

# 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

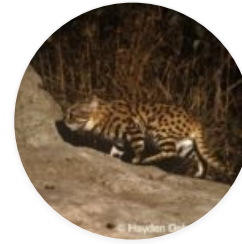
Invertebrates

Scavenge - Yes

### Hunting Success Rate

60%

## BEHAVIOUR



### Activity

Solitary

Nocturnal

Territorial

Inhabits burrows or anthills

### Avg Range Size

Females 8.6 km<sup>2</sup>

Males 16.1 km<sup>2</sup>

Density 16.7 cats / 100 km<sup>2</sup>

## TAXONOMY



**Kingdom:** Animalia

**Phylum:** Chordata

**Class:** Mammalia

**Order:** Carnivora

Suborder: Feliformia

**Family:** Felidae

Subfamily: Felinae

**Genus:** *Felis*

**Species:** *Felis nigripes*

Black-footed Cat Classification