



HUMAN-WOLF CONFLICTS

Wolves account for approximately 400 calls to the Conservation Officer Service every year. Wolf attacks on people are very rare and are often associated with a history of access to human-provided food sources or intentional feeding.

Livestock and pets are the primary attractants when wolves are reported. Practice good animal husbandry practices to keep vulnerable livestock safe from wolf predation. Wolves are territorial and may perceive off-leash dogs as potential competitors or possible prey.

Never approach a wolf or allow it to approach you. Do not allow wolves to become comfortable around people. Distance and a natural wariness is the best way of keeping both parties safe.

Obey signage in areas with increased wolf conflicts in order to keep yourself and/or your pet safe. Never feed wolves or any other kind of wild animal.



BRITISH COLUMBIA
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

The BC Conservation Foundation is a not-for-profit, registered charity that has been working in BC since 1969.

www.bccf.com



To report wildlife in conflict contact the Conservation Officer Service at

1.877.952.7277

WildSafeBC is funded through the Province of British Columbia and in partnership with communities and organizations throughout BC.



British Columbia Conservation Foundation

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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 attract wolves and other predators.
- 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

Avoid wolf encounters by becoming informed of regions with wolf activity and always be aware of your surroundings. Carry bear spray in case you encounter a potential predator.

If you see a wolf, do not let it approach. If you encounter a wolf or wolves on a kill, they may become defensive or territorial. Slowly back out of the area without running or turning your back. Have your bear spray handy and ready to deploy. If a wolf approaches and shows signs of aggression, DO NOT RUN. Be assertive with the animal by throwing rocks, yelling, making yourself appear large and threatening.

It is important that you NEVER play dead with a wolf. Keep slowly backing away and out of the area until you can get to safety.



Wolf

(*Canis lupus*)



~ 10 x 13 cm

Coyote

(*Canis latrans*)



~ 5 x 7 cm

Broad muzzle

Ears proportionately smaller

Ears more rounded

Weigh 30 to 50 kg

Fur colour can be grey, black, and various shades of brown and white

Slender muzzle

Ears proportionately larger

Ears more pointed and tall

Weigh 9 to 23 kg

Fur colour ranges from grey to reddish-brown and tends to be darker along back

Wolves (*Canis lupus*) have many common names in B.C. including grey wolf, western wolf and northern grey. Wolves are the largest of the North American canines and are opportunistic carnivores.

They will hunt moose, deer, caribou, elk and smaller mammals like beaver, hare and a variety of rodents. They will also feed on carrion. Surplus food may be buried as a cache. They are reclusive pack animals, and their primary prey will vary according to their region. Some have learned to utilize salmon on 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.

Wolves suffer from high mortality rates, especially as pups, and the average age in the wild is about five years. Fights with other wolves are one of the leading causes of mortality amongst wolves in the wild.



WOLF FACTS:

- Adult wolves will weigh an average of 30 to 50 kg in B.C. with females being 20% smaller on average.
- 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.
- Despite its name, grey wolves can have a variety of coat colours including black, mottled grey, brown and white.
- The black colour phase is a result of wolves interbreeding with domestic dogs millennia ago.
- While running, wolves tend to carry their tails out behind them, unlike coyotes that will carry their tails downwards.
- Wolves are widely distributed throughout British Columbia. Once extirpated from Vancouver Island, they have returned and recolonized.
- Wolves use a large repertoire of sounds, scents and body language to communicate.
- Wolf packs will howl to communicate over long distances while lone wolves remain silent to avoid detection.
- Wolves are a top predator and will displace cougars and coyotes that prefer to avoid conflict.



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