

von Wolff JF. 1955. Beasts of Prey (Carnivora): Felids. In: von Wolff JF, editor. Mammals of Ethiopia and principal reptiles. Ethiopia: Minister of Agriculture for Ethiopia; p 10-14.

Keywords: 1ET/Acinonyx jubatus/Caracal caracal/Carnivora/cheetah/distribution/East Africa/Felidae/felids/Felis silvestris lybica/leopard/Leptailurus serva/lion/mammal/Mammalia/Panthera leo/Panthera pardus/prey/status

Abstract: The cheetah is briefly described and its distribution in Ethiopia is provided.

Le guépard est brièvement décrit et sa distribution en Ethiopie est présentée.

0. *Examine*

Mammals of Ethiopia

AND PRINCIPAL REPTILES

Text and Illustrations

by

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H.E. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE FOR ETHIOPIA

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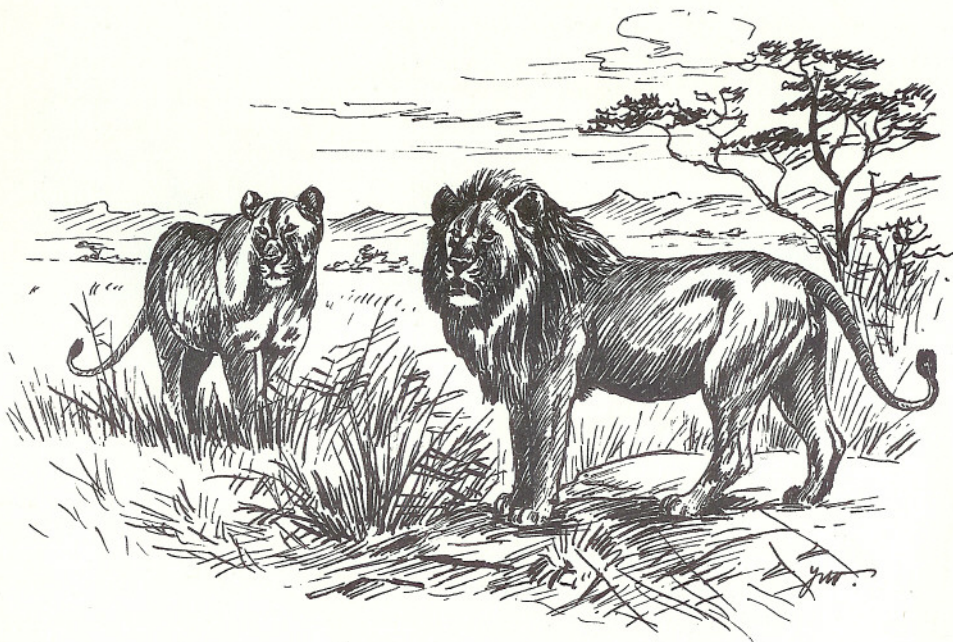
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D. ORDER: Beasts of Prey (*Carnivora*)

The characteristic of all *beasts of prey* is that their eye-teeth are developed into strong dagger-like structures which serve for the killing and tearing of their prey.

FAMILY: CATS (*Felidae*)

They possess movable claws which can be retracted and which give them a soft, creeping pace.



5. ETHIOPIAN LION (*Felis leo sp.*)

The Lion is the King of the animals and the national emblem of Ethiopia.

Description: It stands about 80 to 100 cm. at the shoulder and is from 250 to 300 cm. long. Full grown males weigh 150 to 175 kg. The Ethiopian Lion has a dark profuse mane which extends to the middle of the back and also underneath the belly. The colour of lions is a rather uniform tawny (lighter or darker). The tail is tufted in both sexes.

Habitat: In Ethiopia, the Lion is found in the West, in the East in Dankali, Ogaden, Arusi, Borana and Gamo Gofa down to Kenya. It prefers the open country with bush deserts and hills.



6. LEOPARD (*Felis Panthera pardus*)

Description: It is smaller than the Lion. A strong male stands from 60 to 75 cm. at the shoulder and reaches a length of 200 to 290 cm. from the nose to the tip of the tail. The colour varies from a light reddish yellow to bright reddish brown and through dark brown to nearly black, covered with black rings and spots all over the head and body.

Habitat and Habits: In Ethiopia, the Leopard is found everywhere, both in mountains thick forests and plains. It is the most bloodthirsty of all animals, doing damage to game and livestock. Baboons and dogs, however, are its favourite food. It is more dangerous than the Lion.

7. BLACK PANTHER

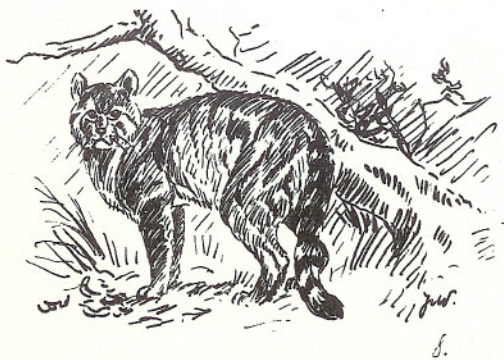
(*Felis Panthera pardus melanosticta*)

Leopard and Panther are synonymous terms, referring to the same animal.

Description: See 6, Leopard for data.



8. AFRICAN WILD CAT (*Felis ocreata*)



Description: The body colour is a yellowish brown, behind the ears and on the back reddish, on the sides paler, and beneath whitish, with distinct brown stripes all over the body. There are some black stripes on the legs, and the top-half of the tail is ringed with black. It is 75 to 80 cm. long (including the tail, 25-30 cm.).

Habitat and Habits: The African Wild Cat is distributed all over the continent. It was domesticated in ancient Egypt. All breeds and varieties of the domesticated cats descend from the Egyptian sub-species of Wild Cat—*Felis ocreata maniculata*. Both wild and domestic cats destroy a great many mice and rats. but they also destroy many useful birds and are, therefore, harmful.

9. SERVAL (*Leptailurus serval*)



Description: It is also known as Bush-Cat. The colour is yellowish brown with dark stripes and spots. The hind-quarters are much higher than the shoulders and are very powerful. It is up to 50 cm. high, with a length of 100 cm. (including the tail, 35 cm). Size and colour vary.

Habitat and Habits: It is found everywhere in the country and preys on mammals and birds, doing damage also to young lambs and chickens. It is easily attracted by odours into kitchens and stores—if windows are left open. Being very intelligent the Serval is easily tamed and makes a perfect pet.

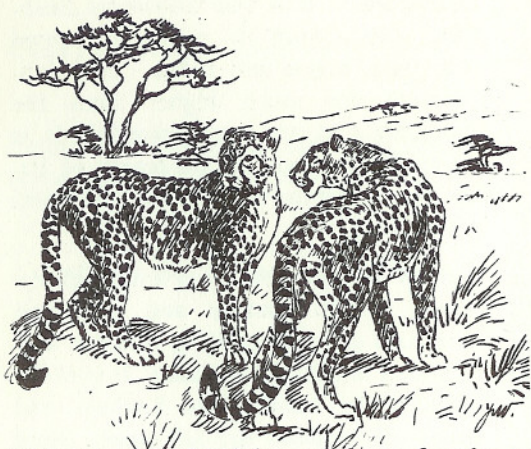
10. CARACAL (*Caracal caracal*)



Description: It is also known as Desert Lynx. Being a Lynx, it has tufted ears and a rather short tail. It is a slender, tough sinewy cat. It has a height of 40 to 45 cm. and a length of 90 to 100 cm. (including the tail, 25 cm.) The colour is reddish fawn, somewhat lighter beneath. The ears are black.

Habitat and Habits: In Ethiopia, it is found everywhere in the open county, desert and rocks. It is very fast, a good jumper, runner and climber. It pursues mammals and birds even larger than itself. Sometimes it preys on chickens even in Addis Ababa.

11. AFRICAN CHEETAH (*Acinonyx guttatus*)



Description: It stands from 75 to 85 cm. at the shoulder and has a very small head but long legs and tail. The ground colour varies from a yellowish to brownish grey, with many round black spots. It has a short mane on the neck. The length is about 210 to 220 cm. (including the tail, 75 to 80 cm.).

Habitat and Habits: The Cheetah is a dweller of the open country and desert. In Ethiopia, it lives in Dankali, Ogaden, Borana and Arusi. It is the fastest animal in the world,

with a speed of 113 km. an hour, for short distances. It preys on antelopes and other game. The Cheetah can be tamed and trained for hunting.

FAMILY: CIVETS (Viverridae)

12. AFRICAN CIVET (*Civettictis civetta*)

Description: The family of Civets (*viverridae*) of the order Carnivora includes Civets, Mongooses and Genets. The African Civet is very long, about 125 cm. (including the tail, 45 cm.) It weighs about 10 kg. and has a height of about 30 cm. The head is wedge-shaped with short, round ears. The colour is pale grey or drab, with dark stripes and spots, and the tail black and white-ringed. The Civet is characterised by a scent gland between the anus and genitals, which secretes the "civet" or "musk" used in perfumery



Habitat and Habits: The distribution is from Ethiopia and Senegambia to South Africa, with many sub-species. The Civet is nocturnal and hides in thick bush during the day. It does not climb. It feeds on small mammals, birds, eggs, reptiles, roots and fruits. In Ethiopia, it is kept in narrow cages or baskets, and once or twice a week the "civet" is collected. The Province of Kaffa is the country of origin not only of coffee but also of the "civet".