

# ANIMALS OF AUSTRALIA

## Dingo

A dingo is type of wild dog in Australia. The dingoes are believed to have come to Australia with humans from southeast Asia. They are related to the Asian wolf.

Dingoes usually live in groups, called packs. Each pack has about three to 12 dingoes, which hunt together and raise puppies. Each pack lives in its own area, called a territory.



*A dingo father and pups*

Dingoes eat many different foods, but mostly they eat meat. When they hunt together, they can kill larger animals, such as a kangaroo and cattle.

Dingoes are usually light brown, tan, reddish brown or white. They often have white markings on the chest, feet and muzzle.

Sometimes dingoes will kill farm and ranch animals, like wolves and coyotes do in the United States. This often makes the dingo unpopular with people. The government of Australia has built fences to keep the dingo from moving into certain areas. The government also established places where the dingo will not be hunted and will be safe.

### Dingo Facts

- Dingoes are usually about 20 to 24 inches tall at the shoulder and weigh about 30 to 44 pounds.
- While they can bark, dingoes do not bark as much as dogs.
- Dingoes can have up to ten puppies at a time.
- Dingoes live up about five to ten years in the wild.



### Tell a Story



Here's a group of young dingo puppies near their den. One little puppy sees a kangaroo hopping past. Write a story telling what happens next.

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