



Audubon Zoo  
*A Facility of Audubon Nature Institute*

### African Painted Dog Facts

- Every African painted dog has its own coat pattern, as unique as human fingerprints.
- The long-legged canines have big rounded ears and only four toes per foot unlike other dogs which have five toes on their forefeet.
- African painted dogs live in packs that are usually dominated by a monogamous breeding pair. A designated "babysitter" adult dog will stay behind with pups during a hunt.
- Females can have litters of two to 20 pups which are cared for by the entire pack.
- These dogs are extraordinarily social and packs are known to share food and to assist weak or ill members. They communicate by touch, actions and vocalizations.
- They are formidable hunters and travel in packs of up to 20 members that hunt antelopes and larger prey, including wildebeests. The dogs supplement their diets with rodents and birds.
- As human settlements expand, the dogs have developed a taste for livestock. As a result, they are often hunted and killed by farmers.
- They are susceptible to diseases spread by domestic animals.