

RANGE

Current range is from southern Texas southward through Central and South America, excluding Chile. Once ranged as far east as Arkansas and Louisiana.

HABITAT

Found in a wide range of habitats, from coastal mangrove forests, coastal marshes, savannah grasslands, thorn scrub and tropical forests.

SIZE

Body Length: 20 – 40 inches long. Tail: 15 inches

Weight: 17 to 25 pounds

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Wild: Typically 7 – 8 years

Captivity: Have lived as long as 20 years

DIET

Wild: Carnivores. Rodents, Rabbits, Birds, snakes, fish and land crabs.

Captivity: Carnivore diet

REPRODUCTION

- Tend to have small litters---usually one, rarely up to 3.
- Time between litters is long. Gestation is 79–85 days.
- Lifetime output for typical female is about 5 kittens
- Low survival rate to adulthood, due to slowest growth rate among felines.
- Females prepare den in thick brush.
- Kittens begin hunting with the mother at about 3 months, and will stay with her for about a year.

BEHAVIOR

- Active 12–14 hours per day. Nocturnal.
- Spend time in day resting in trees or dense brush.
- Ocelots may travel from one to five miles per night. Males usually traveling farther than females.
- Have been shown to successfully capture and average of one prey item every 3.1 hours of travel.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Population worldwide is estimated to be between 800,000 & 1.5 million. In Texas there is believed to be between 80 and 120 left, generally along the Rio Grande valley.
- Main threats are habitat destruction for agriculture, hunting for fur, and pet trade.

STATUS

Endangered, Listed 3/28/1972 (U.S.). CITES Appendix I, Endangered Species Act

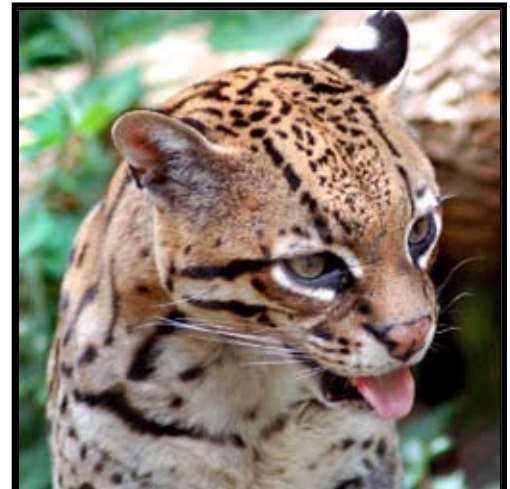


photo: Kara Bussabarger

Order:	Carnivora
Family:	Felidae
Genus:	Leopardus
species:	pardalis