Wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*)

**Conservation Status:** Endangered

The African wild dog, also called the African painted dog, has a colorful coat with patches of red, black, brown, white, and yellow fur; large, batlike ears; and a bushy tail. Their face is primarily black, with a tan forehead. While African wild dogs resemble domestic dogs, these long-legged canines have only four toes per foot, unlike other dogs, which have five toes on their forefeet.

**Fun Facts**

1. The dog’s Latin name means “painted wolf,” referring to the animal’s irregular mottled coat.
2. African wild dogs can run long distances, at speeds of up to 35 miles per hour.

**Habitat**

Wild dogs are most often found in arid zones and in the savanna.

**Diet**

Medium and large-sized antelopes

**Predators**

Lyons and hyenas

**Behavior**

African wild dogs live and hunt in formidable cooperative packs made up of six to 20 individuals or more. Social interactions are common, and the dogs communicate by using vocalizations, touch, and behavioral displays. Packs will hunt antelope but also take down larger prey, such as wildebeests.

**Breeding**

Only the dominant male and female within a group will successfully reproduce. After a gestation period of 70 to 75 days, females will give birth to an average of 10 pups. The mortality rate for pups is around 90 percent. Subordinate females usually defer breeding. If a subordinate female does breed, the dominant female will generally kills her pups.

**Size**

Length: 75-100 cm (30”-40’’)

Height: 60-75 cm (24”-30’’)

**Weight**

20-25 kg

**Life Span:** 10-12 years

**Gestation Period:** 70-75 days

**Average number of offspring:** 10