

All About Jaguars (Title)

Introduction (Sub-heading)

Known as one of the largest animals of the cat family, the jaguar's scientific name is **Panthera onca**. The jaguar is a wild cat species and is often regarded as a symbol of strength in many ancient cultures. Jaguars are known to dangerously roam the rainforests of Central and South America.

Appearance (Sub-heading)

A jaguar's coat is generally a tawny yellow, with a white belly area and camouflage spots. From head to tail, jaguars measure from 6 to 8 feet in length. The jaguar's tail is quite short compared to other large cats. Female jaguars weigh between 100 to 200 lbs (45-90 kg), while males can weigh from 126 to 250 lbs (57-113 kg). Jaguar's teeth are the strongest belonging to the cat family and their bite is vicious. Jaguars may live for over 20 years, but only 11 - 12 years living in the wild.

Habitat (Sub-heading)

The mighty jaguar is only now found in the Americas; through Central America and most of the Amazon River countries in South America. The jaguar prefers a dense rainforest, one of the Earth's oldest living ecosystems. Although the rainforest only covers 6% of the Earth's surface, the jaguar takes over the swampy grasslands, scrub lands and evergreen forest areas.

Behaviour /Interesting Facts (Sub-heading)

Jaguars are powerful predators who are excellent swimmers and are often seen crossing rivers in the daytime. Although jaguars hunt on the ground in daylight or at night, they are also great climbers. Jaguars are solitary animals and live and hunt alone, being able to attack prey weighing up to 660 pounds (300 kg).

Conclusion (Sub-heading)

The jaguar is one of four of the 'big cats', along with the tiger, lion and leopard. Jaguars are graceful cats that have dens in caves and enjoy the presence of water. Jaguars are very territorial and will not tolerate intrusions by other adult jaguars, beware of the jaguar!