

Case 14-236

Bobcat *Lynx rufus*

Ian Trestman

# Bobcat: General info

- Member of Lynx genus (debated)
- 13 (or 12?) subspecies
- 2 most likely to be found in Georgia

*L. rufus rufus*



*L. rufus floridanus*



# General info and behavior

- About twice as big as domestic cat (~20 pounds)
  - Largest documented is around 60 pounds
- Stubby, “bobbed” tail
- Tufted ears
- Lifespan is 6-8 years (longer in captivity)
- Opportunistic carnivores (rabbits, squirrels)
- Crepuscular activity (dusk and dawn)
- Territorial
- Solitary
- Parasites?
- Disease?





# The case: Healthy kitten!

Physical exam → no abnormal findings

Weight: .75 kg

BCS 1.5/5

2+ fleas noted → ivermectin at .04mg/kg

Fembendazole empirically given

Subcutaneous fluids

Rabies Vaccine



Sent to rehabber on same day of intake ☹️



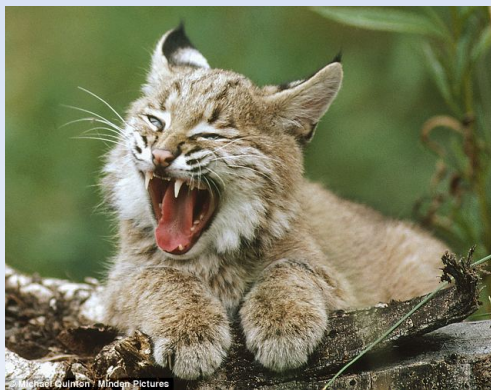




# Rabies!!



- Raccoon and bat most common vectors in SE
- Transmission from bite (rare exceptions exist)
- Causes ~50,000 human deaths annually worldwide
- Average incubation in cats and dogs is 3-6 weeks
  - Up to a year in people!
- Cats → typically develop furious form first
  - May run continuously until die of exhaustion!
  - Death usually occurs within 3-4 days
    - Can be up to 10 days (dumb/paralytic) form after day 5 → coma, death



# Rabies Protocol

- Typically, rabies “vectors” are euthanized
  - Canidae, Viverridae, chiropteran → most common
  - Rodents, Lagomorphs → “virtually non-existent” (Greene)
- Any neurological signs or bite wounds would call for immediate euthanasia
- Use extreme caution around rabies vectors
  - Gloves, anesthesia, VACCINE
- Quarantine 10 days if unknown status

# References

Greene, Craig E., Infectious diseases of the Dog and Cat, 2006, p 167-186

Fergus, Charles (2003-08-01). *Wildlife of Virginia and Maryland Washington D.C.* Stackpole Books. p. 119

Zielinski, William J; Kucera, Thomas E (1998). *American Marten, Fisher, Lynx, and Wolverine: Survey Methods for Their Detection.* DIANE Publishing. pp. 77–8