

# VIABILITY OF REINTRODUCTION OF THE EURASIAN LYNX (*Lynx lynx*) IN THE CATALAN PYRENEES

## INTRODUCTION

The eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) is a lonely and crepuscular feline that resides in wooded areas of Europe and Asia, and which became extinct in the Pyrenees at the beginning of the 20th century due to its persecution and the destruction of its habitat. It is the only big predator that has not been reintroduced in the area.



Fig 1. Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*)

## OBJECTIVES

In this study, I wanted to see the perception that people of the area have about this animal, since the social vision is an important aspect when carrying out the reintroduction of a specie. I also wanted to know a bit more about the specie and the ecological needs that it has to see if the catalan Pyrenees are an optimous area for it to live.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

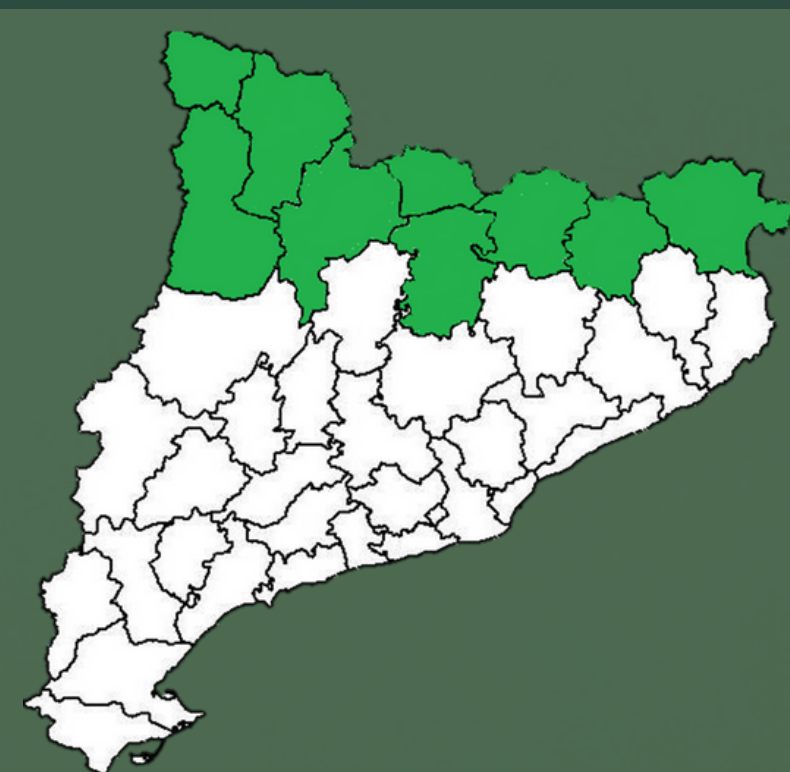


Fig 2. Catalan Pyrenees distribution

The study was carried out in the catalan Pyrenees regions (Fig 2): Vall d'Aran, Alta Ribagorça, Pallars Sobirà, Alt Urgell, Cerdanya, Berguedà, Ripollès, Garrotxa and Alt Empordà, between April and May of 2023. A survey with 30 questions was given or sent to the respondents to answer it anonymously. Some people belonging to different sectors were also interviewed in order to know their vision in a deeper way. The age range is from 16 to 75 years.

## DISCUSSION

There are different opinions regarding feelings towards this animal depending on the sector you ask, the perception of farmers and hunters is worse than hoteliers or hikers. What most people agree on is that there is a bad management regarding the measures taken by the Administration regarding attacks on livestock.

71.7% think that the presence of this specie would be advantageous for the ecosystem.

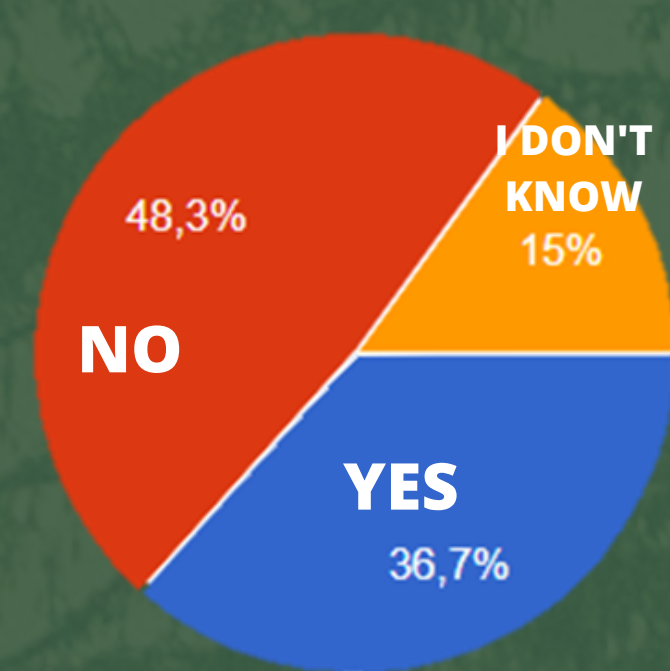


Fig 3. Do you think that the eurasian lynx is dangerous for the cattle?

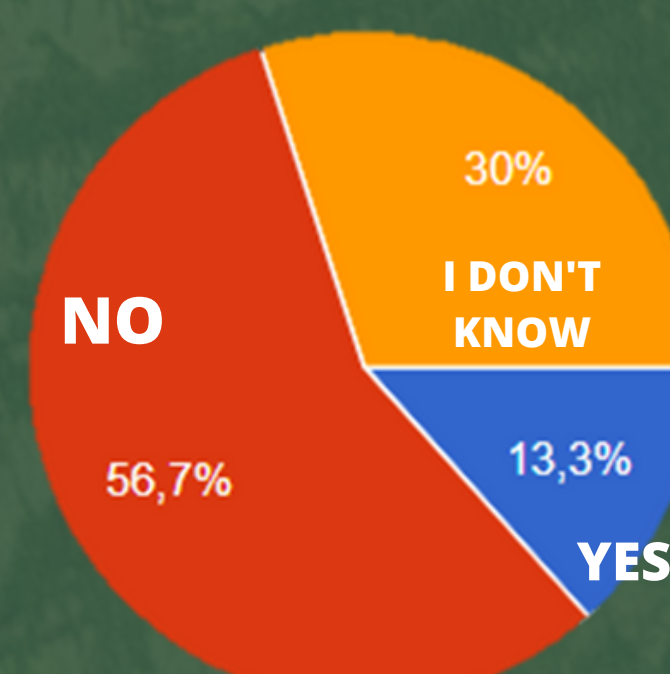


Fig 4. Do you think that farmers would be sufficiently compensated for eurasian lynx attacks on their herds?

## CONCLUSIONS

- If you want to carry out a reintroduction program for the Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*), you must take into account the opinion of the population that would live together with it.
- The Administration should provide good quality measures and information to the population in order to achieve a good public awareness.
- The sample would have to be increased in order to have representative results.