

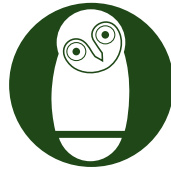


## HUMAN-WOLF CONFLICTS

- Wolves account for approximately 400 calls to the Conservation Officer Service reporting line every year.
- Livestock and pets are the primary attractants when wolves are reported.
- Wolves will attack off-leash dogs as they see them as competition and a food source.
- As with most animals, avoid wolves with young, or wolves on a kill.
- Early reporting to the Conservation Officer Service of wolves in a neighbourhood helps to reduce the potential of conflict.



British Columbia Conservation Foundation



The BC Conservation Foundation is a not-for-profit, registered charity that has been working in BC since 1969. To learn more about our organization please visit us at [www.bccf.com](http://www.bccf.com)

WildSafeBC is funded through partnerships throughout BC. Core funding is made possible through the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. To report wildlife in conflict contact the Conservation Officer Service:

**1.877.952.7277**



Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

[www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com)

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## WOLF



British Columbia Conservation Foundation





## MANAGE YOUR ATTRACTANTS

Wolves are normally elusive animals that try to avoid contact with humans, but in some parts of the province they are starting to inhabit shared spaces with us. The following tips can help keep you and your neighbourhood safe.

1. **Feed pets indoors**, or if fed outdoors, bring in any uneaten food as pet food may attract wolves.
2. **Keep your pets indoors, especially at night.** Cats and dogs that are left to roam, may hunt small birds and rodents and, in turn, become prey themselves.
3. **Bird feeders can attract wolves.** If the ground below the feeder is not kept clear, seeds can accumulate, attracting rodents which attracts wolves and other predators that feed on the rodents.
4. **If you keep chickens or small livestock** use a properly installed and maintained electric fence. Store all your feed in a secure location and ensure feeding areas are clean and free of attractants (again, if the feed attracts rodents then the rodents, in turn, can attract wolves).
5. **Never feed deer or other possible prey species** for wolves. While deer may be pleasant to watch, they can attract large predators such as wolves into residential neighbourhoods. As well, urban deer present their own set of problems to you and your neighbours.

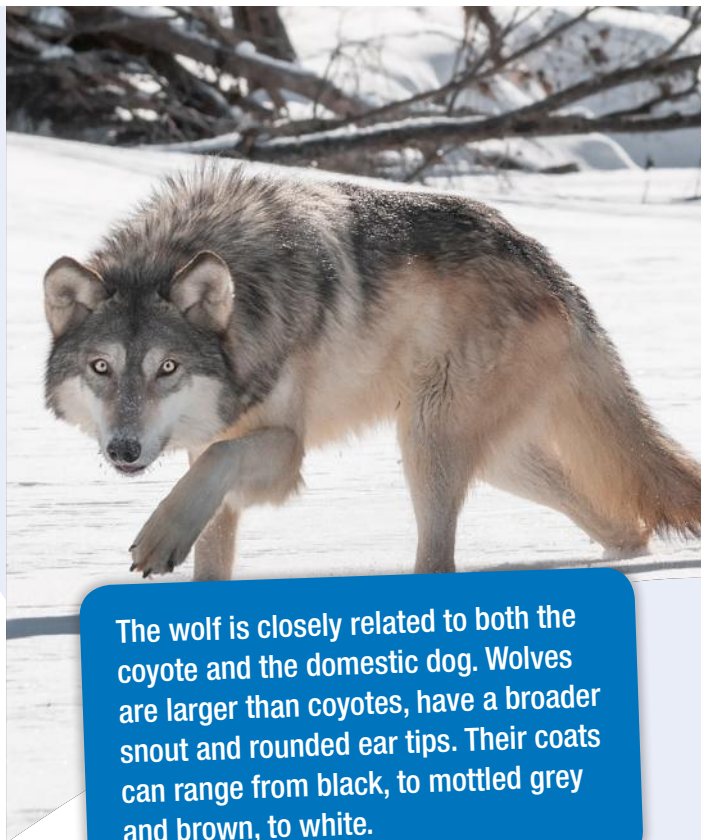


## WOLF SAFETY TIPS

Wolf attacks on humans are exceedingly rare, but wolf attacks on dogs are much more common. Dogs off-leash represent both a threat and a food source for wolves, so keep your dog leashed while in wolf-country.

Carry bear spray with you as this would be an effective deterrent against a wolf. Lacking bear spray, if a wolf does approach, be very assertive to the animal: throw rocks at it, yell, and make yourself appear as large and threatening as possible. Never play dead with a wolf.

If you have an encounter with an aggressive wolf, call the Conservation Officer Service reporting line (1-877-952-7277) to report the incident.



The wolf is closely related to both the coyote and the domestic dog. Wolves are larger than coyotes, have a broader snout and rounded ear tips. Their coats can range from black, to mottled grey and brown, to white.

Wolves are the largest of the North American canines and are a very **efficient predator of moose**, deer, caribou, and elk along with the smaller mammals like beaver, hare, and a variety of smaller rodents.

They are a reclusive, pack animal, and their primary prey will vary according to their region - some have even **learned to utilize salmon** on some coastal streams.

Wolves are highly social animals and their packs, led by one dominant male and female will usually have only one litter per year of **four to six pups**. Breeding occurs in late winter and pups are born in a den towards the end of April or the early part of May.

Pack size is normally around four to eight animals but can be much larger, especially if the pack specializes in hunting larger prey such as moose or bison. The pack's territory will be defended vigorously against incursion by other wolves. **Fights with other wolves** is one of the leading causes of mortality amongst wolves in the wild.



## WHERE'S THE WOLF?

Visit our website at [www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com) to find a map that shows where wolves have been sighted in your community along with information about what has attracted them into the area. By knowing where the wolves are and what is bringing them in, we can all do our part to keep wildlife wild and our communities safe.

[www.wildsafebc.com](http://www.wildsafebc.com)



## WOLF FACTS:

- Adult wolves will weigh an average of 30 to 50 kg in B.C. with females being 20% smaller on average.
- Wolves (*Canis lupus*) have many common names in B.C. including: grey wolf, western wolf, and northern grey.
- At up to 9 cm wide x 11.5 cm long, few domestic dogs leave a paw print as large and as long as a wolf's.
- The black colour phase is a result of wolves interbreeding with domestic dogs some 45,000 years ago.
- There are an estimated 8,500 wolves in B.C.
- Wolves are opportunistic carnivores but will also feed on carrion.
- Surplus food may be buried as a cache.
- Wolves suffer from high mortality rates, especially as pups, and the average age in the wild is about five years.
- Wolf packs will howl to communicate over long distances while lone wolves remain silent to avoid detection.
- Wolf packs are led by a dominant breeding male and female.
- Wolves use a large repertoire of sounds, scents and body language to communicate.



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