



<https://www.dholes.org/what-makes-a-dhole.html>

FUN FACTS

- Dholes successfully compete with tigers and leopards
- The Dhole is also known as the mountain wolf
- Dholes communicate with other members of their pack through high pitched whistles
- The dhole has 16 teats, compared to the 10 of the rest of the Canidae family

Dhole: *Cuon alpinus*

By: Katja Bastiaens
 Order: Carnivora
 Family: Canidae
 Genus: *Cuon*

FORM and FUNCTION

- Long Limbs
 - Muscle Mass on proximal ends
 - Cursorial Locomotion
- These make the Dhole a better runner by elongating stride length and increasing energy and force with each stride.

CONSERVATION

Dholes are endangered. Conservation is focused on tigers, but dhole habitat overlaps. Habitat loss and fragmentation is the greatest threat to the dhole. There are 358 captive dholes in efforts to conserve them.

TABLE IV
Vocal repertoire of Dhole

Sound type*	Context recorded by Fox (in prep.)	Context recorded during this study	Function
Whine, whimper	Friendly approach, greeting	Food-soliciting, when scented my presence but when failed to see me	Reduce social distance and maintain proximity
Growl	Aggressive	As soon as I was scented and seen, before chasing village dogs, during interactions between Dholes at kills	Increase social distance, threat warning/alarm
Growl-bark	Aggressive	When I intruded suddenly and when pups saw tourists on an elephant 100 m from their den	Increase social distance, threat warning/alarm
Scream (Ka Ka Ka Koene)	Human intrusion/fear	While tiger or leopard was met with (indirect evidence)	Warning alarm, distraction?
Repeated Yak-Yak (Chatter)	Human intrusion/alarm	Unexpected human intrusion	Warning alarm threat/challenge
Repeated whistle	In dense cover, travelling or coming together	After an unsuccessful hunt or after the pack was dispersed by the arrival of van	Assembly or contact seeking, contact maintaining
Mixed yip-yack cackle	Closing in on prey	When human intervention surprised them while closing in on prey	Socially facilitative reciprocal arousal?
Yapping howls	Rare, at dusk	Were not heard	Communal activity, group uniting or territorial function?
Squeak (pups)	Not recorded	While playing	Social contact

*Single sounds may be mixed in successive combinations, e.g. growl-scream, yak-yak scream or in simultaneous combinations (superimposition), e.g. growl and scream combined.

Johnsingh, A. "Reproductive and social behaviour of the Dhole, *Cuon alpinus* (Canidae)." *Journal of Zoology*, 1982, vol. 198, pp. 443-463.

EVOLUTION

- Found in forests and jungles of South and Southeast Asia
- Only living member of the *Cuon* genus
- *Cuon* split from *Canis* between 5.2-7.6 Mya
- Likely most other members of the *Cuon* genus died off with the end of the Pleistocene epoch
- Dhole's dentition is missing a bottom fourth molar when compared to its canine family members.
- This loss in dentition is thought to allow a shorter rostrum for a larger point of attachment for a stronger jaw muscle.
- The dhole's first molars or M1 is reduced to have only one cusp.
- This specialization is thought to have occurred to create a better suited shearing edge to then eat more efficiently.



<https://thgreentree.wordpress.com/2018/02/03/dhole-pack-sambar-on-the-run-periyar-tiger-sanctuary/>
<https://proudtolive.weebly.com/dhole.html>

- ### BEHAVIOR
- Male and female dholes participate in pack reproductive suppression
 - Top females will prevent subordinate females by either not letting them near the males or killing or adopting the cubs
 - The male will prevent the top female from being bred by other males either by fighting males or keeping the female separated
 - Subordinate females may get pregnant and let their cubs die to aid in feeding the top females cubs
 - Other Dholes aid in raising cubs making them monogamous and eusocial with alloparental and paternal care
 - Dholes communicate with one another through physical behavioral signs, interdigital glands, scats and vocalizations

Maisch, H. "The Influence of Husbandry and Pack Management on Dhole *Cuon Alpinus* Reproduction." *International Zoo Yearbook*, vol. 44, no. 1, 25 Mar. 2010, pp. 149-164., <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1748-1090.2009.00090.x>.

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<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/dhole>

PHYSIOLOGY

As seen in the image on the right, the dhole has a thicker winter coat, smaller rounded ears and a thicker tail to stay warmer in the winter.

