

PETITION FOR CLASSIFICATION OF AN EXOTIC SPECIES

Please provide detailed answers to all questions. Partially complete forms may be returned to applicants, which could delay the process for getting an animal imported into Montana. Evidence must be provided on the form indicating that the applicant has researched the potential impacts caused by the species if it were to escape or be released into the wild.

I. APPLICANT

1. **Name:** Yvette McDonald
2. **Phone #:** (626)476-4031
3. **Address:** 810 Tay Circle Hamilton, MT. 59840
4. **Date:** 12/28/2020
5. **Define Purpose:**

Pet X **Breeding** **Selling** **Food Source**

6. **Why are you making this request:**

To Obtain a permit to purchase a domesticated Caracal. This is a domesticated Caracal that will be a pet inside the home and not in a cage outside.

II. SPECIES INFORMATION

1. **Common and Scientific name:** Caracal (Felis Caracal)
2. **Adult size:** 18 to 40 lbs
3. **Average lifespan:** 10 to 12 years in the wild, 16 years in captivity.
4. **Give details on the reproduction of the animal (eg. how many offspring can be produced per year, age at sexual maturity)**

Gestation lasts between two and three months, resulting in a litter of one to six kittens. Juveniles leave their mothers at the age of nine to ten months, though a few females stay back with their mothers. Sexual maturity is reached at 1 year.

5. **What are the feeding requirements of the animal (eg. what does the animal eat in the wild and how much does the animal require in a given period such as a day or a week)?**

The caracal is a carnivore that typically preys upon small mammals, birds, and rodents. Domesticated Caracals require a single meal of 3% of body weight per day.

6. Country of native origin:

Africa, Middle East, Asia, India

III. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS CAUSED BY THE SPECIES IF RELEASED OR ESCAPES FROM CAPTIVITY

For each question provide explanations for your answers.

1. Could the species survive in the wild in Montana (provide details on habitat requirements)?

Caracals thrive in a diverse range of habitats including what comprises Montana, however, a domesticated Caracal is usually at least 4 generations removed from wild and will have limited hunting instincts and therefore have a survivability equal to a domestic house cat.

2. Have introduced populations, either through intentional or accidental release, become established, if so provide details including information on locations?

None documented.

3. Could the species hybridize with Montana wildlife?

Yes. Bobcat, but we are applying for a permit for a permanently spayed or neutered animal.

4. Could the species successfully compete with Montana wildlife, for instance for food or space?

Possible, but not probable. A wild Caracal would have better odds than a domesticated one.

5. Would the species prey on other animals including those which are wild, domestic or livestock?

Most likely wild small mammals and rodents.

6. Is this species known to destroy habitat?

No

7. **Could the species negatively impact agricultural commodities such as crops, orchards, or livestock?**

No

8. **Could the species cause infrastructure or industrial damage, such as interfering with irrigation systems, waste water treatment or hydropower facilities?**

No

IV. POTENTIAL HEALTH OR SAFETY RISKS OF THE EXOTIC SPECIES TO THE HANDLER, PUBLIC, WILDLIFE OR AGRICULTURE (INCLUDING LIVESTOCK)

For each question provide explanations for your answers.

1. **Could the species produce venom?**

No

2. **Are there any known associations with pathogens which could be harmful to humans, wildlife, or domestic animals?**

None known

3. **Could the species inflict physical injury?**

Yes

V. CAN THE SPECIES BE READILY CONTROLLED

For each question provide detailed answers.

1. **What are the standard control measures used for maintaining this species in captivity and are they readily available to the public?**

This species in North America is domesticated and requires no more control measures than a domestic house cat. This animal will be kept in the house as a pet, not in a cage outside.

2. **Is specialized training necessary for the proper and safe handling of the species?**

No

3. What medical procedures are available to mitigate the following potential harmful effects and are the procedures permanent and if not how often should they be repeated?
- a) Reproduction
Permanent spay or neuter
 - b) Disease
Rabies and distemper shots as per schedule.
 - c) Mobility
N/A

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. List any federal, state, or local permit requirements necessary for the private possession of the species, also list any permits that you may currently own which have been issued from any other states or federal agencies for the possession of this particular species?

None we could discover.

2. List at least 3 sources of information that you have used to complete this form, for example, website addresses, book or literature citations, or government documents.

Smithsonian Central National Zoo

Big Cat Rescue.org

San Diego Zoo

Various Caracal Breeders

Yvette McDonald
Applicants Signature

12-28-2020
Date