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DINGO CHARACTERISTICS AND BIOLOGY

General descriptors for dingoes include erect ears, a bushy tail and ginger/tan, black and tan, black or white coloured coats. White points may be present on some of the paws and the tail tip, but not always. Dingo × domestic dog hybrids were originally described as having dingo-like appearance but coat colour may vary to brindle or patchy; however, there were reports that stated some dingoes with ‘pure’ skull allometry may also be ginger with white spots, patchy ginger and white, or brindle. Most researchers and members of the public believe that these colours, along with sable and patchy black and white, are indicative of hybridisation; but the original dingo hybridisation experiments showed that sable colours were no indication of dog ancestry and reported observations of black and white dingoes from settlers in Western Australia during the mid-1800s.

Including data on dingoes collected from the Victorian Highlands, Eastern Highlands of Victoria, central Australia, Kakadu National Park and the Blue Mountains, compiled average measurements of dingoes show that their head length is 22 cm, ear length is 10 cm, shoulder height is 57 cm, hindfoot length is 19 cm, tail length is 33 cm, total length is 126 cm, and