

The African Wild Dog: What is it?

Scientific Name: *Lycaon pictus*

Class: Mammalia

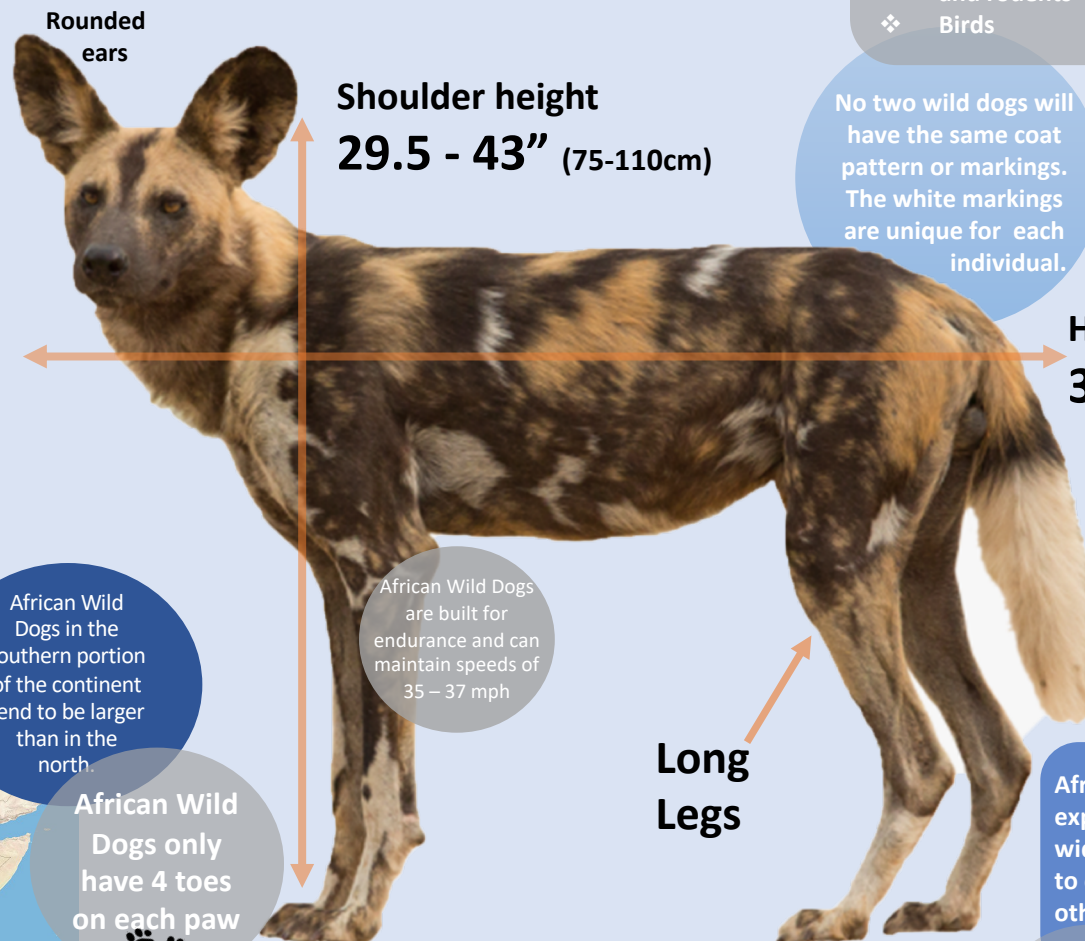
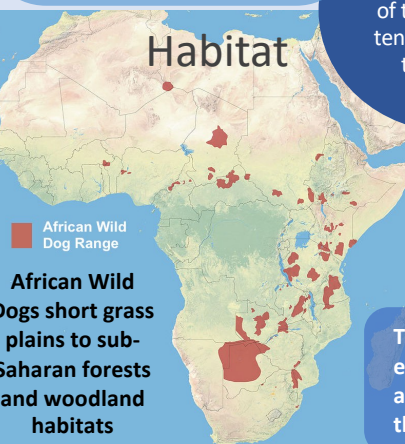
Order: Carnivora

Family: Canidae

Since African wild dogs are in the family of Canidae, they are related to domestic dogs, wolves, jackals, foxes, and other close relatives.

Pack life:

- ❖ African Wild Dogs live in family groups called packs
- ❖ Typically 6 – 20 individuals
- ❖ Led by a dominate “alpha” pair, subordinate adults, yearlings, and pups



Diet:

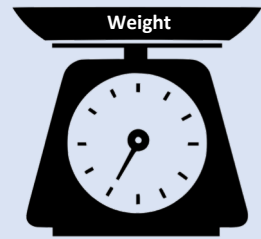
- ❖ Gazelles and Antelope
- ❖ Wildebeest
- ❖ Small mammals and rodents
- ❖ Birds

After the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*), African Wild Dogs are the second largest wild canid in existence

No two wild dogs will have the same coat pattern or markings. The white markings are unique for each individual.

Can live up to 10-12 years in the wild!

Head and body length
30 – 56" (75-141 cm)
39.5 – 79 pounds on average



Long Legs

African Wild Dogs in the southern portion of the continent tend to be larger than in the north.

African Wild Dogs only have 4 toes on each paw

African Wild Dogs are very expressive animals that use a wide variety of vocalizations to communicate with each other.

Only canid to have 40 teeth



Species Status

The African Wild Dog is listed as an Endangered Species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and wild populations are threatened by habitat loss, poaching, and predation from other predators or wild dogs.

The species has been extirpated from approximately 93% of their historic range.