


Asiatic Wildcat

Asiatic Wildcat ^[1]	
	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Mammalia
Order:	Carnivora
Family:	Felidae
Genus:	<i>Felis</i>
Species:	<i>F. silvestris</i>
Subspecies:	<i>F. s. ornata</i>
Trinomial name	
<i>Felis silvestris ornata</i> Gray, 1832	

The **Asiatic Wildcat** (*Felis silvestris ornata*), also known as the **Asian Steppe- Wildcat** or **Indian Desert Cat**, is a subspecies of Wildcat that primarily inhabits the Rajasthan Desert, and Rann of Kutch including the adjoining Banni grasslands in India and the desert areas of Sindh in Pakistan. It is related to the African wildcat^[2]. It is a bit larger than a Domestic Cat. The Asian Steppe-Wildcat has pale yellow upper body marked with black spots on its back and black stripes on its legs with a pale whitish coloured stomach. They have yellowish eyes^[3]. The Asian Steppe-Wildcat now lives in isolated pockets in areas of uncultivated scrub forests with rocky areas. The Asian Steppe-Wildcat eats mainly small mammals and rodents and is nocturnal. The Jalore Wildlife Sanctuary, located near Jalore, Rajasthan, India is one of the only accessible wildlife areas where Asian Steppe-Wildcat in sizeable numbers are present.

References

- [1] Wozencraft, W. Christopher (16 November 2005). "Order Carnivora (pp. 532-628)" (<http://www.bucknell.edu/msw3>). In Wilson, Don E., and Reeder, DeeAnn M., eds. *Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference* (<http://google.com/books?id=JgAMbNSt8ikC&pg=PA536-537>) (3rd ed.). Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2 vols. (2142 pp.). pp. 536-537. ISBN 978-0-8018-8221-0. OCLC 62265494. .
 - [2] Sunquist, Mel; Sunquist, Fiona (2002). *Wild Cats of the World*. The University of Chicago Press. pp. 452. ISBN 0-226-77999-8.
 - [3] Sunquist, Mel; Sunquist, Fiona (2002). *Wild Cats of the World*. The University of Chicago Press. pp. 452. ISBN 0-226-77999-8.
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