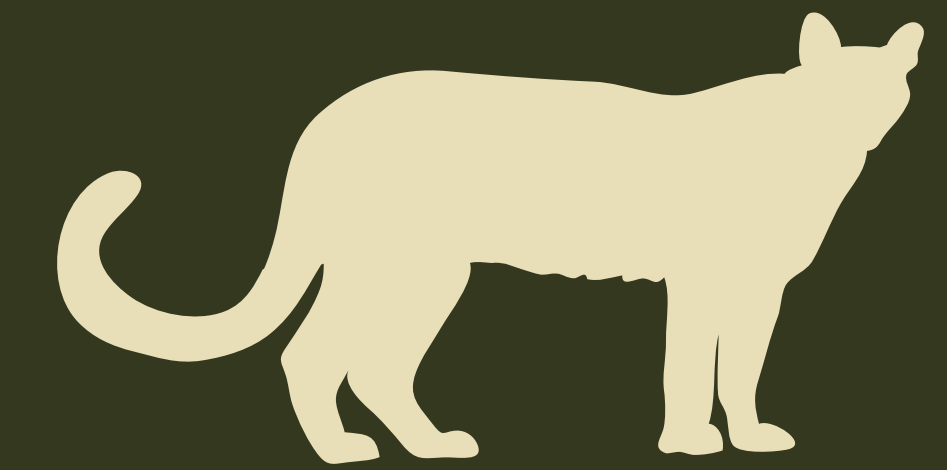


Mountain Lions at Lake Del Valle?



Alert and reclusive, mountain lions use their keen senses to avoid contact with humans.



Young mountain lions have spotted coats for the first few months.



Large canine teeth can penetrate bone and sever vertebrae to efficiently kill prey, especially deer.

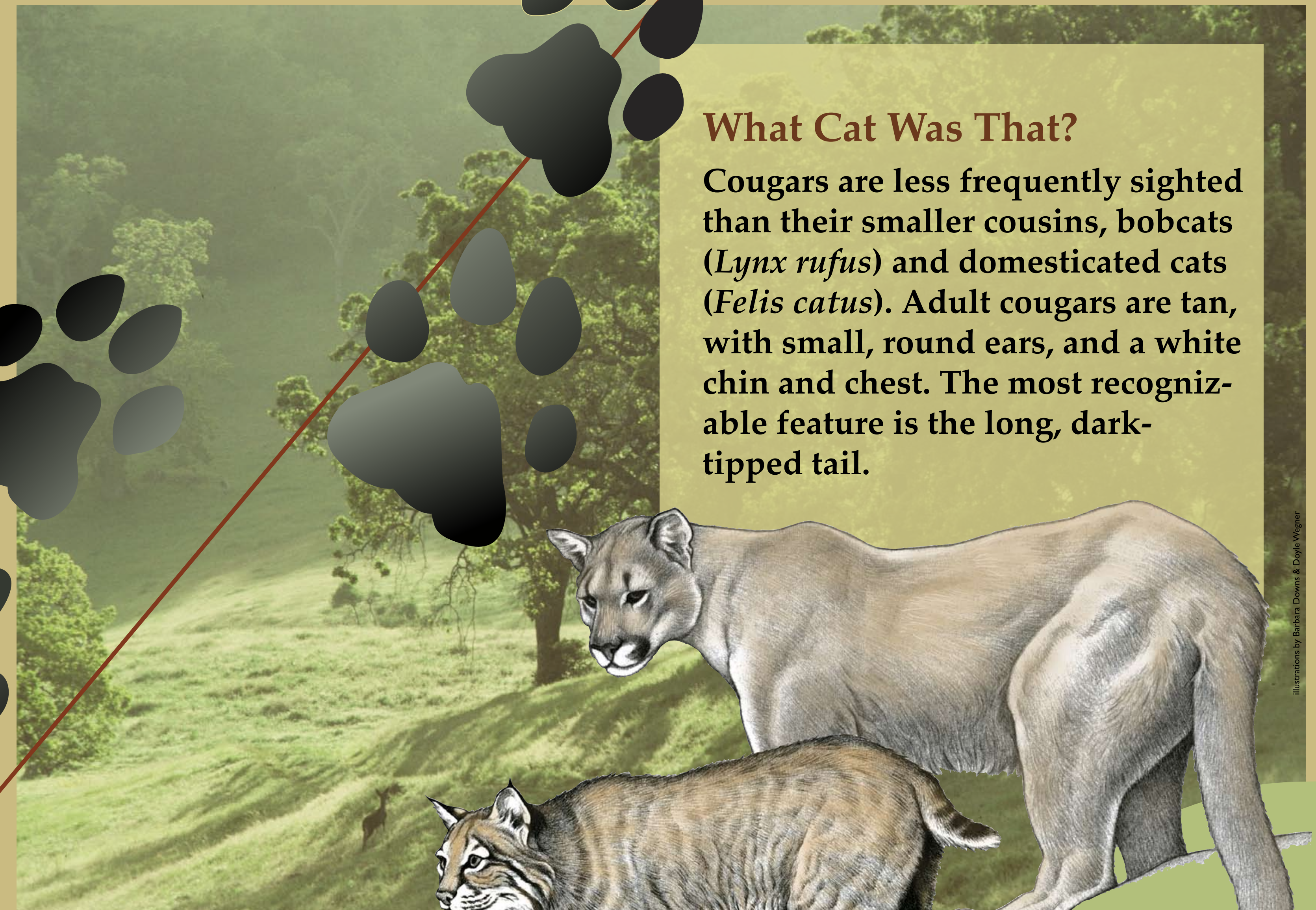
The Name Game

Mountain lions, cougars, pumas, catamounts, panthers...the list goes on. *Puma concolor*, "the cat of one color" as scientists call them, once roamed throughout North America. Now they are primarily a symbol of the American West.

Lions In The Wild

Cougars still live throughout California, including areas of the Coast Ranges with adequate open space, cover and food. They are more active during dawn and dusk when their favorite prey—the black-tailed deer—is also foraging. The most common signs of their activities are tracks, deer-kills, and scrapes.

Stride length is 19-32 inches and width is 5-9 inches.



What Cat Was That?

Cougars are less frequently sighted than their smaller cousins, bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) and domesticated cats (*Felis catus*). Adult cougars are tan, with small, round ears, and a white chin and chest. The most recognizable feature is the long, dark-tipped tail.

Mountain Lion—5-8 feet from nose to tail-tip, making this the largest cat in this area, weighing between 80-180 pounds. Young have spotted coats and are sometimes mistaken for bobcats. They specialize in large prey, such as deer, but will also hunt squirrels and rabbits.

Bobcat—30 inches long, weighing 15-25 pounds. Has extremely short, white-tipped tail and spotted coat. Eats rabbits, squirrels, reptiles, rodents, and birds.

Feral Domestic Cat—8-10 pounds. Have long tails, color varies. Eats rodents, birds, and reptiles.