



## COYOTE

Coyotes are becoming more common in Belize. They have yellow-brown fur with a lighter belly. They have large erect triangular ears, long legs, mostly bushy tails that are shorter than the hind legs. They range in size from 15 to 33 lbs. They may live alone, in pairs or in groups, and can be active during the day or night.

Coyotes often kill animals by a bite to the throat behind the lower jaw.

Coyote foot prints have narrow pads with claw marks usually visible.

## DOGS

Dogs (and their foot prints) can come in all shapes or sizes. Their foot prints are generally rounder than those of coyotes, with the claw marks are usually visible. When dogs hunt in packs, they usually kill animals by biting, ripping and tearing all over the body, wherever they can get a grip.

*Coyotes and dogs walk with their claws out, therefore claw marks are visible. In comparison, cats walk with their claws pulled in, therefore you do not usually see claw marks with the footprint.*

Livestock or domestic animals may sometimes be at risk of attack from predators.

The large cats (jaguars and pumas), coyotes and feral dogs may attack cows, sheep, goats or pigs. The smaller cats (ocelots, jaguarundis, and margays) may attack chickens or other fowl.

Correct identification of predators will be facilitated by the information provided. At the bottom is a ruler which you can use to measure tracks in the field.



**For more information about how to protect your animals from attacks, please contact:**



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# HOW TO IDENTIFY WILD CATS AND OTHER PREDATORS IN BELIZE





# WILD CATS



## JAGUAR

**Also know as: TIGRE, TIGER, or LEOPARD**

The jaguar is the largest wild cat in Belize. It is yellow with black rosettes, and has a white belly with black spots. Size range is from 60 to 200 lbs. Compared to the puma, it has a larger head, stocky body and shorter legs and tail. The foot pads are broad and the toe pads are rounded. The jaguar often kills animals by breaking the neck or crushing the back of the head.

**PRINTS:** Foot pads broad, not indented at the top, toe pads rounded.



## PUMA

**Also know as: MOUNTAIN LION, RED TIGER, LEON, or COUGAR**

The puma is more slender than the jaguar, with a smaller head and longer legs and tail. It is yellow-brown to deep red, with a white belly. Size range is from 50 to 140 lbs. The top of the foot pads are indented, and the toe pads are pointed. The puma often kills animals by biting the throat to suffocate them. Pumas cubs are spotted, adults are plain colored.

**PRINTS:** Top of foot pad indented, toe pads tapered, almost pointed.



## JAGUARUNDI

**Also know as: YAGUARUNDI or HALARI**

The jaguarundi can be dark grey/black or brown/red. It has a small head, short legs, a long back and a long narrow tail. It is much smaller than the puma, ranging from 8 to 20 lbs and is mainly active during the day.

**PRINTS:** Toes played in front track after a jump



## OCELOT

**Also know as: OCELOTE, TIGRILLO, or TIGER CAT**

The ocelot is the largest of the small wild cats in Belize. It is silver/grey in color than the jaguar, with black rosettes or long ovals, and has a white belly with black spots. Size range is from 15 to 30 lbs.

**PRINTS:** Front track wider than hind track



## MARGAY

**Also know as: TIGRILLO or TIGER CAT**

The margay is the smallest wild cat in Belize. It is grey/brown with black rosettes or ovals, and a white belly with black spots. It is smaller and slimmer, with a longer tail and larger eyes when compared to the ocelot, and size ranges from 6 to 11 lbs. It is mainly active at night and can climb trees well.

**PRINTS:** Front and hind track about the same size