



MANED WOLF

*Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Chordata Class: Mammalia Order: Carnivora
Canidae Chrysocyon brachyurus*

Description: The maned wolf has the head and coloring of a wolf, the large ears of an African hunting dog or fox and the body of the hyena. Its body is covered with golden-red fur, black legs, a short tail and a black mane.

Length: 4-4.5 feet

Height: 34 inches

Weight: 50 lbs.

Lifespan: 12-15 years in captivity

Habitat: Dry shrubby forests and tropical savannahs

Range: South America—Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia and Peru



Status: Endangered, mainly due to habitat destruction.

Diet in the Wild: Omnivores, they eat small mammals, reptiles, birds and fruit

Special Features:

- The long legs of the maned wolf allow it to see better in the tall grasses of the savannah.
- Large, erect ears act as heat radiators as well as sound detectors.
- The mane consists of longer, darker hairs along the back. The wolf will raise its mane to show superiority to its rival.
- Two middle toe pads allow the foot to spread making it easier to walk on the marshy ground.
- The lack of underfur protects the wolf from overheating in the tropical climates.
- Maned wolves are nocturnal preferring to rest under forest cover during the day.
- The wolf is believed to have supernatural and medicinal powers. The right eye is said to bring luck with gambling. It is also thought that a necklace with a maned wolf tooth worn by children prevents dental problems.
- The wolf's fruit is a favorite fruit and is believed to guard against a parasite that attacks the wolf's kidneys.
- They move by simultaneously lifting both legs on one side of its body in a rocking motion. This is called ambling.
- It is neither a fox nor a true wolf, but rather a distinct species of its own.

Breeding/Care of Young:

- Gestation is 9 weeks
- Mating season is April to July
- They mate for life although they only interact during the breeding season.
- There will be 2-5 pups in a litter.
- The pups are born black with white tips on the tail.
- Weaned at 15 weeks.
- In captivity the male helps raise pups by regurgitating food.
- Sexually mature at a year old.

