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# HELVE<sup>CH</sup>IA

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## FAUNA IN SWITZERLAND

# The Eurasian Lynx

The Lynx has a short tail and characteristic tufts of black hair on the tip of its ears. It has large padded paws for walking on snow, and long whiskers on the face.

The body colour varies from medium brown to gold-ash to beige-white; and occasionally, is marked with dark brown spots, especially on the limbs. All species of lynx have white fur on their chests, bellies and on the insides of their legs.

The Eurasian male lynx may reach a weight of 30 kg; the females are usually up to 18 kg. They reach a length of 80 - 130 cm, with a shoulder height of up to 70 cm.

The Eurasian lynx is native to European and Siberian forests. Lynx inhabit high altitude forests with dense cover of shrubs, reeds, and tall grass. Although the cats hunt on the ground, they can climb trees and can swim swiftly, catching fish.

The Eurasian lynx has been reduced or extirpated from Western Europe, where it is now being reintroduced. Several lynx resettlement projects, begun in the 1970s, have been successful in various regions of Switzerland.



Eurasian Lynx

Since the 1990s, there have been numerous efforts to resettle the Eurasian lynx also in Germany.

During the summer, the Eurasian lynx has a relatively short, reddish or brown coat, which is

replaced by a much thicker silver grey to greyish-brown coat during winter. The lynx hunts by stalking and jumping its prey, helped by the rugged forested country it resides in. They feed on a wide range of animals from

white-tailed deer, reindeer, roe deer, small red deer, and chamois, to smaller, more usual prey: snowshoe hares, fish, fox, sheep, squirrels, mice, turkeys and other birds, and goats.

Lynx are usually solitary, although small groups of lynx may travel and hunt together occasionally. Mating takes place in the late winter and they give birth to 2-4 kittens once a year. The gestation time of lynx is about 70 days. The young stay with the mother for one more winter, a total of

around nine months, before they move out to live on their own as young adults. Lynx will create their dens in crevices or under ledges.

*from the internet*