

SAVING OUR MOUNTAIN LIONS

Fun fact: Pumas
are the biggest
cat that can purr.

MOUNTAIN LION

PANTHER - PUMA



COUGGAR - PUMMA

CATAMOUNT

Answers to crossword: 1. Run; 2. Cougar; 3. Livestock; 4. Deer; 5. Territory; 6. Noise; 7. Feet; 8. Predators; 9. Habitat; 10. Cow; 11. Purr



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Ciara's Story

Hello, it's one of your local mountain lions here. Ciara the cougar! I know I may seem very scary, but, in truth, I'm a lot more scared of you than you might think. I avoid humans as much as I can because they're scary to me.

It's hard to get food in the wilderness, so I have to find the easiest prey available. I know that you love your small pets and livestock and want them to be free, but use a covered pen for them so I see difficult prey instead of an animal out in the open.

I, like all mountain lions, *love* to eat deer. I can run 50 miles per hour, so I'm a top predator to catch deer. If your agriculture is being eaten by those deer, remember that they are a source of food for me. If I were killed, the deer population would run amok, and think of all the damage that they would do to your crops and yards!

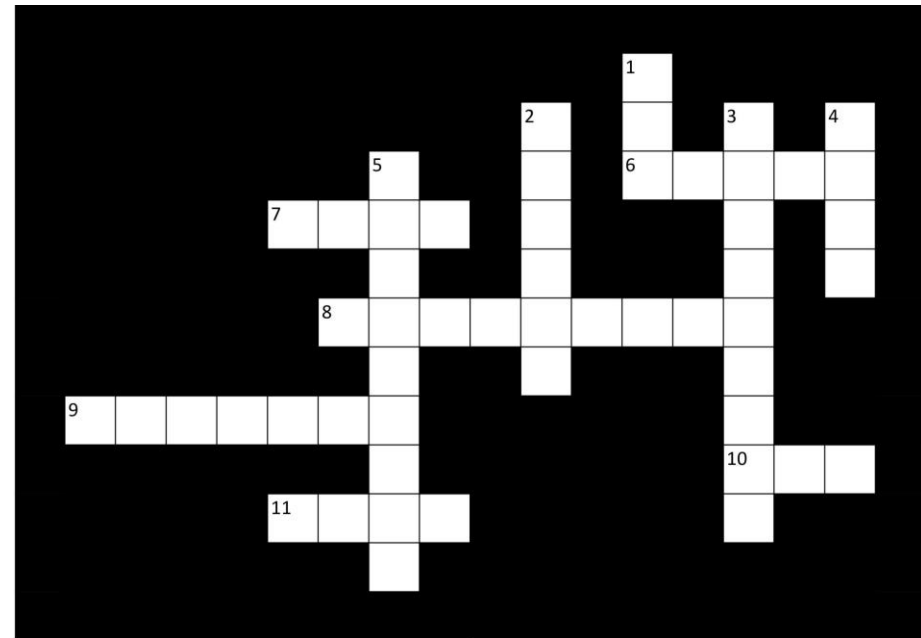
Predators like me keep the ecosystem in check.

Just to let you in on a little secret: large dogs will make me run away with a few barks. If you're buying a dog and you know I'm in the area, get a big one. I *really* don't like big dogs.

If you ever do see me around the neighborhood, and I see you, back away slowly. Make plenty of noise! If you have any human-cubs near you, put them on your back. Make yourself look as big as possible. I don't like loud, big things. I certainly don't *attack* loud big things. Why do that when there are things to eat like deer? My habitat is decreasing due to humans and their buildings. If you ever see me or my cubs in your usually-calm neighborhood, follow the directions to act loud and big, and slowly back away. Please remember that it's a rare experience to have seen a puma!

Fun fact: This large cat's territory is around 100 square miles.

Fact: On average, 30 people die per year from dog attacks, and another 28 from cows! Overall, you are more likely to be killed by a dog or cow than a puma!



DOWN

- Mountain lions can ___ as fast as 50 mph.
- A mountain lion can also be called a _____.
- Use a covered pen for your small pets and _____.
- Mountain lions love to eat _____.
- A cougar's _____ averages 100 square miles in size.

ACROSS

- If you see a cougar, move slowly away, make lots of _____, and look as large as possible.
- Mountain lions can jump higher than 18 _____ vertically.
- Top _____, like cougars, are needed to keep the ecosystem in balance.
- The mountain lion's _____ is shrinking due to human development.
- You are more likely to be killed by a ___ than a cougar.
- Mountain lions are the largest cat to _____.

Fun fact: Mt. lions can vertically jump more than 18 feet.