Canis lupus

**System:** Terrestrial

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Order</th>
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<td>Chordata</td>
<td>Mammalia</td>
<td>Carnivora</td>
<td>Canidae</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Common name**

Haushund (German), feral dog (English), domestic dog (English), kuri (Maori, New Zealand), guri (Maori), kurio (Tuamotuan), uli (Samoan), peto (Marquesan), pero (Maori)

**Synonym**

Canis dingo, Blumenbach, 1780  
Canis familiaris, Linnaeus, 1758

**Similar species**

**Summary**

Canis lupus (the dog) is possibly the first animal to have been domesticated by humans. It has been selectively bred into a wide range of different forms. They are found throughout the world in many different habitats, both closely associated with humans and away from habitation. They are active hunters and have significant negative impacts on a wide range of native fauna.

**Species Description**

Domestic dogs are believed to have first diverged from wolves around 100,000 years ago. Around 15,000 years ago dogs started diverging into the multitude of different breeds known today. This divergence was possibly triggered by humans changing from a nomadic, hunting based-lifestyle to a more settled, agriculture-based way of life (Vilà et al. 1997). Domestic dogs have been selectively bred for various behaviours, sensory capabilities and physical attributes, including dogs bred for herding livestock (collies, shepherds, etc.), different kinds of hunting (pointers, hounds, etc.), catching rats (small terriers), guarding (mastiffs, chows), helping fishermen with nets (Newfoundlands, poodles), pulling loads (huskies, St. Bernards), guarding carriages and horsemen (Dalmatians), and as companion dogs. Domestic dogs are therefore extremely variable but the basic morphology is that of the grey wolf, the wild ancestor of all domestic dog breeds.
Notes
Dogs were possibly the first animal to be domesticated by humans around 15,000 years ago. There are estimated to be 400,000,000 dogs present in the world. Dogs taken to the Pacific islands by the early Polynesians may have been about the size of a small collie, but shorter in the leg (Anderson 1990). They have long since been replaced by, or crossed with, various breeds from Europe. Reviewed by Mech (1974, Mammalian Species, 37) Canis familiaris has page priority over Canis lupus in Linnaeus (1758), but both were published simultaneously, and C. lupus has been universally used for this species [excerpted from Mammal Species of the World, 3d Edition, p. 281] (ITIS, 2004).

Uses
Domesticated dogs have been bred to assist humans in a wide range of activities including farming, hunting and companionship.

Habitat Description
Dogs are usually closely associated with humans so can potentially be found in all habitats. Feral and ranging domestic dogs may be found far from human habitation.

Reproduction
Placental, sexual. 4-12 puppies per litter. Both males and females become sexually mature at around 6-12 months.

Nutrition
Mainly carnivorous but may eat plant material and invertebrates
General Impacts
In Israel, free-ranging feral dogs are a major threat to populations of endangered mountain gazelles (see *Gazella gazella ssp. gazella* in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species) (Manor and Salz, 2004). Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) is thought to have caused several fatal epidemics within the Serengeti-Mara ecosystem in East Africa. The source of the CDV was probably domestic dogs in the local villages surrounding the park. The canids affected included silver-backed jackals (*Canis mmesomelas*) and bat-eared foxes (*Otocyon megalotis*) in 1978 and endangered African wild dogs (see *Lycaon pictus* in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species) in 1991. The Serengeti lion population (see *Panthera leo* in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species) which remained unaffected during these two epidemics was hit by an epidemic in early 1994, caused by a morbillivirus which is closely related to CDV. Later that year the epidemic had spread north to lions, hyenas, bat-eared foxes and leopards in the Maasi Mara National reserve. This epidemic claimed at least 30% of the lion population (estimated at 3000 in Serengeti at that time). It is suggested that the possible route of transmission from domestic dogs was the spotted hyena that range through human habitation and travel long distances within the park (Roelke-Parker et al. 1996).

Uncontrolled domestic dogs can be equally as damaging as truly feral animals. In New Zealand, during study of kiwi (see *Apteryx australis*; *Apteryx haastii*; *Apteryx mantelli*; and *Apteryx owenii* in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species) in a Northland forest, the loss of 13 out of 23 kiwi fitted with transmitters was found to be the result of predation by one German shepherd dog. It was estimated that this single dog alone had killed 500 out of 900 birds, although this estimate was considered to be possibly conservative (Taborsky 1988). Seabirds and mammals are included among the prey taken by feral dogs (e.g. Dickman, 1996, Stevenson and Woelher, 2007).

Management Info
The principal techniques to control wild dogs are exclusion fencing, shooting, trapping and poisoning. Poisoning using 1080 is the most cost-effective means of reducing populations of wild dogs over large areas of remote or inaccessible country. New techniques such as the use of livestock guarding dogs, poison ejecting devices and toxic collars have been suggested as alternatives to current methods.

The Australian Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) in cooperation with the Vertebrate Pests Committee of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Resource Management (SCARM) has published guidelines for managing the impacts of dingoes (*Canis lupus dingo*) and other wild dogs (*C.l. familiaris*) as part of the Managing Vertebrate Pests series. Please follow this link to view and download Fleming, P., Corbett, L., Harden, R. and Thomson, P. (2001) Managing the Impacts of Dingoes and Other Wild Dogs, Bureau of Rural Sciences, Canberra.

Pathway

Principal source:

**Compiler:** IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) with support from the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP) project XOT603, a joint project with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment
ALIEN RANGE

[1] ANGUILLA  
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[3] CAYMAN ISLANDS  
[1] DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
[5] FIJI  
[1] GUAM  
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[1] MASAI MARA RESERVE  
[3] MICRONESIA, FEDERATED STATES OF  
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[1] NIUE  
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[1] SAINT LUCIA  
[1] SERENGETI-MARA ECOSYSTEM  
[1] TOKELAU  
[3] TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS  
[1] UNITED STATES MINOR OUTLYING ISLANDS

Red List assessed species 191: EX = 8; CR = 28; EN = 52; VU = 53; NT = 31; DD = 4; LC = 15;

Aeypodioides bruijini EN  
Amblisomus coriae NT  
Anas wyvilliana EN  
Aplonis santovestris VU  
Apteryx haasti VU  
Aramidopsis plateni VU  
Ardeotis nigriceps CR  
Atelocynus microtis NT  
Brachypteracias squamiger VU  
Camarhynchus pauper CR  
Capreolus capreolus LC  
Celestus anelpistus CR  
Charadrius melodus NT  
Charadrius sanctaehelenae CR  
Chrysocyon brachyurus NT  
Coturnix novaezelandiae EX  
Ctenosaura bakeri CR  
Cuon alpinus EN  
Alauda razaæ CR  
Anas chlorotis EN  
Anolis longiceps VU  
Apteryx australis VU  
Apteryx mantelli EN  
Arctocephalus galapagoensis EN  
Arvicola sapidus VU  
Atelopus guanajo CR  
Burhinus grallarius NT  
Canis simensis EN  
Casuarius bennetti NT  
Celestus warreni CR  
Charadrius obscurus EN  
Chlamyphorus truncatus DD  
Conilurus penicillatus NT  
Cryptoprocta ferox VU  
Ctenosaura palesaris EN  
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Tarsius pelengensis EN
Terrapene carolina VU
Thomomys mazama LC
Tokudaia tokunoshimensis EN
Uratelornis chimaera VU
Vestiaria coccinea VU

BIBLIOGRAPHY
38 references found for Canis lupus

Management information
Summary: This report reviews available information on the adverse effects of 14 alien vertebrates considered to be ?significant invasive species on islands of the South Pacific and Hawaii, supplementing the authors? experience with that of other workers.


Summary: The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species provides taxonomic, conservation status and distribution information on taxa that have been globally evaluated using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. This system is designed to determine the relative risk of extinction, and the main purpose of the IUCN Red List is to catalogue and highlight those taxa that are facing a higher risk of global extinction (i.e. those listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable). The IUCN Red List also includes information on taxa that are categorized as Extinct or Extinct in the Wild; on taxa that cannot be evaluated because of insufficient information (i.e. are Data Deficient); and on taxa that are either close to meeting the threatened thresholds or that would be threatened were it not for an ongoing taxon-specific conservation programme (i.e. are Near Threatened).


Summary: This compilation of information sources can be sorted on keywords for example: Baits & Lures, Non Target Species, Eradication, Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Weeds, Herbicides etc. This compilation is at present in Excel format, this will be web-enabled as a searchable database shortly. This version of the database has been developed by the IUCN SSC ISSG as part of an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme funded project XOT603 in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment. The compilation is a work under progress, the ISSG will manage, maintain and enhance the database with current and newly published information, reports, journal articles etc.

K?rtner, G. 2007. 1080 aerial baiting for the control of wild dogs and its impacts on spotted-tailed quoll (Dasyurus maculatus). Wildlife Research 34: 48-53

Summary: Spotted quolls were radio-tracked to assess the effect an aerial poison operation to control wild dogs may have on quoll survival. The result suggested most quolls are able to survive baiting campaigns


Summary: The Bureau of Rural Sciences National Feral Animal Control Program under the Natural Heritage Trust has supported the Pest Animal Control CRC in cooperation with the University of Canberra to develop a comprehensive, interactive and freely available website, Feral.org.au on pest animals. The site aims to make information on past and current research readily accessible and to interpret and pull together relevant data to assist end-users in making management decisions.

The website is available from http://www.feral.org.au/content/general/about.cfm

This page is available from: http://www.feral.org.au/content/species/dog.cfm


Summary: This database compiles information on alien species from British Overseas Territories.

Available from: http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3660 [Accessed 10 November 2009]

General information


Summary: English:
The species list sheet for the Mexican information system on invasive species currently provides information related to Scientific names, family, group and common names, as well as habitat, status of invasion in Mexico, pathways of introduction and links to other specialized websites. Some of the higher risk species already have a direct link to the alert page. It is important to notice that these lists are currently being updated, please refer to the main page (http://www.conabio.gob.mx/invasoras/index.php/Portada), under the section Novedades for information on updates.

Invasive species - mammals is available from:
http://www.conabio.gob.mx/invasoras/index.php/Especies_invasoras_-_Mam%C3%B3feros [Accessed 30 July 2008]

Spanish:
La lista de especie del Sistema de información sobre especies invasoras de M?xico cuenta actualmente con informaci?n acerca de nombre cient?fico, familia, grupo y nombre com?n, as? como ?bitat, estado de la invasi?n en M?xico, rutas de introducci?n y ligas a otros sitios especializados. Algunas de las especies de mayor riesgo ya tienen una liga directa a la p?gina de alertas. Es importante resaltar que estas listas se encuentran en constante proceso de actualizaci?n, por favor consulte la portada (http://www.conabio.gob.mx/invasoras/index.php/Portada), en la secci?n de novedades, para conocer los cambios.

Especie invasoras - Mamíferos is available from:
http://www.conabio.gob.mx/invasoras/index.php/Especies_invasoras_-_Mam%C3%B3feros [Accessed 30 July 2008]

De Thoisy, pers. comm., 2007

Summary: Personal communication with Beno?it de Thoisy from the association Kwata , an expert of the vertebrate fauna of French Guiana.


Summary: Abstract only online,


Summary: Consequences to the biodiversity of New Caledonia of the introduction of plant and animal species.


Summary: An online database that provides taxonomic information, common names, synonyms and geographical jurisdiction of a species. In addition links are provided to retrieve biological records and collection information from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Data Portal and bioscience articles from BioOne journals.


Summary: Dogs were found to impact endangered gazelle populations

Meyer, J.-Y. pers. comm., 2007


Summary: Available online in PDF format at www.canids.org
