



Ocelot

(*Felis pardalis albescens*)

Ocelots' fur ranges from cream to reddish gray, and is marked with open-centered dark spots that run along its body like a linked chain. Ocelots are also called “painted leopards” or “tigrillos”.

Habitat & Diet

Ocelots are found from Texas to Northern Argentina. They live in dry scrub country and humid tropical forests, preferring dense underbrush laden with small rodents where they can hide and hunt. Ocelots need to have plenty of cover to in which to hide and hunt. They have a territory approximately one to four square miles. Ocelots mainly feed on small mammals and birds but they have been known to eat insects, lizards, snakes, land crabs, and fish.



Weight: 25-35 lbs
Length: 21-39 inches long with a 12-18 inch tail
Habitat: humid tropical forests to dry scrub country
Life Expectancy: 20 years in captivity
Baby: kitten

Fascinating Facts

Ocelots are solitary animals. Females raise the young with no help from the males. She leaves the kittens in the den at night while she hunts for food. The kittens do not begin hunting until they are 3 months old and stay with their mothers for a full year. Ocelots love dense thicket that is impenetrable by humans.

Status

The Texas Ocelot has been listed as an endangered species since 1972. Currently, human development, habitat fragmentation, and the resulting high road mortality rate are replacing hunting as the major threat to the viability of the Ocelot population. Zoos in the area have been gathering a population of the Texas Ocelot to eventually breed and reintroduce them to their native habitat; however, this effort will not be successful until the Ocelot's habitat is re-established.



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