



Ocelot

The ocelot is a medium-sized member of the cat family and is about twice as large as the average housecat. It measures 50 to 60cm long with a tail length of 40cm. It weighs between 9 and 11kg.

It ranges in colour from light yellow to reddish-grey and has dark rosettes, spots and striped tail rings. It is named after an Aztec word meaning field tiger. It is also referred to as a dwarf leopard, leopard cat or tiger cat.

Ocelots eat rodents, fish, turtles, birds, deer, anteaters, armadillos and monkeys. They use their sharp teeth to tear apart their prey. They cannot chew so they swallow their food in chunks. They use their paws and teeth to pluck the feathers off birds before they eat them.

Ocelots are excellent swimmers and climbers. They use their retractable claws to scale a tree in seconds!

They are found in every American country south of Mexico except for Chile.

They communicate with each other by soft meows which turn into loud yowls when looking for a mate.

By: Ieva