Despite belonging to the canid family, maned wolves are not actually that closely related to wolves at all. They’ve earned the nickname “fox on stilts” due to their red coats and fox-like appearance, but they aren’t foxes, either. So what’s going on here? The maned wolves’ closest living relative is a bush dog; maned wolves are the last living species in their genus. The maned part of their name comes from the dark mane on the back of their necks.

What exactly is a maned wolf?

Decipher The Cipher

Put your stinking cap on—oops, I mean thinking cap! A cipher is a disguised way of writing a message, like a code! You’ll notice that every letter has a unique corresponding number. Use the cipher below to learn the answers to these gross questions:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
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<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q: What does a maned wolf’s urine smell like?
A: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____!
   19 11 21 14 11

Q: Do maned wolves use the bathroom all over the place?
A: No! They are _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____!
   12 1 20 18 9 14 1 12
Do you remember the maned wolf’s main nickname? Fox on stilts. Now that you know more, you won’t be surprised to hear that another one of their nicknames is the skunk fox (again, not a fox)!

How many wacky nicknames for the maned wolf can you come up with after meeting Lucky? **Challenge** a friend and write them on a separate sheet or below!

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**Spot the Omnivore!**

Maned wolves are omnivores, which means they eat both meat and plants. Take a look at the animal pictures below and circle the ones that are omnivores!
Maned wolves leave messages for each other, but not by phone! Instead, they mark areas with urine to tell other animals in the area to stay away. Want to leave a special message for someone? Try making some invisible ink!

**Try This at Home: Invisible Ink!**

Squeeze as much juice out of the lemon as possible into a bowl.

Add a few drops of water.

Dip the cotton bud into the water and write a message on a white piece of paper.

Once it dries, it will be invisible! To see the message, place it near a lightbulb.

**Here’s what you’ll need:**
- Half a lemon
- A small bowl
- A little bit of water
- Cotton bud/toothpick, or paintbrush
- Plain white paper
- Lamp or lightbulb.

**What’s happening here?**
By adding water to the lemon juice, it’s diluted enough to seem invisible on paper. Lemon juice oxidizes and turns brown when exposed to heat!

**Answer Key**
Q: What does a maned wolf’s urine smell like?  
A: S K U N K !
Q: Do maned wolves use the bathroom all over the place?  
A: L A T R I N A L !

Spot the Omnivores (Bear, Rat, Chimpanzee, Skunk, Maned Wolf)

**Learn More**
Did you know that you can help take care of Lucky or our other packs without even leaving your home?

Join our Adopt-a-Wolf program!
Learn more at endangeredwolfcenter.org/adopt/lucky

Loved meeting Lucky?
Meet more of our animal ambassadors including Daisy the fennec fox, Clay the western hognose snake, Sawyer our Virginia opossum, and our three-toed box turtles Minya, Phoebe, and Pickle!