

Spotted Hyena

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Spotted-Hyena

Spotted Hyena Latest News

According to a new study the spotted hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*) has emerged as an unlikely 'eco-warrior' in Ethiopia's second-largest city Mekelle.

About Spotted Hyena

- It is also **called the laughing hyena**.
- It is a strong and capable hunter and the **largest member of the hyena family**.
- **Appearance:** It looks like a dog but is closer related to cats, civets, and genes.
 - It is physically distinguished from other species by its vaguely bear-like build, rounded ears, less prominent mane, spotted pelt, more dual-purposed dentition, fewer nipples, and pseudo-penis.
- **Habitat:** It inhabits savannas, **open and dense dry woodland, grasslands**, mountains, tropical rainforests, semi-deserts, and coastal areas.
- **Distribution:** It is mainly found throughout **sub-Saharan Africa** (Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana, Angola, Namibia, and parts of South Africa),

Characteristics of Spotted Hyena

- They have **excellent night vision**, being mostly **nocturnal**, hunting at night, and sleeping or staying near their den in the daytime.
- They have a **matriarchal social order** of related individuals that are called clans. One alpha female leads the clan.
- These animals **mark their territory by scratching** the ground and with an **oily substance** that they secrete from their anal glands.
- **Diet:** These are **carnivorous animals** that hunt and scavenge.
- It is the **only placental mammalian species** where females have a pseudo-penis and lack an external vaginal opening.
- **Conservation status: IUCN:** Least Concern.

Source: DTE

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/spotted-hyena/>

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