

CHEETAH



Conservation Status:
Endangered

Scientific Classification

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Felidae

Genus: *Acinonyx*

Species: *jubatus*



FAST FACTS

Weight: 85 - 140 pounds

with males being larger than females

Length: 3 ½ to 4 ½ feet (tail is an additional 26 to 33 inches)

Height: 2 - 3 feet at the shoulder

Life Span: 12 years in the wild, up to 17 in captivity

Gestation: 3 months

Number of young: 1 to 8, normally 3 to 5

Range: various parts of Africa

Diet: Carnivore, eats small mammals and birds

DID YOU KNOW?

- Cheetahs don't need to drink water! They get the moisture they need from their prey.
- Cheetahs can accelerate to 70 miles per hour in just a few strides and are the only cats that are able to turn in midair while sprinting.
- Cheetahs cannot roar like tigers or lions. However, they are quite vocal and make a bird-like call when excited.

Ecology & Conservation

Cheetahs are listed as endangered for many reasons. One reason being a genetic bottle neck that occurred long before humans began impacting cheetah habitat. A genetic bottle neck is an event in which a population's or species size is greatly reduced. Other reasons causing declines in cheetah populations are; loss of habitat, loss of prey species, and disease.