



SPOTTED HYAENA

Description

The Spotted Hyaena has a spotted coat and is the largest of the four hyaena species. The hyaena has a large head, large ears, long front legs and shorter back legs with a back that slopes down from the shoulder to the tail. It can be difficult to distinguish the females from the males. Females are also larger than the males.

Diet

Hyaenas are **carnivores** and eat a wide range of animals, including wildebeest, zebra, gazelles when hunting in packs and ground birds. Spotted Hyaenas will steal prey from cheetah or even lions if they are in a pack. They are also very good scavengers and their digestive system allows them to eat all parts of the animal—meat, skin and bone.

In the wild

Spotted Hyaenas live in large groups called 'clans' that may have up to 100 individuals. Females are dominant over males which take no part in the rearing of the young. Hyaenas often compete with lions over territory and food.

Threats

Because of reduced habitat and natural food sources, hyaenas will kill livestock, provoking conflict between farmers and hyaenas.

At Perth Zoo

Perth Zoo has a pair of Spotted Hyaenas in the **African Savannah**.

Scientific Name
Crocuta crocuta

Conservation Status

Extinct

Extinct in the Wild

Critically Endangered

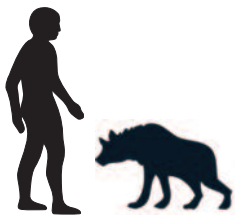
Endangered

Vulnerable

Near-Threatened

Least Concern

Data Deficient



Body Length: 1.5–1.7 m

Weight: 62–75 kg

Gestation: 100 days

Number of young: 1–3



Distribution ■

Distribution: Central and southern Africa

Habitat: Flat, grassy plains

Did you know?

Although hyaenas look like dogs, they are more closely related to cats than dogs.

