

# Serval

## Fact Sheet

### UNIQUE FACTS

Endemic to Africa  
Largest ears of all cats  
Longest legs of all cats

### NAMES and STATUS

#### Common Names

Serval, African Serval,  
Serval Cat

#### IUCN Red List Status

LC Least Concern



### SIZE

#### Weight

Males: 7.9 to 18 kg  
Females: 6.0 to 12.5 kg

#### Head + Body Length

Males: 59 to 92 cm  
Females: 63 to 82 cm

#### Tail Length

20 to 38 cm

### IDENTIFICATION

#### Appearance

Size similar to  
medium-sized dog  
Slender with long legs  
and short tail

#### Coat

Body - pale yellow  
with spots and stripes  
Tail - black rings & black tip

#### Head

Black & white facial markings  
Ears - large, oval,  
ocelli on back

### LIFE CYCLE

#### Gestation

65 - 75 days

#### Litter Size

2 - 3 kittens (max 6)

#### Sub-Adult

6 - 8 months

#### Maturity

Male 17 - 26 mths  
Female 15 - 16 mths

#### Lifespan

11 yrs wild  
22 yrs captivity

### DISTRIBUTION



#### Range

Sub-Saharan Africa  
excl. rainforest & desert  
regions  
Marginally in North Africa

#### Habitat

Moist grasslands



### DIET / PREY

#### By Weight

Small mammals  
(rodents & shrews)  
Birds  
Reptiles  
Amphibians  
Invertebrates

#### Hunting Success Rate

50%

### BEHAVIOUR

#### Activity

Solitary  
Mostly nocturnal  
Territorial

#### Avg Range Size

Females 1.6 - 19.8 km<sup>2</sup>  
Males 3.7 - 31.5 km<sup>2</sup>  
Density 6 - 8 cats / 100 km<sup>2</sup>

### TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Class: Mammalia  
Order: Carnivora  
Suborder: Feliformia  
Family: **Felidae**  
Subfamily: Felinae  
Genus: *Serval*  
Species: ***Leptailurus serval***  
Subspecies:  
*L. s. serval* - Southern  
*L. s. constantina* - Western  
*L. s. lipostictus* - Eastern

