



SANTA LUCIA
CONSERVANCY

Santa Lucia Conservancy – *Keeping it Wild!*

Pumas of The Preserve

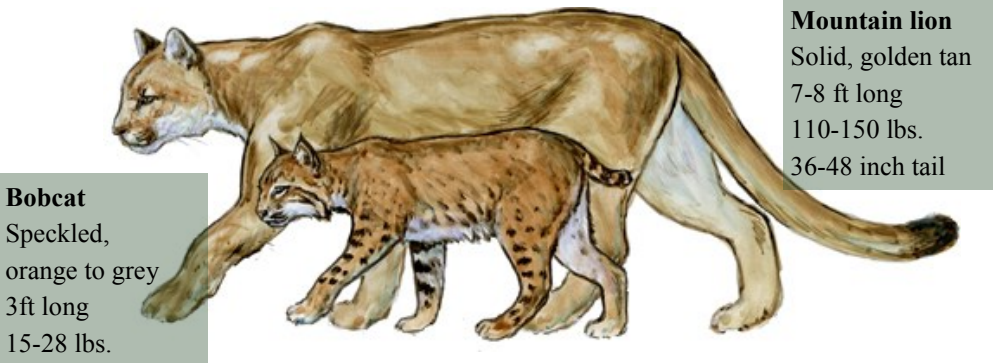
Mountain lions (*Felis concolor*) also known as the cougar, panther, or puma are the largest carnivores in California. They thrive in areas like the Preserve with diverse habitats, an abundance of deer (their primary prey) and sufficient cover. These solitary and elusive creatures are keystone species, ensuring the balance of the Preserve’s ecosystems by sustaining healthy prey populations.

Cool Puma Facts...

- ◆ The mountain lion has the largest range of any mammal, other than humans, in the Western Hemisphere.
- ◆ Individual home ranges can vary in size from 10 miles² up to 400 miles².
- ◆ Cubs nurse for two months, then travel with their mother for another 1-2 years, learning how to hunt.
- ◆ Lions eat large mammals such as deer, and smaller prey such as mice, squirrels, raccoons, rabbits and even harbor seals in certain habitats.
- ◆ On average adult mountain lions hunt every 10 to 14 days.



Mountain lions and bobcats have distinct differences



Rodenticides and Local Wildlife

3 Apex Predators

Mountain lions feed on smaller predators and prey laced with poison— becoming ill and weak.



2 Predators

Raptors, snakes, and other small predators prey on poisoned rodents, often dying as a result.



1 Targeted rodents

Rodents that eat rodenticide do not die right away and become lethargic, making them easy prey for predators.

Consider alternatives!



Staying Safe in Lion Country

Mountain lions are generally wary of people and try to avoid contact with humans.

- ◆ If you see a lion—**stay calm** and stand tall
- ◆ **Never run**—back away slowly: running can stimulate the lion’s instinct to chase.
- ◆ Keep children and pets close to you in areas of low visibility.
- ◆ Hike with a buddy, especially at dusk and dawn, and report your sightings to the Conservancy’s Wildlife Ecologist Dr. Christy Wyckoff
cwyckoff@slconservancy.org