

Nyctereutes procyonoides



Taxon	Family / Order / Class / Phylum
<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i> Gray, 1834	Canidae / Carnivora / Mammalia / Chordata

COMMON NAMES (English only)

Raccoon dog

SYNONYMS

Canis procyonoides Gray, 1834

SHORT DESCRIPTION

A fox-sized mammal with short legs and tail and a typical black face with long hair on cheeks. This omnivorous carnivore is the only canid with winter lethargy.

BIOLOGY/ECOLOGY

Dispersal mechanisms

Most juveniles disperse at 4-5 months of age (August-October). Average dispersal distance does not exceed 20 km (maximum >150km). Sizes of home ranges are habitat dependent and range usually from 150 to 700 ha.

Reproduction

Raccoon dogs achieve sexual maturity at 9-11 months with the main mating season in March. The gestation period is 9 weeks, and cubs are born from April to June. The mean litter size in Europe (subspecies *ussuriensis*) is 7 – 9 (max 16), higher than in the native range. Proportion of breeding females in the population averages 80%.

Known predators/herbivores

The Wolf (*Canis lupus*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), dog (*Canis familiaris*), lynx (*Lynx lynx*) and large predatory birds are predators mainly of young animals.

Resistant stages (seeds, spores etc.)

HABITAT

Native (EUNIS code)

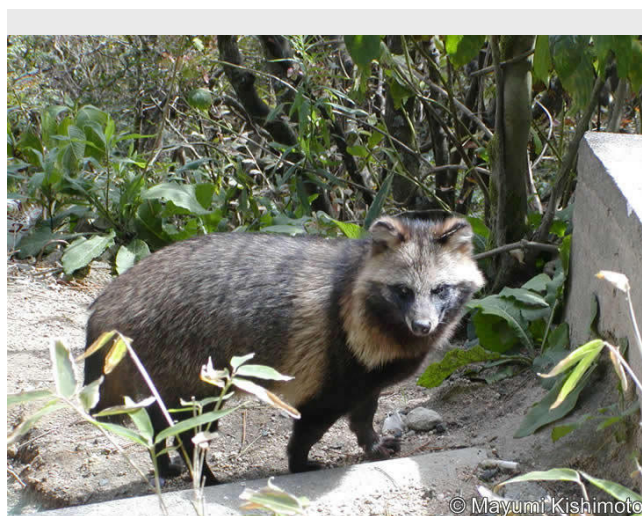
B: Coastal habitats, G: Woodland and forest habitats and other wooded land, I: Regularly or recently cultivated agricultural, horticultural and domestic habitats, X8: Rural mosaics, consisting of woods, hedges, pastures and crops, J: Constructed, industrial and other artificial habitats.

Habitat occupied in invaded range (EUNIS code)

C3: Littoral zone of inland surface waterbodies, D: Mire, bog and fen habitats; E: Grassland and tall forb habitats, F4: Temperate shrub heathland, G: Woodland and forest habitats and other wooded land, I: Regularly or recently cultivated agricultural, horticultural and domestic habitats, X8: Rural mosaics, consisting of woods, hedges, pastures and crops

Habitat requirements

Raccoon dogs often live near water and prefer moist forests with abundant undergrowth. The habitat is dependent on food availability, in autumn especially fruits and berries. Northern range is limited by annual mean temperature below 0°C, a snow cover of 800mm, the duration of the snow cover of 175 days and length of growing season of 135 days.



Nyctereutes procyonoides is fox-sized carnivore introduced from eastern Asia.

Photo: Mayumi Kishimoto

DISTRIBUTION

Native Range

Large parts of China, north-east Indochina, Korea, eastern Siberia (Amur and Ussuri regions), Mongolia and Japan

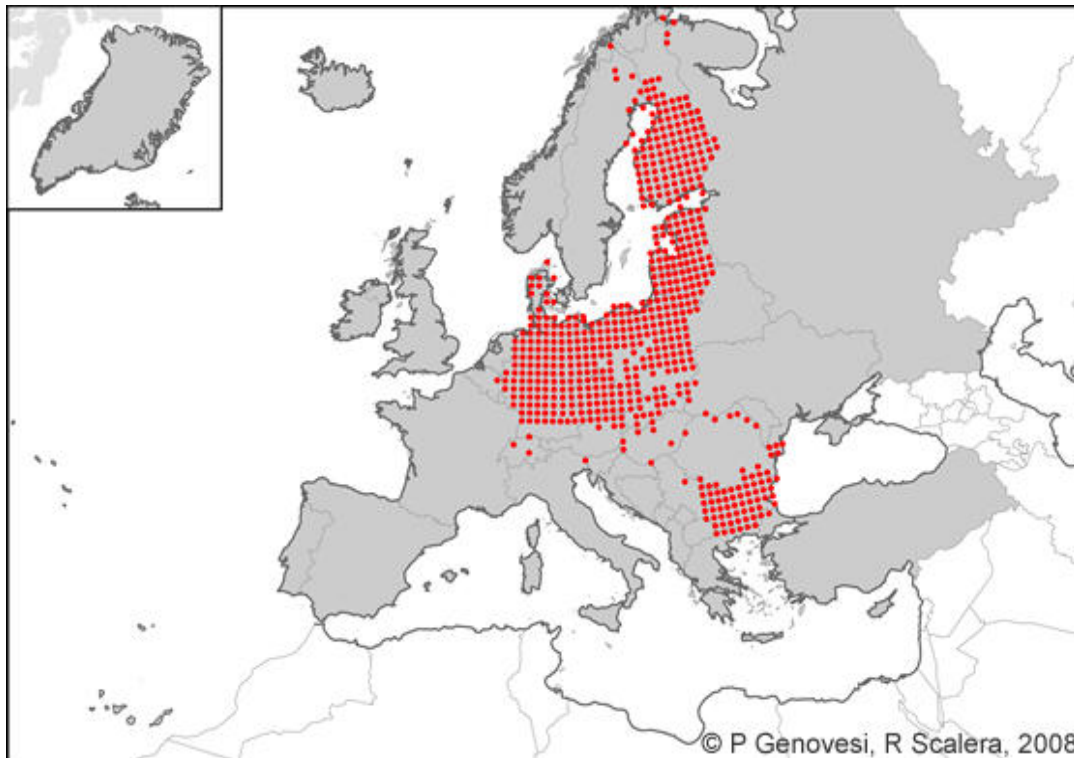
Known Introduced Range

Eastern and Central Europe, including: Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Western Russia, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine)




Trend

There are trends of range expansion towards South and Western Europe. It is expected that the raccoon dog will expand its range in the already invaded countries very quickly.

MAP (European distribution)



Legend

	Known in country		Known in CGRS square		Known in sea
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INTRODUCTION PATHWAY

In eastern parts of its invaded range there were several intentional introductions. From these starting points the raccoon dog migrated eastwards into new areas. In some regions animals escaped from fur farms.

IMPACT

Ecosystem Impact

The suspected impacts, especially on islands, are predation on birds and amphibians with resulting decreased nesting success and/or decreased population sizes. There may be competition for food and den sites with the raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), badger (*Meles meles*) or the red fox (*V. vulpes*).

Health and Social Impact

The raccoon dog is one of the main vectors of rabies in Europe and this species is an important vector of sarcoptic mange, the fox tapeworm (*Echinococcus multilocularis*) and trichinellosis.

Economic Impact

Costs caused by the raccoon dog as vector of rabies and the fox tapeworm etc. In Finland, raccoon dogs are still hunted for their fur. Hunting has been increasing in recent years.

MANAGEMENT

Prevention

Management plans should focus on communication programs and diminishing conflict, especially in protected and/or isolated areas (islands). It is important to avoid providing freely available food on compost piles or from pet feeding places.

Mechanical

There is no possibility of eradicating the raccoon dog from the wild. Like other canids, the raccoon dog tends to increase litter size with increased hunting pressure.

Chemical

Unknown.

Biological

Unknown.

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