

Common Name: Maned wolf	Scientific Name: <i>Chrysocyon brachyurus</i>
Class: Mammalia Order: Carnivora Family: Canidae	Feeding Type: Omnivore Statistics: Height: 3 ft. Length: 4 ft. Weight: 50 lbs.

DESCRIPTION: Maned wolves stand tall on unusually long, black legs. Except for the black mane and legs, golden-red fur covers most of the body. The reddish fur and large ears make these animals look more like tall foxes than wolves, and they are also known as “foxes on stilts.”

RANGE: Maned wolves inhabit Central South America: Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia, and the northern area of Argentina. Destruction of the rain forest has increased the wolf’s habitat.

HABITAT: This species lives in high plains with tall grasses. It also inhabits scrub forests with high vegetation. It prefers heavy undergrowth with no foliage above, allowing for exposure to the sun. The presence of humans won’t necessarily frighten these wolves, as they will accept humans living in their habitat.

ADAPTATIONS: The maned wolf’s long legs help it hunt for food, allowing it to spot prey from above the grasses.

The maned wolf also has an unusual method of running. The pair of legs on each side of the wolf’s body move together, instead of alternating. This is called a pacing gait, which helps the maned wolf to travel quickly over the long distances of its territory.

Maned wolves, except when mating, are solitary animals; this makes them different from most canids. Male and female maned wolves form monogamous couples that usually interact only in the mating season. They may share a territory of up to forty miles, but stay separated most of the year.

REPRODUCTION/GROWTH: Breeding season begins in April and ends in August. A litter typically consists of two to five pups, and the male may help rear them. Cubs are fully mature in about a year, but do not reproduce until at least two years of age.

LONGEVITY: 12-15 years

PREY/PREDATOR: Prey to humans
Predator to small mammals, domestic chickens

DIET: Wild: Small mammals, domestic chickens, fruit
SZ: Canine maintenance, bananas, apples, and an occasional rat

STATUS: Maned wolves are considered an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the government of Brazil. Breeding programs of Australian Zoo Association’s and Brazilian Zoo Association’s can maintain 90% of the original gene diversity for the next 100 years. The biggest threat to the maned wolf is human

destruction of the wolf's habitat. Maned wolves need a large amount of unused land in which to roam. Agricultural development has reduced habitat and hurt the food supply. Farmers sometimes kill maned wolves because the wolves steal chickens.

SPECIAL NOTES: The people of Serra de Canastra believe the maned wolf has supernatural and medicinal powers. The right eye removed from a living maned wolf, brings the bearer luck with women and gambling.

Medical legends also follow the maned wolf, such as a wolf's hide placed on a cowboy's saddle cures back pain, or eating two small pieces of heart from a freshly killed wolf will stop death from a snake bite victim. Other legends include a child wearing a wolf tooth on a necklace will prevent dental problems in the future and putting maned wolf feces in tea will cure a chronic cough.



BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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