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Amazing Animals
Fact sheets

Dingoes

Dingoes are Australia's wild dog. They arrived in Australia about 5,000 years ago - brought to Australian shores by Indonesian Seafarers. Dingoes do not bark, but howl like wolves.

Dingo

The dingo is a medium sized canine, weighing between 13-24kg, with males usually heavier than the females. An average male stands at 52-63cms. Colours vary from sandy yellow to red ginger, and there are a small percentage of dogs who are black, black-tan or white. Usually dingoes will also have white markings on their feet, tail tip and chest. Their overall body shape is very lean. They have pricked ears for good hearing and a bushy tail.

Habitat

Dingoes are found through most of mainland Australia, but are absent from Tasmania. Dingoes are found in all habitat types ranging from alpine, woodland, grassland, desert and tropical regions. There are many different cross breeds of dingo/dog so it is very common to see dingo-like dogs even in suburbia. Truly pure dingoes are extremely rare.

Diet

Dingoes are most active at dawn and dusk, when their prey is also active. They eat a variety of animals but the majority of their diet is wallaby and kangaroo. They are also known to prey on rabbits, possums, gliders, rats and mice. Domestic livestock do not usually play a major part in their diet, though often they get the blame for attacks on stock by feral dogs or dog/dingo hybrids.

Breeding

The breeding cycle occurs only once a year and usually runs from March to June. Gestation is 63 days and litter size ranges from four to six pups. The pups might leave shortly after weaning or stay with the family group for up to a year.

Australia Zoo Dingo profiles

Teyha

Teyha (Native American for 'Precious') is smaller in build than her sisters, and very alert. She is very sociable and loves to meet people while roving and during the Animal Encounters. She is often the one who jumps up on the guests and tries to lick their face. Teyha also has a cowlick on the back of her neck, like a Mohawk. Like her sister Myndee, she has white on both front feet, but her 'socks' are tall, making her easy to tell apart from Myndee.

Endangered Species!

Very low numbers are left in the wild. Dingoes are at risk of extinction within the next ten years.

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