

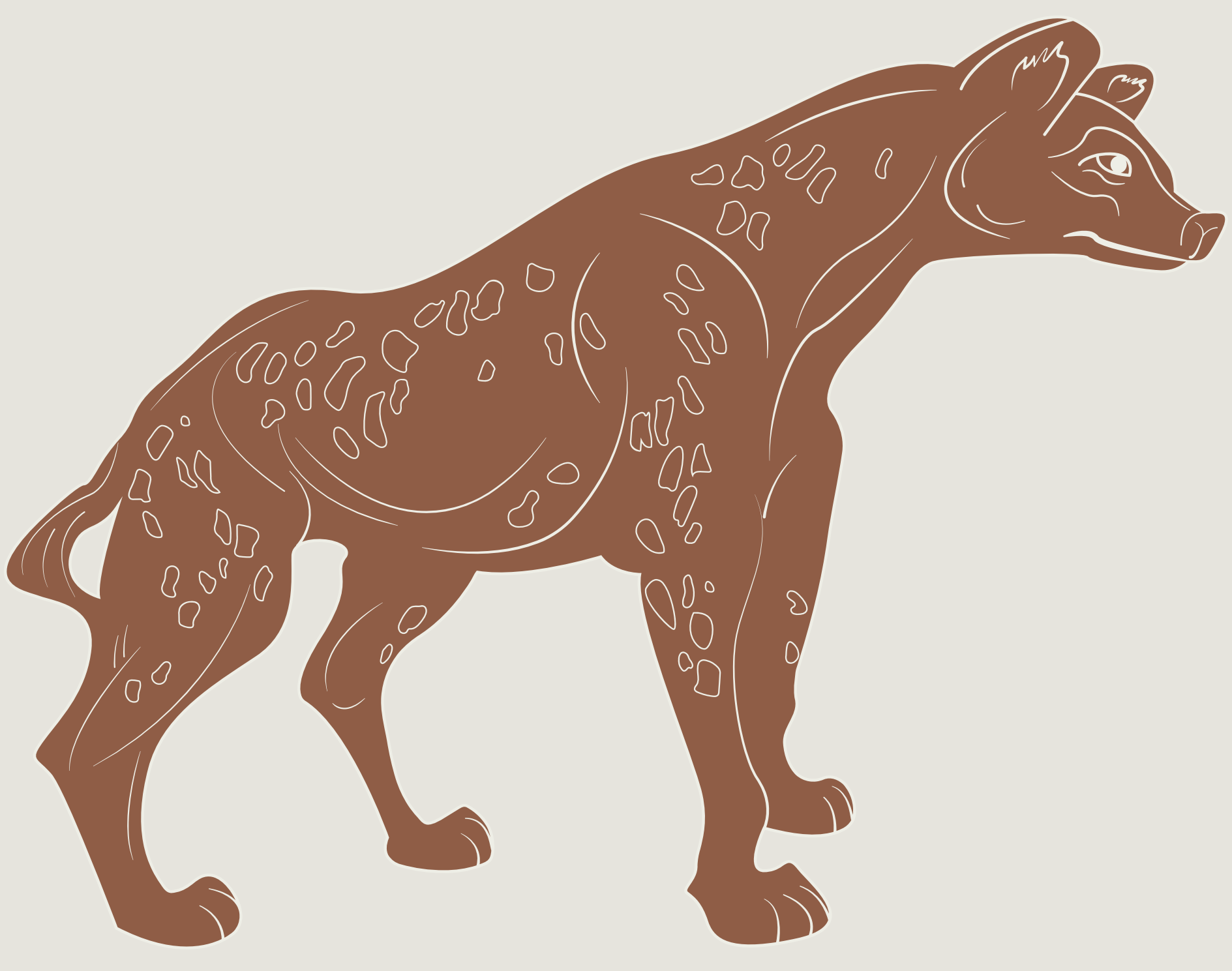
HOW TO FEAST LIKE A LAUGHING HYENA

Spotted hyenas (*Crocuta crocuta*), also known as the laughing hyena, are carnivores and social nocturnal hunters. They primarily hunt and make their own kills (Gasaway et al., 1991). Spotted hyenas are opportunist hunters that have a diverse diet (Trinkel, 2010).



PREY SIZE IMPACT ON HUNTING

- Spotted hyenas have a higher selection for medium to large prey (Fester et al., 2021).
- Due to the hunting size of the clan, there must be a reward-gain, for the energy spent on the prey and amount of hyenas present. ex. larger hunting parties would hunt for larger prey (Fester et al., 2021).



SOCIAL HIEARCHY INFLUENCE ON FEEDING

- *Crocuta crocuta* are social hunters who live in clans, thriving under a matriarchal rule, where females and their female offspring dominate the group (Tilson et al., 1984).
- Prey is consumed at the place of killed, where higher rank females eat first and consume the most meat (Holekamp et al., 1997).
- Male members would eat less quality items, such as skin and bone, while females would consume higher quality items such as freshly killed meat (Henschel & Skinner, 1990).



PREY ABUNDANCE IMPACT ON HUNTING

- Spotted hyenas hunt prey that are large in population, due to availability (Trinkel, 2010).
- A successful hunting technique they use on prey with large prey abundance, are the fan formation. The fan formation is when they rush large populations of prey, stop to observe their behaviour, select a suitable prey, and then swiftly attack (Cooper, 1990).

HUMAN DISTURBANCE INFLUENCE ON FEEDING

- Due to Human settlements increasing and expanding in Africa, spotted hyenas have evolved to feed on items from human settlements.
 - Garbage dumps
 - Cemeteries
 - Livestock from nearby farms (Yirga et al., 2015).

FUN FACT
Spotted hyenas are the only hyena species out the four species of the Hyaenidae family, that make a laughing sound. It is why they are called the laughing hyena.

SCAVENGING

- Due to being opportunist hunters, they also partake in scavenging (Trinkel, 2010).
- Scavenging only makes a small percentage of their hunting methods (Tilson et al., 1980).
- They scavenge left over meals from other predators, such as lions and leopards, and human settlements (Henschel & Skinner, 1990).

