Data Article

Species characteristics of felids and canids, and the number of articles published for each species between 2013 and 2017

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ABSTRACT

The data presented are related to the research article entitled “Biases in wildlife and conservation research, using felids and canids as a case study” available at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2018.e00423. This data article lists species characteristics of two families of the order Carnivora, the Felidae and Canidae, and quantitatively categorizes research output for each species. The species characteristics that were included in the dataset are body size (in kg), geographic range size, IUCN species status, population trend, likelihood of being a keystone species, number of species per genus, the Evolutionary Distinctiveness (ED) score, and the Evolutionary Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) score. All scientific articles that were published on felid and canid species between 2013 and 2017 were listed and subdivided into the following research topics: (1) ecology and behaviour, (2) conservation and wildlife management, (3) anatomy and physiology, (4) diseases and other health issues, (5) captive housing and artificial reproduction, (6) genetic diversity and phylogenetic structure, and (7) taxonomy and palaeoecology. All the data is made publically available.

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### Value of the data

- This data can be used to find trends and gaps in carnivore research.
- This data can assist in setting prioritization schemes for conservation.
- This data can highlight biases in wildlife and conservation research.

### 1. Data

It is important find biases in wildlife research to better allocate conservation funds in the future [1]. For instance, there is a research-implementation gap in scientific research with regards to species conservation [2–4]. Certain species are being studied considerably more often than other species [5,6], and research is not yet focussed on taxa that need it the most [7]. Preferably, wildlife biologists should attempt to focus on species that are endangered, have a limited geographic range, fill a keystone role in the ecosystem, or are taxonomically distinct [1,2,4]. This article lists species characteristics of two families of the order Carnivora: the Felidae (hereafter felids) and Canidae (hereafter canids), and quantitatively categorizes research output for each species.

This article includes 37 felid species and 36 canid species. Body size was based on average weight (in kg) derived from [8] for felid species and [9] for canid species (Table 1). Body weight ranged from 1.8 to 173 kg in felids, and 1 to 39 kg in canids.

The conservation status, population trend and geographic range size were listed for each species (Table 2) and based on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) Red List of Threatened Species [10]. For IUCN status, species with a higher risk of extinction are ranked in higher categories, from Data Deficient (DD), Least Concern (LC) to Near Threatened (NT), Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN), and Critically Endangered (CR). Most species are of Least Concern, and felid species are more often threatened with extinction than canids (Fig. 1). Population trend is either unknown, decreasing, stable, or increasing. Geographic range size was based on distribution maps provided by the IUCN and divided into seven categories for the purpose of this data overview: (1) < 10,000 km²; (2) 10,000–100,000 km²; (3) 100,000–900,000 km²; (4) 1–4 million km²; (5) 5–9 million km²; (6) 10–19 million km²; and (7) > 20 million km². Most species had a geographic range size of 1 to 4 million km² (Fig. 2).

The likelihood of being a keystone species (hereafter keystone effect) was predicted for each species and based on the following definition: “a strongly interacting species whose top-down effect on species diversity and competition is large relative to its biomass dominance within a functional group [11].” The keystone effect was divided into three categories: (1) top predator with a strong top-down effect in a functional group, (2) meso predator with a moderate top-down effect in a functional group, and (3) low top-down effect in a functional group.
Table 1

All felid and canid species included in this dataset and their average body weight (in kg).

| Felidae species | Canidae species |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| **Species name** | **Scientific name** | **Weight** | **Species name** | **Scientific name** | **Weight** |
| Cheetah | Acinonyx jubatus | 38.7 | Short eared dog | Atelocynus microtis | 9.5 |
| African golden cat | Catopuma badia | 9.1 | Side-striped jackal | Canis adustus | 8.8 |
| Caracal | Caracal caracal | 11.5 | African golden wolf | Canis anthus | 11 |
| Bay cat | Catopuma temminckii | 2.3 | Golden jackal | Canis aureus | 8.1 |
| Asiatic golden cat | Felis chaus | 10.7 | Coyote | Canis latrans | 10.9 |
| Jungle cat | Canis adustus | 6.6 | Grey wolf | Canis lupus | 39 |
| Sand cat | Felis margarita | 2.5 | Black-backed jackal | Canis mesomelas | 7.8 |
| Black footed cat | Felis nigripes | 1.6 | Red wolf | Canis rufus | 26.4 |
| Wild cat | Felis sylvestris | 4.3 | Ethiopian wolf | Canis simensis | 14.5 |
| Ocelot | Leopardus pardalis | 11.7 | Crab-eating fox | Cerdocyon thous | 5.7 |
| Southern tigrina | Leopardus guttulus | 2.1 | Maned wolf | Chrysocyon brachyurus | 25 |
| Oncilla | Leopardus tigrinus | 2.4 | Dhole | Cuon alpinus | 15.8 |
| Margay | Leopardus wiedii | 3.3 | Culpeo | Lycalopex culpaeus | 9.8 |
| Pampas cat | Leopardus colocolo | 4 | Darwin’s fox | Lycalopex fulvipes | 3.1 |
| Geoffroy’s cat | Leopardus geoffroyi | 5.1 | South American gray fox | Lycalopex griseus | 3.7 |
| Kodkod | Leopardus guigna | 1.6 | Pampas fox | Lycalopex gymnocercus | 4.4 |
| Andean mountain cat | Leopardus jacobita | 4.5 | Sechura fox | Lycalopex sechurae | 3.6 |
| Serval | Leptailurus serval | 9.7 | Hoary fox | Lycalopex vetulus | 3.4 |
| Canada lynx | Lynx canadensis | 18.5 | African wild dog | Lycaon pictus | 26 |
| Eurasian lynx | Lynx lynx | 11.1 | Raccoon dog | Nyctereutes procyonoides | 4.5 |
| Iberian lynx | Lynx pardinus | 11.1 | Bat-eared fox | Otocyon megalotis | 4.1 |
| Bobcat | Lynx rufus | 7.8 | Bush dog | Speothos venaticus | 6.5 |
| Clouded leopard | Neofelis nebulosa | 14.8 | Grey fox | Urocyon cinereoargenteus | 3.7 |
| Sunda clouded leopard | Neofelis diardi | 15.5 | Island fox | Urocyon littoralis | 1.9 |
| Manul | Otocolobus manul | 4.1 | Bengal fox | Vulpes bengalensis | 2.4 |
| Lion | Panthera leo | 146.3 | Blandford’s fox | Vulpes cana | 1 |
| Jaguar | Panthera onca | 85.7 | Cape fox | Vulpes chama | 2.7 |
| Leopard | Panthera pardus | 41.8 | Corsac fox | Vulpes corsac | 2.4 |
| Tiger | Panthera tigris | 173 | Tibetan fox | Vulpes ferrilata | 3.8 |
| Snow leopard | Panthera uncia | 37.6 | Arctic fox | Vulpes lagopus | 3.4 |
| Marbled cat | Pardofelis marmorata | 3.1 | Kit fox | Vulpes macrotis | 2.1 |
| Leopard cat | Prionailurus bengalensis | 2.6 | Pallid fox | Vulpes pallida | 2.8 |
| Flat-headed cat | Prionailurus planiceps | 1.8 | Rüppell’s fox | Vulpes rueppellii | 1.5 |
| Rusty-spotted cat | Prionailurus rubiginosus | 0.9 | Swift fox | Vulpes velox | 2.1 |
| Fishing cat | Prionailurus viverrinus | 9.3 | Red fox | Vulpes vulpes | 5.8 |
| Puma | Puma concolor | 44.8 | Fennec fox | Vulpes zerda | 1.5 |
| Jaguarundi | Puma yagouaroundi | 4.9 | | | |
Table 2
The IUCN status, population trend and geographic range size for felid and canid species. IUCN status was Least Concern (LC), Near Threatened (NT), Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN), or Critically Endangered (CR). Geographic range size was (1) $<10,000$ km$^2$, (2) $10,000$–$100,000$ km$^2$, (3) $100,000$–$900,000$ km$^2$, (4) $1$–$4$ million km$^2$, (5) $5$–$9$ million km$^2$, (6) $10$–$19$ million km$^2$, or (7) $>20$ million km$^2$.

| Felidae species | Canidae species |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| **Species name** | **IUCN status** | **Population trend** | **Range size** | **Species name** | **IUCN status** | **Population trend** | **Range size** |
| Cheetah | EN | stable | 4 | Short eared dog | NT | decreasing | 4 |
| African golden cat | VU | decreasing | 4 | Side-striped jackal | LC | stable | 6 |
| Caracal | LC | unknown | 6 | African golden wolf | not listed | unknown | 3 |
| Bay cat | EN | decreasing | 3 | Golden jackal | LC | increasing | 7 |
| Asiatic golden cat | NT | decreasing | 3 | Coyote | LC | increasing | 6 |
| Jungle cat | LC | decreasing | 5 | Grey wolf | LC | stable | 7 |
| Sand cat | LC | unknown | 3 | Black-backed jackal | LC | stable | 5 |
| Black footed cat | VU | decreasing | 3 | Red wolf | CE | increasing | 1 |
| Wild cat | LC | decreasing | 7 | Ethiopian wolf | EN | decreasing | 1 |
| Ocelot | LC | decreasing | 6 | Crab-eating fox | LC | stable | 5 |
| Southern tigrina | VU | decreasing | 4 | Maned wolf | NT | unknown | 4 |
| Oncilla | VU | decreasing | 5 | Dhole | EN | decreasing | 4 |
| Margay | NT | decreasing | 6 | Culpeo | LC | stable | 4 |
| Pampas cat | NT | decreasing | 4 | Darwin’s fox | EN | decreasing | 2 |
| Geoffroy’s cat | LC | stable | 4 | South American gray fox | LC | stable | 3 |
| Kodkod | VU | decreasing | 3 | Pampas fox | LC | stable | 4 |
| Andean mountain cat | EN | decreasing | 3 | Sechura fox | NT | unknown | 3 |
| Serval | LC | stable | 6 | Hoary fox | LC | unknown | 4 |
| Canada lynx | LC | stable | 5 | African wild dog | EN | decreasing | 4 |
| Eurasian lynx | LC | stable | 7 | Raccoon dog | LC | stable | 5 |
| Iberian lynx | EN | increasing | 1 | Bat-eared fox | LC | stable | 5 |
| Bobcat | LC | stable | 6 | Bush dog | NT | decreasing | 6 |
| Clouded leopard | VU | decreasing | 4 | Grey fox | LC | stable | 6 |
| Sunda clouded leopard | VU | decreasing | 3 | Island fox | NT | increasing | 1 |
| Manul | NT | decreasing | 4 | Bengal fox | LC | decreasing | 4 |
| Lion | VU | decreasing | 4 | Blandford’s fox | LC | stable | 4 |
| Jaguar | NT | decreasing | 5 | Cape fox | LC | stable | 4 |
| Leopard | VU | decreasing | 5 | Corsac fox | LC | unknown | 5 |
| Tiger | EN | decreasing | 3 | Tibetan fox | LC | unknown | 4 |
| Snow leopard | EN | decreasing | 3 | Arctic fox | LC | stable | 6 |
| Marbled cat | NT | decreasing | 4 | Kit fox | LC | decreasing | 4 |
| Leopard cat | LC | stable | 5 | Pallid fox | LC | unknown | 4 |
| Flat-headed cat | EN | decreasing | 2 | Rüppell’s fox | LC | stable | 6 |
| Rusty-spotted cat | NT | decreasing | 4 | Swift fox | LC | stable | 3 |
| Fishing cat | VU | decreasing | 3 | Red fox | LC | stable | 7 |
| Puma | LC | decreasing | 7 | Fennec fox | LC | stable | 6 |
| Jaguarundi | LC | decreasing | 6 | | | | |
group, and (3) small predator with a minor top-down effect in a functional group (Table 3). The majority of felid and canid species are small predators (Fig. 3).

Taxonomic uniqueness was listed for each species, by deriving Evolutionary Distinctiveness (ED) scores and Evolutionary Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) scores [12]; the higher the score, the higher a species’ conservation priority (Table 4). We also predicted taxonomic uniqueness by counting the number of species per genus; a monotypic genus, which consists of only one representative, has a higher conservation priority (Table 5).
All scientific articles published on felid and canid species between 2013 and 2017 were listed (Supplementary material S1 for felids and S2 for canids). The research papers were subdivided into the following research topics: (1) ecology and behaviour, (2) conservation and wildlife management, (3) anatomy and physiology, (4) diseases and other health issues, (5) captive housing and artificial reproduction, (6) genetic diversity and phylogenetic structure, and (7) taxonomy and palaeoecology. For felids, most research papers were related to conservation and wildlife management, and for canids most papers were related to diseases and other health issues (Table 5).
2. Experimental design, materials and methods

Literature searches were conducted in Scopus, EBSCO and Google Scholar to optimize the yield of scientific articles [13]. Common and scientific species names [10] were used as search strings in the electronic databases, for instance: cheetah OR Acinonyx jubatus. All peer-reviewed articles that were published between 2013 and 2017 were included. Subspecies were not investigated separately in this literature search, and domesticated animals were excluded. Observational notes or replies to previous publications were also excluded from the database, as well as articles for which no English abstract was available. Articles were listed for species only if the animal in question was the main research topic or among a maximum of three. The research papers were subdivided into research topics that were created during the literature searches and partly based on previous studies [7,14]. The data led to an overview of species characteristics and the number of articles published between 2013 and 2017 for felid and canid species. The data can be used to assess potential bias in research and conservation prioritization [1].

Fig. 3. Keystone effect of felid and canid species. Species are either a (1) top predator with a strong top-down effect in a functional group, (2) meso predator with a moderate top-down effect in a functional group, or (3) small predator with a minor top-down effect in a functional group.
| Felidae species | Canidae species |
|----------------|----------------|
| **Species name** | **ED score** | **EDGE score** | **No. in genus** | **Species name** | **ED score** | **EDGE score** | **No. in genus** |
| Cheetah | 13.45 | 4.1 | 1 | Short eared dog | 3.69 | 2.24 | 1 |
| African golden cat | 9.32 | 3.03 | 2 | Side-striped jackal | 3.46 | 1.49 | 8 |
| Caracal | 9.77 | 2.38 | 2 | African golden wolf | 8 |
| Bay cat | 9.11 | 4.39 | 2 | Golden jackal | 3.46 | 1.49 | 8 |
| Asiatic golden cat | 9.11 | 3.01 | 2 | Coyote | 3.25 | 1.45 | 8 |
| Jungle cat | 7.37 | 2.12 | 4 | Grey wolf | 3.26 | 1.45 | 8 |
| Sand cat | 7.54 | 2.84 | 4 | Black-backed jackal | 3.56 | 1.52 | 8 |
| Black-footed cat | 7.55 | 3.53 | 4 | Red wolf | 8 |
| Wild cat | 7.27 | 2.11 | 4 | Ethiopian wolf | 3.22 | 3.52 | 8 |
| Ocelot | 8.94 | 2.3 | 8 | Crab-eating fox | 3.86 | 1.58 | 1 |
| Southern tigrina | 8 | 3.78 | 2.26 | 1 |
| Oncilla | 8.13 | 3.6 | 8 | Dhole | 3.79 | 3.65 | 1 |
| Margay | 8.94 | 2.99 | 8 | Culpeo | 2.74 | 1.32 | 6 |
| Pampas cat | 7.34 | 2.82 | 8 | Darwin’s fox | 2.82 | 4.11 | 6 |
| Geoffroy’s cat | 8.23 | 2.92 | 8 | South American gray fox | 2.82 | 1.34 | 6 |
| Kodkod | 8.16 | 3.6 | 8 | Pampas fox | 2.74 | 1.32 | 6 |
| Andean mountain cat | 8.15 | 4.29 | 8 | Sechura fox | 2.73 | 2.01 | 6 |
| Serval | 9.84 | 2.38 | 1 | Hoary fox | 3.01 | 1.39 | 6 |
| Canada lynx | 7.97 | 2.19 | 4 | African wild dog | 3.87 | 3.66 | 1 |
| Eurasian lynx | 7.98 | 2.2 | 4 | Raccoon dog | 7.92 | 2.19 | 1 |
| Iberian lynx | 8.44 | 5.02 | 4 | Bat-eared fox | 8.49 | 2.25 | 1 |
| Bobcat | 9.61 | 2.36 | 4 | Bush dog | 3.7 | 2.24 | 1 |
| Clouded leopard | 7.28 | 3.5 | 2 | Grey fox | 6.4 | 2 | 2 |
| Sunda clouded leopard | 7.28 | 3.5 | 2 | Island fox | 6.4 | 2.69 | 2 |
| Manul | 8.99 | 2.99 | 1 | Bengal fox | 5.42 | 1.86 | 12 |
| Lion | 8.26 | 3.61 | 5 | Blandford’s fox | 4.53 | 1.71 | 12 |
| Jaguar | 8.29 | 2.92 | 5 | Cape fox | 5.44 | 1.86 | 12 |
| Leopard | 8.27 | 2.92 | 5 | Corsac fox | 3.48 | 1.5 | 12 |
| Tiger | 8.33 | 4.31 | 5 | Tibetan fox | 3.48 | 1.5 | 12 |
| Snow leopard | 8.38 | 4.32 | 5 | Arctic fox | 3.8 | 1.57 | 12 |
| Marbled cat | 9.23 | 3.71 | 1 | Kit fox | 3.5 | 1.5 | 12 |
| Leopard cat | 9.89 | 2.39 | 4 | Palid fox | 5.51 | 1.87 | 12 |
| Flat-headed cat | 10.69 | 4.54 | 4 | Rüppell’s fox | 3.48 | 1.49 | 12 |
| Rusty-spotted cat | 9.97 | 3.78 | 4 | Swift fox | 3.5 | 1.5 | 12 |
| Fishing cat | 9.88 | 4.47 | 4 | Red fox | 3.5 | 1.49 | 12 |
| Puma | 11.89 | 2.56 | 2 | Fennec fox | 4.53 | 1.71 | 12 |
| Jaguarundi | 11.93 | 2.56 | 2 | | | | |
Table 5
All scientific articles published on felid and canid species between 2013 and 2017. Research topics are (1) ecology and behaviour, (2) conservation and wildlife management, (3) anatomy and physiology, (4) diseases and other health issues, (5) captive housing and artificial reproduction, (6) genetic diversity and phylogenetic structure, or (7) taxonomy and palaeoecology.

| Articles | Research topics |
|----------|-----------------|
|          | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| Felidae species |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Cheetah      | 161  | 36  | 27  | 12  | 57  | 24  | 5   | 0   |
| African golden cat | 3   | 1   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| Caracal      | 10   | 6   | 1   | 2   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   |
| Bay cat      | 2    | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   |
| Asiatic golden cat | 7   | 2   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 2   |
| Jungle cat   | 4    | 0   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 0   |
| Sand cat     | 6    | 1   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 0   |
| Black footed cat | 6   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 3   | 1   | 0   | 0   |
| Wild cat     | 60   | 14  | 8   | 3   | 17  | 4   | 14  | 0   |
| Ocelot       | 59   | 27  | 9   | 4   | 11  | 3   | 5   | 0   |
| Southern tigrina | 7   | 3   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 1   |
| Oncilla      | 12   | 4   | 0   | 1   | 3   | 2   | 1   | 1   |
| Margay       | 10   | 6   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| Pampas cat   | 6    | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 2   | 0   |
| Geoffroy’s cat | 13  | 5   | 3   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 4   | 1   |
| Kodkod       | 14   | 5   | 4   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 3   | 0   |
| Andean mountain cat | 3   | 0   | 3   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| Serval       | 7    | 4   | 0   | 0   | 3   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| Canada lynx  | 48   | 21  | 13  | 0   | 5   | 2   | 7   | 0   |
| Eurasian lynx | 118 | 41  | 33  | 4   | 13  | 17  | 7   | 3   |
| Iberian lynx | 51   | 9   | 9   | 0   | 13  | 9   | 5   | 6   |
| Bobcat       | 96   | 30  | 25  | 3   | 32  | 0   | 6   | 0   |
| Clouded leopard | 24  | 6   | 4   | 2   | 4   | 6   | 0   | 2   |
| Sunda clouded leopard | 10 | 4   | 6   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| Manul        | 7    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 5   | 2   | 0   | 0   |
| Lion         | 278  | 59  | 102 | 14  | 57  | 21  | 16  | 9   |
| Jaguar       | 164  | 41  | 75  | 4   | 20  | 9   | 10  | 5   |
| Leopard      | 232  | 61  | 99  | 15  | 20  | 9   | 18  | 10  |
| Tiger        | 359  | 44  | 157 | 24  | 66  | 28  | 37  | 3   |
| Snow leopard | 80   | 18  | 44  | 2   | 6   | 3   | 6   | 1   |
| Marbled cat  | 4    | 1   | 3   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| Leopard cat  | 45   | 13  | 11  | 12  | 1   | 6   | 1   |
| Flat-headed cat | 2   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   |
| Rusty-spotted cat | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   |
| Fishing cat  | 10   | 0   | 5   | 1   | 2   | 2   | 0   | 0   |
| Puma         | 276  | 108 | 103 | 10  | 28  | 6   | 17  | 4   |
| Jaguarundi   | 10   | 4   | 0   | 1   | 4   | 0   | 1   | 0   |
| Total        | 2205 | 576 | 754 | 108 | 387 | 155 | 170 | 50  |

Canidae species

| Articles | Research topics |
|----------|-----------------|
|          | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| Short eared dog | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| Side-striped jackal | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| African golden wolf | 6   | 2   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   |
| Golden jackal       | 101 | 32  | 13  | 11  | 33  | 0   | 10  |
| Coyote               | 228 | 89  | 76  | 6   | 34  | 7   | 15  |
| Grey wolf            | 597 | 175 | 198 | 21  | 80  | 10  | 92  |
| Black-backed jackal  | 22  | 10  | 3   | 2   | 4   | 1   | 2   |
| Red wolf             | 36  | 6   | 15  | 2   | 7   | 3   | 2   |
| Ethiopian wolf       | 16  | 5   | 3   | 0   | 7   | 0   | 1   |
| Crab-eating fox      | 61  | 7   | 2   | 17  | 30  | 3   | 2   |
| Maned wolf           | 52  | 1   | 10  | 9   | 22  | 4   | 5   |
| Dhole                | 33  | 13  | 11  | 3   | 2   | 1   | 0   |
| Culpeo               | 14  | 6   | 3   | 3   | 2   | 0   | 0   |
| Darwin’s fox         | 3   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 0   | 1   |
| South American gray fox | 9   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 4   | 0   | 0   |
| Pampas fox           | 21  | 2   | 1   | 6   | 10  | 0   | 2   |
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Transparency document. Supporting information

Transparency data associated with this article can be found in the online version at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2018.09.132.

Appendix A. Supporting information

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2018.09.132.

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