

## WORLD WILDLIFE DAY: MARCH 3

### World Wildlife Day History

Starting in 2013, annual **World Wildlife Day** was proclaimed as March 3<sup>rd</sup>, by the United Nations General Assembly. March 3<sup>rd</sup> was chosen to coincide with signing of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**.

CITES regulates the global trade of wild animals and plants.

World Wildlife Day also serves to highlight issues such as urbanization, poaching, pollution, destruction of wildlife habitat, and the ways that humans can contribute to conservation efforts.

### Wild mustelids

- [Mustelidae](#) is a family of mammals in the Order [Carnivora](#). Mustelids are found on all continents EXCEPT Antarctica and Australia.
- **Mustelidae is the largest Family in Carnivora.** It includes [weasels](#), [badgers](#), [otters](#), [ferrets](#), [martens](#), [minks](#), and [wolverines](#), and many other [extant](#) and [extinct](#) mammals.
- **Mustelidae is one of the oldest families in Carnivora;** early mustelids first appeared around 28–33 million years ago. [Law 2018]
- **The Family Mustelidae is very diverse:** sizes range, including tails, from the widespread 17 cm (7 in) [least weasel](#) to the 1.8-meter (6 ft) [giant otter](#) of Amazonian South America.
- Habitats vary widely as well, from the [arboreal marten](#) to the tunnel-dwelling [European badger](#) to the [marine sea otter](#).
- The domestic ferret is a **subspecies of the [European polecat](#).**
- Some populations of the South American [tayra](#) are also domesticated.
- The [black-footed ferret](#) is the most endangered North American mammal.

### Celebrate World Wildlife Day

- Visit your local zoo or nature museum.
- **Make a donation** to one of the many organizations that conserve and protect the planet's biodiversity. Organizations include the Black Footed Ferret .
- Host a wildlife party. Prepare different trivia questions and facts about animals and plants and divide your friends into teams to see who is the most knowledgeable about the world's biodiversity.

## References and Related Sites

Black-footed ferret Conservation Center (United States)

<http://blackfootedferret.org>

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

<https://www.cites.org/>

United Nations World Wildlife Day

[UN: World Wildlife Day](#)

World Wildlife Day Official Website

[www.wildlifeday.org](http://www.wildlifeday.org): World Wildlife Day Official Website

Law C, Slater G, Mehta R. Lineage diversity and size disparity in Musteloidea: testing patterns of adaptive radiation using molecular and fossil-based methods. *Systematic Biology*. **67** (1): 127–144, Jan 2019. [doi:10.1093/sysbio/syx047](https://doi.org/10.1093/sysbio/syx047). [PMID 28472434](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28472434/).