



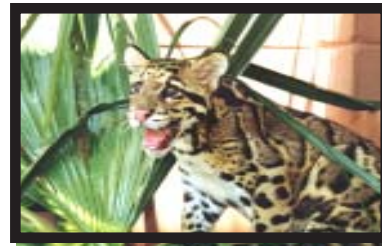
Clouded Leopards in the Wild



Clouded Leopards in Zoos



Clouded Leopards at the Central Florida Zoo



The clouded leopard is endangered in its native habitat due to habitat destruction and overhunting. The forests of Southeast Asia are rapidly being cut down for logging and also to make room for farms and plantations.

The clouded leopard has very beautiful thick fur with an unusual pattern that some people think looks like clouds. It was either for this reason, or because it often climbs high in the trees "way up in the clouds", that it got its name. Unfortunately, the beautiful fur is the reason so many have been killed. It takes between 20 and 30 clouded leopards to make one fur coat. Although it is protected from hunting now, enforcing the laws is very difficult.

To protect the clouded leopard from becoming extinct, three very important things need to happen. 1) Their native habitat needs to be protected. 2) The wild clouded leopards that remain in the wild need to be protected. 3) Zoos need to work together to breed clouded leopards in captivity.

The Clouded Leopard Species Survival Plan of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association has 64 clouded leopards in 30 zoos. These zoos, along with zoos in other countries, work together to manage the captive clouded leopard population. They do careful studies to pair animals together that will result in the most **genetic diversity**. This means the goal is to have many animals that are not closely related to each other. The Central Florida Zoo's male clouded leopard was one of the most important in captivity because his genes were not well represented in the captive population. Now he is 15 years old and has fathered 11 cubs. His offspring are reproducing in zoos across the country! Someday we hope his great great grandchildren will be reintroduced to the wild.

To make sure there will be wild habitat left, zoos also work together to educate the public both here and in Asia about clouded leopards. Most importantly they raise funds to support all the efforts taking place to protect the clouded leopards' wild home.

Bring this coupon with you to meet the Zoo's very special clouded leopard!

(see other side)

To learn more about clouded leopards visit this website: www.cloudedleopard.org



Also visit the Zoo's website at www.centralfloridazoo.org

- 1) What is the main reason the author wrote this article?
 - a) To convince people clouded leopards make good pets.
 - b) To persuade people to not kill clouded leopards.
 - c) To inform people about what's happening to clouded leopards in the wild, and what zoos are trying to do about it.
 - d) To convince people that clouded leopards are excellent predators.
- 2) The three most important things that must be done to protect the clouded leopard from becoming extinct are:
 - a) convince people to wear fake fur, build more zoos, breed more clouded leopards
 - b) protect the native habitat, protect the wild clouded leopards, breed and carefully manage the captive population
 - c) let more people keep them as pets, protect the wild habitat, close all the zoos

Teacher Copy

Creature Chronicle

November 2009 Publication of the Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens Volume 4 issue 3

The amazing clouded leopard!

Is this a big cat or a small cat?

Is it endangered?

What is its habitat?

What adaptations does it have?

scientific name: *Neofelis nebulosa*
(Genus) (species)

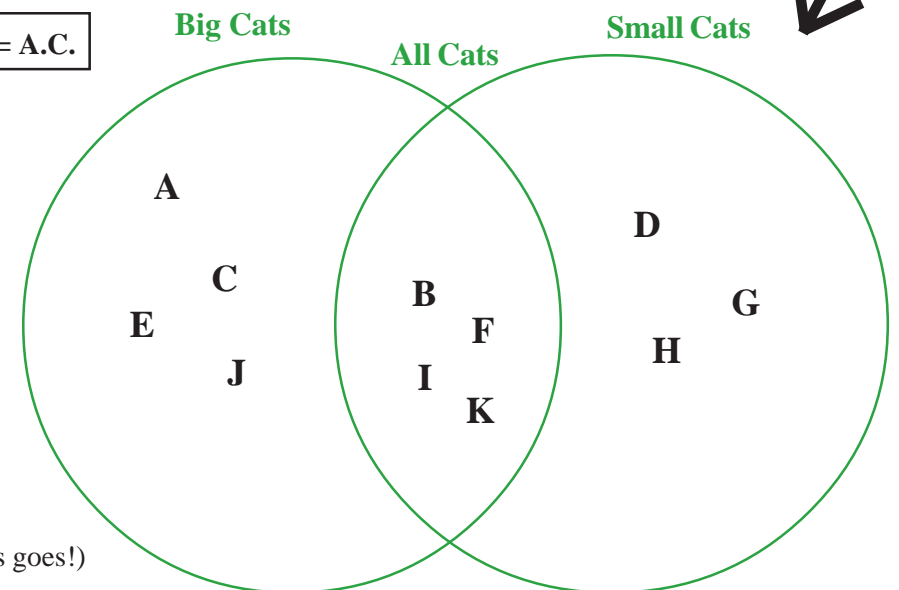
The clouded leopard is one of the most interesting cats, or felines, in the world. In this issue of the **Creature Chronicle** you'll discover why it is special, and why the Central Florida Zoo is so proud of our involvement with clouded leopards.

Big Cat versus Small Cat

There are about 37 species of cats. These species are divided into two groups, the big cats and the small cats. Most people are more familiar with the seven species of big cats, which are lions, tigers, jaguars, cougars, leopards, snow leopards and cheetahs. The remaining 30 species are the small cats. But wait a minute! There's one species that isn't quite a big cat, but it's not quite a small cat either. Can you guess which one? That's right, it's the clouded leopard!

Big Cats = B.C. Small Cats =S.C. All Cats= A.C.

- A. weighs between 88 and 440 pounds (B.C.)
- B. carnivore (A.C.)
- C. can roar but not purr (B.C.)
- D. weighs up to 66 pounds (S.C.)
- E. has large skull and canine teeth (B.C.)
- F. excellent predator (A.C.)
- G. purrs but can't roar (S.C.)
- H. many hunt in trees (S.C.)
- I. excellent eyesight (A.C.)
- J. hunts on the ground (B.C.)
- K. warm-blooded mammal, with fur, that feeds its babies milk. (You know where this goes!)



Complete this Venn Diagram (using the letters) about big cats, small cats, and all cats.

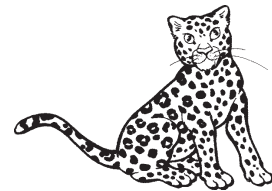


New at the Zoo!

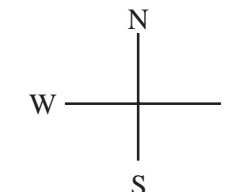
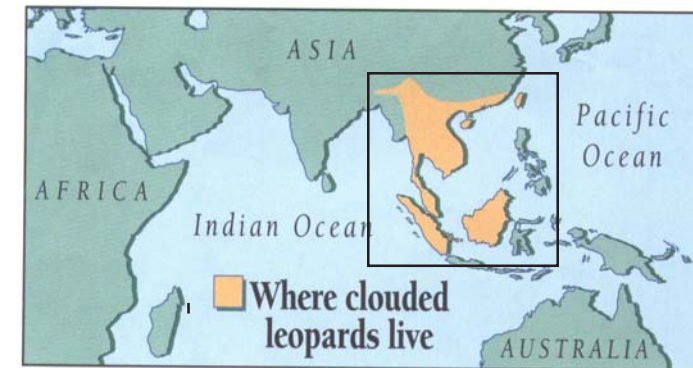
- The new Florida's Amazing Amphibians building is now open.
- A baby howler monkey was born on Oct. 27 and is on exhibit with his or her parents!
- ZOOMAir, an aerial adventure course is open at the Zoo!

Clouded Leopard Adaptations

Clouded leopards have been called the "modern day saber-tooth"



Complete the following matrix for big cats, small cats, clouded leopards and all cats. Put a check in the box for the adaptations that apply.



The box on the map shows where clouded leopards are native. Which of these describes the location?

- Ⓐ Northwest Australia
- Southeast Asia
- Ⓒ Northeast Asia
- Ⓓ Southwest Australia

Clouded leopards have some great adaptations that they share with all cats, some that make them more like small cats and some that make them more like big cats. An adaptation is either a physical structure (body part) or a behavior that helps an animal survive in its habitat.

Clouded leopards weigh up to 50 pounds. They are about 6 1/2 feet in length, but almost half of that length is tail. Their extraordinary tail is a great adaptation for balancing in the trees of the Asian forests where they are native. They often hunt in the trees, taking prey as large as young orangutans. They will also hunt on the ground, taking prey such as deer and sometimes even domestic livestock.

Like all cats, clouded leopards are very effective predators. They have excellent vision both during the day and at night and excellent hearing (better than ours!). Cats bodies are strong, flexible and built for speed. Their feet and claws work like a jackknife. This means they can retract their claws inside when not needed and then extend them out for attacking their prey.

The cat's skull and teeth are the most impressive part of their body, and there is no cat with a more impressive skull than the clouded leopard. Although sometimes grouped with the small cats, the clouded leopard has the skull and teeth of a big cat. In fact, the front teeth, called canine teeth, are the largest in proportion to its body than any other cat.

	have fur	often hunt in trees	large skulls and teeth	excellent eyesight	eats meat	can roar	some weigh 400 lbs	30 different species	retractable claws (most)	modern saber tooth	nurses their young	<i>Neofelis nebulosa</i>
big cats	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	
small cats	X	X		X	X		X	X			X	
clouded leopard	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X

The Central Florida Zoo is proud that 11 clouded leopard cubs have been born here since 1997! Making sure these endangered cubs grow into healthy adults is an awesome responsibility for our feline keepers.

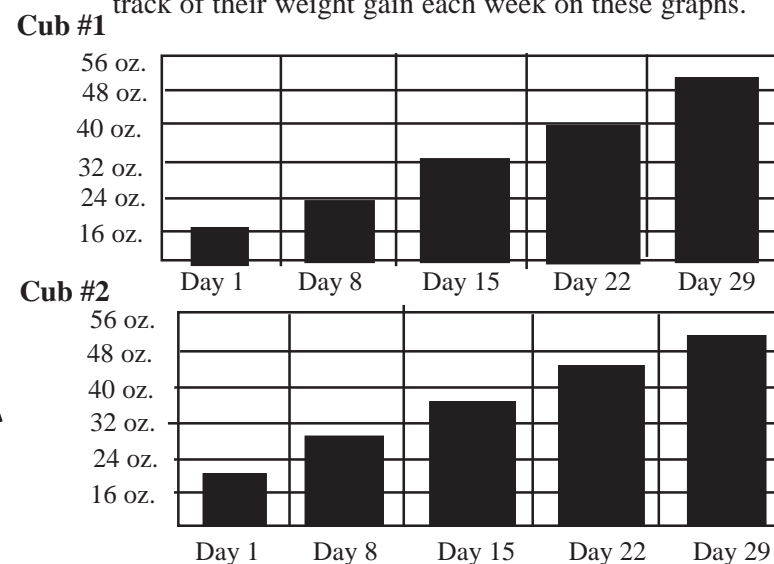


Keeper Notes

The cubs were born today! They are so cute. We weighed them on the gram scale since they are so small. Cub #1 weighed 461 grams. I changed it to ounces by multiplying it by .035. That gave me approximately 16 ounces. Since there are 16 ounces in 1 pound, the cub weighs about 1 pound!

(I'm so glad I paid attention in math class. It comes in so handy!)

When the first twin cubs were born the feline keepers kept track of their weight gain each week on these graphs.



Use this information and the information on the front page, to complete the matrix up there.

1) Based on the information presented in these two graphs, which of the statements is true?

- Ⓐ The cubs' birth weights were identical.
- Ⓑ The cubs lost weight between Day 15 and Day 22.
- Ⓒ Cub #1 weighed more than Cub #2 on Day 22.
- Each cub weighed slightly more than 3 pounds on Day 29.

Don't Miss This!



Meet the feline keeper!

Every Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. the Feline Keepers at the Zoo present a feeding demonstration at several of the cat exhibits. It's a great time to talk to the experts about any questions you have about cats!



Creature Chronicle Club
Exclusive Member Admission Pass

Good for one free admission to the Central Florida Zoo during Nov. or Dec. 2009



Must be accompanied by a paying adult
(One club member per adult only)

2) On Day 22 the Feline Keepers wanted to know how much Cub #1 weighed in pounds. Which equation did they use?

- Ⓐ 40×16
- Ⓑ $40 - 12$
- $40 \div 16$
- Ⓓ $40 + 16$