

SNOW LEOPARDS

by CAMERON

The coat of a snow leopard has dark black spots, rosette, on white cream or grey fur. Their head has rows of spots. They have long thick fur and a very long tail. Their spots are camouflage for the snow leopard. The snow leopard sheds its coat once a year. It has a thick, light colored coat in the winter and a short dark coat in the summer.



The snow leopard comes from the big cat family. It has retractable claws, a rough tongue for removing fur and skin from their prey.

Snow leopards live in central Asia in high snowy mountains of Asia. They live in high altitudes of above 5,000 feet and to as much as 18,000 feet. They like to be above tree line level. Snow leopards like to roam in small forests and cliffs on the mountainsides.

The snow leopard's mating season is from January through March. The female stays pregnant for 13 to 15 weeks. A female snow leopard gives birth to 5 cubs. The cubs are born blind. After a week the cubs open their eyes. They stay with their mother up to two years. She teaches them how to hunt and find dens.

Snow leopards like to hunt alone. The snow leopard is a cunning hunter. They lie in wait for their prey, until it gets close enough for it to rush or leap at it. The snow leopard is a powerful leaper. It can leap over 15 meters at its prey. The snow leopard prefers to hunt at dawn or dusk. Snow leopards like to eat many different kinds of animals like sheep, deer, hares, boars, small yaks, goats, and domestic livestock.