

Red Wolf

Canis rufus

Description

Red wolves are lean, with black-tipped bushy tails. Their fur is primarily brown or buff, with some black along their backs and a reddish tint on the muzzle, behind the ears, and on the legs. Red wolves are sized roughly in between that of a grey wolf and a coyote. Weighing between 45 and 80 pounds, with males being larger.

Red wolves form monogamous pairs and live in packs typically consisting of five to eight individuals: the breeding pair and their offspring from different years. Older offspring assist in raising younger siblings and guard the den. Young wolves leave the pack within one to three years to find their mates and own territory.

Red wolves breed annually from January to March, with one to nine pups born approximately nine weeks later in April or May. They make their dens in hollow trees and stream banks.

Habitats include forests, wetlands, coastal prairies and mountains.

FUN FACTS

- The red wolf are known to travel up to 30+ km in search for food.
- Average lifespan of a red wolf is 7-9 years.
- The red wolf can only be found in North America. They are the most endangered wolf species.
- Red wolves are crepuscular and nocturnal, being most active around dawn and dusk.
- No longer found in Canada in the wild, historically they inhabited the extreme eastern provinces.

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.

