



Meet Blondie!



Martin Tomáš' job is protecting wild animals. He is the human parent of Blondie, the rescued lynx. He also runs workshops and lectures where he introduces the lynx to people. Gate asked him a few questions about returning lynxes to the wild.

Why is it important to return lynxes to their natural habitat?

Predators (= predátoři) like lynxes change the food chain (= potravní řetězec). They keep the animals they eat under control. Lynxes can affect the behaviour (= ovlivnit chování) of deer who could otherwise do a lot of damage (= škody). The return of these animals is important for both nature and the economy.

How many lynxes can you find in the Czech Republic?

It's hard to answer this question because no one is watching for them in the areas where lynxes live. But if we look at numbers from Šumava, the Beskydy Mountains and Javorník we can say there are about 100 adult animals. But this is nothing exciting. The number has been the same since the 1990s. Every year some lynxes die in car accidents and some are killed by

hunters. That's why we try to bring more information about these animals through our project, Meet the Lynx.

What should we do if we meet a lynx in the wild?

First of all, enjoy it! Meeting a lynx is very rare (= unikátní). Lynxes have a great sense of smell and hearing and don't look for contact with people. They can hide very well too. Sometimes they are focused on doing something and people can watch them up close (= zblízka). That's really the experience of a lifetime. During our lectures we tell people that if they walk around Šumava, they are probably very close to a lynx. But only the lynx knows about it.

Where can we meet your lynx, Blondie, and what's life like with a feline (= kočkovitá šelma) like this?

When Blondie was a kitten, he was dependent (odkázaný) on his adoptive mother and human friends. He acted like a housecat. He climbed everywhere and wanted to make friends with everyone, including people. He played with them, hid in boxes, and slept in a bed. He hated being alone. Now he has grown up and he is an adult. That's why it's only possible to meet him in Zájezd Zoo close to Prague. Lynxes are solitary (= samotářská) animals.

Is it possible to return Blondie into the wild?

Blondie was born in captivity (= v zajetí). It's not possible to bring him back to the wild especially since he grew with people.