

**Kucing Dahan (Felis
narmorata)**

Kucing dahan adalah sejenis haiwan kecil yang menarik, tetapi jenis ini amat kurang diketahui di hutan Malaysia. Ukuran bentuk badannya adalah lebih kurang setengah meter dan ekornya panjang. Kucing dahan dan kucing merah yang mempunyai pertalian keluarga yang rapat merupakan dua jenis kucing pepohon yang mempunyai persamaan di Negara ini. Kucing jenis ini jarang dijumpai dan sentiasa mengasingkan diri di dalam hutan hujan yang belum tercemar.

**Harimau Dahan
(Neofelis nebulosa)**

Harimau dahan ialah sejenis kucing yang berukuran sederhana yang mempunyai panjang badan lebih kurang satu meter dan panjang ekornya hampir sama dengan panjang badan. Berat badannya ialah antara 7 kilogram hingga 12 kilogram. Kucing jenis ini adalah satu-satunya jenis Neofelis. Ia daripada jenis yang bertompok-tompok dan yang paling menarik di kalangan keluarga kucing daripada segi warna dan corak. Makanan harimau dahan bergantung kepada binatang buruan seperti monyet, kambing peliharaan, pelanduk dan burung-burung yang merayap di bumi.

**Marbled Cat (Felis
marmorata)**

The Marbled Cat is a small and beautiful but little known cat of the Malaysian forest. It has a head and body length of about half a metre with a tail that may be slightly longer. The Marbled Cat and the Bay Cat which are closely related and similar are the two truly arboreal members of the genus Felis in this country. This species is extremely rare and appears to be confined to undisturbed rain forest.

**Clouded Leopard
(Neofelis nebulosa)**

The Clouded Leopard is a medium-sized cat with a head and body length of about one metre and with a tail nearly as long. It weighs between 7 kilograms to 12 kilograms. It is the sole member of the genus Neofelis. It is one of the most beautifully marked of all cats in its colour and pattern. It is solitary in its habits. The Clouded Leopard preys upon monkeys, domestic goats, mouse deer and ground dwelling birds.

PROTECTED WILDLIFE OF MALAYSIA – SERIES III –

The Felidae in Malaysian Forests

Malaysia's tropical rain forest is a complex and diverse ecosystem. One way in which this diversity shows itself is through a richness in plant and animal species. This richness of species is seen in the number of members of the cat family (Felidae), in our forests.

Wildlife scientists have identified a total of eight species in Malaysia. Seven of these species have been recorded in Peninsular Malaysia. They are the Tiger, the Leopard (Panther), the Clouded Leopard, the Leopard Cat, the Flat-Headed Cat, the Marbled Cat and the Golden Cat. The eighth species, the Bay Cat, however is found only in Sabah and Sarawak along with four other species, namely the Clouded Leopard, the Leopard Cat, the Flat-Headed Cat and the Marbled Cat.

Like the majority of animal species in the rain forest, the wild felids are seldom observed, a fact compounded by their retiring cryptic and nocturnal behaviour. Moreover being predators the numbers would not be numerous. Thus, it would appear that with one or two exceptions the wild felids may be considered uncommon or even rare. They are thus considered threatened to the point of extinction and therefore all Felidae are protected by law in Malaysia.

The four species illustrated on the Special Issue of Postage Stamps have been selected because they are relatively unknown. They are also strikingly handsome animals and are good examples of the diversity of, and different adaptations within the cat family.