Order Carnivora / Family Felidae

Otocolobus manul  
(Pallas, 1776)

Common names:
- engl.: Manul, Pallas' Cat
- esp.: Gato manul, Gato de Pallas
- fr.: Chat manul
- de.: Manul
- ital.: Manul, Gatto di Pallas

Scientific synonyms:
- Felis manul
- Trichaelurus manul

Characteristics:

**Adult:**
- General appearance: Small cat with a broad head, low set ears, tufty tail, and an extremely thick fur.
- Measurements: Head-body-length: 50-65 cm, tail: 21-31 cm, hind foot: c. 12-13 cm.
- Body-weight: 2.5-4.5 kg.
- Eyes: Iris yellow, pupils contracting into vertical rhombs.
- Ears: Short and bluntly rounded. Backside buff without black tip.
- Legs: Short and stout.
- Tail: Medium at length. Rather long and thick, with a broad black terminal tuft, preceded by five or six narrow black rings.
- Coat: Extremely thick, dense, and soft, with abundant dark underwool. Colour varies tram light grey to yellowish buff and russet. The white tips of the hair produce a frosted appearance. No spinal band. Some faint black stripes on the sides. The fur on the underside is dark and longer than above.
- Sexual dimorphism: No marked sexual dimorphism.

**Juvenile:**
- Kittens with a dark woolly coat without the frosting. Pattern more conspicuous than in adults.
**Distribution:** Afghanistan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kashmir, Kyrgyzstan, N Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan: Baluchistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

**Population:**
- Wild population: Rather rare but not endangered.
- Captive population: 18 manuls were kept in 6 collections contributing to the International Zoo Yearbook in 1990.

**Trade:** Occasionally in the zoo trade. 6 live specimens recorded by CITES Parties in 1990.

**Intraspecific variation:** 3 subspecies have been described, but their validity is doubtful. There is a considerable individual variation in ground colour and pattern.

**Similar species:** *Felis margarita* (sheet A-112.007.001.017): Distinct by its pointed ears, the tapered tail, and the mat of long hair on the soles.

**Bibliography:**