Canines and Felines
Picture Card Set
Springer Spaniel

The English springer spaniel is a medium-sized sporting dog that was bred to hunt and retrieve. It is a friendly, lively, outgoing breed that requires regular exercise and daily grooming. Springers enjoy children and adults alike and do best in a household situation when properly trained and socialized.

Photo courtesy of Cheryl Kusmer
Huskies are not wolves, or part-wolves, nor were they bred from wolves. Huskies are no more closely related to wolves than chihuahuas. The siberian husky is a medium-sized working dog, quick and light on his feet and free and graceful in action. His moderately compact and well furred body, erect ears and brush tail suggest his northern heritage. Siberians, unlike many so-called one-man dogs, have a very strong pack drive. They need social interaction, either human or canine, and if they don’t have that, they are not happy.
Coyote

Narrow muzzled and yellow eyed, the coyote has large triangular ears and a bushy tail. Coyotes are found in all parts of the continental United States as well as Canada and Mexico. They live in a variety of habitats including fields, plains and bushy areas. Coyotes are carnivorous and do most of their hunting alone and at night. Their diet is made up of mammals, but they will also eat birds and snakes.

Photo © http://animals.timduru.org/dirlist/coyote/
Wolf

Social animals, wolves live in a family type unit called a pack ranging in size from 2 to over 20. The pack is generally made up of an adult male and female who have mated and their offspring and descendants. The pack follows a strict hierarchy to help maintain order within the pack. The pack is a very tightly knit, highly organized group. For survival a pack will travel, hunt, protect territory and raise pups together. Many believe that the pack is one of the tightest social organizations known to man.
Dingo

A product of its environment, the dingo is an elegant, medium-sized, light, athletic animal of great agility, speed and stamina. The body carries more length than height. Often living in loose groups, they hold a territory and remain there to live, feed and breed. If large prey such as kangaroos are available, the group will come together to hunt and feed. They hunt alone for smaller prey such as birds or rabbits. Dingoes are more similar to cats than dogs in behavior. In general, dingoes are strongly individualistic, sensitive, highly intelligent and gentle.
Hyena

Despite their reputation, hyenas are actually very social and intelligent hunters, not the filthy scavengers many believe. Perfect opportunists, hyenas will eat whatever entails the least effort and risk. These animals possess the strongest jaws in the canine world. A carnivore, hyenas eat vertebrates of all kinds, especially hoofed mammals; but seldom invertebrates, fruits, or vegetables. A hyena clan is a stable community of related females, among which unrelated males reside for varying periods. Females are bigger than males and dominate them.
Regarded as the embodiment of cunning, the red fox is extremely cautious and capable of learning from experience. The hearing of the Red Fox differs from that of most mammals. Most sensitive to low-frequency sounds, the fox listens for the underground digging, gnawing, and rustling of small mammals. When it hears such sounds, it frantically digs into the soil or snow to capture the animal. It hunts larger quarry, such as rabbits, by moving in as close as possible, then attempts to run the prey down when it bolts.
These cats explored the world with the Vikings, protecting the grain stores on land and sea. However, they are among the most people-oriented cats. In the spring they take off their “winter underwear,” the downy undercoat, that provides warmth, and the long non-tangling outer guard hairs that act as protection from rain and snow. The tail is always magnificent, being as much as 12 inches or more when fanned. However, the most impressive part of the coat is the mane. On a fully mature cat the mane is long, dense and nothing less than spectacular.

Photo courtesy of Cheryl Kusmer
Domestic Long Hair Cat

Like their wild counterparts, these pets have bodies created for stealth and stalking and mouths designed for hunting! Skin is loose to minimize damage from scratches and bites. Claws are retractable. Sight and hearing are the most highly developed of all the carnivores. Teeth are perfectly placed for piercing, holding and slicing prey. Their eyes are front and center to allow maximum vision when tracking. Ears pivot to detect the sounds of tiny creatures moving in their hunting territory; even field mice crossing grass! Cats whether big or small are hunting machines!
The most vocal of the domestic cats, Siamese are muscular, athletic and mischievous. Their deep blue eyes are slanted, adding to their intriguing personality. Like all felines, they have both flexible ankles and spines which allow them to land on their feet. To share your home with a Siamese is to be truly owned by a pet.
While most cats are solitary, this cat lives in groups of 3 to 30 called prides, making them the most sociable of the cat family. The female lioness is responsible for child care and hunting. Maned males protect the pride. Daughters become part of the existing pride, but male cubs are not welcome and must seek other areas to live! Suitable habitats include grassy plains, savannas, arid woodlands and semi desert areas. Lions live in Africa from south of the Sahara Desert to Botswana and in western India.
Tiger

Like all wild cats, the coat color camouflages the tiger while hunting. Each tiger's stripe pattern, like a human fingerprint, is unique. The largest of the big cats, tigers are territorial and solitary hunters who inhabit the forests, mangrove swamps, of many countries of south Asia. They establish territories in Siberia as well as the snow covered taiga at the foot of the Himalayan Mountains. They usually hunt in the dawn hours and at twilight, frequently hiding in the vegetation around watering holes.
Closely related to the lynx, these small wild cats live in forests, swamps, mountains, prairies and deserts from southern Canada to central Mexico. Generally nocturnal, their hours of peak activity are dawn and dusk. They are excellent climbers and swimmers. These fast, solitary carnivorous hunters eat small mammals; rabbits, hares, rodents, foxes and weasels. Bobcats stalk their prey and then pounce on it. Conversely, bobcats are preyed upon by cougars, coyotes, wolves, owls, and, most seriously, people.
Snow Leopard

Snow leopards can neither purr like the small cats nor roar like the big cats. Their voice can be likened to the happy chuffing sound made by tigers in certain situations. Their range is the unfriendly climate of Central Asia where they occupy cliffs with moderately to very broken terrain, rocky outcrops and ravines. Their short forelimbs and long hind limbs provide increased agility in the steep and rugged habitat. Large paws help them walk on snow, and a well-developed chest and enlarged nasal cavity are adaptations to the cold thin air of their high altitude homes.

Photo By Ron Singer, images.fws.gov
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