

AFRICAN WILD DOG

LYCAON PICTUS

R
A
N
G
E



LARGE EARS

Help to shed heat in the African sun. They have special muscles that allow the ears to swivel to listen for prey.



TRI-COLOR MOSAIC

Helps with camouflage among the African woodlands and grasses. This pelt color is also believed to help play a role in thermoregulation. This pelt coloration gives them the name "pictus" or painted. These pelt patterns are unique to each individual.

PREY SPECIES

Wildebeest
Impala
Warthogs
Zebra

PHYLOGENETIC TREE

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Mammalia
Order: Carnivora
Family: Canidae
Lycaon pictus

SOCIAL HIERARCHY

African wild dogs are very social pack animals. Packs usually consist of an alpha male and female, beta males and subordinate females, as well as the offspring of the dominant pair. Pack sizes usually range from 3 to 20 adults.

4 DIGITS NOT 5

The African wild dog is the only member of the Canidae family that does not retain a dew claw. This adaptation is believed to aid in lengthening stride and speed, which assist in cursorial locomotion.

IUCN STATUS

The African wild dog is listed as endangered and populations are in decline.



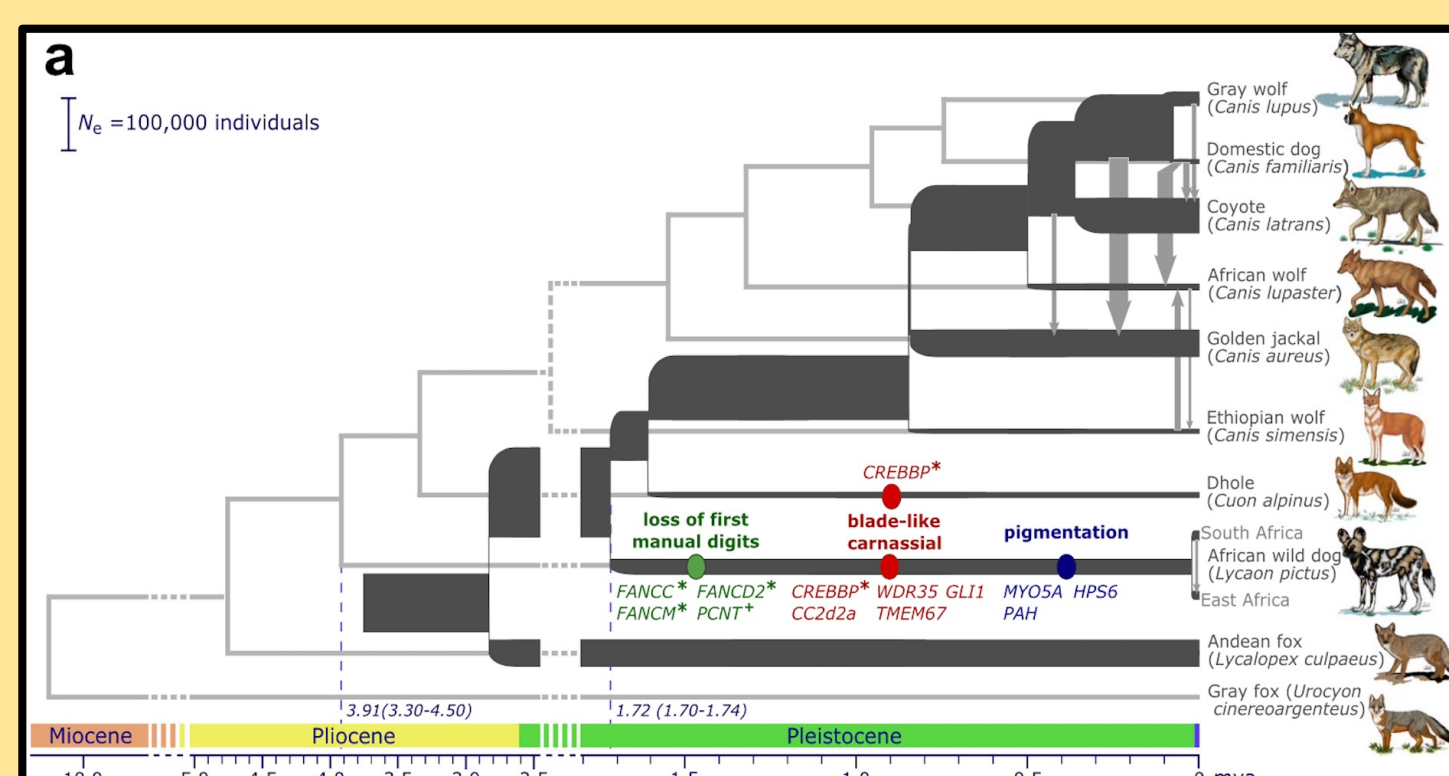
TONS OF PUPS

Litter sizes are usually 8 to 11 pups but can be as large as 16 pups. Older members of the pack help raise and take care of the pups.



CANID EVOLUTION

African wild dogs are most closely related to bush dogs and dholes. They have a similarly shaped lower carnassial molar that other members of the Canidae family do not possess.



THREATS

Because of fears of livestock mortality, African wild dogs are killed by humans to avoid conflict. Wild dogs are also often killed due to competition with large carnivores such as lions and hyenas. Reserves are places of higher densities because they are more protected.

BY MORGAN MONROE