

Hyelavar

Much like the Valna, the hyelavar are primarily beasts, with more connection to their feral natures. However, less like the Valna, the hyelavar are social beings, and have a great deal in common with humans. The hyelavar are adaptive, much like the humans, adopting technology into their lives and culture. However, this adoption of technologies has not elevated their morality, either as a species or as a culture. They are ruthless, hungry, and live to feed their insatiable appetites, where it is for food, wealth, or power.

The hyelavar dedication to the family hierarchy make them dangerous enemies or incredibly staunch allies – but there is one thing about a hyelavar that is undoubted, they serve their clan. The hyelavar were uplifted after they were encountered by the Valna, and while technologically behind the Valna, their immediate war with them taught them to adapt and modify technology to match their hunting patterns.

Relentless Hunger

The hyelavar bear both hyena-like and humanoid traits, though it is their innate desires and hunger that drives their interactions amongst themselves and with each other. Their bestial nature that can dictate how they think and deal with others. They try to satisfy their “yen”, or spiritual (and sometimes physical) hunger for one specific thing. Among the hyelavar, all are taught to respect any actions taken to satisfy one’s yen, so long as it falls within the clan hierarchy. They have emotions and are gregarious beings, but at the heart behind all their emotions and drive is the yen, pulsing underneath their skin and showing as a feral hunger in their eyes.

To this end, the hyelavar are viewed as extremely useful. If you know what a hyelavar seeks, what their yen desires, it becomes academic to get their loyalty. For many hyelavar, it is for money or comfort, and as such, they make merciless and cold henchmen, able to reconcile any seemingly immoral actions with their desire to obtain not only their yen, but more of their yen. They will seek their yen until they die or until the rare occasion when they are satisfied.

Fortunately, most hyelavar are so consumed by a desire for yen that they spend most of their time scheming against each other and wasting resources trying to gain more when they should be satisfied with what they have. But as such, hyelavar can be among the most cold-blooded assassins and soldiers and the Valna learned this lesson the hard way in their early wars with them.

Physically, the hyelavar have strong, muscular upper bodies that seem almost unbalanced. However, this seeming lack of balance has led to the death of more than a few foes who have learned just how dangerous and cunning the hyelavar can be. They have mottled, spotted fur that covers most of their body and thick, powerful jaws with constant, unnerving grins through which they speak in guttural growls, cascading consonants and melodious yips that forms the complex hyelavar language. They have dexterous hands with three fingers and one thumb, and a forward-leaning gait that makes them seem aggressive, even when they are at ease. Their eyes tend to be black or brown and vacant, often the only things showing in total darkness.

The Clan Hierarchy

The hyelavar are territorial and fight often between clans. As a matriarchal species, they are guided socially by the bloodlines of their mothers. However, they are adaptable and are known to alter clan lines to suit their purposes, despite different blood. Women tend to be larger and more dangerous than males, and as such, motherhood is seen as a position of warriors, rather than nurturers. It is from this culture that the hyelavar tendency toward violence stems.

Hyelavar Clan Mothers are highly revered, and for good reason, as physically, the females are often as strong and tough (if not more so) than males. Outside of hyelavar, it is almost impossible for other species to tell by casual interaction if a hyelavar is female or male.

The Hyelavar and Their Yen

The hyelavar almost always have a yen. The yen is an overwhelming hunger or desire for one physical or attainable thing. While in some cases, it may be an esoteric thing such as a position, even when attaining such a thing, the hyelavar are not satisfied. They seem to ensure their security by aggressively destroying any competition for the thing they desire and hunger for. Hyelavar respect not only have a powerful yen, in fact often complementing each other for a “strong and growing yen.”

For some more socially evolved hyelavar, they can disguise their yen and seem, in many ways, to be quite civilized. For those that truly do not have a yen, they are often shunned and find themselves leaving Hyyla, traveling to other cultures where the lack of yen is less a liability and more of an advantage. Unfortunately, these rare hyelavar still must live with the reputations and distrust their race has earned.

Hyelavar Names

Hyelavar have a parent name, granted by their mother, a clan name granted by their Clan Mother, and a social, or self-name, granted or chosen for use among adoptive tribes or groups to which they belong. While the first two names rarely change, they are also rarely shared outside of the clan. Instead, they go by their self-name and are often known to append or change their self-names. Names are never male or female, rather they are interchangeable among sexes.

Given Name: Blackfang, Gutwrencher, Quickshadow, Ironhide, Screecher

Sample Clan Names: Azrur, Ajdir Hasan, Malu Hashemi, Asnani Satter, Antala Kazi, Ixfensen Sharifi, Abarug Sabet, Amhaws Mady, Ferkus Hashim, Ifri Saade

Hyelavar Traits

Your hyelavar character has the following traits.

Ability Score Increase. Your Endurance score increases by 2 and your Intelligence score increases by 1.

Age. Hyelavar age and mature slightly faster than humans (usually in ten years) and live as long as humans.

Alignment. Hyelavar tend toward neutral or chaotic alignments. Hyelavar tend toward selfishness and amorality, but those few who are good make extremely loyal allies.

Size. Hyelavar are slightly taller than the average human. Your size is Medium.

Speed. Your base walking speed is 30 feet.

Darkvision. You have keen, catlike senses. You can see in dim light within 60 feet of you as if it were bright light, and in darkness as if it were in dim light. You cannot discern color in darkness, only shades of gray.

Powerful Jaws. Your powerful neck muscles grant you close-combat bite attack that allows you to not only inflict horrible wounds, but also remain attached until forced off. A bite inflicts 1d8 + Strength bonus damage and allows a free grapple attempt following a bite, assuming those are the only actions a hyelavar take in combat. They may continue to hold the grapple and they may continue to do damage at the sacrifice of all other attacks.

Relentless Pursuer. Your endurance and resilience make grant you advantage in Constitution-based checks relating to endurance and withstanding hardship or in situations involving long-term exertion. This also applies to situations where the hyelavar, which have powerful digestive systems, are forced to sustain themselves on limited or normally inedible food.

Unreadable. Anyone attempting to a Wisdom (Insight) check to determine the hyelavar's intentions, mood or reactions make those checks as disadvantage. This does not apply to other hyelavar.

Training. You gain proficiency in two of the following skills of your choice: Athletics, Perception, Stealth, or Survival.

Languages. You speak, read, and write Common and Hyelavarian.