopard spots a potential meal, it bends low so it cannot be seen and keeps very quiet. They then stalk their prey and when they are close enough, they pounce!

## Fun Facts

- A leopard's tail is about the same length as its entire body. This helps them to balance along thin branches and enables them to make quick, sharp turns.
- Their sleek shape is powerful and allows them to run at up to 58km per hour (which is faster than a car in residential areas!)
- These majestic animals are able to leap and jump long distances and they are fantastic swimmers and climbers.
- Leopards are endangered animals due to people hunting them for their fur.