

Wild Kids



Wolves live together in family groups. These groups are called packs. Packs of wolves hunt within their habitat to find food. Wolves are meat eaters, and their food often consists of mammals in the ungulate family such as deer, moose or musk-oxen. If you were a wolf, would you rather be part of a big pack or a small pack? Why?



Nancy Gibson

Vocabulary

Carnivore: An animal that eats meat.

Prey: An animal that is captured and eaten by another animal.

Ungulate: Hoofed mammal such as deer, elk, mountain goat, musk-oxen, bighorn sheep, moose, antelope, caribou, bison, cows, and domestic sheep.



Malik

Malik, along with his brother Shadow, turned 13 this past May, a milestone for captive wolves. They were born May 8, 2000, and now can be viewed on the International Wolf Center's new retirement Web cam. Malik's and Shadow's white coats are not due to age. Their coats are white because they belong to the arctic subspecies of *Canis lupus*, the gray wolf.

During the 2000 Name-the-Pups contest, Malik was named in memory of Minnesota Timberwolves player Malik Sealy. It is hard to distinguish Malik from Shadow. One trick is to look for the cowlick, a tuft of fur that grows in a different direction from the rest of the fur, between Malik's eyes. Members of the Wolf Care staff describe Malik as an easy-going wolf, but as a lower-ranking wolf, he can be suspicious of Wolf Care staff and veterinary care. However, Malik loves the enclosure enrichments. He displays a high tail and shows a tall posture if he finds hidden treats. One thing that scares Malik is the big metal scale used to weigh the wolves. His nails scrape across the metal, and it makes him nervous. He might put his front feet on the scale and stretch to get the treats placed there, but he will keep his back feet on firm ground. This makes it hard to weigh him during his yearly spring health check. The last time the Wolf Care staff got an accurate weight (with all four feet on the scale) on Malik, he weighed 92 pounds (42 kilograms) on May 25, 2011. Every spring, adult wolves receive a physical check and are weighed and vaccinated, but Malik wouldn't get on the scale during the 2012 exam. The Wolf Care staff gave him his vaccinations, but it took a lot of patience since Malik doesn't like the exams. ■



International Wolf Center



Word Puzzle

Name that ungulate.
Using the letter "e" as a clue, fill in the spaces for a common ungulate in North America.

___ e ___	___ _ _ _ _ e _ _ _
___ _ _ _ _ e	(two words)
e _ _ _	___ _ _ e _ _ _ _
	___ _ _ _ _ - _ _ _ e _
	(two words)

Answers: Deer, Moose, Elk, Bighorn sheep, Antelope, Musk-oxen