

Pallas's Cat

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A Pallas's Cat doesn't want you to know it's nearby. Normally found in Central Asia, the Pallas's Cat (*Otocolobus manul*) exudes secrecy. It sleeps during the day and hunts rodents at night. It populates low-traffic terrains like grasslands, shrublands, and rocky areas.

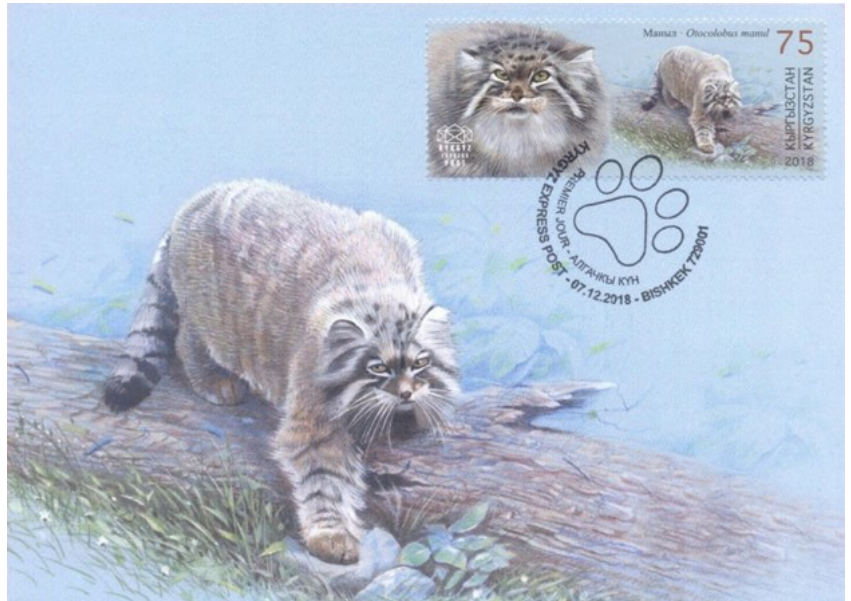


Tajikistan 1996 (top) and 2017

The Pallas's Cat blends in like its wild cat brethren due to physical characteristics. Smoke and beige-colored fur cover the body, accentuated by stripes on each cheek, and topped with a spotted forehead. The cat's small stature—about 11 pounds or the size of a stocky housecat— aids its ability to hide from predators.



(L-R) United Nations 2002 Endangered Species; Armenia 2022, from a set depicting national flora and fauna; Below: Azerbaijan FDC 2016



Kyrgystan maxicard 2018

Imagine the great surprise of Dr. Tracie Seimon of Wildlife Conservation Society's Zoological Health Program when she discovered the existence of an elusive Pallas's Cat in a place none have ever been found: Mount Everest!



India 1953 commemorating the conquest of Mount Everest

Seimon's recent paper, sharing DNA analysis of scat samples she collected on an Everest trek documents the first-ever report of this endangered cat on the world's highest mountain. It's worth noting that scientists never actually saw the Pallas's Cat on the Everest hike. They detected the cat's presence based on the cat's droppings. Even in the midst of scientific breakthrough, this feline master of invisibility eluded visible detection . . . as usual.