

# PREDATOR'S PRIDE



## ARIZONA PREDATOR CALLERS

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September 2015

APC P.O. Box 1172 Mesa, AZ 85211-1172

### The President's Message

by John Arterburn, APC President

The first APC club hunt was held in northern Arizona the weekend following the August meeting. The high Saturday was 88 degrees in Northern Arizona. This was a welcome relief from the 117degree record the day before in the valley of the sun. I want to thank **Kara Jensen, Jim O'Dell** and **Hank Scutoski** for supporting the event for the club members who attended.



We all met and camped on the Dobson ranch, some arrived on Friday and some Saturday. The last total I am aware of was a total five coyotes harvested that weekend. Hunting started Friday for those who were able to get there in daylight, and ended Sunday.

The area is absolutely beautiful. Wide open vistas, green, and simply put, god's country. I hunted with Jim and his dog Tucker Saturday and with **Marco Ricotta** Sunday. Jim harvested one, Marco two, Hank his first one, and Kara the fifth coyote.

For everyone who did not attend, you have to come in September to the same area. It is a fantastic area full of coyotes. As the current president I have to tell you how good it was. If I was just a regular club hunter I might not mention a word because it was that good. Saturday morning as Jim and I where driving north away from our first stand of the day we saw a coyote running to the west through a wide open area, beautiful sight. We continued up the rode to a trail leading to a cattle pen.

We parked behind a water tank. I stayed in the cattle pen area in an overview position watching our back door to the north and west. Jim walked off to the south in the direction of that coyote we saw minutes earlier. As Jim was walking out of the pen to the south, a coyote to our north started howling. Mind you we had not started calling yet. Can you tell this is going to be good? The hair on my arms went up with the howl.

Jim sat his caller out further south of where he was sitting. We had a crosswind with low rolling hills and range grass. Everyone knows multiple witnesses to an event will all have different stories of the same event. Well Jim started calling and the coyote to the north starts returning calls back to Jim's call, as he calls to the south. We have taken our rifles with

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### *President's Message cont'd.*

us because the area is so wide open a shotgun would not be of use. I would later regret not taking my shotgun to every stand.

After some time on stand maybe 10 minutes in my mind, I here a shot. Jim then changes his call to the Ki-Yi sound and we stay in place. A couple minutes later I here more shots. I can't see Jim stand up so I stay in place in the cattle pen up above. When he is finally ready, He releases Tucker to secure the coyote. When they bring the coyote back Jim mentions it was a pair and he was trying to call the other back in for a second harvest. I mention the coyote north and how they started howling as Jim left the confines of the cattle pen.

We get in the truck and head north always driving into the wind. It was changing directions from time to time as we generally headed north. We get to the area where I believe the northern coyote was calling. The wind goes into a crosswind east to west again and we have to move into rocks north of the suspected coyote location. We are walking behind a ridge to get into position. As we are walking, I want to tell Jim this is the most fantastic feeling, out here hunting coyotes in the early morning, but I save it for the ride to our next stand. Jim sets up to the west and I to the east. I am using a new E-caller I am not familiar with and have trouble making everything work. I have to walk back and forth to the caller several times.

Now you would think I have blown the stand, but I have not started calling yet. I finally get things going and start calling. We are using coyote and rabbit in distress. The area out in front of us is two water tanks 100 yards away with what appears to be low grass surrounding both.

## September Meeting Program

### “Fox, Bobcat and Scouting Technology”

Join us for our continuing program on predator hunting. Topics of discussion will be an **Fox, Bobcat and Scouting Technology**. Further topics will include how often does each predator hunt and when do they hunt, explanation on what each predator does when it's not hunting and where it can be found, what attracts each predator, what deters or frightens each predator, what gives a predator security and what this means, how each predator will approach a target of opportunity when they are young, hungry, experienced, high security or low security.

The Arizona Predator Callers meeting is **Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 7:00 PM.**

**The meetings are held monthly at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #9 at 1450 E. Main Street, Mesa. The FOP Lodge is on the north side of Main Street between Stapley and Gilbert Road in Mesa, 2 doors west of the Radio Shack.**

The meeting is free to APC members and students under 18, and \$5 for non-members. Refreshments and door prizes are included in the admission price.

Well I never see anything and after 15-20 minutes stop calling. When we get back to the truck Jim mentions before I quit, the coyote comes from the west, where we thought it was located. It walks out of grass in front of the water tank and into some grass he does not think it high enough to hide a coyote. He is waiting for it to come out of the grass, which is in front of me. As we continue north I remember a small creek bed we drove over a 100 to 200 yards before we parked the truck. This creek bed depression connected the water holes to other water holes on the east side of the road. The coyote looked like it vanished into six-inch tall grass but had gone into that depression.

We had another opportunity that day which I missed. Again a coyote appeared in front of us coming out of what we thought was four to six inch high grass, running at a good clip to the call. Had I brought my shotgun the odds would have been more heavily in our favor. I could not get the coyote to stop until it had turned and was about 150 yards going away and stopped broadside. Jim said I had shot high with my rifle shot.

We called across an open area toward a ridge not far after the one I missed. We get a couple pair out in front us, and one behind us, maybe the one I missed responding. We have both Jim's call and mine going with Crow decoys sitting on the calls and on the ground around a rabbit decoy. There are lots of live crows in the area. For probably ten minutes I go back and forth with these coyotes. I call and they respond. I think Jim hears all of this and sees the one coyote on a ridge in the open. Jim then says something is coming down off the ridge. I realize he did not hear them but he now sees the one. The coyote does not move any closer. My binos are in the truck and my rifle is only an 8 power. We finally call it a day and head back to camp.

**Marco Ricotta** was the last to come in Saturday, as he had to work Saturday. He came in with a coyote he had harvested in the area. Marco

*President's Message cont'd*

is talking about how they are responding to his call but will not come in close. Saturday night most were talking about heading back to town Sunday.

Sunday morning came and I heard Jim's truck leave to hunt. The urge was too great for he and Tucker to leave without going out again.

Marco and I took off together to make two stands then head back to town. On the trail we pass Hank's truck and go another mile. We setup in some juniper trees calling up into a draw over a ¼ to ½ mile away. Marco starts with a coyote challenge to see who is in the area. We hear three different groups in front of us and one group behind us. At a minimum this is, probably four pairs of coyotes responding to his call. This goes on for some time like the day before with Jim in the area where we found all the crows. We pick up and go back to the truck feeling like we are being watched from all directions.

We drive a little over a mile to the next ridgeline behind the three groups of coyotes to our front in the first stand. I park the truck and we hike up the backside of a ridge about a ½ mile. As we are hiking I am thinking we can make a great number of stands close to the truck or one and go after them in there territory. We get up to an area on top of the ridge and find three nice Juniper trees to hide between in the shade. I set the caller and rabbit decoy out in front of us about 35 yards in low to no grass. I am facing east and Marco is facing west. We start the caller with a female challenge then the rabbit in distress. In less than three minutes we have a coyote coming at us, and the call. It comes out of nowhere at 100 yards from the south on top of the ridge. Marco starts making squeaks to

# Hunt and Events Calender

APC General Meeting.....	September 10, 2015
<i>Hunt.....</i>	<i>September 12, 2015</i>
<i>See Page 18 for Check In Location</i>	
APC General Meeting.....	October 8, 2015
<i>Predator Workshop and Hunt.....</i>	<i>October 10, 2015</i>
APC General Meeting.....	November 12, 2015
<i>Hunt.....</i>	<i>November 14, 2015</i>
APC General Meeting.....	December 10, 2015
<i>Hunt.....</i>	<i>December 12, 2015</i>
APC General Meeting.....	January 14, 2016
<i>Multi-Club Hunt.....</i>	<i>January 16, 2016</i>
APC General Meeting.....	February 11, 2016
<i>Hunt.....</i>	<i>February 13, 2016</i>
APC General Meeting.....	March 10, 2016
<i>Save A Fawn Hunt.....</i>	<i>March 26, 2016</i>
APC General Meeting.....	April 14, 2016
<i>Hunt.....</i>	<i>April 16, 2016</i>
APC Awards Banquet.....	May 12, 2016

**APC Hunts are held on the Saturday following the General Meetings.**

**Please get these dates and events onto your calendar.**

**Club hunting events are in italic type.**

**Dates and events are subject to change.**

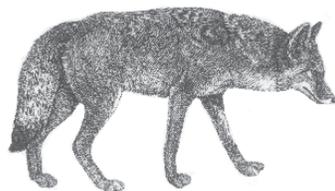
All APC General meetings are held on the **second Thursday** of each month.

All APC Board meetings are held on the last Monday of each month at **Denny's 1368 N. Cooper Rd., Gilbert, AZ.**

Any APC member is welcome to attend.

stop it as we both turn to face it. In less than a second or two it has come from a 100 yards to 50 yards, which feels like it is on top of us. He shoots and his 204 Ruger stops it dead in its tracks. One small entrance hole and no exist, very fast and humane harvest. It has been worth the hike.

Driving home I stop for coffee 10 minutes from our camp at a little General Store Kara mentioned has great coffee, and I survey the area. The views are worth the drive alone. The hunting that weekend and the opportunity for more hunting in September and October will bring me back for more. The area taught me valuable lessons about bringing my shotgun to each stand and surveying the topo maps for ever so slight depressions before getting out of the truck at each stand. See you there in September.



*John Arterburn*



## *AGFD Predator, Furbearer and Large Carnivore Biologist Report*

*by April Howard*

We are currently in the process of improving habitat in Unit 16A (near Kingman) for mule deer. This unit has experienced some of the highest declines of mule deer in the state. In addition to increasing water distribution and restoring mule deer habitat throughout the unit, the Department has also implemented a plan to decrease predation on mule deer. Part of that plan is to increase mountain lion harvest in the unit to decrease mountain lion predation on adult mule deer. The southern part of the unit was already part of multiple bag limit area that also included 18BS. Now, the northern part of the unit is also a multiple bag limit area. The bag limit for 16A North is 15. Please see below for a description of the multiple bag limit unit boundaries or Note 38 on page 64 of the 2015-2016 AZ Hunting Regulations.

To decrease coyote depredation on mule deer, specifically fawns, the entire 16A unit has also been added to the daylong shooting hour hunt structure (night hunting) for coyote from December 1, 2015 – May 31, 2016. Please see Note 25 on page 93 and R12-4-304 on page 127 of the 2015-2016 AZ Hunting Regulations for restrictions on night hunting.

As part of the predation management plan for Unit 16A, we will be hiring a mountain lion houndsman (year-round) and a coyote hunter (full-time, January – June) to reduce predation. If anyone is interested or has questions, please send me an email at [ahoward@azgfd.gov](mailto:ahoward@azgfd.gov).

16A North MBL Boundary – That portion of Unit 16A beginning in Kingman at Exit 48 on I-40; south and west on I-40 to U.S. Hwy 95 (exit 9); southerly on U.S. Hwy 95 to the Bill Williams River; easterly along the Bill Williams River to Alamo Lake; easterly along the north shore of Alamo Lake to Alamo Road; northwest on Alamo Road to Chicken Springs Road; northeast on Chicken Springs Road to U.S. Hwy 93; north and west on U.S. Hwy 93 and I-40 to Kingman (exit 48).

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# Sharing The Adventure

## August Club Hunt Results



**Hank Scutoski** says, "I owe thanks to **Jim O'Dell**. He selected the stand and did the calling. It was the first coyote I've killed. He actually called in 2 but I only saw the one I shot. I shot it with my AR-15. The first shot hit square in the chest and it went down, but a few seconds later it moved its head a little so I shot it again, in the head. After all the stories I've heard about coyotes getting up and running off I wasn't going to take any chance of this one getting away. Unfortunately, the second shot caused the 2nd coyote to run off, otherwise we could have had a double."



**Kara Jensen** with her coyote harvested at the August Club Hunt with her .223 at 80 yards.

## Membership Report

*Welcome New Members:*  
**Jacob Pettit of Gilbert**

*Thanks to the following members for renewing their APC memberships:*

**Eric Ahlstrom, Chuck Hagen, Mark Miller, Jerry Snodgrass and Larry Walden**

*Expiring Soon:*

**Robert Hedrick, Hank Scutoski, Loren Vickers, April Howard and Ronald Towles**

*Recently expired. We'd love to have you back:*  
**Shad Archibald, Craig Barnett, Duane Blau, Sid Chalasani, Bill Cirelli, Ron Day, Michael PiPede, Jim Hawkins, Parker Heywood, Chip Hidlinger, Bill Hudzietz, Steve Jansen, Treavor Jorgensen, Jerry Lape, Robert LaVoie, Don Lions, Bill McCance, Paul Melching, Danny Nielson, Randy Pinson, Cameron Pinta, Steve Smoot, Jared Tompkinson, Scott Wardlaw**



**Marco Ricotta** with one of his coyote harvested at the August Club Hunt. Marco used a 204 Ruger

**Capt. Don Martin**

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# ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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Aug. 13, 2015

## Notice to hunters regarding a department elk research project

The Arizona Game and Fish Department's Research Branch will be conducting an elk survey methodology study to investigate ways to evaluate and improve the accuracy and precision of our elk population estimates. The project includes trapping and radio-collaring elk, and short-term intensive helicopter and fixed wing aircraft surveys within specific GMUs to compare various survey methods.

Elk trapping will take place throughout 2015 outside of elk hunting seasons. Aerial surveys will be restricted to the end of August and early September 2015 prior to the elk archery season. As this may mildly impact some hunters, the attached Q&A was developed to answer questions that the public may have if they witness the department's field work in GMU 1 and 7E.

**Q: What is the purpose of the "cages" being set out in the forest?**

A: These are elk traps designed to capture individual animals without harming them so that we may fit them with radio-telemetry collars as a part of a research project. Elk will be released on site immediately after being fitted with a collar.

**Q: What is the purpose of the research project?**

A: The primary objective of this project is to test and compare various survey techniques to improve accuracy and precision in estimating elk numbers.

**Q: Why are there helicopters flying low and slow in the forest where I hunt?**

A: Observers in the helicopters are conducting aerial surveys for elk to test several methods so that we may more closely monitor elk numbers. As they are testing several different methods, helicopters may fly slow and low to allow observers to gather necessary data for comparing survey methods.

**Q: Are these additional flights designed specifically to interfere with hunters and reduce hunt success?**

A: No, the hunting public is an important and valued customer of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. These efforts are designed to improve accuracy of our elk surveys to better inform herd management decisions.

**Q: Will this improved accuracy result in reduced elk permits and affect draw success? Or, will it result in increased elk permits that may affect future hunt success?**

A: No, this effort is independent of specific elk herd management objectives. However, improved accuracy in survey data will aid managers in making more informed decisions about elk population management and hunting regulations.

**Q: Can I legally harvest a collared elk?**

A: Yes, this policy is spelled out in the hunting regulations, and marked or collared animals can be legally harvested. All we ask is that ear tags (or documentation of ear tags) and the collar be returned undamaged to the nearest Arizona Game and Fish Department office.

## Tucson men convicted of poaching in Redington Pass

Aug. 27, 2015

**Both sentenced to jail, fined, in "Friday Night Lights" case**

TUCSON, Ariz. — Two men from Tucson apprehended in 2014 by Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) officers were recently convicted of multiple wildlife violations, sentenced to jail and fined in a case stemming from the illegal killing of five deer in Redington Pass.

One defendant, Christopher Perez, pled guilty on Aug. 19 to 16 charges; the other defendant, Christopher Ball, pled guilty on Aug. 24 to nine charges. They were each sentenced to 120 days in jail.

They are also each required to serve 100 hours of community service and 24 months of unsupervised probation, attend a hunter education class as well as an animal treatment offender program, and pay all civil penalties that may be imposed by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. Both defendants were criminally fined \$750.

The investigation began Aug. 23, 2014, when an AZGFD Operation Game Thief report was submitted by an archery deer hunter who had discovered three deer that appeared to be shot with a rifle a day or two earlier. One of the deer was pregnant with two fawns. Archery deer season had opened Aug. 22, but no rifle hunts were allowed at that time.

During the investigation, officers were given a tip about one suspect through the Operation Game Thief Hotline. Through their investigation of the evidence left at the scene and interviews, the officers investigated the two men who later admitted to killing the five deer.

Evidence from the investigation also revealed that the suspects committed multiple game violations from the summer of 2013 to the summer of 2014, including the poaching of 15 deer and many other small game species, reptiles, a hawk, a bobcat and a fox. Many of the offenses occurred on Friday nights from a truck outfitted with LED lights.

# August APC Meeting Highlights

*The correct plaques were finally received and were presented to the winners of the 2014-2015 Caller of the Year awards. Congratulations go out to these accomplished hunters*



**Jim O'Dell** was Expert Caller of the Year



**Chuck Flewelling** was Novice Caller of the Year



**John Arterburn** received Amateur Caller of the Year award



APC President **John Arterburn** presented on Game and Fish rules and regulations and APC Ethics and the physical traits of predators. More of the presentation will appear on the APC Website.



**Jim Schmidt** made a presentation on the upcoming 2015 World Championship Coyote Calling Contest



**Kara Jensen** gave a presentation on the Beginners Small Game and Junior Javelina Camp that is to be held January 21-24, 2015. Kara is looking for volunteers to act as mentors to the junior hunters. Contact Kara if you are interested.

**Hank Scutoski** gave a report on efforts to start a cleanup of Griffin Ranch, asking for those interested in attending a cleanup sometime in the spring.



*Raffle Winners*



*Door Prize Winners*



**Doug Williams** was the lucky winner of the August firearm raffle, choosing this 22-250 Remington with scope.



*The following tentative schedule has been developed by your Executive Board as a guideline to be used for next seasons APC events. Please look this over and give us your opinion and comments. Direct them to: John Arterburn, johna@ppace.biz*

## APC 2015 / 2016 Schedule of Events

Meeting Date	Primary Topic of Speaker	Topics for predator hunting skills & knowledge as they relate to coyote, mountain lion, bobcat and fox. Numbered 1-40	Hunt Date
8/13/15	<b>Intro to APC and Predators</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Explain ethical and humane hunting and firearm safety</li> <li>2 Explain the physical traits that make a predator</li> <li>3 Explain the behavioral traits that make a predator</li> <li>4 Explain predator social structures</li> <li>5 Explain vocalizations</li> </ol>	8/15/15
9/10/15	<b>Fox Bobcat and Scouting Technology</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 What do the different predators hunts</li> <li>7 How often does each predator hunt and when do they hunt</li> <li>8 Explain what each predator does when it's not hunting and where it can be found</li> <li>9 Explain what attracts each predator, then how you attract them</li> <li>10 Explain what deters or frightens each predator</li> <li>11 Explain what gives a predator security &amp; what this means</li> <li>12 Explain how each predator will approach a target of opportunity when they are young, hungry, experienced, high security or low security</li> </ol>	9/12/15
10/8/15	<b>Bear and Mountain Lion</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13 Explain where to find each predator in the desert, forest, or prairies</li> <li>14 Explain scouting for predators and record keeping</li> <li>15 Explain conditions to be considered for a predator stand</li> <li>16 Explain how to approach a predators band</li> <li>17 Explain what to do in the predator stand and how long to do it and how to leave the predator spam</li> <li>18 How many stands do you need and how often do you return to withstand</li> </ol>	<b>Boot Camp 10/10/15</b>
11/12/15	<b>Coyote</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19 Explain what clothes to wear and body odor</li> <li>20 Explain which fire arms and what equipment to use</li> <li>21 Explain hunting and a pair and hunting by yourself or trio</li> <li>22 Explain time of day to hunt predator during seasons of year</li> </ol>	11/14/15
12/10/15	<b>Skinning &amp; Fur Preparation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23 Explain coyote lifecycle and associated calling techniques which vary according to lifecycle</li> <li>24 Carcass dosposal, night hunting, moon cycles</li> <li>25 Explain the difference in distance between calling stand when driving versus walking</li> </ol>	12/12/15
1/14/16	<b>Technology &amp; Multi Club Hunt</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26 Talk about using a ladder sitting standing laying down</li> <li>27 Explain shooting aids and the differences between them all.</li> <li>29 Talk about call and types of calls and what predator and prey sounds to use</li> </ol>	<b>Multi Club Hunt 1/16/16</b>
2/11/16	<b>Calling with E-caller &amp; hand</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 Talk about hunting on private land and public land</li> <li>31 Talk about shooting proficiency each year and citing equipment in each year</li> <li>32 Talk about using Google maps, land navigation, GPS use on foot and in a vehicle.</li> </ol>	2/13/16

*continued on next page*

Meeting Date	Primary Topic of Speaker	Topics for predator hunting skills & knowledge as they relate to coyote, mountain lion, bobcat and fox. Numbered 1-40	Hunt Date
3/10/16	<b>Turkey</b>	33 Talk about hunting vehicles and equipment needed in vehicle and on body 34 Talk about number of days hunting and how proficiency goes up as days increase to point. Do not practice but practice perfect 35 Record your hunts over the course of the hunting season to be successful	Save A Fawn Hunt 3/26/16
4/14/16	<b>Firearms</b>	38 Talk about why & how using a ladder, standing, sitting chair/ground, laying down 39 Explain stocking vs calling a coyote when why how 40 Talk about hunting contest and what you learn	4/16/16
5/12/16	<b>Awards</b>	Presentation of season hunting awards and election of officers.	

## APC Video Library

The following individuals have videos checked out.

**Please return in a timely manner so others may view also.**

- 10/9/14 Don Canine.....Calling Coyotes Like the Pros
- 4/9/15 Jerry Brady.....Calling Predators
- 3/13/14 Jerry Snodgrass.....Coyote Behavior
- 4/9/15 Jerry Brady.....Crazy Like a Coyote
- 11/9/14 Chip Hidinger.....Nail Em AZ Style



Thanks *Jerry*

### September Events

APC General Meeting.....September 10, 2015  
Club Hunt.....September 12, 2015

**Monthly APC meetings are held at the Mesa FOP Hall, 1450 E. Main Street, Mesa, from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm**

## Arizona Predators

*The following article talks to the topic of an introduction to Arizona Predators that was covered in the August APC General Meeting. Subsequent articles on the meeting subject matter that is listed on the Schedule of Events pages will also be published in this newsletter during the month of discussion. See the complete document on the APC Website: [www.azpredatorcallers.com](http://www.azpredatorcallers.com)*

### Arizona Predators are Carnivores

#### Carnivore

An animal that derives its energy and nutrient from a diet consisting mainly or exclusively of animal tissue, whether through predation or scavenging

Physical Attributes commonly associated with carnivores include:

- Built to capture and dismember prey (teeth and claws serve these functions in many mammals)
- Evolved eyes that face forward, thus making depth perception possible.
- Short digestive systems, not required to break down tough cellulose found in plants. A simple stomach adapted to digest primarily meat, as compared to the elaborate digestive systems of herbivorous animals, which are necessary to break down tough, complex plant fibers.
- Most have highly developed senses
  - Vision
  - Hearing
  - Acute sense of smell in many species
  - Excellent runners: some long-distance, but more commonly are sprinters.
- Most species of Carnivore are, to some degree, omnivorous, meaning they eat meat and plant matter.
- Felid, or feline, or cat carnivore are different they have the most strict diet and are known as obligate carnivores.
- Important teeth for carnivores are the large, slightly recurved canines, used to dispatch prey, and the carnassial complex, used to rend meat from bone and slice it into digestible pieces. Coyote and fox have molar teeth behind the carnassials for crushing bones. Feline have functionless molars behind the carnassial in the upper jaw.
- Cats will strip bones clean but will not crush them to get the marrow inside. Omnivores, such as bears and raccoons, have developed blunt, molar-like carnassials. Carnassials are a key adaptation for land based vertebrate predation.
- **Carnassials** are paired upper and lower teeth (either molars or premolars and molars) modified in such a way as to allow enlarged and often self-sharpening edges to pass by each other in a shearing manner.

#### Obligate carnivores

Obligate carnivores or “true” carnivores depend on the nutrients only found in animal flesh for their survival. Specifically, for our concern mountain lion, and bobcat, have high protein requirements and their metabolisms appear unable to synthesize certain essential nutrients and thus they rely on animal flesh in their diet to supply these nutrients.

#### Omnivores

Omnivores consume both animal and non-animal food, and apart from the more general definition, there is no clearly defined ratio of plant to animal material that would distinguish a facultative carnivore (prefer meat for good health) from an omnivore (can thrive on meat or plant matter)

## Diet specializations

Carnivores may alternatively be classified according to the percentage of meat in their diet.

The diet of a [hypercarnivore](#) consists of more than 70% meat, [Mesocarnivore](#) eat meat for 50-70% of their diet, [Hypocarnivore](#) consume less than 30% meat,

With the balance consisting of non-animal foods, which may include [fruits](#), other plant material, or [fungi](#).

## Reproductive System

- Carnivorans tend to produce a single [litter](#) annually, Some produce multiple litters a year, and larger carnivorans, like bears, have gaps of 2–3 years between litters.
- The average [gestation](#) period lies between 50 and 115 days, although the bear and weasel families have delayed implantation, thus extending the gestation period six to 9 months beyond the normal period.
- Litter sizes are usually small, ranging from one to 13 young, which are born with underdeveloped eyes and ears. In most species, the mother has exclusive or at least primary care of the offspring.

## Feline Predators

Cats have relatively large eyes, situated to provide [binocular vision](#). Their night vision is especially good due to the presence of a [tapetum lucidum](#), which reflects light back inside the eyeball, and gives felid eyes their distinctive shine. As a result, the eyes of felids are about six times more light sensitive than those of humans, and many species are at least partially [nocturnal](#).

The [retina](#) of felids also contains a relatively high proportion of [rod cells](#), adapted for distinguishing moving objects in conditions of dim light, which are complemented by the presence of [cone cells](#) for sensing color during the day. However, felids appear to have relatively poor color vision in comparison with humans.

This is explained by the fact that cats see moving objects more “colorfully” than still objects, but in an intact environment, are unable to distinguish color tones alone (like turquoise compared to teal, for example).<sup>[[citation needed](#)]</sup>

The [external ears](#) of felids are also large, and especially sensitive to high-frequency sounds in the smaller cats. This sensitivity allows them to locate small [rodent](#) prey; cats do not apparently produce such sounds.

Cats also have a highly developed sense of smell, although not to the degree seen in [canids](#).

Cats possess highly sensitive [whiskers](#) set deep within the skin, which provide the cat with sensory information about the slightest air movement around it. Whiskers are very helpful to nocturnal hunters.

Most felids are able to land on their feet after a fall, an ability that relies on vision, body flexibility and the [sense of balance](#) acting together.<sup>[[citation needed](#)]</sup>

Felids have a relatively small number of teeth compared with other carnivorans, a feature associated with their short muzzles. with a few exceptions, such as the [lynx](#).

The [canine teeth](#) are large, reaching exceptional size in the extinct [saber-tooth](#) species. The upper third premolar and lower molar are adapted as [carnassial](#) teeth, suited to tearing and cutting flesh.<sup>[16]</sup>

Felid jaws can only move vertically, which prevents them from being able to [chew efficiently](#), but makes it easier for their powerful [jaw](#) muscles to hold struggling prey.

## Apex Predator

- An **apex predator**, also known as an **alpha predator**, **super predator**, **top predator** or **top-level predator**, is a [predator](#) residing at the top of a [food chain](#) on which no other creatures predate and play a crucial role in maintaining the health of their [ecosystems](#), by affecting prey species' population dynamics.
- Where two competing species are in an ecologically unstable relationship, apex predators tend to create stability if they prey upon both.

All information presented here was from Wikipedia, a Veterinarian website, and a paper written by Rich Higgins found on the APC website.

## Gray, Red and Kit Fox

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The gray fox appeared during the mid [Pliocene](#) epoch [3.6](#) million years ago ([AEO](#)) with the first fossil evidence found at the lower 111 Ranch site, in [Graham County, Arizona](#) with contemporary mammals like the [giant sloth](#), the elephant-like [Cuvieronius](#), the [Large-headed llama](#), and the early small horses of [Nannippus](#) and [Equus](#).<sup>[7]</sup>

Genetic analyses of the fox-like canids confirmed that the gray fox is a distinct genus from the red foxes

This species and the closely related [Channel Island fox](#) (*Urocyon littoralis*) are the only living members of the [genus Urocyon](#), which is considered to be among the most primitive of the living canids.

The gray fox is mainly distinguished from most other [canids](#) by its grizzled upper parts, black-tipped tail and strong neck,

The gray fox typically weighs 7.9 to 15.4 lbs., though exceptionally can weigh as much 20 lbs.

The gray fox's ability to climb trees is shared only with the Asian [raccoon dog](#) among canids. Its strong, hooked claws allow it to scramble up trees to escape many predators, such as the [domestic dog](#) or the [coyote](#).<sup>[16]</sup> or to reach tree-bound or arboreal food sources. It can climb branchless, vertical trunks to heights of 18 meters and jump from branch to branch.

The gray fox is [nocturnal](#) or [crepuscular](#) and makes its den in hollow trees, stumps or appropriated burrows during the day. Such gray fox tree dens may be located 30 ft. above the ground.<sup>†</sup>

The gestation period lasts approximately 53 days. Litter size ranges from 1 to 7. Kits begin to hunt with their parents at the age of 3 months. By the time that they are four months old, the kits will have developed their permanent teeth and can now easily forage on their own. The family group remains together until the autumn, when the young reach sexual maturity, then they disperse.

The gray fox is an [omnivorous](#), solitary hunter. It frequently preys on the [eastern cottontail](#) (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) in the eastern U.S., though it will readily catch [voles](#), [shrews](#), and [birds](#). In California, the gray fox primarily eats rodents, followed by rabbit family, e.g. [jackrabbit](#), [brush rabbit](#), etc.<sup>[16]</sup>

In some parts of the Western United States (such as in the Zion National Park in Utah), the gray fox is primarily insectivorous and herbivorous.<sup>[19]</sup> Fruit is an important component of the diet of the gray fox and they seek whatever [fruits](#) are readily available, generally eating more vegetable matter than does the [red](#)

There are 16 subspecies recognized for the gray fox

## Bobcat

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The **bobcat** (*Lynx rufus*) is a North American [mammal](#) of the cat family [Felidae](#) that appeared during the [Irvingtonian](#) stage of around 1.8 million years ago ([AEO](#)).<sup>[4]</sup> Containing 12 recognized [subspecies](#), it ranges from southern [Canada](#) to northern [Mexico](#). The bobcat is an adaptable [predator](#) that inhabits wooded areas, as well as semi-desert, urban edge, forest edges, and swampland environments. It remains in some of its original range, but local populations are vulnerable to extirpation by [coyotes](#) and domestic animals.

The bobcat resembles other species of the *Lynx* genus, but is on average the smallest of the four

Its coat is variable, though generally tan to grayish-brown, with black streaks on the body and dark bars on the forelegs and tail. Its spotted patterning acts as camouflage. The ears are black-tipped and pointed, with short, black tufts. There is generally an off-white color on the lips, chin, and underparts. Bobcats in the desert regions of the southwest have the lightest-colored coats, while those in the northern, forested regions are darkest.

The adult bobcat is 18.7 to 49.2 in long from the head to the base of the tail, averaging 32.6 in; the stubby tail adds 3.5 to 7.9 in <sup>[13]</sup> and its "bobbed" appearance gives the species its name.<sup>[16][17][18][19]</sup>

An adult stands about 12 to 24 in at the shoulders.<sup>[11][20]</sup> Adult males can range in weight from 14 to 40 lbs., with an average of 21 lbs.; f

Females weigh 8.8 to 33.7 lbs., with an average of 15 lbs.<sup>[21][22]</sup>

The bobcat is [crepuscular](#). It keeps on the move from three hours before sunset until about midnight, and then again from before dawn until three hours after sunrise. Each night it will move from 2 to 7 miles along its habitual route.<sup>[15]</sup> This behavior may vary seasonally, as bobcats become more active during the day in fall and winter in response to the activity of their prey, which are more active during the day in colder months.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Social structure and home range

Bobcat activities are confined to well-defined territories, which vary in size depending on gender and the distribution of prey. The home range is [marked](#) with feces, [urine scent](#), and by clawing prominent trees in the area. In its territory, the bobcat will have numerous places of shelter, usually a main den, and several auxiliary shelters on the outer extent of its range, such as hollow logs, brush piles, thickets, or under rock ledges. Its den smells strongly of the bobcat.<sup>[28]</sup>

The sizes of bobcats' home ranges vary significantly; a [World Conservation Union](#) (IUCN) summary of research suggests ranges from 0.02 to 126 sq mi.<sup>[26]</sup> One study in [Kansas](#) found resident males to have ranges of roughly 8 sq mi (21 km<sup>2</sup>), and females less than half that area.

Transient bobcats were found to have both larger (roughly 22 sq mi) and less well-defined home ranges. Kittens had the smallest range at about 3 sq miles.

Like most felines, the bobcat is largely solitary, but ranges will often overlap. Unusual for cats, males are more tolerant of overlap, while females rarely wander into others' ranges.<sup>[31]</sup> Given their smaller range sizes, two or more females may reside within a male's home range.

When multiple male territories overlap, a dominance hierarchy is often established, resulting in the exclusion of some transients from favored areas.

In line with widely differing estimates of home range size, population density figures are divergent, from one to 38 bobcats per 10 sq miles in one survey.<sup>[26]</sup> The average is estimated at one bobcat per 5 square miles (13 km<sup>2</sup>).<sup>[28]</sup>

A link has been observed between population density and sex ratio. One study noted a dense, un hunted population in [California](#) had a sex ratio of 2.1 males per female.

## Hunting and diet

Bobcats often prey on rabbits, hares and rodents.

The bobcat is able to survive for long periods without food, but will eat heavily when prey is abundant.

During lean periods, it will often prey on larger animals it can kill and return to feed on later. The bobcat hunts by stalking its prey and then ambushing it with a short chase or pounce. Its preference is for mammals weighing about 1.5 to 12.5 lbs.

Its main prey varies by region.

The bobcat is an [opportunistic](#) predator that, unlike the more specialized Canadian lynx, will readily vary its prey selection.<sup>[26]</sup> Diet diversification positively relates to the bobcat's principal prey.

The bobcat hunts animals of different sizes, and will adjust its hunting techniques accordingly. Though the bobcat prefers [rabbits](#) and [hares](#), it will hunt anything from [insects](#), chickens, [geese](#) and other birds and small [rodents](#) to [deer](#).

With small animals, such as [rodents](#) (including [squirrels](#)), [birds](#), [fish](#), including small [sharks](#),<sup>[36]</sup> and [insects](#), it will hunt in areas known to be abundant in prey, and will lie, crouch, or stand, and wait for victims to wander close. It will then pounce, grabbing its prey with its sharp, retractable claws.

For slightly larger animals, such as geese, rabbits and hares, it will stalk from cover and wait until they come within 20 to 35 ft. before rushing in to attack. Less commonly, it will feed on larger animals, such as young [ungulates](#) and other carnivores such as [fishers](#) (primarily female), [foxes](#), [minks](#), [skunks](#), small [dogs](#) and domesticated [cats](#).<sup>[28][37][38]</sup>

Bobcats are considered the major predatory threat to the endangered [whooping crane](#).<sup>[39]</sup> Bobcats are also occasional hunters of [livestock](#) and [poultry](#). While larger species, such as [cattle](#) and [horses](#), are not known to be attacked, bobcats do present a threat to smaller [ruminants](#), such as [sheep](#) and [goats](#).

According to the [National Agricultural Statistics Service](#), bobcats killed 11,100 sheep in 2004, comprising 4.9% of all sheep predator deaths.<sup>[40]</sup> However, some amount of bobcat predation may be misidentified, as bobcats have been known to [scavenge](#) on the remains of livestock kills by other animals.<sup>[41]</sup>

*continued on pg 16*

## *Bobcat continued from page 15*

It has been known to kill [deer](#), especially in winter when smaller prey is scarce, or when deer populations become more abundant. They definitely kill fawns.

One study in the [Everglades](#) showed a large majority of kills (33 of 39) were [fawns](#), but prey up to eight times the bobcat's weight could be successfully taken.<sup>[42]</sup> It stalks the deer, often when the deer is lying down, then rushes in and grabs it by the neck before biting the throat, base of the skull, or chest. On the rare occasions a bobcat kills a deer, it eats its fill and then buries the carcass under snow or leaves, often returning to it several times to feed.<sup>[28]</sup>

Bobcats typically live to six or eight years of age, with a few reaching beyond ten. The longest they have been known to live is 16 years in the wild and 32 years in captivity.<sup>[3]</sup>

They generally begin [breeding](#) by their second summer, though females may start as early as their first year. [Sperm production](#) begins each year by September or October, and the male will be fertile into the summer.

A dominant male will travel with a female and mate with her several times, generally from winter until early spring; this varies by location, but most mating takes place during February and March.

The pair may undertake a number of different behaviors, including bumping, chasing, and ambushing. Other males may be in attendance, but remain uninvolved. Once the male recognizes the female is receptive, he grasps her in the typical felid neck grip and [mates with her](#). The female may later go on to mate with other males,<sup>[28]</sup> and males will generally mate with several females.<sup>[45]</sup> During courtship, the otherwise silent bobcat may let out loud screams, hisses, or other sounds.<sup>[4]</sup>

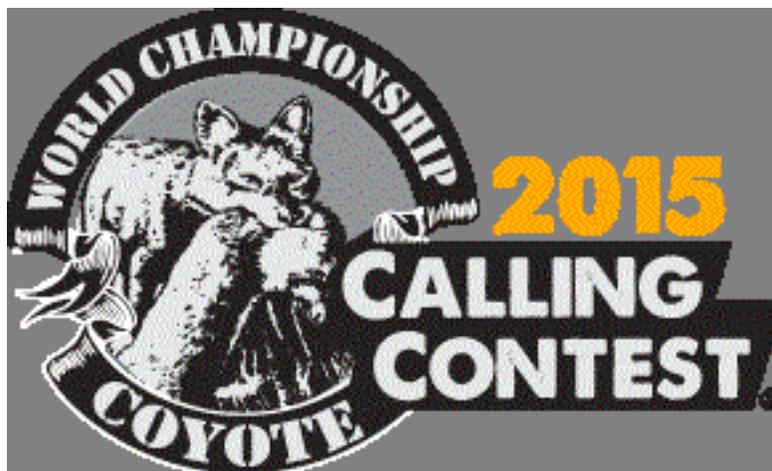
The female raises the young alone. One to six, but usually two to four, kittens are born in April or May, after roughly 60 to 70 days of [gestation](#). Sometimes a second litter is born as late as September.

The female generally gives birth in an enclosed space, usually a small cave or hollow log. The young open their eyes by the ninth or tenth day. They start exploring their surroundings at four weeks and are weaned at about two months. Within three to five months, they begin to travel with their mother.<sup>[46]</sup> They will be hunting by themselves by fall of their first year, and usually disperse shortly thereafter.

Like all cats, the bobcat 'directly registers', meaning its hind prints usually fall exactly on top of its fore prints. Bobcat tracks can be generally distinguished from [feral](#) or house cat tracks by their larger size: about 2.0 in<sup>2</sup> (13 cm<sup>2</sup>) versus 1.5 in<sup>2</sup>.

All information presented here was from Wikipedia, a Veterinarian website, and a paper written by Rich Higgins found on the APC website.

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The World Championship Coyote Calling Contest will be in Arizona this year and next and then will move to Idaho. Since the Arizona Predator Callers helped host it last year we have opened up the strict "invitation only policy" to invite ANY current paid member(s) of APC to join the event. Only one of the team members is required to be a member of APC. APC members will receive a special discount on the entry fee until September 20th then the regular entry fee applies. **Entry forms are available on the WCCC website <http://www.worldcoyotecalling.com/> or contact us at 520-586-2582.**

# Southwest Fur Harvesters Rendezvous

The 7th annual rendezvous will be on **September 19th and 20th** in the cool pines on the Mogollon rim above Payson. At the junction of Hwy 87 and 260 turn West on 260 towards Camp Verde for about 3 miles to Forest Road 144 between mile post 248 and 249. This location has changed from last year because it was getting difficult to bring in campers and trailers on the deteriorating road, The new location is on a maintained road. There will be plenty of signs directing you to the location. There is not a charge to attend the rendezvous and is a family friendly event so bring the kids. There will be plenty of room for camping with tin teepees, tents or what have you. There will be porta pottys and a wash station available. Trapping supplies will be available for purchase.

## *Schedule for Saturday Sept 19th 2015 Rendezvous*

- 7:00 – 7:30** Breakfast-Coffee & donuts provided by SFHA
- 7:30 - 8:00** Jim West , Non-essential items for the trap line
- 8:15 - 9:00** Larry Gates, Caging Bobcats
- 9:15 - 9:45** Scott Corporon, Grey Fox using foot hold traps
- 10:00-10:45** Bob Rhoton, Cage trapping, Alec Sowden Cage trapping
- 11:00-12:30** April Howard AGFD, Fur Harvest report & Mexican Grey Wolf briefing
- 12:30-1:00** Lunch provided by SFHA
- 1:00 - 1:45** Jim Weeks, Coyote trapping using foot hold traps
- 2:00 - 2:45** Mercer Lawing, Caging Bobcats
- 3:00 - 3:30** Allen Zufelt AGFD, Use of lead free ammunition
- 3:45 - 4:45** Steve Craig, Calling Arizona's Big Cat
- 5:00 - 5:15** Drawing – Awards
- 5:30** Chili supper, bring a pot of chili if you can.

Questions, contact Don Rohla 928-636-0585, Bob Rhoton 928-532-5776

Friday – bring something to put on the grill, SFHA will furnish the fixings

Saturday – Breakfast coffee & donuts, lunch hot dogs furnished by SFHA, Supper bring pot of chili to share

Remember to bring something for the silent auction. This is our only fund raiser

We will have a complete line of trapping supplies Porta potty and wash station on site

Sunday – Trappers Education Course 8am

## *Directions to Rendezvous*

At Payson take Hwy 260/87 North past Pine and Strawberry to where Hwy 260 turns towards Camp Verde. Go West on Hwy 260 about 3 miles to Mile Post 248. Just beyond the Mile Post you will see SFHA signs at Forest Road 144, turn right and go North on FR 144 about 1/2 mile to signs marking the camp site. This is a well maintained road, so it should not be any problem regardless of the weather.

To those folks coming in from Camp Verde area, head East on Hwy 260 to Mile Post 249 and look for the SFHA signs at Forest Road 144 turn left and go about 1/2 mile to the camp site.



# Arizona Predator Callers - Club Hunt

## September 12, 2015

The camping & check-in location for this month's club hunt will be on the Dobson-Timberline Ranch (private property) located east of Show Low. You are welcome to camp both Friday and Saturday nights. This is a beautiful location next to a pond. Look for the APC Trailer. Check-in is at dusk.

Here are the driving directions:

1. Starting at far eastside of Show Low at the junction of US 60 & SR61, drive east approximately 9.5 miles to mile marker 362.
2. There are two landmarks to look for:



As you approach mile marker 362 you will see this sign on the South side of the road. It is almost directly across the road from the entrance to our camping area. Do not go into this ranch. This is the gate on the North side of the road you want to go through. The sign says "No Hunting Private Property". We're sure everyone will remember to close the gate.

3. Turn left (North) onto the gated ranch road, and follow the APC markers to the camping location which is approximately 0.4 miles to the NW. You should be able to see the APC trailer. The coordinates for this road/gate are:  $N34^{\circ} 16.3256'$   $W109^{\circ} 40.3173'$
4. Here's a map:



*Print this page and take it with you on the hunt.*

## Arizona Predator Callers - Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hm Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Wk Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
email address: \_\_\_\_\_

ARIZONA PREDATOR CALLERS LIABILITY RELEASE: by signing below I understand that I will not hold APC and/or APC board of directors, officers, committee Members, Judges, Members, and volunteers responsible in any way for accidents, losses, judgments, or any Act of God that may happen while participating in any APC sponsored or co-sponsored meeting or event. APC policy is to promptly report to law enforcement all suspected abuse and sexual molestation. Have you been convicted of a Crime? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Family Members

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Annual Membership.....\$30.00       New Membership  
Family Membership add \$5.00.....\$35.00  
Lifetime Individual Membership.....\$350.00       Renewal

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Send To:**  
**Arizona Predator Callers**  
**P.O. Box 1172**  
**Mesa, AZ 85211-1172**

Arizona Predator Callers  
P.O. Box 1172  
Mesa, AZ 85211-1172



Address Correction Requested

