

# Amur Leopard - Diet

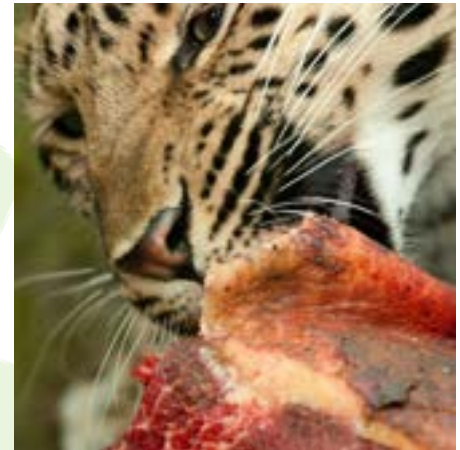


**Prey:** Amur leopards hunt an indiscriminate variety of animals including roe deer, sika deer, badgers and hares. Unlike tigers, if hungry leopards will happily seek out very small prey, such as squirrels or rodents until the opportunity for a big meal presents itself!

**Hunting Habits:** Amur leopards normally hunt at night and need large territories to avoid competition for prey. They silently watch their prey and ambush them using a burst of energy reaching speeds of up to 35 miles per hour. They then carry and hide unfinished kills, sometimes up trees, so that they are not taken by other predators.

**Dietary requirements:** Some *Carnivora* species are considered omnivorous and can live on a mixed diet of meat, fruits, seeds and vegetables. The Amur leopard is a strict carnivore, it cannot survive on a mixed diet because of how it metabolises its food, they must always eat other animals in order to acquire energy to live.

**Learn more online [conservewildcats.org](http://conservewildcats.org)**



# Amur Leopard - Biology



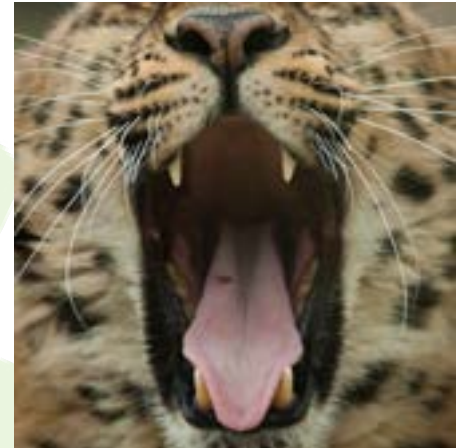
**Description:** The Amur leopard is adapted to the cool climate by having thick fur which grows up to 7.5 cm long in winter. For camouflage in the snow their coat is paler than other leopard subspecies. The Amur leopard's rosettes are widely spaced and larger than those seen on other leopards. Their tongue has tiny rasps or hooks, called denticles, which are used to scrape the meat off of the bones of their prey.

**Weight:** Males generally weigh 32-48 kg, but can weigh up to 75 kg. Females are smaller than the males at 25-43 kg.

**Breeding:** Females first breed at an age of 3-4 years. After a gestation period of around 12 weeks, cubs are born in litters of 1-4 individuals, with an average litter size of just over 2. The cubs stay with their mother for up to two years before becoming fully independent. Amur leopards in zoos show some evidence of breeding seasonality with a peak in births in late spring/early summer.

**Longevity:** In the wild, leopards live for 10-15 years and they may reach 20 years in captivity.

**Learn more online [conservewildcats.org](http://conservewildcats.org)**



# Amur Leopard - Threats



With a wild population of fewer than 100 individuals, the Amur leopard is critically endangered as a result of human activities.

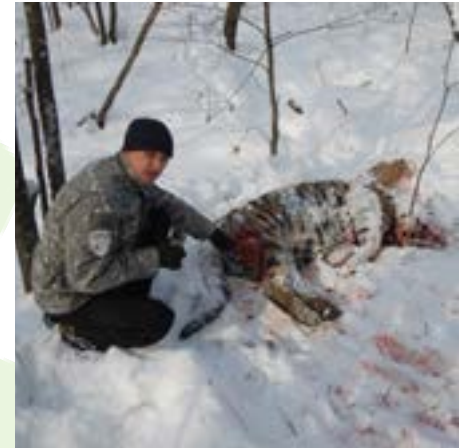
**Poaching:** Poaching of both leopards and prey is a serious threat. Forests in Southwest Primorye are relatively accessible, the area is more densely populated than most of the Russian Far East, and Russia has a hunting culture both for sport and for food. The two main cities Vladivostok and Ussurisk are only two or three hours drive away, so the leopard's range holds some of the most popular hunting grounds for city residents.

**Forest fires:** Fires are a direct threat to Amur leopards as they reduce the animals' natural forest habitat, replacing it with grasslands that leopards prefer to avoid.

**Disease:** Diseases such as Canine Distemper Virus (CDV), are threatening the isolated and vulnerable Amur leopard population.

**Inbreeding:** With a population that dwindled to 35 individuals only a few decades ago, camera trap evidence of white paws and short tails seen in the wild population could reflect genetic mutation.

**Learn more online [conservewildcats.org](http://conservewildcats.org)**





# Amur Leopard - Habitat



**Habitat:** Amur leopards live in the temperate forests of Far Eastern Russia, experiencing both harsh winters with extreme cold and deep snow, and hot summers.

**Location:** The Amur leopard is the northernmost of all leopard subspecies. Its historic range extended throughout northeastern (“Manchurian”) China, the southern part of Primorsky Krai in Russia and the Korean Peninsula. This range shrank dramatically during the 20th century, due primarily to habitat loss and hunting. The Amur leopard probably went extinct in the wild in South Korea in the late 1960s, although some recent, unconfirmed reports suggest that a few leopards may remain in and around the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. There are likely still leopards in the rugged northern region of North Korea near the Chinese border.

**Competition:** Although in other regions it seems leopards do not do well in areas where they share territory with tigers, this is not the case in Russia. Studies have indicated that an increased tiger population in the Southwest Primorye area has not adversely affected the leopard population.

**Learn more online [conservewildcats.org](http://conservewildcats.org)**

