

Grey Wolf

Canis lupus

Description

Grey or timber wolves have bushy tails with black tips and fur ranging from grey and brown to white, brown, or black. They average 3-5 feet in body length, with tails 1-2 feet long. Females weigh 60-100 pounds, and males weigh 70-145 pounds.

Grey wolves are carnivores, hunting large mammals like deer, elk and moose in packs, as well as hares, beavers and more on their own. They can eat up to 20 pounds of meat at a time. Grey wolves mate for life, with breeding from late January to March. After a 63-day gestation, females give birth to four to six pups.

Pups are born blind and deaf, weigh about one pound, and are weaned at six weeks. The pack feeds them by regurgitating meat. Grey wolves live 8 to 13 years in the wild. Packs usually have 4 -9 members but can range from 2-30.

FUN FACTS

- Ancestral DNA of domesticated dogs comes from grey wolves.
- They are the largest canine species.
- Grey wolves usually run at a speed of 12 km/h but can reach up to 60km/h. With a jumping range of 3.7 meters.
- They communicate using a series of vocalizations, touches and scents.
- Historically grey wolves had a large range, but today it is much smaller due to hunting and habitat loss.

If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at 403-214-1312, for tips, instructions and advice.

