

KEY FACTS about the CARACAL

(*Caracal caracal*)

COMMON NAMES

African Caracal
African Lynx
Asian Caracal
Persian Lynx
Caracal Lynx
Desert Lynx



Cats for Africa

1. NAME ORIGIN

The name Caracal comes from Turkish word "karakulak" meaning 'black eared'.

The Swahili name for Caracal is "Simbamangu" which means 'secretive lion'.



2. IDENTIFICATION

The Caracal has distinctive long dark tufts on its large, pointed ears. It has a plain reddish brown coat without any spots or stripes.

3. DISTRIBUTION

Caracals occur throughout Africa and parts of south Asia as far as India. They are absent from the extreme desert regions and rainforests within this range.



4. UNIQUE BEHAVIOR

Caracals are capable of tremendous aerial acrobatic jumps. They can leap into the air and knock down 10-12 birds at one time.

5. LIFE CYCLE

2-3 kittens are born in a litter and will remain with the mother until 9-10 months old. Sub adults mature at about a year old and the average lifespan in the wild is 12 years.

