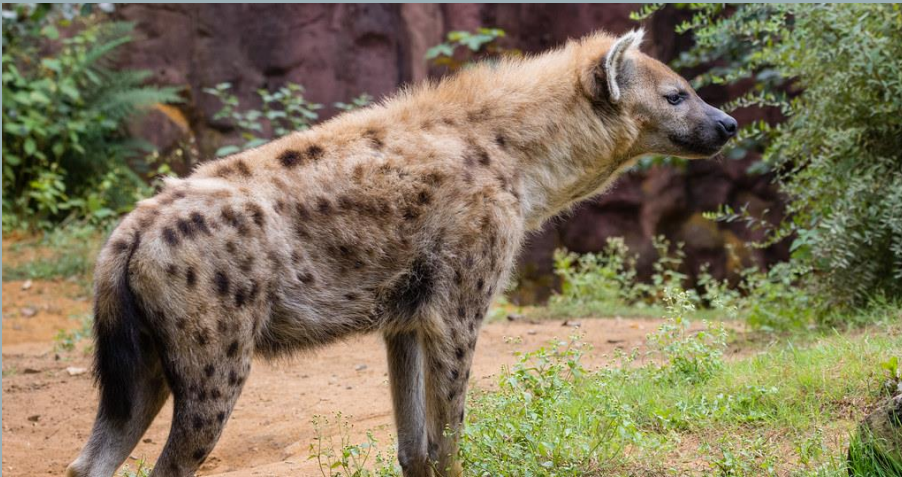


# MEET THE MISUNDERSTOOD LAUGHING PREDATOR: THE SPOTTED HYENA

*CROCUTA CROCUTA*

## Fun Facts

- Diet: Carnivorous
- Most active at night (nocturnal)
- Hunt in groups called mobs
- Strong bite and powerful jaws
- Know for their laugh and spotted fur
- Live in large communities led by females



## The Misconception

One of Africa's fiercest predators often gets a bad rap as being cowardly, foolish, or a thief and is often seen as the opposite of its well-respected counterpart, the African lion (*Panthera leo*).

Hyena habitat in red



Baby hyenas are called cubs



## The Truth

- The spotted hyena and lion occupy the same habitat and share the same needs and because of this, they can often compete for resources.
- Both lions and hyenas will steal food from each other or from other African predators.
- Hyenas laugh to communicate with each other, not because they think something funny.