

Jackal



Witkwasjakkals *Canis adustus*

Description The colour of this rather scarce jackal is grey or greyish-brown with a white stripe (sometimes a dark stripe) on the flanks. The snout is dark and the belly, throat and insides of the legs are a lighter colour, almost white. The tail is bushy and dark with a white tip. The ears stand erect, the tips being slightly rounded. It is distinguished from the Black-backed Jackal by the white tipped tail and by not having the black and white saddle.

Sexual dimorphism Females are slightly smaller than males.

Habitat They prefer well-watered terrain and avoid arid areas, open grasslands and mountainous areas.

Habits Side-striped Jackals are shy and seldom seen. They usually forage alone, but pairs and females with their young may be seen. Although they are mainly nocturnal they are also active at twilight. During the day they rest in old antbear holes or other shelters. When moving they walk or trot slowly. They are scavengers, but may hunt small animals.

Voice A series of pitiful yelps.

Breeding 2 to 6 young are born from August to January after a gestation period of 2 to 2½ months.