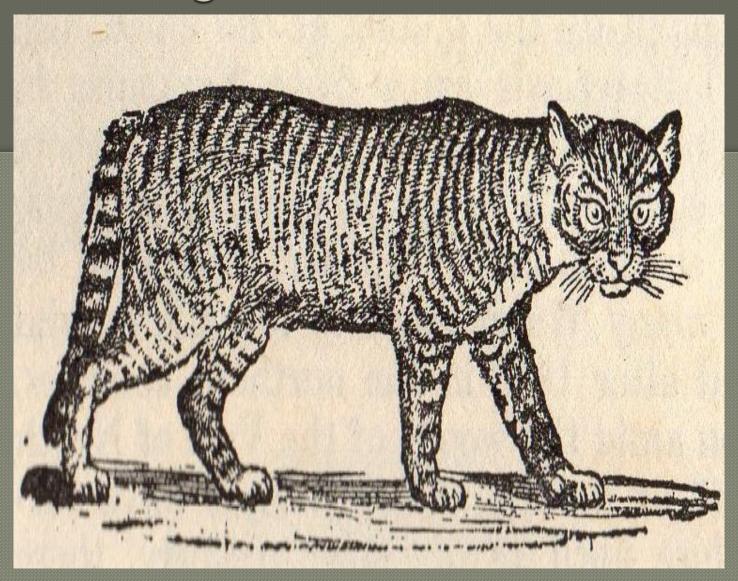
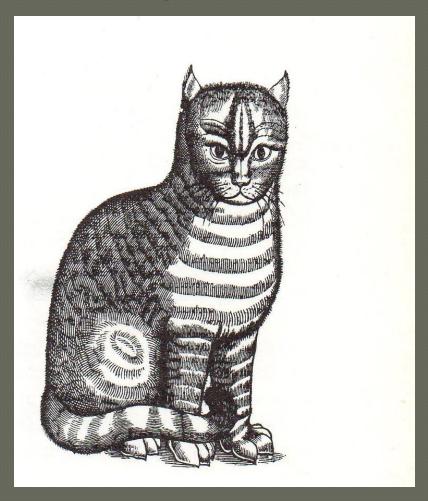
Restoring the Woodcat to Wales



Catcleugh, Catfield, Catford, Cathanger, Catley, Catmere, Catfield, Catshall, Catsley, Cattal, Cattawade, Cattenhall, Cattishall and Catton



Woodcat, wulcat, wilkatt, catamount, cata-mountain, willcate, wildats and in the south west the kiotgath. In any old Natural History books the wildcat was called the 'British Tiger'. Their bed resting place or den of a wildcat was once know as a ligging in England which is presumably derived from the old English word for Licgan or licgean meaning to lie down

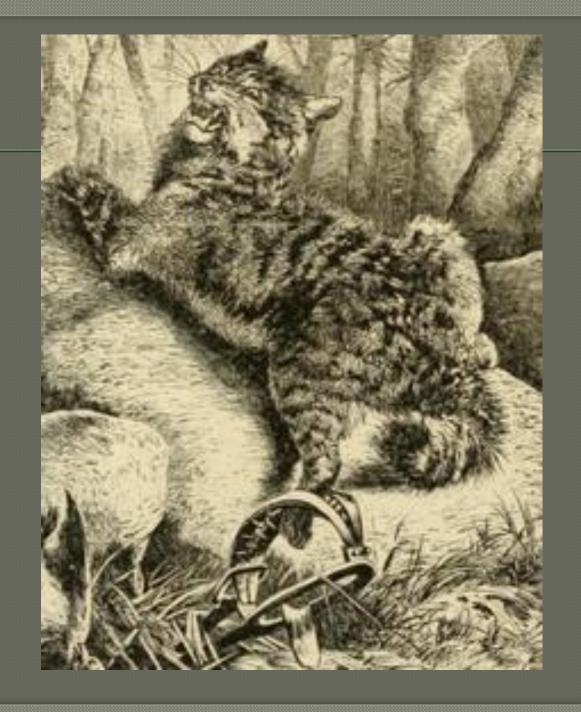
In old Welsh they were referred to as 'cath goed' or the wood cat and the name Cath is identified in place names such as Craig Cath (Cats Crag) in Cardiganshire



• The Noble Arte of Venerie or Hunting" in 1575 "They make a noble crye for the time that they stand up... and if they are hounded up a tree... they lepe from one tree to another, and make great shift for their lives, with no lesse pastime to ther huntsman".

• Another hunting book by Nicholas Cox "The Gentlemans Recreation" published in 1721 states that "When they are killed, you must hold them upon a piked Staff, and hallow in all your Hounds, and then Reward them with some meat; for the flesh of these Vermin is naught for Hounds".





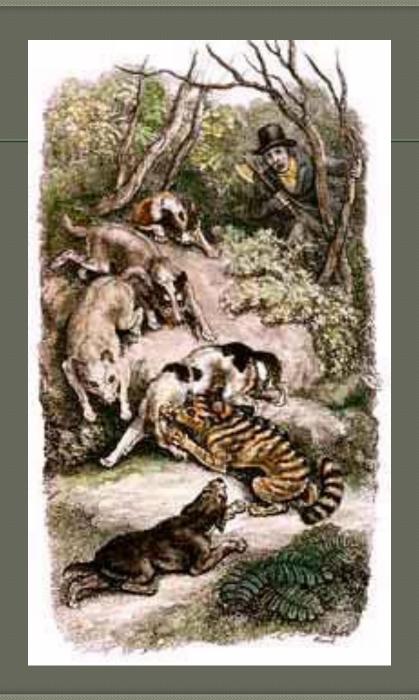




Abb. 16. Theatralisch gestaltete Dermoplastik "Das Ende". Wildkatze überfällt balzenden Auerhahn. Aus der Jagdzeitschrift "Hubertus" (1925)

- In Wales where wildcats lingered longer debates were had about the value of bounty payments. At Cefnllys in 1734 an entry was made in the vestry book that following the killing of a "wild catt to Jo Davies (and tis agreed y no such charge or any allowance for the same be given for y future)".
- Despite this obvious reluctance to pay their killing continued and the bounties paid rose however grudgingly in response.

• In Montgomeryshire 29 payments were made for the heads of wildcats between 1718-1749. In 1862 a bounty was paid for a wildcat near Abermule in Montgomeryshire and further payments for other kills were made around Llanstephsan until 1880. A cat shot near Aberystwyth in 1895
which was examined by a Professor
Slater - a notable naturalist of his time - at
the university was considered by him to
be a wildcat.



The End

