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Geographical range

## Amazing Species: Bush Dog

The **Bush Dog**, *Speothos venaticus*, is listed as 'Near Threatened' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is a small, rarely seen canid with a broad distribution in both Central and South America. Despite this immense range across a variety of habitat types, this is a poorly understood species due to its overall rarity and elusive nature.

Unlike other canids, the Bush Dog is a social animal living in groups of varying size. It is highly carnivorous and able to successfully hunt both small and large prey (from rats to deer). Bush Dogs continue to be threatened by habitat destruction and diseases and parasites introduced through contact with feral and hunting dogs – the latter being a particular problem since Bush Dogs are found outside of protected areas. This risk is further compounded by their sociality because exposure can rapidly spread through an entire group.

Public education campaigns and additional field data are essential for the long-term survival of the Bush Dog. Understanding how the ecological requirements of this species shift across habitats is important for developing regional conservation plans.

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