



MANED WOLF

Even though the maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*) is the **largest canid** of **South America**, it is not closely related to any other canid and is the only species in the **genus Chrysocyon** (meaning "golden dog"). It is the **tallest of the wild canids**; its long legs are likely an adaptation to the **tall grasslands** that form its native habitat. Unlike other large canids, the maned wolf does not form packs, but prefers to **hunt alone**, usually between sundown and midnight. Their hunting technique relies on agility as well as on smartness, as maned wolves rotate their **large ears** to detect prey animals in the grass. Then, they tap the ground with a front foot to flush out the prey and pounce on it. The maned wolf also is known for the **distinctive odor of its territory markings**, which is reminiscent of cannabis or hop and has earned it the nickname of "**skunk wolf.**" Both female and male maned wolves use their urine to communicate, for instance to mark their hunting paths or the places where they have buried hunted prey. The substance responsible for its peculiar smell very likely is a **pyrazine**, which also occurs in both cannabis and hop themselves.



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