



[photo courtesy of Michaela Klinger](#)

The Panther is considered one of the rarest of all spotted leopards. This graceful, alert, athletic and cunning cat is a native of India and Southeast Asia.

Predominantly a meat eater, the Panther is a great hunter. It is a cat marked with amazing strengths, as evidenced by the sheer fact that it can lift carcasses of up to 150 pounds. This is particularly amazing for its size since it only weighs 75 - 160 pounds when fully grown!

Interestingly, the name "panther" is used loosely to describe a number of members of the larger 'cat' family. All over the world, 'panther' has been used when referring to leopards, pumas, cougars and even mountain lions! In fact, black panthers are simply spotted leopards with very dark brown hair and very sharp emerald eyes!