

Striped Hyena



Extinct
|
EX

Threatened
|
EW CR EN VU NT LC

Least Concern
|
LC

FACT SHEETS FOR A CAUSE

8

DOMAIN
Eukaryota

KINGDOM
Animalia

PHYLUM
Chordata

CLASS
Mammalia

ORDER
Carnivora

FAMILY
Hyaenidae

GENUS
Hyaena

SPECIES
Hyaena hyaena

WHERE DO THEY HANG OUT?

Striped hyenas inhabit a wide range of environments, from the dry African savannahs to rugged mountain slopes in the Middle East and parts of South Asia.



A LOOK FOR THE SPOTLIGHT!



Striped hyenas are often mistaken for small wolves or foxes due to their hunched appearance. They weigh between 60 and 90 pounds on average. They are mostly nocturnal, roaming under the cover of darkness. Their large ears provide excellent hearing, detecting sounds from far away. Their bone-crushing bite is among the strongest in the animal kingdom.



WHAT'S ON THE MENU?



If nature had an official clean-up crew, the striped hyena would be the team leader. Armed with one of the strongest jaw forces in the animal kingdom, it can crush bones and devour remains

that other predators leave behind. This bone-crunching ability not only helps them survive but also prevents disease by eliminating rotting carcasses from the environment.



Photo by Sohamthewild, via Wikimedia Commons

A STRIPED SHADOW IN THE NIGHT

The striped hyena's appearance is striking. With a shaggy grayish-brown coat marked by vertical black stripes along its body and legs, it blends perfectly into rocky landscapes and dry savannas. A mane of long hair running from head to tail stands erect when the animal feels threatened, making it appear larger to predators or rivals.

STRIPED HYENA FAMILIES

- Mating can occur year-round, but it often peaks in wetter months. The gestation period is approximately 90-92 days, after which a female gives birth to 2-4 cubs. Cubs are born blind and completely dependent on their mother for survival. The mother raises them alone, providing food and protection until they are old enough to venture out.



THREATS TO THEIR SURVIVAL



Habitat loss



Illegal wildlife trade



Poaching



Despite their adaptability, striped hyenas are listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List due to ever shrinking territories.

Significant threats are: Habitat loss due to fragmentation and deforestation for agriculture and cattle ranching, Poaching for their fur, Human-wildlife conflict, poisoning and Illegal wildlife trade



Did you know?

5 FUN FACTS ABOUT STRIPED HYENAS



Unlike their spotted relatives, striped hyenas do not "laugh". They are relatively quiet animals.



Their striped coat acts as excellent camouflage, allowing them to blend into rocky and desert landscapes.



They have one of the strongest bite forces in the animal kingdom, capable of crushing large bones to extract marrow.



Their mane can stand on end when threatened, making them appear larger to scare away predators.



They are nature's cleanup crew, preventing the spread of disease by scavenging and consuming rotting carcasses.