

Tracking & Identifying

AFRICAN WILD DOG SIGNS

Image taken by Derek van der Merwe, Endangered Wildlife Trust,



Unless otherwise stated, images used in this document have been taken by Reilly Mooney of the Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative.



Identifying African Wild Dogs - Appearance



Size & Shape

Stand taller than a domestic dog.
Overall shape is lean, with long legs
and **no** downward slope of the back.

Ears

Large, round, black ears.

Tail

White, fluffy, flag-like tail.



Commonly confused with

Brown Hyena



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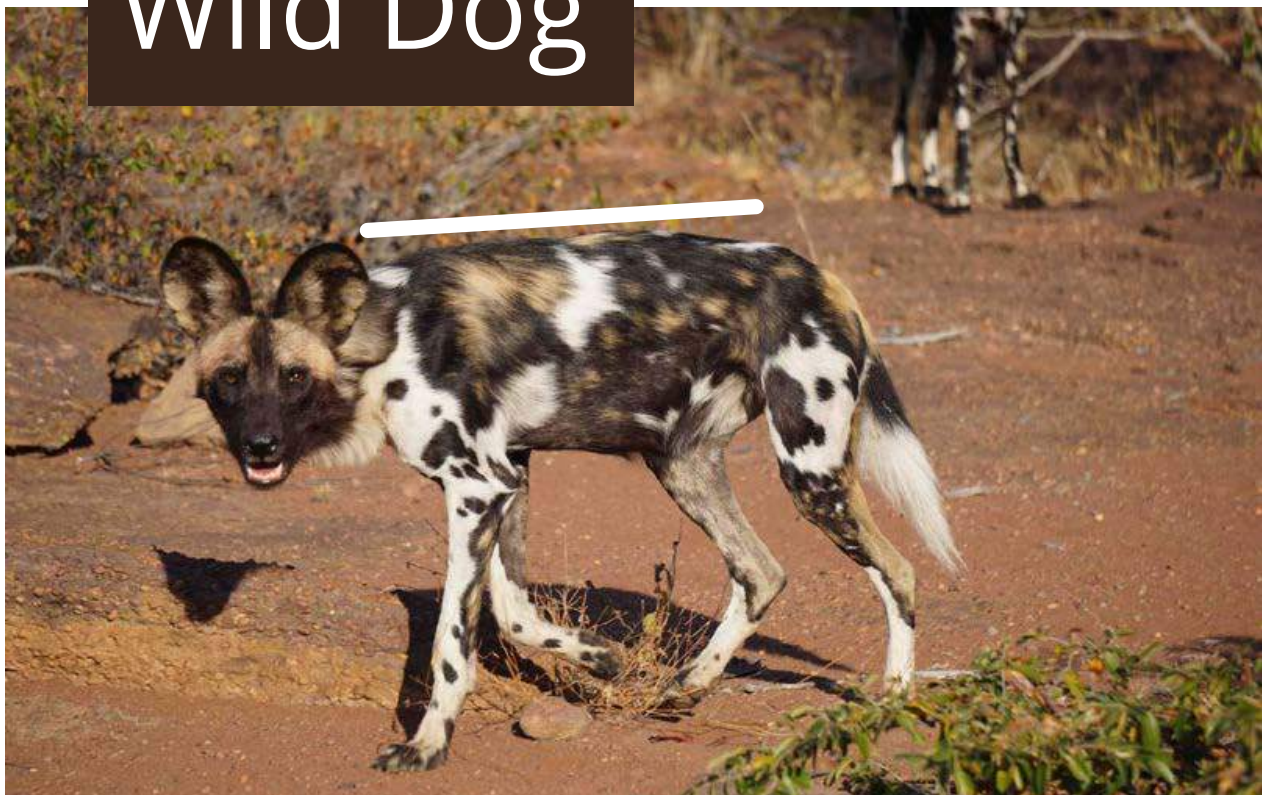
■ Wild dogs have multi-colored coat patterns, round ears, a white tail, and **no slope** of the back.

Brown Hyena



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Wild Dog



Straight back
Round ears

Colourful coat
White tail

Commonly confused with Jackal



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- Wild dogs have colourful coat patterns, round ears, a white tail, and are larger than a jackal.

Jackal



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Wild Dog



Identifying African Wild Dog Tracks

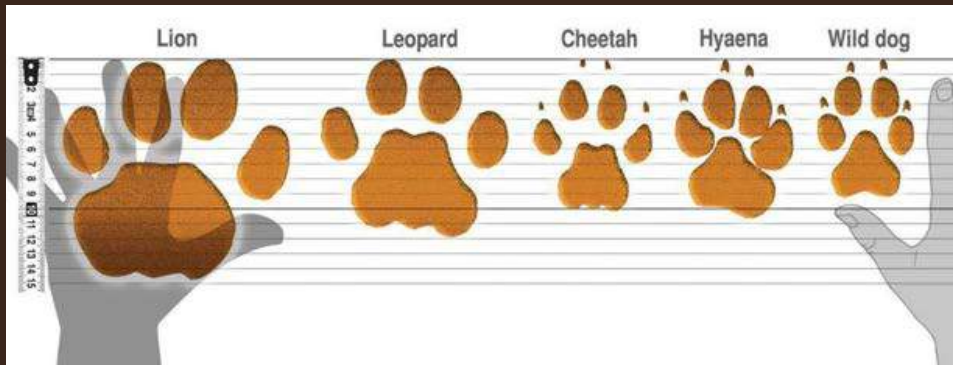


Image shared with WWDI, source unknown.

Size

Smaller than hyena, cheetah, leopard, and lion. Larger than jackal, caracal, civet, and African wild cats.

Front and back foot are similar in size.

Shape

Rectangular shape with two lobes on pad.

Toes

Four toes with nails always present.





Image taken by Derek van der Merwe, Endangered Wildlife Trust,

Rectangular Shape





Nails present



Two Lobes

Image taken by Derek van der Merwe, Endangered Wildlife Trust,



Image taken by Derek van der Merwe, Endangered Wildlife Trust,



Pay attention to
shape in softer sand.



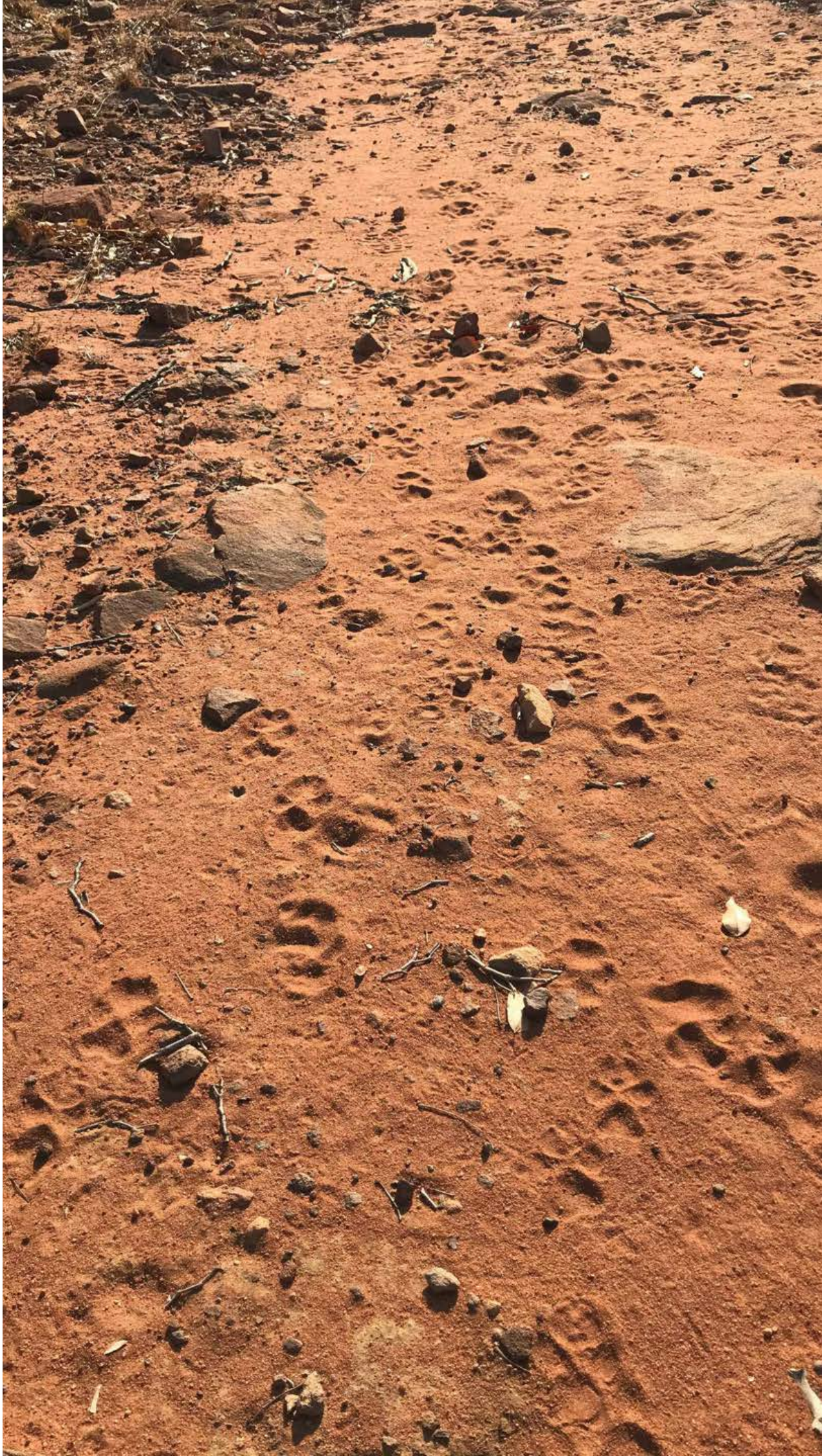




Image shared with the Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative.

Commonly confused with

Brown Hyena



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■ Wild dog tracks are...
smaller in size and
have the **same size**
front and back
tracks and a **more**
elongated shape.

Brown Hyena

Image shared with the Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative.

Brown Hyena



Brown Hyena



Image taken by Derek van der Merwe, Endangered Wildlife Trust,

Brown Hyena

Image shared with the Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative.

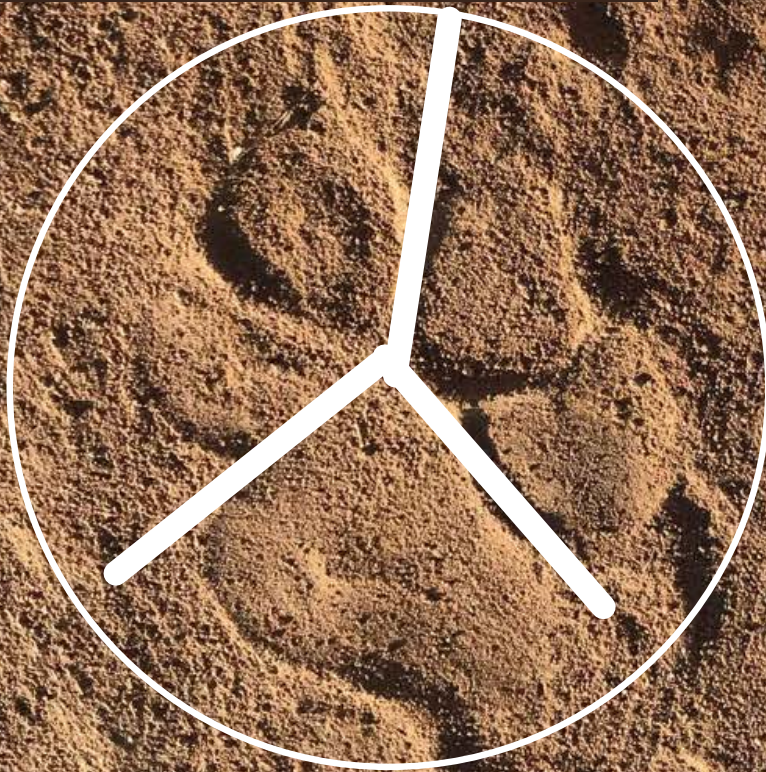
Brown Hyena
(inverted)



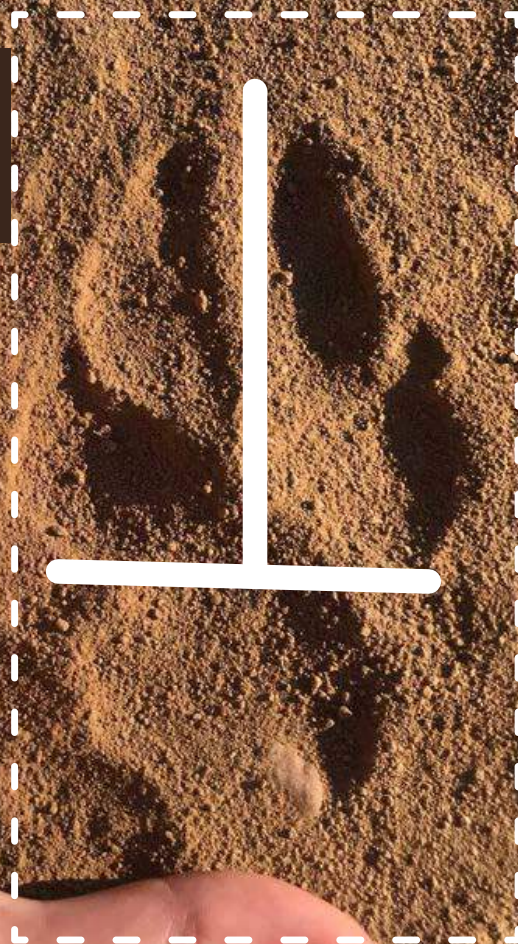
Wild Dog



Brown Hyena

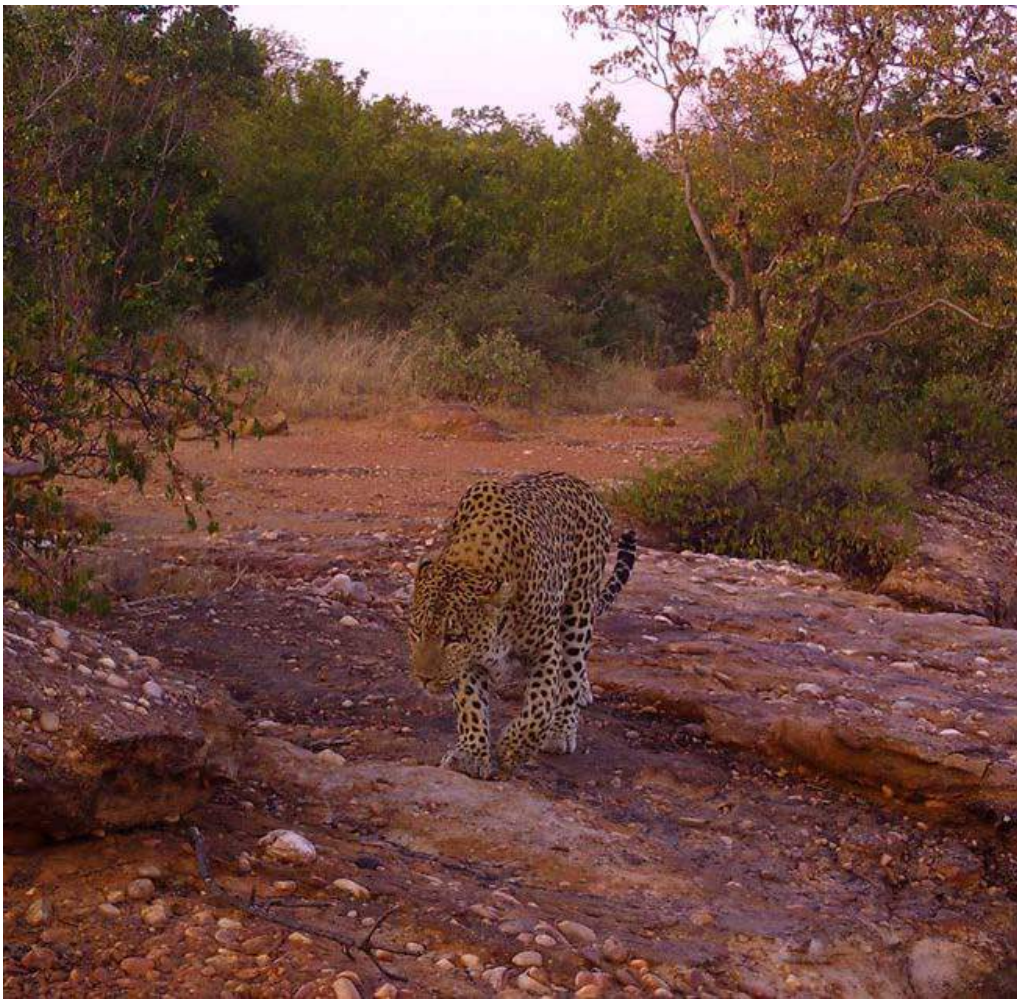


Wild Dog



Commonly confused with

Leopard



■ Wild dog tracks are...
rectangular in shape
and have **two lobes**
on their pad .

Leopard



Three lobes

Leopard



Leopard



Commonly confused with

Domestic Dog



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- Wild dog tracks are...
uniform in size and
often have a **more
elongated shape**.
- Domestic dog tracks
vary in size and shape,
depending on the **breed**.
- Domestic dogs may
hunt **independently** or
as a pack.

Domestic Dog

Generally tighter than an
African Wild Dog track



Domestic Dog



Domestic Dog



Image shared with the Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative.

Domestic Dog



Image shared with the Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative.

Domestic Dog



Image taken by Michael Embleton, Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative

Domestic Dog



Image taken by Michael Embleton, Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative

Domestic Dog



Domestic dog tracks can vary widely and be difficult to distinguish. If you have any questions or are unsure, please send pictures to WWDI for assistance identifying.



Commonly confused with

Cheetah



- Wild dog tracks are...
rectangular in shape
and have **two lobes**
on their pad .
- Free-roaming
cheetah are
occasionally found
in the Waterberg!

Cheetah



Image taken by Derek van der Merwe, Endangered Wildlife Trust,

Cheetah

Nails present



Image taken by Derek van der Merwe, Endangered Wildlife Trust,

Identifying Predation



Carcass

No remains, except pieces of bone and skin. The pack eats everything.

Bite location

All over

Stomach & Intestines

Fully eaten



Image shared with the Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative.



Image shared with the Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative.



Images shared with the Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative.

Commonly confused with

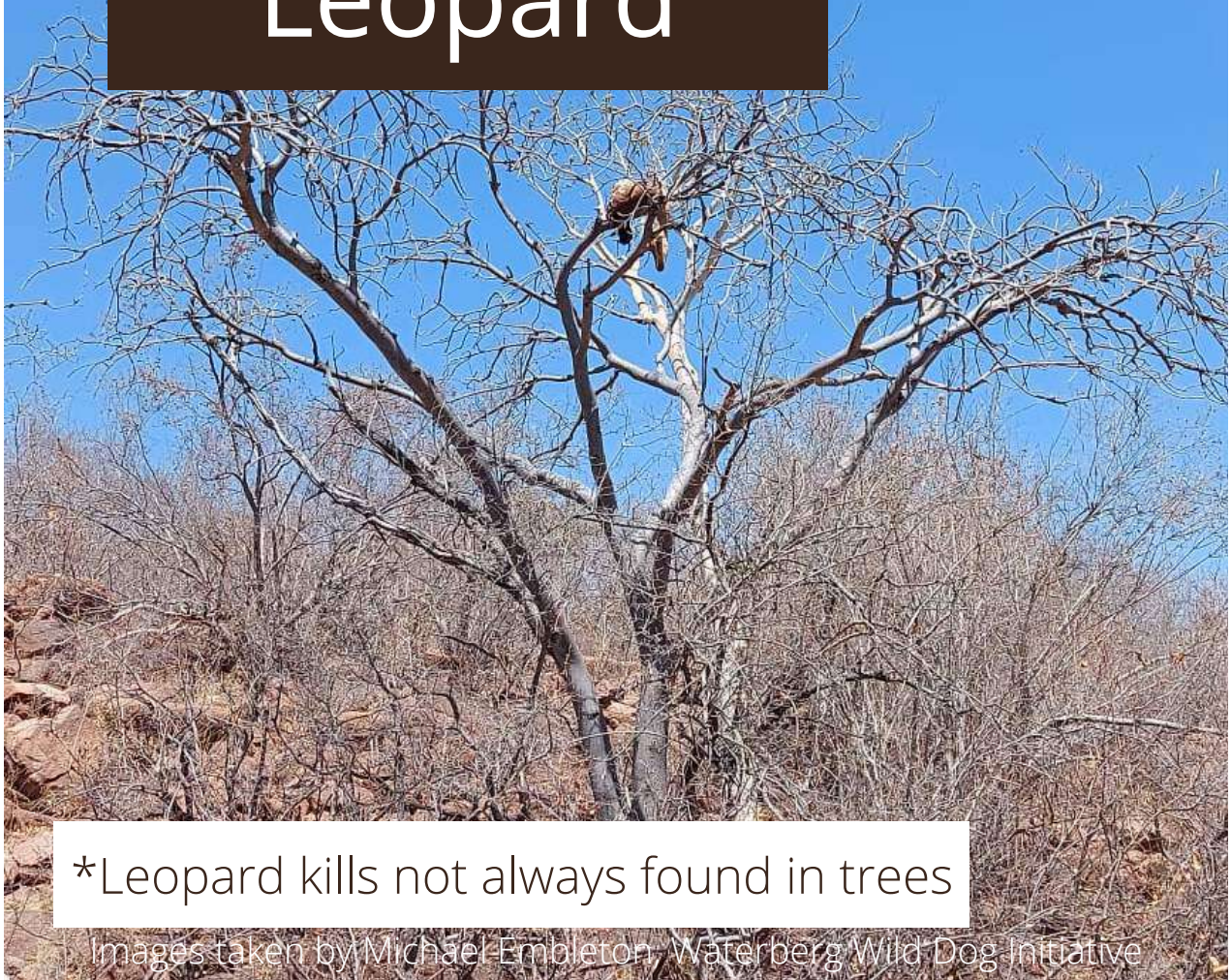
Domestic Dog

Leopard

Brown Hyena

- Carcasses from wild dog predation are... **cleaned** and often **scattered**.
- Wild dogs are **not** **wasteful**.

Leopard



*Leopard kills not always found in trees

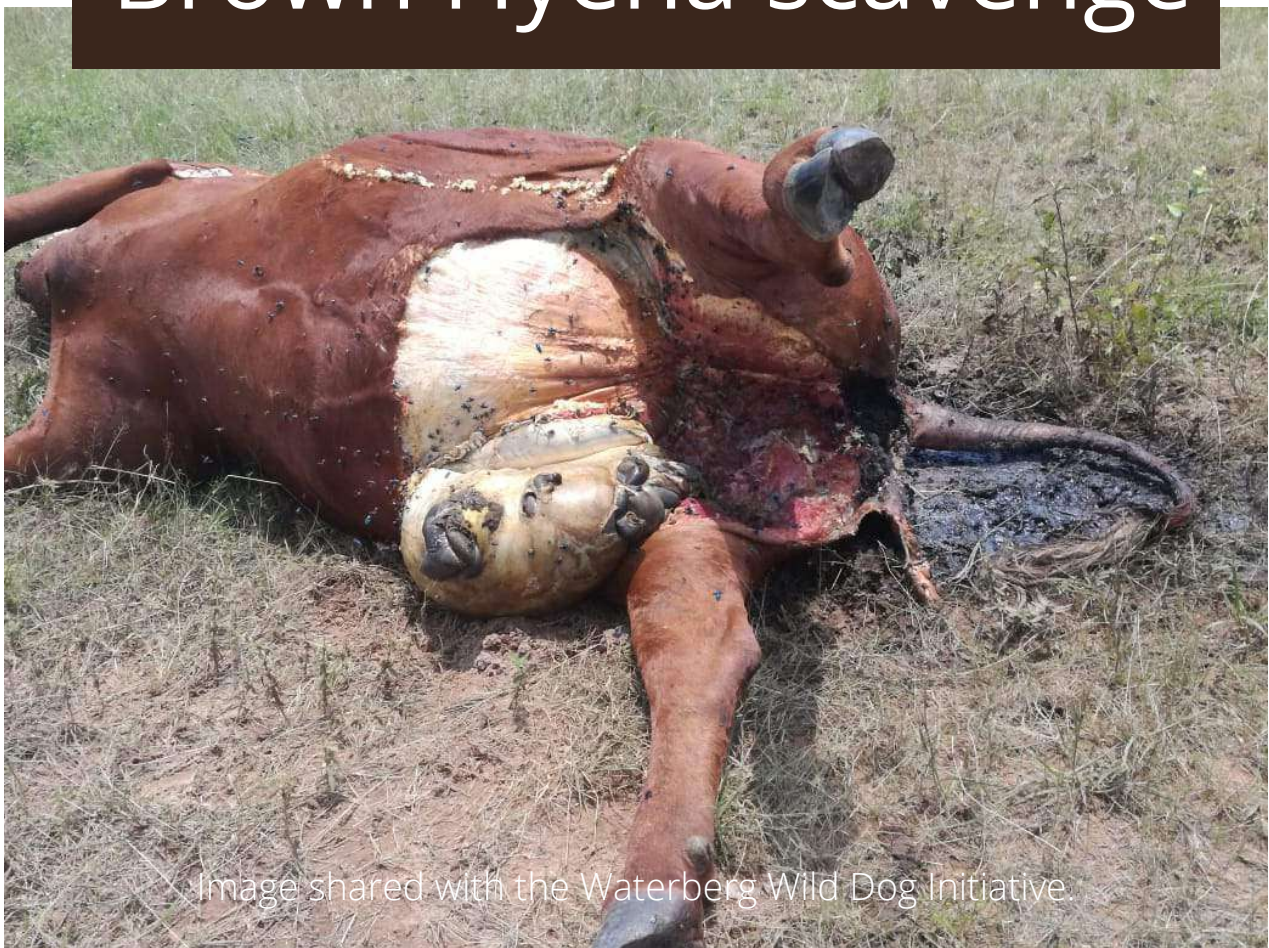
Images taken by Michael Embleton, Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative



Domestic Dog



Brown Hyena scavenge



Important Information



MULTIPLE SETS

Wild dogs hunt as a pack and there will be multiple sets of tracks nearby.



LOOK AT ROADS

Wild dogs often run along farm roads so tracks should be found along the roads nearby.



HUNT IN MORNING OR EVENING

Wild dogs hunt around dawn and/or dusk, when it is light but before it is too hot.



FEED QUICKLY

To avoid the carcasses being stolen by larger predators, wild dogs feed quickly and can clean a carcass in less than 10 minutes.

WWDI is a
free resource
for the
Waterberg
community.



About WWDI

A community-based project working to:

Monitor the Packs

WWDI is working to fit all of the wild dog packs with GPS tracking collars that allow WWDI to monitor and track their movements.

Increase Knowledge

WWDI collects accurate data on the packs to increase our understanding of these animals.

Provide Information

WWDI is a community resource, providing information about the packs' movements, diet, behaviours, conflict mitigation strategies, and answering any questions,

Raise Awareness

WWDI promotes the Waterberg Wild Dog population and their Endangered status.

WWDI OPERATES
INDEPENDENTLY
OF OTHER WILD DOG NGOS,
BUT NEVER IN ISOLATION.

WE WORK CLOSELY WITH

In support of



ENDANGERED
WILDLIFE TRUST
Protecting forever, together.



WAG
Wild Dog Advisory Group

For more information

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Waterberg Wild Dogs



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