

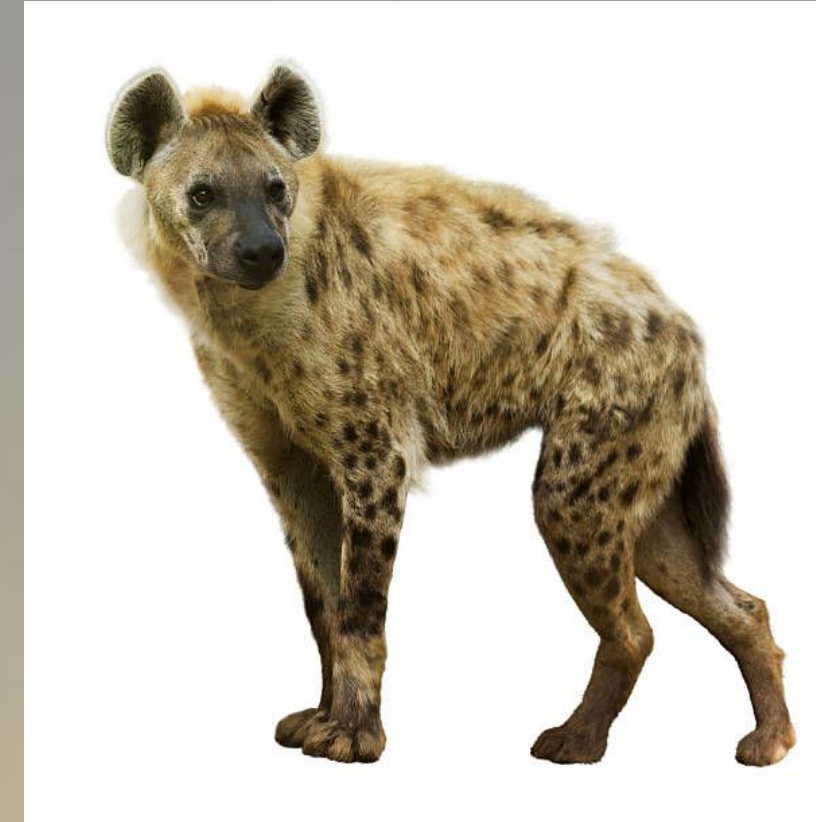
## Form & Function

- Order: Carnivora
- Suborder: Feliformia
- Family: Hyaenidae
- Vaguely bear-like build
- Spotted pelt
- Long limbs for cursorial locomotion
- Bone crushing teeth for carnivorous diet
- Females avg. weight: 55.3kg
- Males avg. weight: 48.7kg

## Behavior

Mostly nocturnal, Spotted hyena are carnivorous with a run of at least 50 km/h to take down prey. They work in groups called “clans” that have a very interesting hierarchy where reproductive aged females are at the top. A diverse set of vocalizations described as “whoops” and “laughs” are used for communication between clan members for hunting, mating, and general communication.

# Spotted hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*)



## Diet

In low resource, arid environments, *Crocuta crocuta* is a carnivorous predator whose main prey are 56–182 kg hoofed mammals and their offspring. Spotted Hyena are very opportunistic hunters who will also eat a plethora of living things in the area including conspecifics in their clan.



## Reproduction

Promiscuity mating system. Reproductive females mate with multiple males during estrus, and males can mate with multiple females making their mating system promiscuity. Females are polyestrous, with an estrus period lasting two weeks. Average gestation is 110 days and young are born with open eyes

## Habitat & Range

Spotted hyenas are the most common large carnivore in Africa. They occur throughout sub saharan Africa and into South Africa. Spotted hyenas dwell in semi-deserts, savannah, open woodland, dense dry woodland, and mountainous forests up to 4,000 m in altitude.



## Conservation & Management



Although the Spotted Hyena is currently categorised as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List, the population are known to be decreasing outside protected areas. Their status is threatened by deforestation. World Land Trust (WLT) have partnered with Nature Kenya to save 810 acres of Kenya’s coastal Dakatcha Woodland, which protects the home of many native African species, including the Spotted hyena