



# ZEILSKE'S SCIENCE Magazine

May 2004 Issue



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## This Month

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Everything  
you wanted to  
know about  
wolves, but  
were afraid to  
ask.

USA / CANADA Free Edition



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Is a wolf a dog?

Wolves are related to the domestic dog. They do belong to the same family, Canidae, but the wolf is not a dog.



A Wolf

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What does a wolf look like?

The wolf resembles a large German Shepherd dog, but their heads and muzzles are broader and their tails are bushier than the dog.





Red Wolf

How many species of wolves are there?

There are two species. The gray or timber wolf and the red wolf.

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What do wolves eat?

Wolves usually eat small animals and birds. When wolves are in a pack, they will attack deer, caribou, sheep, and other large mammals. They usually attack the weak, old, or very young animals. When they can not find live prey, wolves will feed on carrion, which is decaying flesh of dead animals. They also will eat berries.



Gray Wolf



Where do wolves live?

The gray or timber wolf is now found in Canada, Alaska, and northern Europe and Russia. There are also a few isolated packs in other regions.

The red wolf, is found only in Texas and the southeastern United States.

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What does a wolf use as a den or lair?

A wolf may live in a cave, a hollow tree trunk, a thicket, or a hole in the ground dug by the wolf.



Wolves in their den



# Do wolves travel together?

Wolves usually do travel together in a pack. They can have territories ranging from 40 to 400 square miles. In areas where the prey is small, the pack might be seven or less wolves, but where the prey is larger, a pack may have up to thirty wolves.

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A pack of wolves

Are there leaders in the pack?

Yes, the pack leader is called the alpha male and his mate is the alpha female.



Do wolves communicate with each other?

Wolves communicate by howling. The communal howling of a pack of wolves may call the pack together, communicate with other packs of wolves, or show its claim to a territory. Wolves also communicate by visual and scent signals.

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Wolf howling

Do wolves attack people often?

No, not very many healthy wolves have attacked humans. Most wolves try to avoid humans.



Can something be done to help recover the wolf population?

Efforts are being made to replace the wolf population within the national parks in the United States.

Gifford Middle School

"Home of the Dolphins"



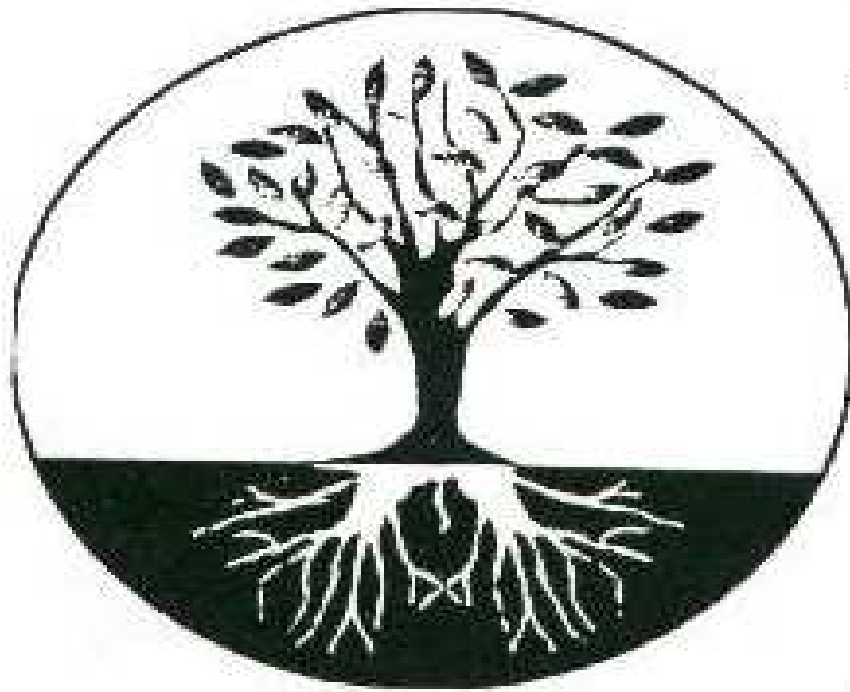
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Do humans effect the population of wolves?

The wolf population is decreasing because of humans intruding on their territory. Humans have thought of wolves as competitors for prey and as a danger to their livestock, pets, and themselves.





Edited by: Sean T