

Black-Footed Cat (*Felis nigripes*) Fact Sheet

NAME & STATUS

**Common Names**

Black-footed Cat
Small Spotted Cat

Scientific Name

Felis nigripes

Subspecies

None (2018)

IUCN Red List Status

VU Vulnerable (2018)



IDENTIFICATION

**Appearance**

Half size domestic cat
Similar looking domestic cat

Coat

Body - small black spots
Legs - stripes, Soles - black
Tail - rings, black tip

Head

Broad skull, diagonal facial lines
Ears - plain, slightly rounded

Black-footed Cat Characteristics

SIZE

**Weight**

Males: 1.5 to 2.45 kg
Females: 1.0 to 1.6 kg

Head + Body Length

Males: 36.7 to 52.0 cm
Females: 35.3 to 41.5 cm

Tail Length

12 to 20 cm

Black-footed Cat Description

DISTRIBUTION

**Range**

Southern Africa:
South Africa
Botswana
Namibia

Habitat

Savanna - Dry
Grassland - Subtropical
Desert - Hot

Black-footed Cat Distribution

LIFE CYCLE

**Gestation**

63 - 68 days

Litter Size

1 - 2 kittens (max 4)

Sub-Adult

3 - 4 months

Maturity

Females 7 mths - Males 9 mths

Lifespan

8 yrs wild - 16 yrs captivity

Black-footed Cat Life Cycle

DIET / PREY

**Major to Minor by Weight**

Mammals - small rodents
Small birds
Reptiles
Amphibians
Invertebrates
Scavenge - Yes

Hunting Success Rate

60%

BEHAVIOUR

**Activity**

Solitary
Nocturnal
Territorial
Inhabits burrows or anthills

Avg Range Size

Females 8.6 km²
Males 16.1 km²
Density 16.7 cats / 100 km²

TAXONOMY



Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Suborder: Feliformia

Family: Felidae

Subfamily: Felinae

Genus: *Felis*

Species: *Felis nigripes*

Black-footed Cat Classification