

# CANID news

Volume 2026 | Issue 1



An Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*) pack gathers for a bit of socialising as the sun sets in the Bale Mountains.  
© Adbi Samune EWCP



# FOREWORD

Dear Canid enthusiasts

Canid News is officially back! and is adopting a new look designed by Raimundo and Shlomo. In this volume, you will find a few striking examples of the variety of trophic interactions in wildlife communities involving canids. Canids fascinate with their wide adaptability, behavioural and ecological flexibility. They keep surprising us.

For instance, wolves and golden jackals feeding side by side in a food rich environment with dumped livestock carcasses in Greece, a red fox preying on a wolf pup in Italy, a wild boar displacing a pack of wolves from a carcass. These observations challenge the textbook relationship between top predators, mesopredators, and prey species. We are reminded that canids are adaptive in their behaviour, can assess risks and benefits, and can respond to environmental conditions with ecology flexibility.

There are two Canid conferences highlighted that invite you to share your experiences and learn from each other: the 2026 International Wolf Symposium and the 4th International Jackal Symposium. Both are taking place next October and registration is now open.

Canid News relies on your canid updates for making this newsletter a lively platform of exchange. Do not hesitate to submit your canid related content, big or small, using the [Canid News Content Submission Form](#).

Lastly, a brief update from the co-chairs: With the start of the new IUCN Quadrennium (2026-2029) we are currently appointing the group membership and reviewing the leadership team. More to follow soon.

We wish you all a good reading!

Claudio & Geraldine

Claudio Sillero & Geraldine Werhahn  
Co-Chairs



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<https://www.canids.org/canidnews/2026-1.pdf>  
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# JACKALS AMONG WOLVES

## **Wolves and jackals: rivals by nature, or reluctant table mates?**

Classic ecology predicts that apex predators like the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) suppress smaller carnivores. Yet a long-term study in Greece reveals a more flexible relationship with the golden jackal (*Canis aureus*), driven by human-provided food.

Across rural areas, livestock carcasses left in the open create a substantial food subsidy. From 2018 to 2024, researchers recorded over 1,400 carcasses and thousands of wolf and jackal detections using thermal imaging and camera traps, revealing unexpected patterns of coexistence.

### **Bigger carcasses, greater tolerance**

Wolves and jackals were frequently observed together, sometimes feeding side by side. Co-feeding was most common at large carcasses (>100 kg), where abundant food reduced the benefits of aggression. Wolves were usually solitary, while jackals formed larger groups, yet close-range feeding was common.

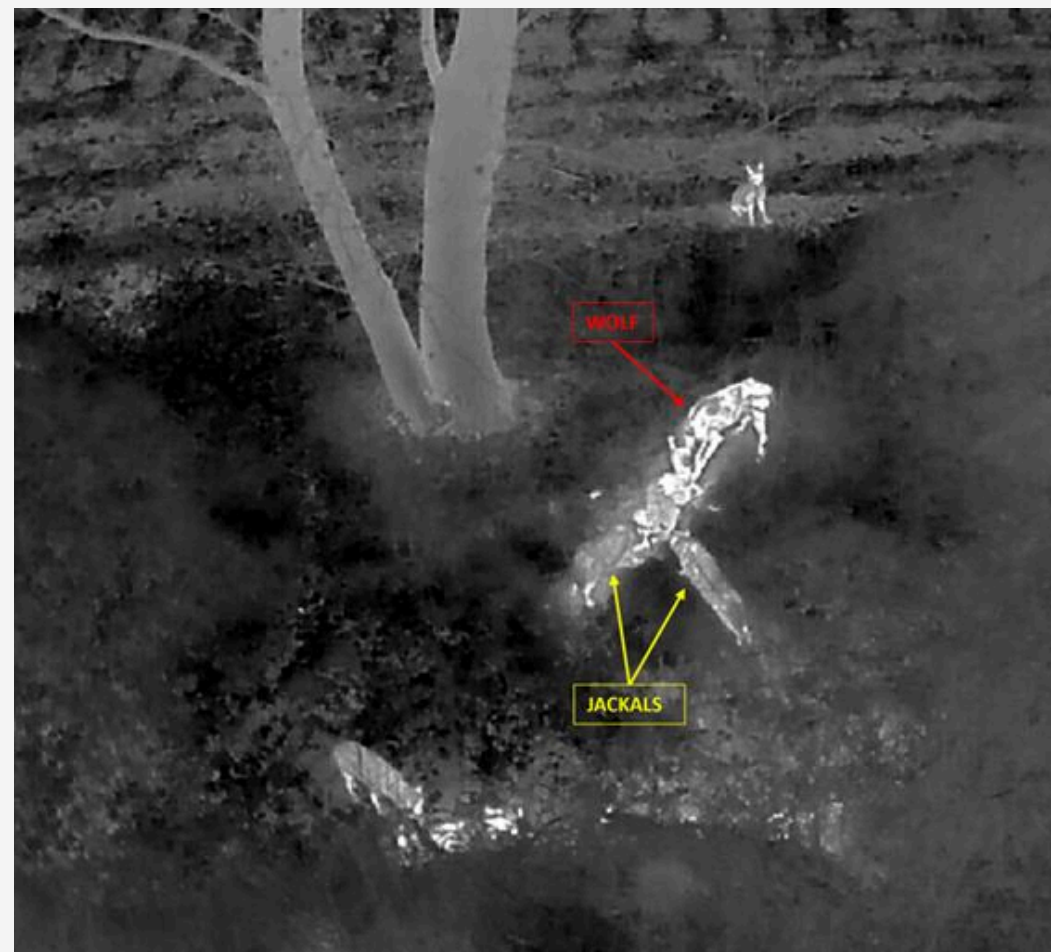
### **Competition has not disappeared**

Conflict still occurred. In several cases, large jackal groups displaced lone wolves, and one incident of wolf predation on a jackal was recorded. The traditional hierarchy remains, but is less rigid than expected.

### **A human-shaped coexistence**

These findings show that anthropogenic food subsidies can reshape carnivore interactions, reducing competition and promoting temporary coexistence. Wolf–jackal dynamics appear context-dependent rather than strictly hierarchical.

As carnivores increasingly share human-dominated landscapes, understanding these shifts is essential. Sometimes, coexistence begins with shared resources.



*Tolerance in action:* a single wolf shares a carcass with two jackals, feeding almost nose-to-nose. A third jackal feeds nearby, while a fourth waits behind the wolf. © Theodoros Kominos.

Kominos T, Galanaki A, Naziridis T, Gasteratos I, Giannatos G, Chylarecki P, Bogdanowicz W. 2026. Jackals among wolves: balancing between competition and tolerance. *Proc. R. Soc. B* 293: 20252832. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2025.2832>

# RED FOX PREDATION ON WOLF PUP

Encounters between carnivores are often difficult to observe directly, especially when they involve rare or unexpected behaviours. In May 2025, while monitoring a wolf den in central Italy, Buelli et al. recorded what appears to be the first video-documented case of a red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) attacking and likely preying upon a gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) pup.

The observation took place in the Castelporziano Presidential Estate, a protected area on the Tyrrhenian coast near Rome that was recolonized by wolves in 2016 and hosts a dense community of wild ungulates. As part of a study focused on wolf movement ecology, GPS data from collared individuals revealed repeated use of a forested area, indicating denning activity. The authors deployed camera traps around the den that revealed the presence of two wolf pups.

Footage showed a red fox repeatedly moving around and exploring the den entrance over multiple visits. During the night of 16 May, when no adult wolves were present nearby, the fox entered the den cavity and dragged a live pup (approximately one month old) outside; the pup briefly escaped and re-entered the den. Moments later, the fox re-entered the den and captured a pup dragging it outside, after which the video recording stopped (Fig. 1 and <https://doi.org/10.1093/cz/zoag009>).

Following the event, only one pup was detected despite intensive camera-trap monitoring, supporting the predation hypothesis. After the event, camera traps also recorded subsequent adult wolf activity around the den. The pack moved to a new location shortly afterward, and the surviving pup was repeatedly observed over the following months.

Although foxes typically coexist with wolves and may even benefit from carrion availability generated by wolf predation, direct antagonistic interactions between the two species are extremely rare. This case highlights the opportunistic feeding behaviour of red foxes and suggests that even mesocarnivores may occasionally influence wolf pup survival. More broadly, it underscores the importance of field-based monitoring in capturing rare behavioural events that would otherwise remain undetected and helps refine our understanding of carnivore interactions.

→ Camera-trap sequence showing a red fox approaching a wolf den and capturing a pup in May 2025 in the Castelporziano Presidential Estate, central Italy. For the full video please see the online version of the published article: <https://doi.org/10.1093/cz/zoag009>.

Contributed by Celeste Buelli



# WOLVES DISPLACED FROM CARCASS BY WILD BOAR

Grey wolves (*Canis lupus*) are typically the dominant predators in their ecosystems, with wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) among their key prey. But in the Golan Heights, a camera trap captured a striking reversal of roles.

At a carcass used by a wolf pack, a single wild boar approached and displaced the wolves, taking control of the resource. Rather than escalating the encounter, the wolves yielded and withdrew.

Such interactions are rarely documented and highlight the flexibility of wolf behavior when faced with unexpected competition. While wolves often dominate scavenging sites, they may also assess risk and avoid escalation when the costs outweigh the benefits.

In systems like the Golan Heights, where wolves occur at high densities and carcasses are relatively common, these encounters may play a role in shaping foraging decisions and energy balance. Observations like this offer a reminder that even apex predators operate within dynamic and context-dependent interactions, where dominance is not always absolute.

*Contributed by Clotilde Gavagnach*



Wild boar displacing wolves from a carcass in the Golan Heights.

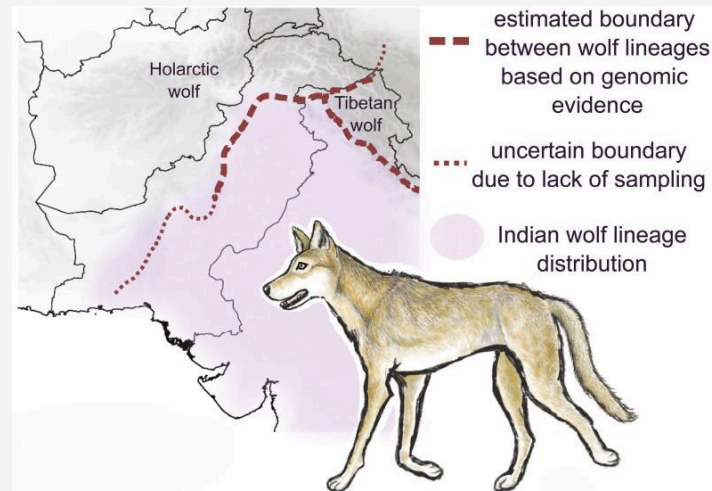
# THE PAKISTAN WOLF PROJECT

The **Pakistan Wolf Project** aims to study and conserve grey wolves (*Canis lupus*) in Pakistan by investigating their ecology, genetics, and interactions with people. A central goal is to clarify the distribution of the Indian wolf (*C. l. pallipes*), following recent findings that Pakistan is a global hotspot for wolf diversity.

Grey wolves comprise three major genetic lineages: the widespread Holarctic wolf, the Himalayan (Tibetan) wolf (*C. l. chanco*), and the Indian wolf, the most ancient lineage, restricted to the plains and grasslands of the subcontinent. Pakistan represents a unique contact zone where these lineages meet, particularly around Kashmir, though large regions remain poorly sampled.

Wolves in Pakistan face multiple threats, including habitat loss, human–wildlife conflict, poaching, and hybridization with free-ranging dogs. Addressing these challenges requires stronger ecological and genetic data to guide conservation.

Since late 2024, the project has conducted fieldwork across southern Pakistan, documenting wolf presence, livestock depredation, and local knowledge while building partnerships with provincial wildlife departments.



Hennelly et al (2024), Genomic analysis of wolves from Pakistan clarifies boundaries among three divergent wolf lineages, *Journal of Heredity*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jhered/esad066>

Contributed by Omar Khayam

The project uses **A three-pronged approach** based on non-invasive methods:

1. Camera trapping to assess distribution and ecology
2. Genetic sampling to identify lineages and connectivity
3. Community interviews to document conflict and perceptions

Initial results include photographic records of wolves and genetic samples from previously unsampled regions, now under analysis. Interviews in Kirthar National Park indicate repeated depredation events, though attribution to wolves remains uncertain.

## A priority for conservation

Southern Pakistan remains one of the least studied regions for wolf ecology. With as few as ~42 breeding pairs of Indian wolves estimated in the country, confirming lineage identity and protecting core habitats is critical.

By combining field data with local knowledge, the Pakistan Wolf Project aims to support science-based conservation and informed coexistence strategies in this understudied region.

Follow our progress, news and updates on Instagram: [@pakistanwolfproject](https://www.instagram.com/pakistanwolfproject)

# THE CARNIVORE CONSERVATION COMPENDIUM

“Lions & tigers & bears, oh my!” [“The Wizard of Oz”]

With that global perspective on the furry fanged ones, let me introduce you to the [Carnivore Conservation Compendium](#). It is an online news platform committed to sharing the latest media coverage, research papers, thought pieces, interviews, and imagery regarding carnivores and their conservation around the globe.

We focus on wild terrestrial mammalian carnivores, tracking their conservation within five regions of the world (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America) through four themes or subject matters (science, policy, practice, and commentary).



## Weekly News Digest

- December 13 thru December 21, 2025 -



African wild dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) ... see story below titled "Kenyan wildlife census reveals conservation wins and losses."  
[Photo by Tom Skeele, Carnivore Conservation Compendium]

The Carnivore Conservation Compendium has three main features:

- Website: your one stop feeding frenzy of the latest news on carnivores and their conservation from around the globe, where we profile 120+ species.
- Weekly News Digest: where we share all the "stories" we could find about carnivores from around the globe for the preceding week. You can find [all previous editions here](#).
- Social Media Posts: we also share two-to-four other posts a week on the Compendium's [website](#) and social media platforms ([Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)), which are either deeper dives into a story in the weekly News Digest or another news article, podcast, or natural history story.

To receive the weekly News Digest, sign up at the bottom of the [website's homepage](#).

To follow us on social media, please use the links to Facebook and LinkedIn above

*Contributed by [Tom Skeele](#)*

# AI-FAKED ARCTIC FOX STUDY

Dear Canid Colleagues,

In December 2025, an article entitled “Behavioral adaptations of the Arctic fox, *Vulpes lagopus*, in response to climate change” (Narbayev et al. 2024) began showing up in Google Scholar searches. Published in the Caspian Journal of Environmental Sciences (CJES), the article reported on a 3-year study that claimed to have radio-collared 60 foxes, deployed 100 camera traps, performed genetic analyses, and conducted in-person year-round observations on a variety of fox behaviors across 8,000km<sup>2</sup> in one of Alaska’s largest and most remote wilderness regions.

Such a Herculean field effort would represent an impressive logistical feat, and potentially provide a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the species, were it not for one thing: the study was faked. The paper, which appears to have been AI-generated, summarized work that never occurred. While slightly more sophisticated than some AI products, rudimentary inspection revealed the paper to display multiple hallmarks of an AI-fake including lack of methodological or analytical detail, too-perfect results, and a long list of authors from disciplines completely unrelated to the topics at hand. An inquiry to the Alaska Dept of Fish and Game, the USFWS, and regional biologists confirmed that no such study was ever proposed, permitted, or took place.

Shortly after the paper’s discovery on Google Scholar, the matter was brought to the attention of the Arctic fox research community for discussion. The issue of AI-faked science is not new; however, this is the first instance of which we are aware of a fake project involving a species that is intensively studied by a small, close-knit research community. While a few initially voiced skepticism about devoting time or energy to tackling the issue, we soon reached a consensus that, as a small, well-connected group, we were in a unique position to rapidly detect and expose a fake within our Arctic fox research network. We also are highly motivated to combat it in order that others, who may not be as familiar with Arctic fox, do not unwittingly incorporate the falsified results into their own work.

The primary goal is to have the paper retracted as soon as possible. To that end, our group has written to CJES’ editor-in-chief bringing the issue to his attention. We have filed a fraud report with UNESCO because two of the authors list themselves as UNESCO Chairs. We are in the process of taking additional actions, such as contacting the indexing databases (Scopus, DOAJ) as well as relevant authorities at the authors’ institutions to alert them of this fraudulent data reporting and ethical/scientific misconduct.

While we concede that our actions against one publication cannot stop the widespread pollution of AI-faked science, we maintain that, by acting quickly and collectively, we can make a small difference for one small canid. We are in the process of chronicling the event timeline, actions, and responses which will be summarized in a case study once the ultimate outcome is known in the hopes that our experience may help guide future efforts.

Our purpose here is to inform the larger canid community of this incident and encourage similar vigilance and communication in recognizing and reporting fake studies, because dissemination of fake science has the potential to negatively impact genuine research and conservation efforts. By keeping ourselves and one another informed, we seek to help minimize the damage caused by AI-faked science.

(We are purposely refraining from providing a formal citation of the fake Arctic fox paper in question because we do not want to create a legitimate citation of the fake work.)

*Contributed by Paula A. White*

# CALL FOR SAMPLES: GLOBAL EFFORT TO UNCOVER THE GENETICS OF CANID BODY SIZE

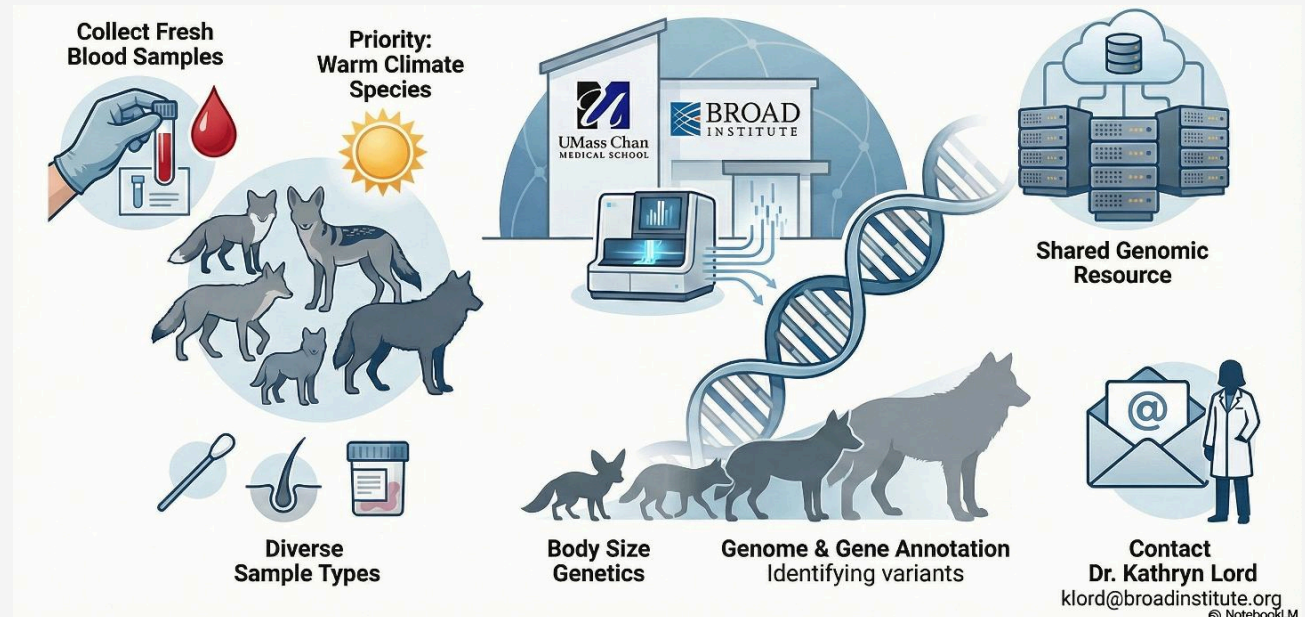
The Karlsson Lab (<https://karlssonlab.org>) (of The University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard) is currently working on a research project to determine the causal genetic variants for body size in canids.

We are looking for potential participants who could collect a fresh blood sample; we will provide collection tubes with preserving reagent.

Additionally, we are interested in collecting other sample types from members of the genus *Canis*, particularly those from warmer climates. Our goal is to generate genome and gene annotations for these species, and ultimately create a shared resource for the Canid research community.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Dr. Kathryn Lord at [klord@broadinstitute.org](mailto:klord@broadinstitute.org).

*Contributed by [Kathryn Lord](#)*



# THE 2026 INTERNATIONAL WOLF SYMPOSIUM

Join the pack this October in Minnesota, USA for the 2026 International Wolf Symposium, where the world's leading voices in wolf research and conservation converge. Hosted by the International Wolf Center, this signature event brings together biologists, wildlife managers, educators, Tribal leaders, conservationists, and wolf supporters for four dynamic days of discovery, collaboration, and community.

The 2026 symposium comes at a pivotal time for wolves, both in North America and globally. Registration is open, and this year's program features renowned speakers and in-depth discussions on the latest challenges and advances in wolf research. Highlights include sessions on Colorado's wolf reintroduction, the evolving role of the U.S. Endangered Species Act, and a special session focused on Indigenous perspectives on wolf recovery. The symposium is designed not only to share new knowledge but also to spark meaningful conversations and collaborative solutions for the challenges facing wolves today.



Diane Boyd at a past symposium. © Grant Spickelmier



David Mech at a past symposium. © Grant Spickelmier

For those eager to contribute to the conversation, the Symposium Program Committee invites you to submit an abstract for an oral presentation, poster, or workshop. Share your latest research, innovative approaches, or outreach efforts with an international audience passionate about wolves. Abstracts are welcome in the following categories:

- Wolf Management and Policy
- Wolf Ecology, Behavior and Genetics
- Wolf–Human Conflict and Coexistence
- Communication, Education and Outreach

For complete submission details and guidelines, visit [symposium.wolf.org](https://symposium.wolf.org).

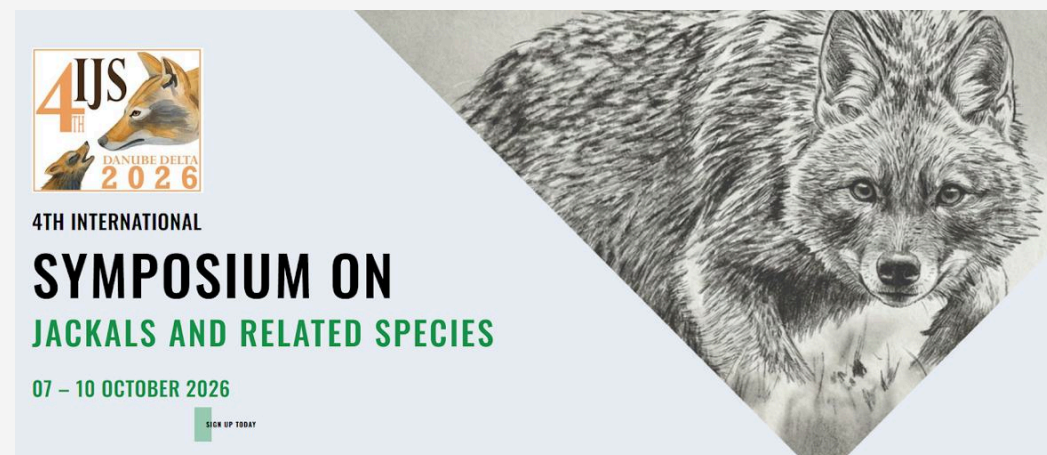
The deadline for abstract submissions is April 29, 2026. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by June 17, 2026.

Please visit [symposium.wolf.org](https://symposium.wolf.org) for more details and to register.

# THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL JACKAL SYMPOSIUM (4IJS)

Join the global canid community this October in Tulcea, Romania, for the **4th International Jackal and Related Species Symposium (4IJS)**, taking place from **October 7–10, 2026** in the heart of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve.

Hosted by the Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development, 4IJS will bring together researchers, conservationists, wildlife managers, and practitioners to share the latest advances in jackal ecology, behavior, and management. With golden jackals continuing to expand across Europe and beyond, the symposium offers a timely platform for exchanging knowledge and addressing emerging challenges.



Ahead of the main event, participants can attend a two-day master class (October 5–6) on **bioacoustic monitoring**, focused on jackal soundscapes and advanced techniques for species identification and ecological research.

The symposium will feature plenary talks, contributed presentations, and opportunities to connect with colleagues working on jackals and related species across diverse systems.

 Abstract submission deadline: May 10, 2026

 Location: Tulcea, Romania (Hotel Delta)

Whether you are studying jackals, managing expanding populations, or interested in canid ecology more broadly, 4IJS offers a unique opportunity to engage with a growing international network.

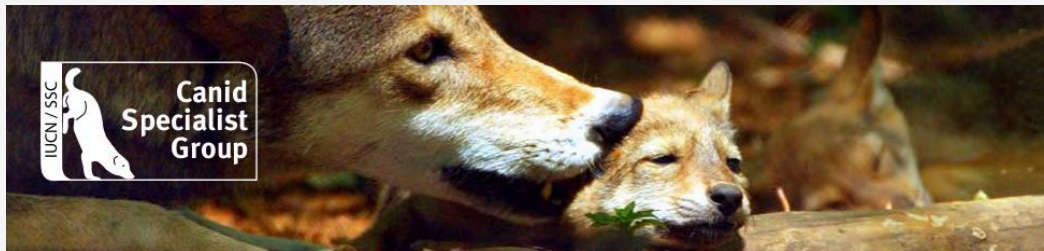
For more details: <https://www.jackalecology.eu/4ijs-news-corner>

# About the IUCN SSC Canid Specialist Group

The IUCN Species Survival Commission Canid Specialist Group (CSG) is a global network of researchers, conservation practitioners, and wildlife managers dedicated to the study and conservation of wild canids.

Our mission is to promote the conservation of all canid species by advancing scientific knowledge, supporting evidence-based management, and fostering collaboration across regions and disciplines. We work to assess the conservation status of canids, identify threats, and develop strategies that support their long-term persistence in a rapidly changing world.

The CSG also serves as a platform for communication and exchange within the global canid community, connecting experts and practitioners working across diverse ecological and cultural landscapes.



## Get involved

We welcome contributions from researchers, conservationists, students, and canid enthusiasts worldwide.

Submit content to Canid News [here](#)  
Website: <https://www.canids.org/>  
Contact: [canids@biology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:canids@biology.ox.ac.uk)

## Follow the Canid Specialist Group

Stay up to date with canid research, conservation news, and opportunities:

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 Instagram: [@IUCNcanidSG](#)

 X / Twitter: [@WildCanids](#)