



# AFRICAN PAINTED DOG

## Description

The African Painted Dog has long legs and a lean body, a relatively small head, large ears, and a short broad muzzle. Its coat varies in pattern and is a mixture of black, grey, yellow and white—hence the name. The African Painted Dog has a tail 31–41 cm long with a white tip.

## Diet

African Painted Dogs are **carnivorous** and hunt large prey like wildebeest, zebra and impala.

## In the wild

African Painted Dogs live in packs of 30 or more. Only the dominant male and female breed, however, the whole pack takes care of the young. Adults regurgitate their food for the pups to eat until their hunting skills develop by about 12 months.

## Threats

Once widespread across Africa, they are now reduced to small, scattered populations. African Painted Dogs are killed by farmers and rangers because they are thought to kill livestock. Painted Dogs also suffer from habitat loss and diseases from domestic dogs.

## At Perth Zoo

The Zoo has a successful breeding pack on display in the **African Savannah**. Perth Zoo contributes to the conservation of wild populations by supporting Painted Dog Conservation Inc and its efforts to protect this species in the wild. If you would like to help, visit the PDC website at

[www.painteddogconservation.iinet.net.au](http://www.painteddogconservation.iinet.net.au)

## Did you know?

When Painted Dogs become old or sick they are taken care of by the pack rather than being abandoned or killed by other pack members.

When the pack goes hunting and makes a kill, pups are allowed to eat first.

### Scientific Name

*Lycaon pictus*

### Other names

African Wild Dog,  
Cape Hunting dog,  
Hunting dog

### Conservation Status

Extinct

Extinct in the Wild

Critically Endangered

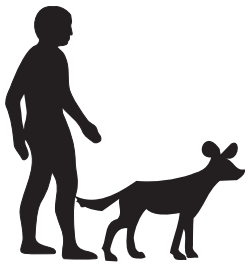
Endangered

Vulnerable

Near-Threatened

Least Concern

Data Deficient



**Body Length:** 76–110 cm

**Weight:** 17–36 kg

**Gestation:** 69–73 days

**Number of young:** 6–16 pups



Distribution ■

**Distribution:** Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana and Tanzania

**Habitat:** Plains, semi-desert, savannah, woodlands and forest

