THE BEAUTY AND DIVERSITY OF THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

This philatelic exhibit was created by children from the philatelic club at the General Janek Elementary School in Ostrava, Czech Republic. The animal kingdom is very engaging and interesting for children, and there are countless beautiful stamps on the topic around the world. In this exhibit we offer a cross-section of the animal kingdom through the eyes of young philatelists....

Plan of the exhibit:

- 1) Introductory page
- 2.1) Polar mammals
- 3.1) Mammals Ungulates
- 4.1) Field and forest animals
- 5.1) Aquatic mammals
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- 7.1) Poultry is an integral part of the animal kingdom
- 8.1) Mammals Carnivores
- 9.1) Life by the pond
- 10.1) Forest ecosystem

Philatelic exhibit

Edited by children from the Young Philatelists Club 57-06 Ostrava, Czech Republic

2.1. POLAR MAMMALS

Silver fox

This species of fox, also known as the gray or gray-silver fox, inhabits areas from southern Canada through the United States to Central America and Venezuela. It is known for its ability to climb trees, which is rare among foxes.

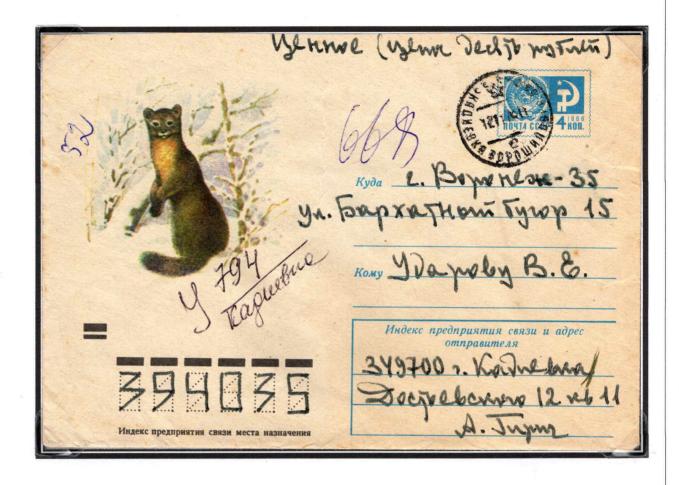


Forest marten



The marten is a slender and, compared to most weasels, a long-legged beast with a long bushy tail. The thick shiny coat is dark brown, almost black on the tail and paws, with a grayish to yellowish-brown undercoat. An irregular yellowish (yellowish to yellow) spot on the throat (the so-called bib) narrows wedge-shaped towards the chest; It does not continue and does not reach the forelimbs. The tip of the nose is black. Long hair grows on the paws between the bellies.

Female marten



A female marten is called a marten. A male marten is called a marten and a baby marten. In terms of appearance, females do not differ significantly from males, they are only smaller, which is one of the main distinguishing features.

<u>Sable</u>

The sable is a smaller carnivore from the mustelid family, known mainly for its extremely prized fur, which is one of the most luxurious in the world. The sable lives mainly in the taiga of Siberia, Mongolia and the Far East.





White fox

- is a small carnivore from the canine family, adapted to live in the extremely cold environment of the Arctic regions.

Red fox

The red fox (Vulpes vulpes) is the most widespread wild representative of carnivores. Its natural range includes Eurasia, North America and North Africa. It is listed as an extremely dangerous invasive species in Australia, where it was introduced in the 19th century, and on Vancouver Island.



The fox is a relatively slender canine with relatively long pointed ears and a long bushy tail. In terms of body and skull structure, the fox differs little from the weaker dog. The body is 100 to 140 cm long including the tail and 30 to 40 cm high at the withers. The tail measures 35 to 45 cm. Body weight fluctuates considerably, the range is 4 to 10 kg, exceptionally it can exceed 12 kg.

Mink

- is a small carnivore from the mustelid family. There are two main species, namely the American mink and the European mink. The mink has webbed feet between its toes, which makes it an excellent hunter in the water.



The mountain weasel (Mustela altaica), or Solongoj, is a beast of the weasel family (Mustelidae). It lives in the mountainous regions of Asia from the Russian part of Central Asia to southeastern Siberia in the east and northern India in the south, with the most extensive area of its occurrence being in China. As a habitat, it prefers steppes and mountainous terrain. It has a slender body with short legs, similar to other weasels. It measures about 30 to 45 cm in length, and the weight reaches a maximum of 350 grams. It is more of a nocturnal animal. It can move quickly and agilely. It is almost exclusively carnivorous, feeding mainly on squeakers and voles, or other rodents, hares and other smaller animals.



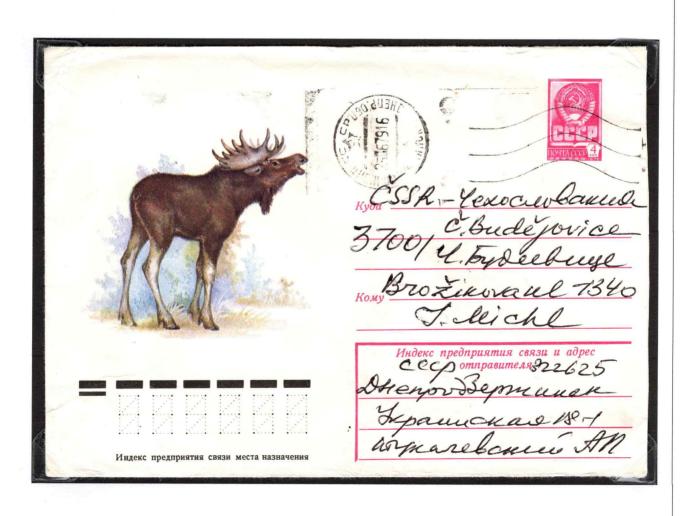


Nutria

The nutria, sometimes also known as the South American muskrat, is a large rodent native to South America — that has been introduced to Europe. Although it is often confused with the beaver or muskrat, it is a completely different species.

3.1. Mammals – Ungulates





EUROPEAN RED DEER - found in Europe and Asia. The European deer is a herbivore.







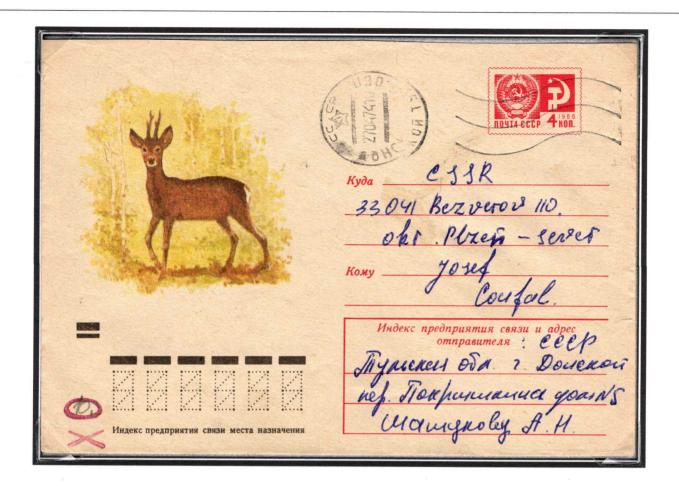
Deer is a Czech generic name for a large ungulate game from the deer family. Most belong to the genus Cervus, together with sambars and barasinga, with the exception of the milu deer, which is the only species of the genus Elaphurus. Red deer and sika deer are important game animals, so they have been introduced to places where they did not occur before and are often bred in game reserves. A female deer is called a doe, a cub is called a fawn (less often a fawn). Males grow antlers during the summer, but doe (females) never does. Males then shed their antlers at the end of the winter season, after the end of the autumn rut fights. With the age of the male, his mane and the size of his antlers increase.

In Czech forests, we can meet red deer (European deer, Cervus elaphus) and non-native sika (Cervus nippon).









Cervidae is a family of even-toed ungulates. They live on all continents except Antarctica. Their main habitat is mainly forest, but some representatives of this family also stay in grassy areas and in the tundra. In the Czech Republic, the most abundant species is roe deer, followed by red deer and fallow deer. Over the last two decades, a population of moose has formed in the Czech Republic. Exotic species of red deer, such as the western wapiti, the dybowski sika or the white-tailed deer, are also bred in game parks and farms. Some of these species also exist in the wild in the Czech Republic, but their populations are negligible. Some cervids are semi-domesticated and have also been imported to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand.







4.1. Field and forest animals



The European hare (Lepus europaeus) is a common species of hare living over a large area of Europe and Western Asia. Its natural habitat is open landscapes, especially fields, meadows, forest edges, etc., where it is very well camouflaged due to its brown colour.

The field hare is yellow-brown to gray-brown in color, the young are usually darker. The tips of the ears are black, the tail is also dark on the top, but white on the bottom, as are the belly and the inside of the legs. The sexes are no different. Winter fur is denser and lighter than summer fur. The hare molts twice a year, in spring and autumn.





Common squirrel

The red squirrel usually grows 19 to 23 cm and reaches a weight of between 250 and 340 g, sometimes more. The bushy tail, which helps maintain balance when climbing and jumping trees and which the squirrel uses as a "covering" for its body when sleeping, is 14.5 to 20 cm long. A characteristic feature of the common squirrel is the tassels of hair on the earlobes pointing to the tip and visible especially in winter. Like most tree squirrels, the red squirrel has sharp and curved claws that help it climb tree branches.











Nature offers a wide variety of animal species



5.1. Aquatic mammals



THE EURASIAN OTTHER (Lutra lutra) or European otter is the only species of otter found in the Czech Republic.

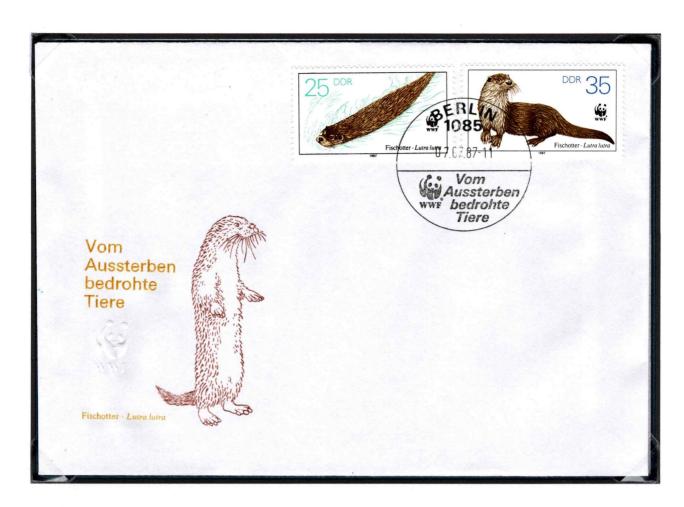
Several subspecies have been described, but the existence of some of them is disputed. The Eurasian otter is widely distributed in Europe, over a large area of Asia and in some areas of North Africa.











River otter (Lutra lutra) or European otter





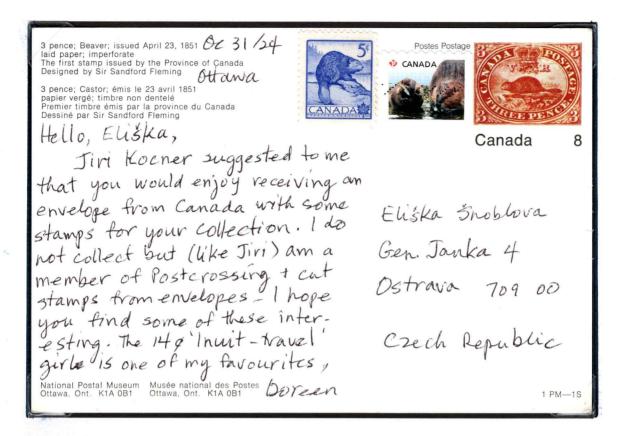
The river otter reaches a total length of 90–135 cm (exceptionally up to 150 cm), a body length of 55–90 cm, a tail of 25–55 cm and a weight of about 3–15 kg (particularly fit individuals probably even more than 20 kg). It measures 25-30 cm at the withers. The sexes do not differ from each other in coloration and sexual dimorphism is usually indistinct, males are only slightly more robust (larger and heavier), but some can be up to half the size of females.



The river otter lives a solitary lifestyle for most of the year, especially the male. They are actively found only during the courtship period. Family groups consist only of females with cubs, which she takes care of herself. Social groups are usually not formed, exceptionally perhaps due to lack of food, when several individuals can gather and cooperate together in one place.



Entirety delivered from Canada. The stamps beautifully depict beavers



Postage stamps with aquatic mammals together with a commemorative stamp form a breathtaking whole



6.1. Livestock

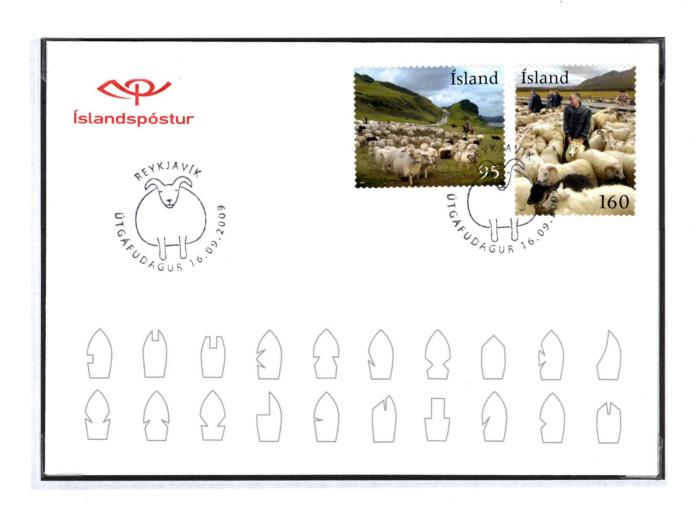
The domestic cow (Bos taurus) is one of the most important farm animals in human history, whose domestication dates back thousands of years. It has found its irreplaceable place in agriculture not only as a source of quality milk, meat and leather, but also as a workforce in some parts of the world. Cows are valued for their ability to convert the crude ration, which the human body cannot use, into high-quality foods rich in protein, vitamins and minerals.





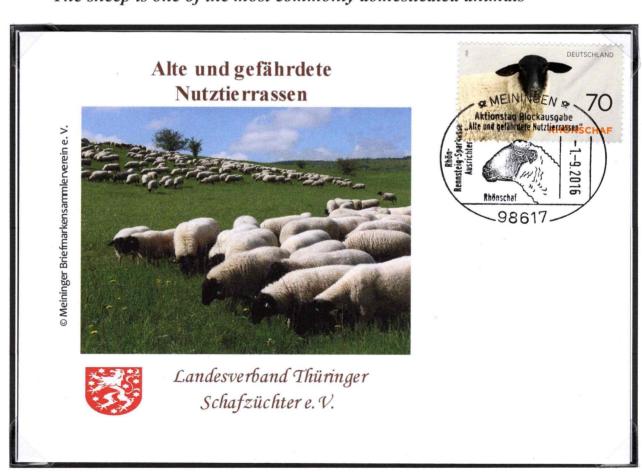


Sheep as a farm animal can still be seen on mountain pastures

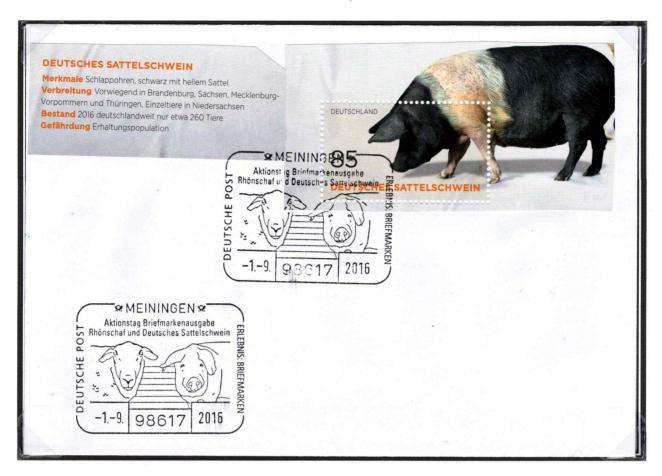




The sheep is one of the most commonly domesticated animals



The domestic pig (Sus domesticus, sometimes also Sus scrofa domesticus or Sus scrofa f. domestica) is an important domestic animal, bred mainly for meat, bred from the wild boar (Sus scrofa).



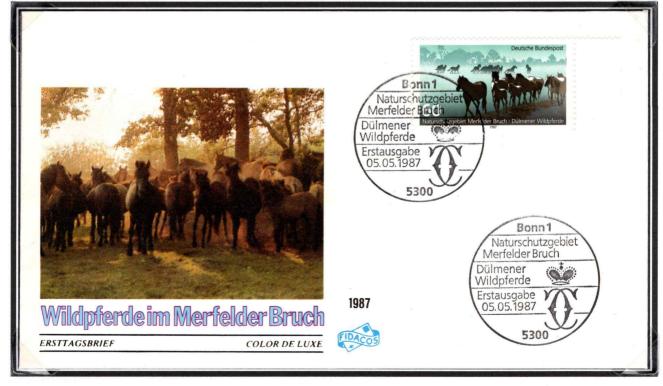
The term pig (pig in eastern Moravia) is used today as an umbrella for the whole species. In medieval Czech, however, the term pig, pig was used only for cub

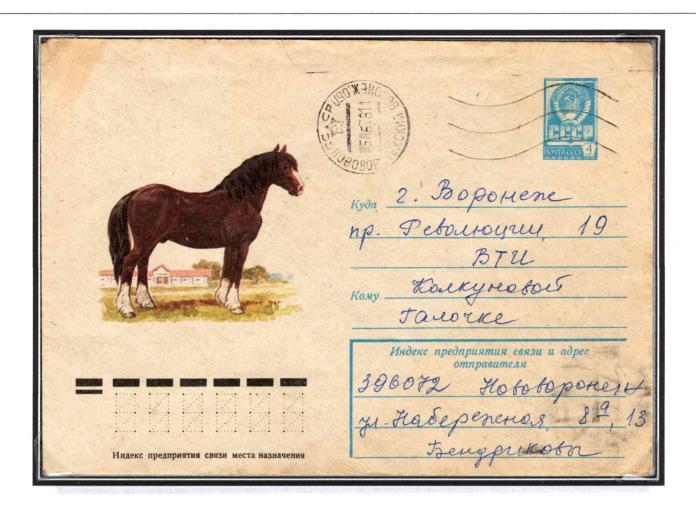




The domestic horse (Equus caballus) or just the horse is a herbivorous domesticated animal belonging to the odd-toed ungulates. In the past, horses were used mainly for agricultural work, for transporting goods and people, since the 20th century they have been used mainly for recreational riding and sports.







Horses are four-legged odd-toed ungulates using only one toe transformed into a hoof to step on. This is an adaptation to grazing life in the steppes, and this arrangement of the limbs allows for very fast movement.





The red-haired dog has a coat of different shades of gold, the same color or slightly different mane and tail.



The coat consists of overcoat and undercoat hairs. The undercoat hairs are hollow and serve for thermal insulation, they grow for the winter. Foals are born with undercoat hairs, their cover hairs begin to grow only after about 3 months. Hair replacement is called molting. The horse also has protective hairs – horsehair and whiskers. They are coarser, long and more firmly embedded in the joint, forming a hair, mane and whiskers. The tactile hairs on the lips and above the eyes are highly sensitive. Hair vortices are important for identification, they are caused by various tensions of the subcutaneous muscles. They occur, for example, on the forehead, neck, breasts, groin. The color of the coat, along with the color of the skin, determines the color of horses. The more air there is in the pulp of the hair, the lighter the coat looks.

7.1. Poultry is an integral part of the animal kingdom



The role of the dog in human society has always been varied, it is an assistant to man in hunting or herding herds, it occupies the function of a guardian of property, its owner and other domestic animals, it is used to transport loads, as a draft or sled dog, it can be

trained for use in the armed forces or to assist handicapped people. Especially in Western culture, its function as a companion of man is irreplaceable.



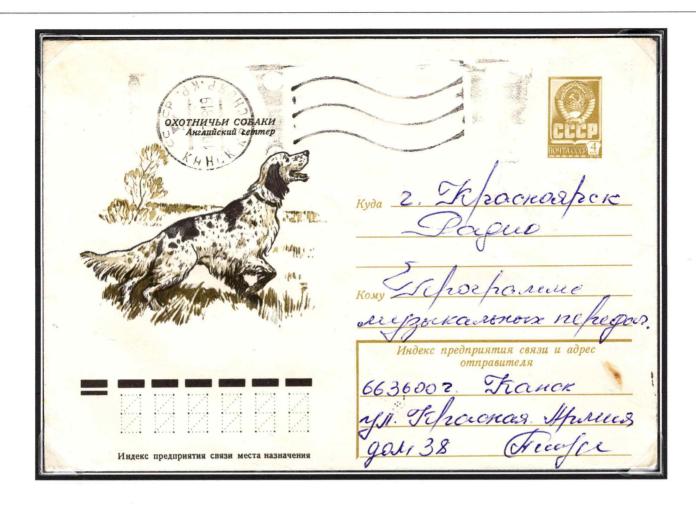




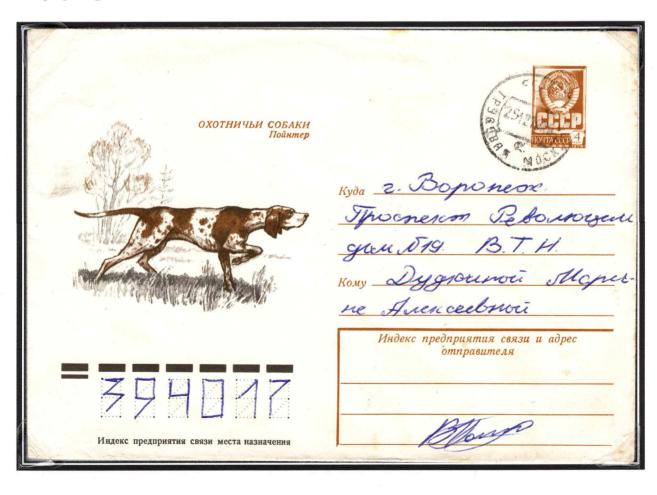








The global dog population is estimated at 500 million, with at least 370 million stray and abandoned dogs, but the non-profit organization 600 million estimates the number of stray dogs in the world at 600 million animals.





During the long coexistence of dog and human, countless breeds of very different sizes, proportions, length, shape of head and ears, structure and color of coat, and character have been bred for various purposes. The common wolf has proven to be extremely variable in this respect and some breeds no longer resemble the original wolf in almost anything







Approximately 1 to 2 million dogs are bred in the Czech Republic, which is the highest per capita in Europe. Dog breeding is regulated at the national level by the Act on the Protection of Animals against Cruelty, the Veterinary and Hunting Act. Local ordinances then regulate specific conditions regarding the keeping of dogs, their movement in public spaces and dog fees.

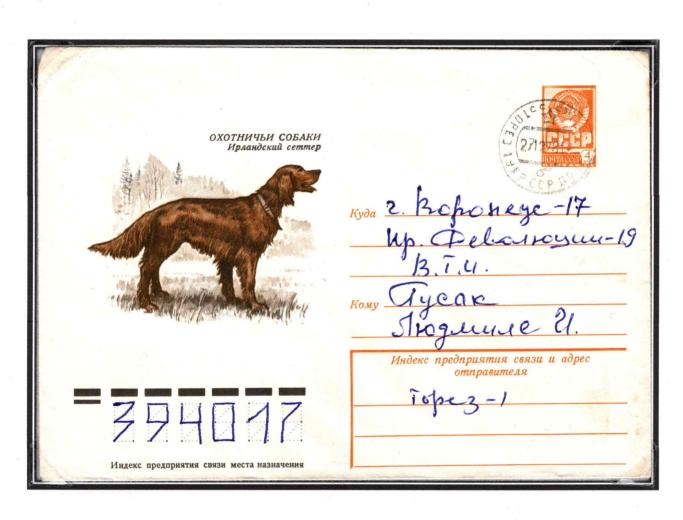




The Irish setter, also known as the red setter, is a breed of hunting and family dog. It was bred in the 19th century from the Continental Spaniel, English Setter and Pointer. The Irish Red and White Setter is considered to be the older of the two breeds of Irish Setters.

It was probably created in Ireland by systematic crossing of an Irish red-and-white setter with an unknown red dog. Originally, both the Irish Red Setter and the Red and White Setter were bred side by side, and their owners commonly crossed them in an attempt to get the best individuals for the job.

However, there were fewer red setters at first. Only gradually did their popularity begin to rise, as they were considered more elegant. In Ireland, they are still called modderhu, which translates as "red dog".







A dog as an essential helper of every hunter

8.1. Mammals - Carnivores

Carnivores (Carnivora) are an order of placental mammals whose representatives are mainly predators feeding on the meat of other vertebrates. The order includes more than 270 living species that fall into 16 families. Traditionally, it was divided into two suborders: land carnivores (Fissipedia) and pinnipeds (Pinnipedia). However, this system proved to be unnatural, so that modern systematics recognizes rather the division of carnivores into the suborders Feliformia and Caniformia; In this case, pinnipeds are classified as cannipeds.







Red fox (Vulpes vulpes) is the most widespread medium-sized carnivore in the Czech Republic and in fact in the entire northern hemisphere. It is hunted for fur or as a sport (especially in Great Britain and its culturally influenced countries), it is also bred for fur.



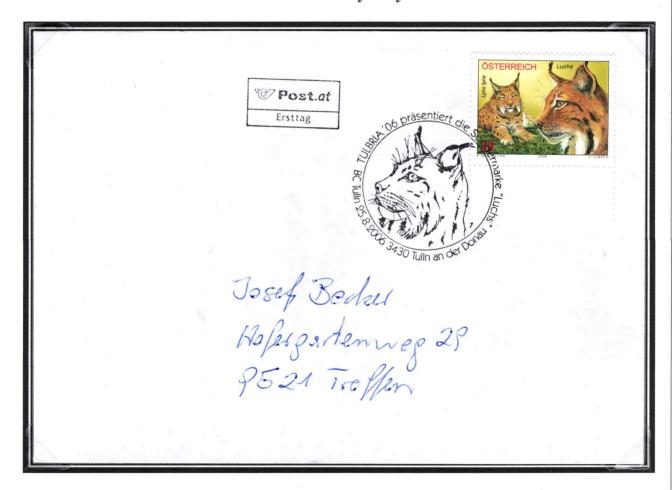
The Eurasian lynx (Lynx lynx, formerly Felis lynx) is a medium-sized feline native to Eurasia. It belongs to the subfamily of small cats and to the four-species genus lynx. It is the largest feline in Europe and is one of the species protected by the Berne Convention. According to Czech law, it is one of the highly endangered and protected species that cannot be hunted.



The brown bear (Ursus arctos) is a bear-like beast, omnivore and the only representative of its family that has been and rarely still occurs in the Czech Republic. From a global point of view, the species has a holarctic range, in which it inhabits mainly forested habitats. It is one of the largest terrestrial carnivores (but rather occasional), rivaled only by its closest relative, the polar bear, whose rates are much more constant across populations and which is slightly larger on average.



The brown bear and Lynx lynx



9.1. Life by the pond

Life by the pond offers various secrets and encounters with many species of animals, animals, plants and fish. The glittering surface of the water at dusk has also been an inspiration for many poets and writers. Only here in the Czech Republic, there is a plethora of such nooks and crannies.





The white stork (Ciconia ciconia) is a large species of bird from the stork family (Ciconiidae), which is widely known in Europe for building large nests on human buildings such as abandoned chimneys, roofs of buildings, church towers or high-voltage poles. The white stork is divided into two subspecies. Subsp. ciconia breeds in Europe, including the Czech Republic, northwest Africa and West Asia, and winters in Africa, and to a lesser extent in southern Europe or western Asia. Storks are endangered mainly by hitting power wires, as well as, for example, habitat loss or illegal hunting. In the past, storks have disappeared from a number of

countries, including the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Sweden and Belgium.

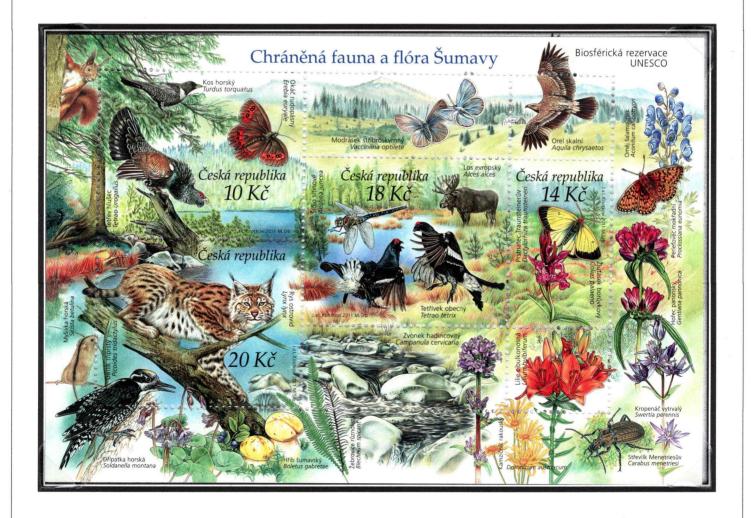
10.1. Forest ecosystem

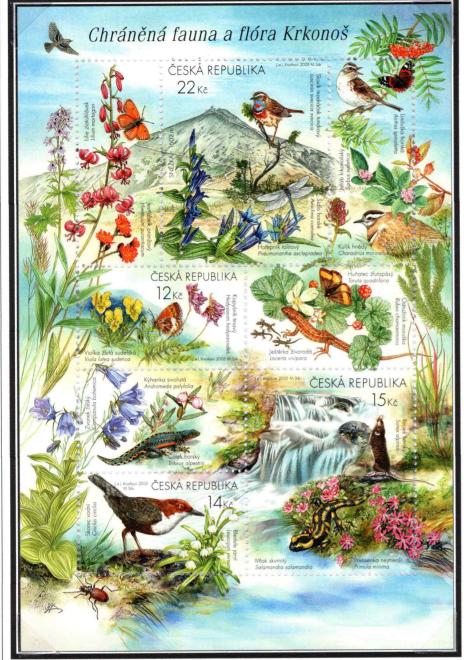
Ecosystem is a general term for a complete part of nature (biosphere). An example is the ecosystem of a deciduous forest or a moist unmowed meadow. Since it is usually not clearly specified what spatial size an ecosystem should have, the entire biosphere can be considered an ecosystem in extreme cases.



Frogs (Anura, syn. Salientia) are one of the orders of amphibians. All frogs are gonochorists.

Frogs are an important component of the ecosystem. They feed mainly on insects and other invertebrates, and are themselves a component of food for wading birds, ducks and other birds, as well as for reptiles and some mammals.





The Giant Mountains National Park lies mainly in the geomorphological unit of the Giant Mountains in the Giant Mountains-Jesenice system. The highest point of the park (and at the same time of the Czech Republic) is Sněžka with 1603 meters above sea level. It is divided into the Vrchlabí Highlands and the Giant Mountains in the south, and the Giant Mountains at the northern border. The influences of the last glaciation are evident here – kara, nivační kara, moraines. tors, stone seas and other relics. In the eastern part of the park around Albeřice, there are also karst phenomena - Albeřické lomy. The nature of the Giant Mountains is very diverse – the geological subsoil, its dynamic development in the past, the influence of the cold climate and subsequent warming resulted in the creation of diverse habitats and the preservation of rare species of both plants and animals. There are about 300 species of

vertebrates and over 1200 species of vascular plants and several times more spore plants (such as mosses, mucus, ferns, lichens). There are several endemics in the nature of the Giant Mountains.

Various species of animals are also tied to rich plant communities. Animal communities were formed during the last ice age and the following more favorable period (called the Holocene). Species of Euro-Siberian fauna are represented at lower altitudes, and mountain species increase with increasing altitude. There are several species of invertebrates that represent glacial relics here – e.g. the spiny spider, the northern braid, the mountain mayfly, the ground beetle Nebria gyllenhali, the dragonflies Somatochlora alpestris and Aeschna coerulea. Vertebrates have been observed in the Giant Mountains, such as the Northern European Blackbird, the Tundra Blue Nightingale, the Brown Plover, the Winter Goldfinch and the most widespread rodent is the marsh vole.



A forest ecosystem is a complex, dynamic system of living organisms (plants, animals, fungi, microorganisms) and their non-living environment (air, water, soil, light, heat), which are interconnected by the flow of energy and the exchange of substances.

