



Visit The Wildside!

Pallas Cats

The Pallas cat is also called the manul. They live throughout Central Asia, and prefer cold climates and high elevations. They are short and have long hair - making them look very soft! They appear to be bigger and heavier than they actually are due to their stocky builds and long coats. Don't be fooled though, the Pallas cat is actually about the same size as a domestic house cat without all that hair! In reality, they measure up to 26 inches in body length (with an 8 to 12 inch tail) and weigh only around 10 pounds.

The Pallas cat has the longest and densest fur of any cat! Depending on the season, it can be different colors. In the winter, it turns to a grey, uniform color. In the warmer months, their fur turns to a brown color with different stripes and rings! Their fur looks glossy and frosted due to their hair having white tips.

Pallas cats like to be alone. They are very territorial and both



males and females mark their territory. Pallas' cats spend their days in caves, crevices, and burrows made by other animals, emerging toward dusk to hunt. They hunt rodents and other small animals.

Poaching is a problem with the Pallas cat. It's fur is very soft, and many poachers hunt them for it. Another problem is poisoning of their food supply of Pika. Pika are thought to carry traces of a plague, so they are poisoned which makes it very hard for the Pallas cats.

Did You Know?

- Pallas cats have round pupils instead of slits like all other cats!
- They are bad at running! With their short legs, running is difficult for the Pallas cat.
- They yelp or growl when excited, making a sound similar to a small dog. Pallas' cats can also purr.
- They are named for eighteenth-century German zoologist Peter Pallas.

