



# Otocolobus manul

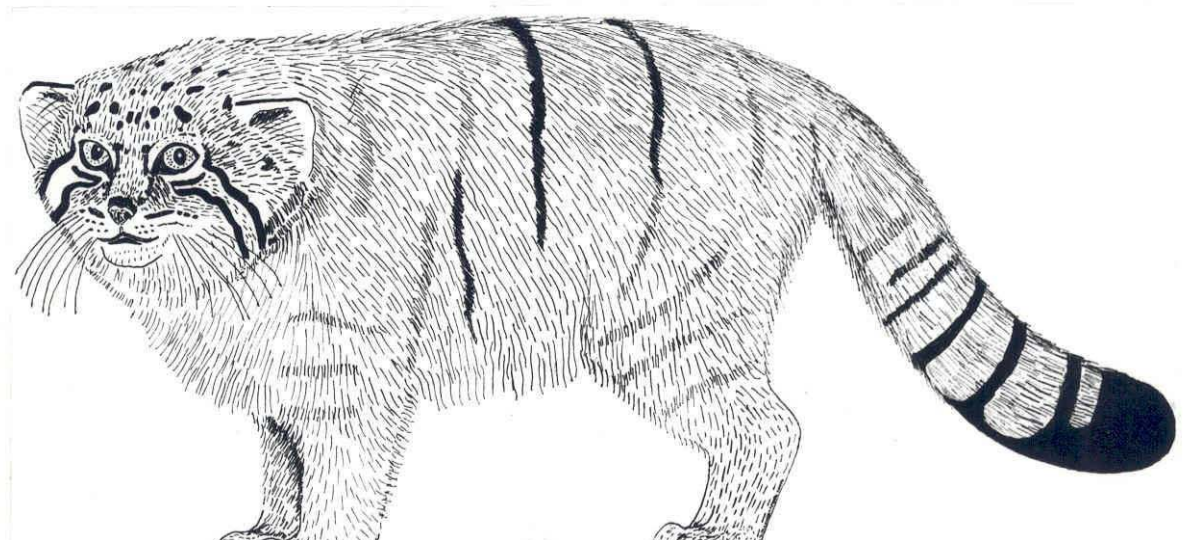
(Pallas, 1776)

**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.

**Head:** Forehead extremely broad and highly domed, with scattered black spots. Muzzle short. Ears low set. Nose pad pinkish brown. Two distinct parallel black bars on each cheek. Small side-whiskers. Lips, chin and throat white.

**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 from 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.

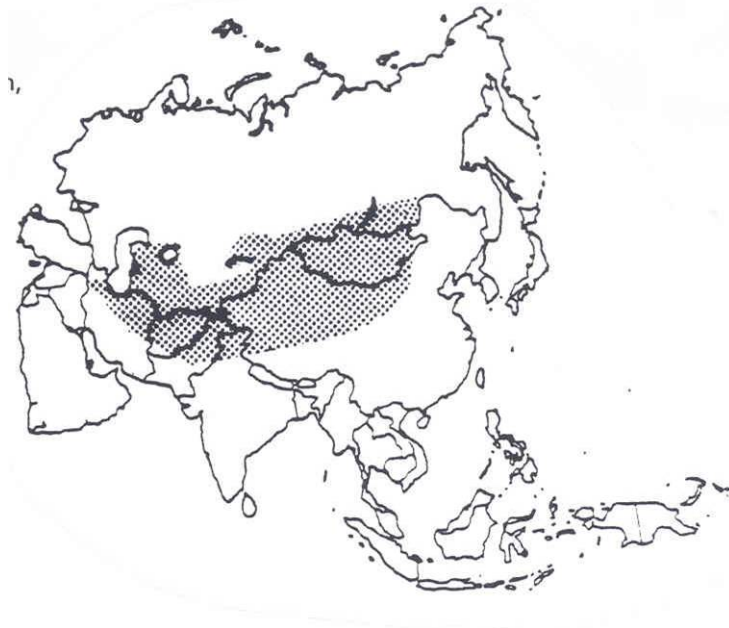
**Sexual dimorphism:** No marked sexual dimorphism.

**Juvenile:** Kittens with a dark woolly coat without the frosting. Pattern more conspicuous than in adults.

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**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:**

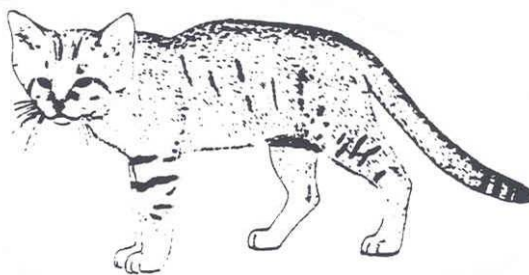
Occasionally in the zoo trade. 6 live specimens recorded by CITES Parties in 1990.

**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.



*Felis margarita*

**Bibliography:**

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Prater, S.H. (1971) The Book of Indian Animals. Bombay.

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