

MEET THE AFRICAN WILD DOG

MY FAMILY

African wild dogs live in packs that are usually dominated by a two adults, a female and a male. The female has a litter of 2 to 20 pups, which are cared for by the entire pack. We are very social, and packs have been known to share food and to assist weak or ill members.

Does your family care for one another?

OUR BIGGEST THREAT

There were once nearly 500,000 of us living in Africa, but today there are only between **3,000 & 5,000 living in the wild.** My main threat is loss of habitat due to human population. A single pack of wild dogs needs a fairly large hunting territory to survive. When our territory overlaps with farmers, we are often killed to protect the livestock.

WHAT WE LIKE TO EAT

I am a **CARNIVORE**

I eat most mammal that I can catch and kill including antelopes, impala, wildebeest calves, gazelles, and even large birds like ostriches. I also scavenge and will eat animal or vegetable matter. My pack and I hunt for live prey, or eat road-kill animals, dead livestock, and scraps from compost heaps or rubbish tips. We hunt in packs and can bring down some large mammals.

Do you eat meat and vegetables?

ABOUT ME

I can grow to about the size of a medium to large dog. Fully grown I can weigh between **8kg & 16kgs** and grow to between **75cm & 110cm** tall at the shoulders. Unlike other dogs I have four toes on my feet instead of five. I also have fairly big ears, long skinny legs, and a long tail.

Perhaps my most unique feature is my coat. It is mottled with blotches of different colours including white, brown, black, red, and yellow. I am often called the painted dog due to my coat. Each wild dog has a unique pattern.

How many toes do you have?

WHY WE ARE IMPORTANT?

I am a hunter and have a wide range of prey. This ability to hunt and move a wide prey selection around an ecosystem not only helps to ensure that prey numbers are maintained, but also regulates the vegetation of the area

DID YOU KNOW

I am extremely loyal to my species and habitat, which means I cannot become domesticated by humans.

Do you love your family and your home?



DID YOU KNOW

African wild dog packs have an 80% success rate when hunting, thanks to our high levels of communication. I can hear really well and have large muscles which allows my big rounded ears to swivel around.

Do your ears work well?
Do you listen?

WHERE WE LIVE

We use abandoned underground warthog and porcupine dens to birth our pups. The pups are given priority over dominant pack members for feeding. Wild dogs will regurgitate meat for the pups in the litter after a hunt.

Do you eat all your food?

MY NAMES

The African wild dog is also called the **painted dog** or **Cape hunting dog.**

How many names do you have?

