

# About America's Lion

## Names

Scientific Name: *Puma concolor*  
Common Names: Cougar, panther, puma, and many more.



## Home

Mountain lions prefer areas with dense undergrowth and cover, and will leave an area where they perceive a threat.

From deserts to humid coast forests, arid hill-sides, scrub and oak woodlands, lions live from sea level to snow-covered mountains.

Mountain lions maintain territories an average of 100 square miles in size. Although lions are solitary unless mating or accompanied by their young, their territories will overlap those of lions of the opposite sex, and will occasionally overlap with lions of the same sex.

Lions mark their territory by urinating on scratch piles of dry leaves, grass or pine needles.

## Behavior

Mountain lions are calm, quiet, and elusive.

Opportunistic hunters, mountain lions eat prey that is familiar and easily available to them. They hunt alone at night, dusk, and dawn, taking their prey - primarily deer - from behind.

Mountain lions will kill a deer every one to four weeks. They may drag the kill to another area and cover it with dry leaves, grass or pine needles, to protect the kill from other animals and to reduce spoilage. A lion may return to the kill over a period of several days.

## Abilities

Mountain lions can:

- ◆ bound up to 40 feet running
- ◆ leap 15 feet up a tree
- ◆ climb over a twelve foot fence
- ◆ walk many miles at 10 mph
- ◆ reach speeds of 50 mph in a sprint

Lions sense movement more accurately than they see detail. Seeing in pixilated mosaics, their wide angle and night vision is much greater than our own.

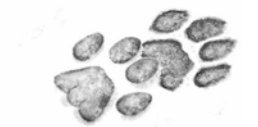
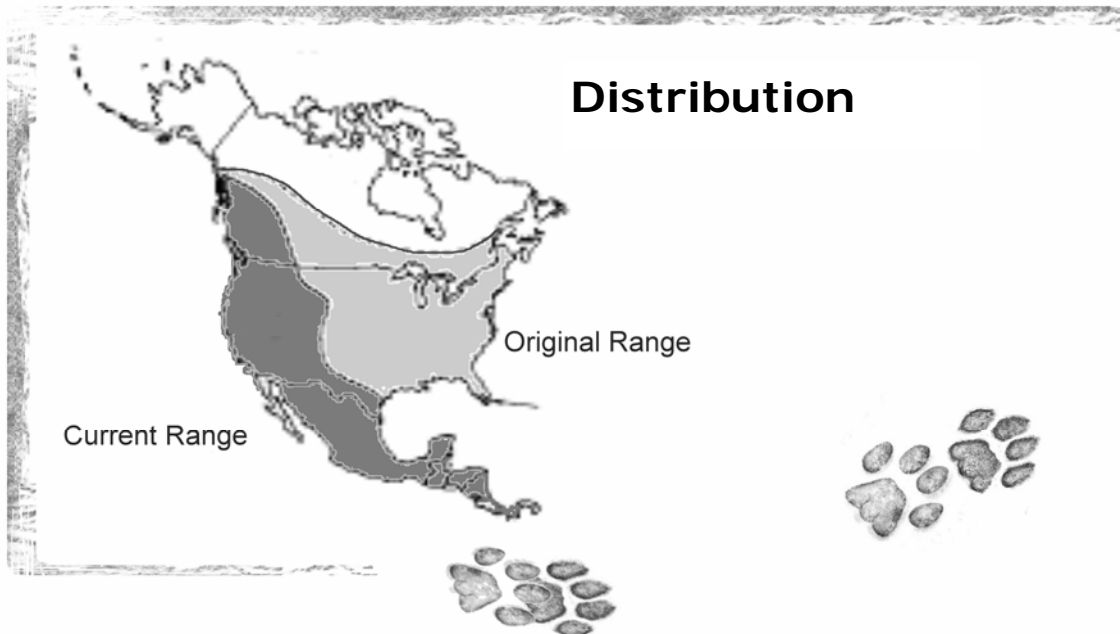
A lion's hearing is acutely sensitive, discerning ultrasonics far beyond human range. Their ears move independently to better receive sound.

## Appearance

The mountain lion is tan in color, with black tipped ears and tail. Adults weigh 80 to 180 pounds and stand two to three feet high at the shoulders. The length of a lion is 3 to 8 feet from the nose to the tip of the tail. The tail measures 1/3 of the lion's length.

Mountain lion kittens or cubs have camouflaging spots, and rings around their tails. Lions may bear up to four kittens, which stay with their mother for 18 months, after which they disperse to establish their own territories.

In Southern California, bobcats and coyotes are often mistaken for mountain lions.



## Tracks

Lions have a distinctive "M" shaped pad, and their claw marks do not show in the track. Walking, the lion's hind foot steps in his fore track, creating overlapping patterns.



# Mountain Lions



## Biology & Behavior

Mountain Lion Foundation  
P.O. Box 1896  
Sacramento, Calif. 95812

(916)442-2666  
[www.MountainLion.org](http://www.MountainLion.org)

*The natural areas we have come to love will change if we do not act to conserve our native lion.*

*Mountain lions keep natural systems healthy. Without them, cascades of extinctions might affect many plants and animals, until the songbirds no longer fill the air, and the wildflowers no longer blossom.*

### Family Security

- ◆ When walking in mountain lion country, stay with a group.
- ◆ Keep your children very close to you.
- ◆ Keep all wildlife at a distance.
- ◆ Do not approach a lion.
- ◆ Do not panic. Do not run.
- ◆ Never corner a lion, back away to provide a means of escape.
- ◆ Make eye contact.
- ◆ Do not crouch down or bend over.
- ◆ Try to appear larger, raise your arms.
- ◆ Throw things at the lion.
- ◆ Wave your arms and speak loudly.
- ◆ Fight back if attacked.

### Preventing Conflicts

- ◆ Keep your pets and their food indoors, especially if a lion has been sighted in your neighborhood.
- ◆ Remove places in your yard where a lion or other wildlife might hide.
- ◆ Install bright lighting, motion detecting lights or sprinkler systems.
- ◆ Remove all sources of food in your neighborhood, including pets and livestock.
- ◆ Keep livestock in a pen with a roof.
- ◆ Don't feed wildlife such as deer, coyotes, raccoons or opossums, it will attract lions.
- ◆ Design your landscape with plants that will not attract deer, the lion's primary prey.
- ◆ Talk to your neighbors about how they too can make their yards more secure.

**Yes! I want to save America's Lion. Enclosed you will find my membership donation of**

\$25  \$35  \$50  \$100  other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed.  Please charge my contribution to my  VISA  Mastercard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your help. Your contribution is tax-deductible. Please make your check payable to the "Mountain Lion Foundation."