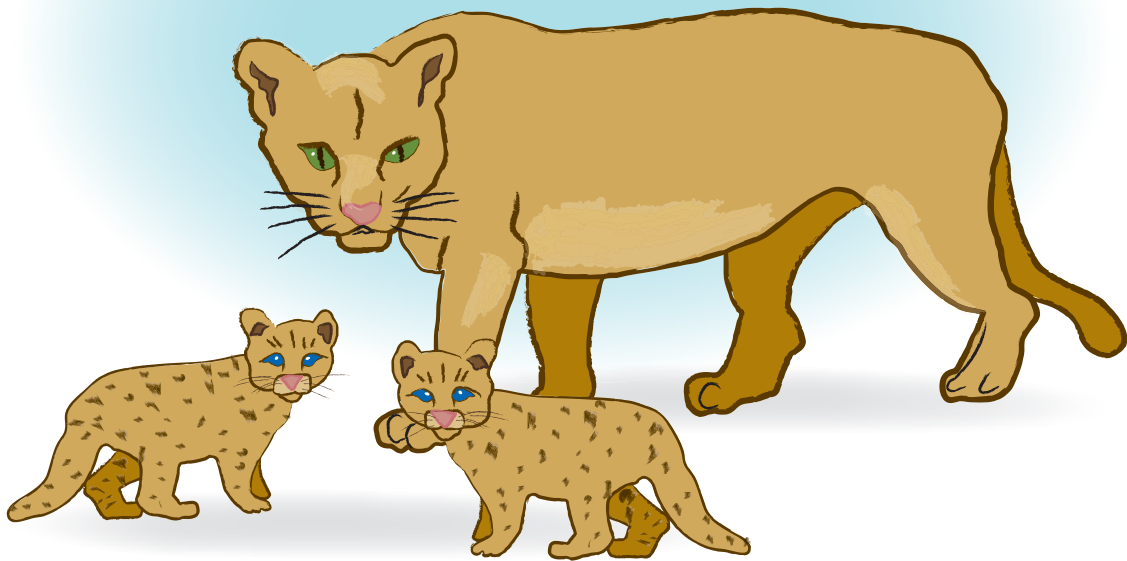


Baby Cougars at the Zoo

Cycle 11 Decodable
Student Reader



"I can't wait to see the new baby cougars! They'll be so cute!" said Nell as she and Sam walked to school. It was finally Tuesday, the day they had been waiting for. Their class was going on a trip to the zoo.

"I know. It'll be so cool to see the cubs up close. Or do you think they'll be shy and hide from us?" asked Sam. "I don't know. I guess we'll find out soon!" said Nell.

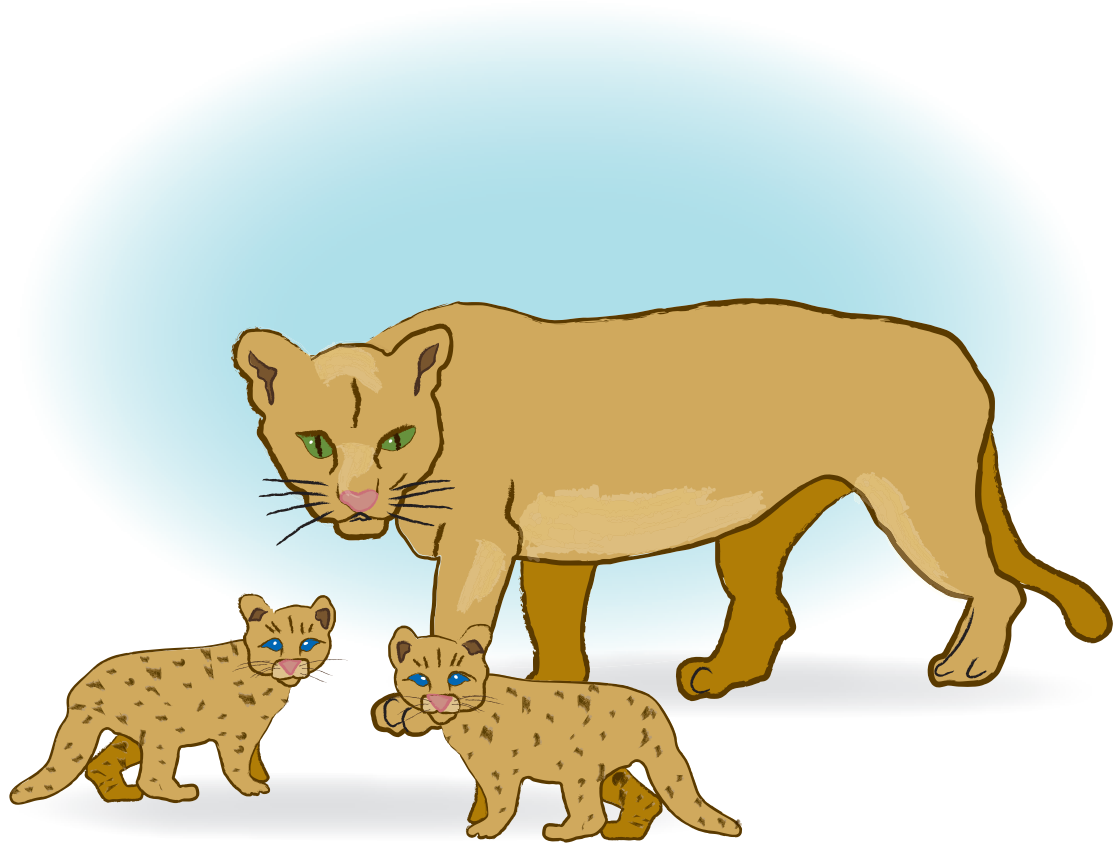
A zoo worker met the class at the front of the zoo. "My name is Matt. I'll be leading you on a tour of the zoo."
The class followed Matt.



First, Matt showed them the bears. They were by the pool, chewing on some food. Then they went to the bird house. The birds swooped through the big room. "I like the birds and the bears, but I hope we'll get to see the cougar cubs soon," said Nell to Sam.

They walked out of the birdhouse. "Next, we'll see Lou, the cougar, and her new cubs," said Matt. Sam looked at Nell with a smile.

The kids crowded around.
They had a good view of the
cougar den, but did not see
anything at first. But then
Sam said, "I see Lou, and her
cubs, too!"



The tiny cubs were next to Lou. They started to play. The boy cub chewed on the girl's fur. They rolled around. "This is the cutest thing I have ever seen!" said Nell. "This is the best zoo tour ever," said Sam.

Baby Cougars Born at City Zoo

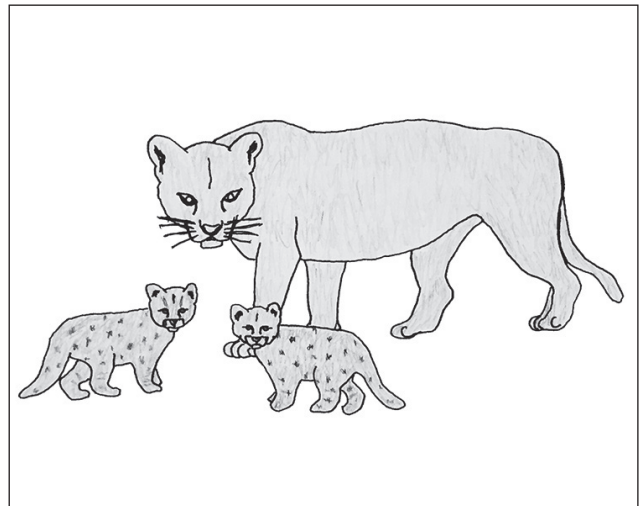
By Nina Newsnose

The City Zoo has some new additions! The zoo's female cougar, Lou, gave birth to two healthy cougar cubs over the weekend. The male cub was named Cooper and the female Katrina.

Like all cougar cubs, both were born with brown fur, dotted with black spots. Their spots will begin to fade soon and will continue until they are completely gone, probably by the time the cougars are about two years old.

This is Lou's first litter of cubs. Frank Fauna, head zookeeper, tells us, "Lou is only four years old, which is still quite young. She could give birth to several more litters of cubs in her lifetime."

The new cougar cubs will stay very close to their mother for the next few weeks, but if you are lucky, you might catch a glimpse of them! But you will need to go soon. The zoo hours are limited as the weather gets colder and will be closed for the months of January and February.



Zoo Hours

Saturday-Sunday: 12:00 PM- 5:00 PM

Monday: closed

Tuesday-Friday: 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM