

AARDWOLF

Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Chordata Class: Mammalia Order: Carnivora
Proteles cristatus

The term Aardwolf means “earth wolf”.

Status: Considered rare in some places due to being hunted for food and its skin.

Description: The Aardwolf has a yellowish brown coat with several vertical black stripes, a bushy, black tipped tail with a long, coarse, dark haired stripe on its back, which rises when the Aardwolf feels threatened or scared.

Length: 1.5 - 2.5 feet plus a 1 foot tail

Height: 1.5 feet

Weight: 18 - 26 lbs.

Lifespan: 15 years in captivity

Habitat: Open plains and bush country

Range: Southern and Eastern parts of Africa

Diet in the Wild: Termites and insect larvae

Special Features:

- The acute hearing allows the Aardwolf to track the sound of termites.
- The Aardwolf lives in dens about six weeks before moving to the next den to avoid detection by predators.
- Although it has the ability to burrow its own den, the Aardwolf prefers to enlarge an abandoned den.
- Nocturnal & Solitary
- Can eat up to 200,000 termites in one night licking them up off the surface.
- If threatened, the Aardwolf will spray its attacker with a strong musky fluid secreted by the anal gland. This same musky odor is used to mark its territory.

Breeding/Care of Young:

Sexual maturity at 2 years old, Gestation is 60 days, Usually 2-3 cubs, but can be up to 5.

Most females mate with the male in their territory, but they may also breed with intruders. Cubs stay in den for up to 2 months. Although cubs are self-sufficient at 4 months, they will stay with the mother until the next breeding season.

