

Interesting Facts:

While dingoes are not a pack animal, they have a complex family group which consists of the Alpha Male and Female (parents, who have bonded for life), their offspring from previous years, and new pups. As the pups grow up they become part of a loose hierarchy which determines the pecking order of the group.

How Dingoes Raise Their Young:

Breeding Season on Fraser Island generally commences in May, and this is the time that existing bonded pairs mate, or new dingoes meet and form bonds. Gestation is 63 days and during this time the dingo family searches out a safe area for a den and begins to cache food for the new pups. Pups are usually whelped (born) in mid July. During the first three weeks the alpha female stays at the den and the other group members provision her by regurgitating food for her or delivering carcasses to her. The role of the whole family is vital at this time, and subsequent stages of raising the pups.

As the pups grow older the mother leaves the den and goes hunting. Alloparental helpers (other members of the family) take sentry duty at the den and watch over the pups. The whole group hunts and provisions the puppies by regurgitating food for them. The mother continues to nurse for up to 3 months, and may regurgitate for pups until they are 6 months old.

The Role of the Dingo:

The dingo is Australia's top-end carnivore predator and as such plays a keystone role in maintaining our ecosystem. The dingo has been in Australia for approximately 5,000 years. The dingo is not a dog, even though it looks like one. Dingoes have different DNA to dogs, different skull morphology, and different breeding cycles. They also do not bark.

The Diet of the Dingo:

On the Island, the main food source for dingoes is bandicoots, echidnas, and goannas as well as other small mammals. Dingoes are also scavengers, and take advantage of food that is left behind by people.

Dingoes are very good at fishing and enjoy chasing birds. While known as a carnivore, the dingo is actually omnivorous, meaning that it enjoys a variety of nuts, seeds and berries that it finds along the scrub behind the beach.

Why are Dingoes on the Beach?

Beaches are the outlying margins of the dingoes' territories. An important part of a dingo's life is to patrol its territorial boundary each day, to scent-mark the border so that other animals know that this area is inhabited and taken. While doing so the dingo also searches for carrion such as beached turtle, dolphin, or dugong.



SAVE FRASER ISLAND DINGOES Inc
50 Old Maryborough Road Pialba
Hervey Bay QLD 4655
Ph: (07) 41241979 Fax: (07) 41243623
savefraserislanddingoes@hotmail.com
FACE BOOK: 'save fraser island dingoes'
www.fraserislandfootprints.com

Disclaimer:

Save Fraser Island Dingoes Inc EDUCATIONAL STUDY MATERIAL has been compiled from lengthy, close study of the Fraser Island Dingo, but is distributed as a voluntary educational tool only and is not intended to replace DERM literature. The information on this brochure is provided without any express or implied warranty. SFID Inc accepts no liability for the results of any action taken on the basis of information on this brochure. This brochure is not to be reproduced or copied without permission from SFID.

How a dingo communicates with its body posture



The Dingo is a wild animal with natural instincts and like any wild animal has the potential to be harmful to humans. Each animal is an individual with its own traits exactly as each visitor to the Island brings their own individual human traits.

As a tourist you have freely entered the realm of the dingo, and as such take responsibility upon yourself to interact with the island's fauna in an appropriate manner. The need for self awareness and child awareness cannot be over emphasized.



Dingo Behaviour Reference Sheet

Wolf Body Posture sketches from:
Www.timberwolfinformation.org
By Karyln Atkinson Berg
Photographs: Jennifer Parkhurst

Dingoes are shy but curious animals, and during certain times of the year, juvenile dingoes come out into the open to explore their new world. Juvenile dingo play behaviour can be very boisterous, and these youngsters do not necessarily understand that we are not allowed to play with them. To instigate play with each other, pups play-bow, rush at each other, lunge, chase and ambush each other – and enjoy biting each other's ankles. Some forms of play can seem aggressive – but dingoes know how hard to bite each other.



These dingoes look angry but they are simply playing

If a dingo approaches you for play, simply do nothing. Stand still. If you have children, gather them to you and remain quiet and calm. A dingo will not attack unless provoked. A playful dingo will chase you if you run, especially if you run into water. If you ignore the animal, it will get bored and lie down or walk away. Please see the following sketches and photographs for guidelines on dingo body language.



This body posture shows the dingo feels defensive or threatened: teeth bared, hackles up, ears back. *This is not an attack! Stand still and quiet; do not wave arms around; if required, slowly back away.*



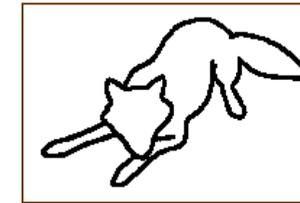
This body posture shows the dingo is playing. *Don't run, stay calm and enjoy watching the display of play.*



This body posture shows that the dingo lying down is being Submissive. *Don't run, stay calm.*



This body posture is a position of play-fighting, expressing dominance with the top dingo pinning the other to the ground. *Don't run, stay calm.*



This body posture shows that the dingo is simply playing, crouching and lunging. *This is not an attack!* The photos below also demonstrate playful approaches to humans. Ears forward, tail wagging, mouth open in a 'smile'.

Don't respond, run, or wave your arms; stand still and quiet



Interacting with dingoes:

The best reason not to feed or encourage dingoes is that if DERM sees a particular dingo interacting with people on too many occasions, it becomes classified as a 'problem animal'. Problem animals have reports made against them, and can eventually be destroyed. So for the sake of the dingoes on Fraser Island, enjoy seeing them in the wild, take as many photos as you like, enjoy their company at your campsite, but don't encourage them to come near you or your tent or vehicle.

The tourist below is lying down to get a good photo. This is not appropriate behaviour.

