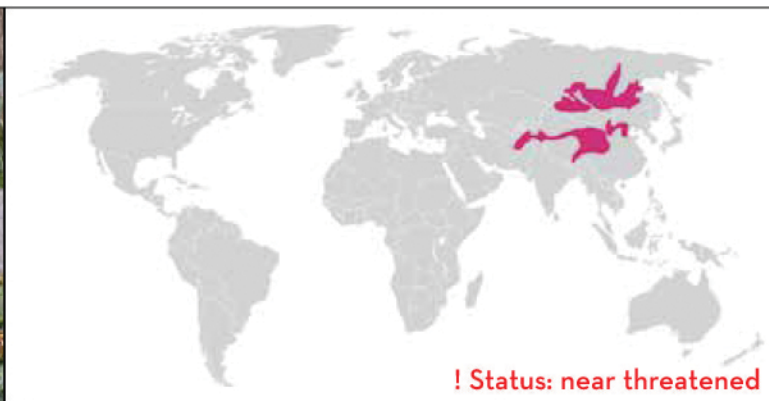


PALLAS CAT

updated March 2017



! Status: near threatened

Range	Central Asia from Iran to west China
Habitat	Steppe, desert and rocky mountain regions up to high altitudes over 13,000 feet (4,000 meters)
Diet (wild)	Majority of diet is small rodents and pikas
Diet (captivity)	Wet and dry cat food, mice
Description	Length: 2–3 feet (about half is tail); weight: 5–11 pounds. Long sandy gray or russet-red fur tipped with white. They have short, stumpy legs and a small broad head. The ears are low set and they have a ruff around their heads to protect them against the cold. They use their tails as a “muff” by wrapping it around their bodies to shield them from the cold.
Lifespan	Wild: 8–10 years. Captivity: 11 years
Reproduction	Females give birth once a year to 2–6 kittens after a gestation period of 66–75 days. Mating occurs between December and March with litters born between late March and May. Kittens mature between 4–6 months.
Behavior	Pallas cats are usually crepuscular (active at dawn and dusk) and elusive and solitary. They live in abandoned dens and burrows of other animals or in caves and rock crevices. Pallas cats are not fast runners; they primarily hunt by ambush or stalking. Once threatened by hunting for their fur, they are now being threatened by the poisoning of pika, their main food source.
Our animals	1 male. Born: 2014 at the Cincinnati Zoo
Cool stuff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When threatened, Pallas cats will run into a “bolt hole,” such as a rock crevice or den, slink down low and freeze next to rocks or vegetation, or run into the cover of nearby rocks or ravines. They move slowly compared to other cats and rely on camouflage to avoid detection. Pallas cats are poor runners; therefore running is an unlikely means of escape from large terrestrial or aerial predators. • The Pallas cat was named after the German naturalist Peter Simon Pallas, who first described the cat in 1776. • Pallas cats only have 28 teeth; most cats have 30.

Phylum
ChordataClass
MammaliaOrder
CarnivoraFamily
FelidaeGenus
Felisspecies
O. manul