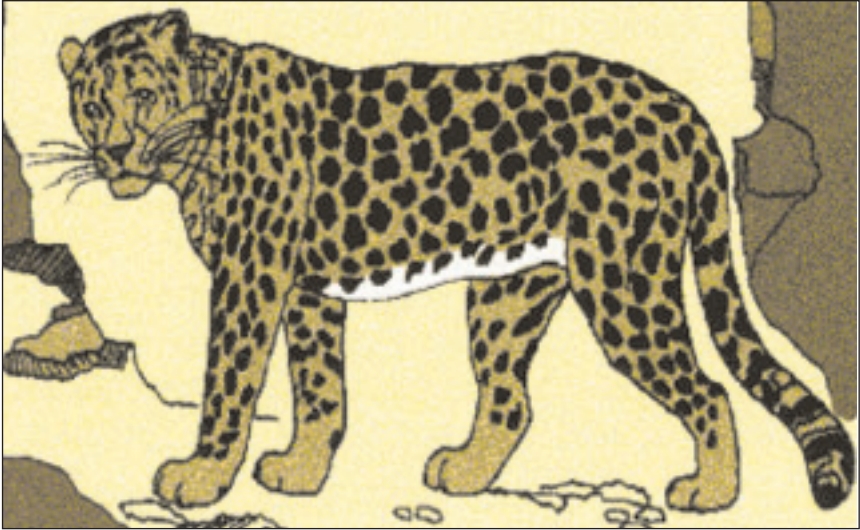




## ARABIAN LEOPARD



### **Description of Arabian Leopard:**

The weight of the Arabian leopard ranges between 25 and 40 kilograms. The colour of its body is nearly pale brown; it has many spots and figures and some of these figures take the shape of flowers with black colour. The lower part of its body is pale yellow and it could be white.

## **Places where Arabian Leopards are found:**

Arabian leopards live in the mountain areas in general. They are still living in the wild in the mountains of Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, Yemen and in Jordan.



## **Decreasing in numbers of Arabian Leopards:**

It is known that wildlife in the Arabian Peninsula was more abundant in the past than it is today. As for the Arabian leopards, it is difficult to imagine that they were creatures familiar to many of the peninsula's people.

There is a noticeable decrease in the numbers of Arabian leopards as result of hunting, killing and perishing. This is also due to the decrease in the numbers of dears and bucks that live in the mountain areas in which leopards live. They represent a main source of food for leopards.

Four Arabian leopards were killed in the mountains of Ras Al-Khaimah in the UAE in 1986 and in November 1992 a freshly killed leopard was found in the border area

between UAE and Oman. Shortly afterwards another leopard was killed and another wounded. Cattle herdsman and farmers kill Arabian leopards because they believe that leopards are responsible for attacking their goats. In the last ten years, a number of Arabian leopards were killed in Yemen in particular. The previously mentioned actions have led to the fact that Arabian leopards are facing extinction. This in turn necessitates that certain procedures be taken to save Arabian leopard from extinction.

### **Saving Arabian Leopard from extinction:**

Some procedures have been taken to save Arabian leopards from extinction during the last few years. It can be said that the media campaign that was carried out lately in the Arab area has saved Arabian leopards from extinction. Private organisations have been established in some countries in the area for the purpose of saving Arabian leopards.

In Oman, a pair of captive Arabian leopards have raised at least two litters of cubs in the Seeb Captive Breeding Centre.

Some progressive conservation legislation's concerning the preservation of the Arabian leopards and large wild cats have been supported by Sultan Qaboas Bin Said in Oman. The UAE is encouraging the establishment of breeding centres for the purpose of increasing the numbers of Arabian leopards.

The procedures of establishing a breeding centre have

been taken recently in the UAE. The centre which is being financed by The Arabian leopard Trust will be built on a two square kilometer piece of land. In Yemen there is an interest in establishing protected areas for saving wildlife including the Arabian leopard so that these leopards can be found in their natural habitats.

### **Do you know ?**

■ That a booklet telling the story of an Arabian leopard and describing its feelings before the fateful hunt in 1993 has succeeded in increasing the awareness of school children concerning the conservation of wildlife. The procedures of publishing 50.000 copies of the booklet have been taken; the booklet will be presented for free distribution to all schools within the habitat range of Arabian leopard.

■ That a documentary TV movie concerned with the wildlife in the UAE is being produced for the purpose of presenting the life of the Arabian leopards and the threats they are facing. Such a film will be distributed to schools, public libraries and TV stations.

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