



PUMA or COUGAR  
ARGENTINA, Quehue  
MAJ 2009  
MECHISLAV KLIMOVICH



GOLD AWARD  
13 13/16

*Puma* (G), *Puma* (F). Concolor, which is Latin for "of the same color," is in reference to its plain coloration.

Called **puma** throughout South America, the name **cougar** being used only in Canada and the United States. Called *léon* locally.

**DESCRIPTION** (*male*) South American pumas are 6-7 feet (1.8 to 2.1 m) in length, including 26-32 inches (66-81 cm) of tail. Shoulder height 25-28 inches (64-71 cm). Weight about 120 pounds (55 kg). The female is roughly two-thirds the size of the male. As with most mammals (but unlike jaguars), the smallest pumas are found near the equator, increasing in size to the north and south.

The puma is the second largest cat in the Western Hemisphere. South American specimens are somewhat smaller and lighter in color than those in North America, and are considerably smaller than South American jaguars. They are long and slim, with

a long muscular neck and a remarkably small head for such a large cat. The tail is long and cylindrical. The color ranges from buff to tawny, with the underparts white.

**BEHAVIOR** Solitary, seeking company only during the brief courtship period. Males are territorial, actively maintaining and marking their home ranges. There is no fixed breeding season. The female usually has a litter of 1-6 kittens every other year, and they remain with her for about two years. Life expectancy is 12 years, but captives have lived as long as 19 years

**DISTRIBUTION** Most of South America.

