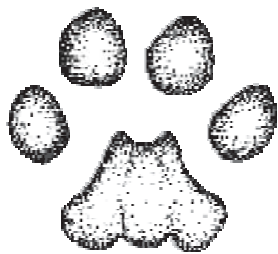


Tracks

The cougar's paws have four toes with three distinct lobes present at the base of the pad. The front paws are larger than the rear and, in an unhurried walk, they usually place the hind paw in the imprint made by the front paw. Since the claws are retractable claw marks are not generally visible. A distinctive feature of this creature in snowy areas is the tail marks it leaves in the snow.

Adult males almost always travel alone. If tracks indicate two or more cougars traveling together it is most likely a female with kittens.

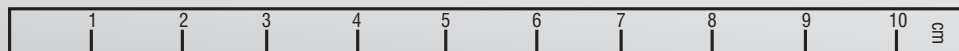


FRONT



HIND

Track = 8cm wide x 8cm long



Remember

Cougars have always lived in Saskatchewan and play an important role in our eco-system. Their presence sometimes comes as a surprise to local residents and visitors but with a better understanding of cougars and their habits, we can co-exist with these magnificent animals.

It is highly unlikely that a cougar will bother you. North American statistics from the past 100 years show that there have been less than twenty fatal cougar attacks. During this time approximately 1,300 people have died from rattlesnake bites, 4,000 from bee stings and 15,000 were killed by lightning.

The cougar is a protected species under the province's Wildlife Act and Regulations. Saskatchewan Environment is responsible for managing, conserving and protecting wildlife.

However, your concerns about wildlife are important to us. If you have any questions about cougars or any other wildlife please contact your nearest Saskatchewan Environment office or conservation officer.

For more information



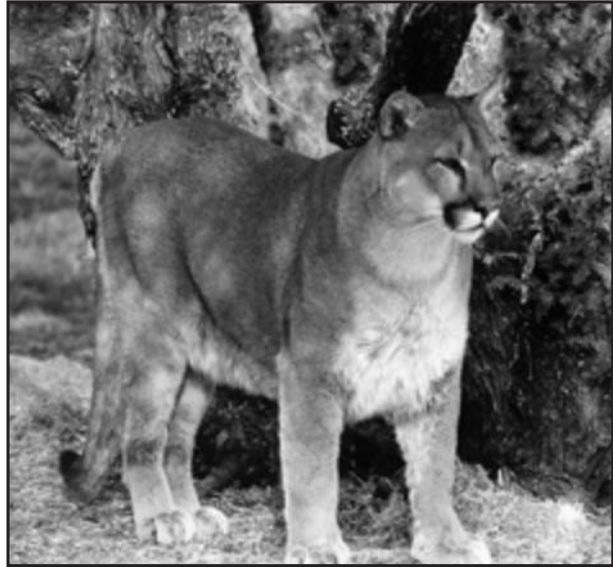
Please contact your local Saskatchewan Environment office or conservation officer or go on line at:

www.se.gov.sk.ca



Cougars and You





The mountain lion, which in Saskatchewan is commonly known as the cougar, is one of North America's largest cats. It is a shy, elusive predator that is solitary by nature. Cougars primarily hunt deer and other small animals. Adult males may be more than 2.5 meters in length and weigh about 68 kilograms. Although adult females are somewhat smaller they may still be up to 2.2 meters long with an average weight of about 41 kilograms.

Cougars prefer to avoid contact with humans but like all cats exhibit a certain degree of curiosity. Understanding their behaviour can greatly reduce the chances of coming into contact with one.

The following suggestions may be of assistance in the unlikely event that you do encounter a cougar.

Cougar Country

By nature, cougars are shy, elusive and reclusive. They prefer to avoid contact with humans and normally run away upon contact however, they are curious and people must avoid triggering this curiosity. **The chance of a human/cougar interaction is always remote and decreases if a few simple precautions are followed.**

Avoiding Contact

- Be especially alert and make lots of noise when outdoors during dawn and dusk. Cougars are most active during this time.
- Do not approach a cougar, especially one that is feeding or has young. Most cougars will try to avoid a confrontation. Be sure to give them a way to escape.
- If you encounter a cougar, stay calm. Stop or backup slowly, if you can do so safely. Running may stimulate the instinct to chase and attack. Face the animal and stand upright.
- Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. If you are wearing a sweater or jacket, open it and hold it wide open.
- Protect small children by picking them up so they won't panic and run.
- If the cougar behaves in an aggressive manner, throw stones, branches or whatever you can find. Avoid crouching down or turning your back to the animal.
- If you are attacked, fight back. Try to remain standing. Cougars have been successfully driven away by people using rocks, sticks, tools and even their bare hands.

Protecting Your Livestock



Although cougars will hunt and travel during the day they are most active from dawn to dusk. They prefer to kill their own prey and, like most cats, prefer take advantage of available cover to ambush their quarry rather than spending time on a long pursuit. In Saskatchewan, the cougar's primary food source is deer. Because many deer live close to farmyards and mingle with cattle there is the possibility of cougar/human interaction.

Here is what you can do to reduce that possibility.

- Eliminate hiding places by removing vegetation from yards and in or near corrals.
- Install outside lighting.
- Move livestock into corrals, enclosed buildings or sheds at night. Close the doors of all outbuildings.
- Keep your pets under control. Roaming pets are easy prey and can attract cougars. Don't feed your pets outside; this can attract raccoons and other animals that cougars see as prey.
- Securely store all garbage.
- Make lots of noise when coming and going during dawn and dusk.
- Encourage your neighbours to follow these simple precautions.

