

# The Canada Lynx Problem

By Kandace

According to the Vermont Fish + Wildlife Department only four sightings of the Canada lynx were confirmed in the state from the late 1700s to the early 2000s. They are very close to being extinct!

They like cold and snowy winters in Vermont because of their warm and fuzzy coats. That is how they live in the cold weather in Vermont

The Canada lynx eat mice, squirrels, and birds, but prefer the snowshoe hare..The Canada lynx are so dependent on this prey that their population goes down with a periodic plunge in snowshoe hare numbers that occurs about every ten years.

The Canada lynx has very thick, light brown fur with light black spots. It has large ears with long black tufts at the end of each of its ears. Its tail is short with a black tip at the end. It has long legs with big paws.

In Vermont they live in dense forests, rocky areas, and the tundra because they have high numbers of snowshoe hares.

They eat the snowshoe hares! Forests of this type are mostly found in Vermont in Essex County, and are less common anywhere in Vermont.

When pregnant the Canada lynx can have up to 2 or 3 kittens, but it can range up to 1 to 5 kittens. And the mother is pregnant for 8 to 10 weeks. The kittens feed on the mother's milk for 5 months then they can hunt on their own.

Humans are the main predator of the Canada lynx and the other predators of the lynx include the wolves and the coyotes. The lynx can escape the wolves by climbing on rocky hills, but in the open they have no chance to live or run away. They never escape humans because they have guns and are killing the lynxes very fast.

The Canada lynx in the wild only live for 10 years! But some have been recorded to live up to 20 years!

Lynx hunt by actively walking, and chasing prey, and they are nocturnal, that means they hunt at night. They use hunting beds to wait for prey to come close, and then they chase the prey until it is dead or the lynx is out of energy to run and kill the prey.

The Canada lynx does not hibernate in the winter but Canadian lynx are especially adapted to live in the cold weather. In addition to a thick winter coat, the lynx has padded, furry paws that work like snowshoes to help the lynx survive winter's difficult conditions.

The difference between the bobcat and the Canada lynx is that bobcats have smaller feet and don't have the furry paws of the other lynx, so they are not as well equipped to live in areas of heavy snow (aka Vermont). And bobcats are the smallest cat in the species with stubby tails. There are more bobcats in Vermont than lynxes in Vermont.

That is why we need to stop killing the Lynxes and instead let them be free and let them repopulate their species because if you leave them alone then they will leave you alone too! Then we can have new wildlife because the lynxes can mate with other kinds of lynxes. And that is why we should help the population grow and live life free!

#TeamLife#Teamfree#