

Read this article and choose one word for each gap:

domestic	indications	signs
evolved	isolated	size
exceptional	largest	stripes
independent	powerful	tail

The Scottish wildcat (1)_____ from a population of European wildcats which became (2)_____ by the English Channel over 9000 years ago. They are the (3)_____ of the wildcat family and can be double the (4)_____ of a domestic pet cat and infinitely more ferocious.

The fur of the Scottish wildcat is a great deal thicker than that of a (5)_____ cat. It displays very distinctive solid black and brown (6)_____. Spots, broken stripes or white fur are all (7)_____ of hybridisation (cross-mating) with domestic cats.

Another notable feature is their thick banded (8)_____, perfectly ringed with no dorsal stripe running off of the spine. Imperfect rings or dorsal markings are further (9)_____ of hybridisation.

Like all cats they have superb hearing, retractable claws, (10)_____ night vision and a (11)_____ body conducive to sprinting and pouncing.

Scottish wildcats epitomise the solitary, (12)_____ super-predator and the mysterious and wild spirit of the Highlands in a way that no other animal can.

<https://www.wildcathaven.com/scottish-wildcat>