

Wild Kids



Meet the Pup Brothers

by Kristina Allen

Axel and Grayson were born on May 2, 2016. They are arctic wolves, a subspecies of the gray wolf species. The arctic wolf subspecies consists of a few hundred to a few thousand individuals in the wild, and only around 100 in captivity, so Axel and Grayson are actually very rare! As the newest pack members mature, their coats will change color from tan to white, or some mixture of white and black. Arctic wolves tend to be stocky compared to other subspecies, because in the wild, they live in a very cold, harsh climate. With their compact bodies, Axel and Grayson will retain their body heat a bit better than other ambassador wolves do.

Axel

Even at the age of three weeks, Axel routinely asserted his dominance over his brother Grayson, and he is still fond of stalking his brother and suddenly pouncing on him. Along with Axel's assertive nature, he seems to enjoy caching food (hiding it for later) and gnawing on anything he can chew. He even prefers to have his vitamins placed on a chewy item such as a cow hoof or a pig ear rather than having them fed from

a human's hand. Climbing has been a wonderful novelty for Axel; as soon as he discovered hay bales in the pup enclosure, he began crawling up and over them. Axel and Grayson will learn to submit to older wolves in the exhibit pack, but even as a very young pup Axel began standing his ground when Luna tried to stare him down.

Grayson

Like his brother, Grayson weighed about a pound when he was born. Grayson didn't gain weight as quickly as his sibling, which put him at a slight physical disadvantage during play bouts with his brother. Grayson has quickly learned to compensate, though. Over time, he has become bold enough to start playing by stalking his brother or biting him. Grayson often seeks comfort from pup care volunteers and staff, but his confidence is definitely growing as he matures. The pup-care team tries to distract the pups from things that make them uncomfortable, like the sound of airplanes and the noisy weed-whacker. To focus the pups' attention on something else, we like to give them interesting things like feathers, ice cubes or bones to investigate. At one point, Axel and Grayson found an old skull that Grizzer had cached—a brand new experience that kept the pups entertained for quite a while.

Grayson

Axel



Kelly Godfrey



We got Axel and Grayson from Canada when they were very young. They came from a litter of four, so they are brothers. Arctic wolves can have between 3 and 12 pups in a litter. Wolf pups are born blind and deaf, with blue eyes, but they soon can see and can howl as young as three weeks old. Arctic wolf pups are born with dark fur that turns white by about six months old, so Axel and Grayson are getting lighter by the day. Visit wolf.org and click on "Our Wolves" to follow the pups' progress through wolf logs, videos and photos! ■



Arctic Pups Word Find

I	D	Q	E	D	G	M	N	A	B
W	E	A	N	I	N	G	X	X	O
N	N	Y	E	A	R	L	I	N	G
W	T	E	R	R	I	T	O	R	Y
B	L	M	T	H	K	G	C	T	A
P	U	U	C	U	A	S	A	E	R
U	P	S	C	A	N	G	L	E	C
P	U	K	O	Q	N	D	F	T	T
S	S	O	W	E	M	I	R	H	O
Z	J	X	P	V	V	T	S	A	S

Use the Word Bank below to find as many words as possible in the Word Find puzzle. Words can run horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

- Territory
- Yearling
- Weaning
- Musk Ox
- Lupus
- Canis
- Pups
- Tundra
- Arctos
- Teeth
- Calf
- Den
- Cow



Ann Reberry

True or False?

Read Notes From the Field, left, and see how much you remember!

1. Wolf pups are born with green eyes T F
2. Wolf pups are born blind and deaf T F
3. The number of wolf pups in a litter can be 25 T F
4. Wolf cubs live in an eyrie T F
5. Arctic wolf pups are born with dark fur T F
6. Wolf pups can howl as young as three weeks old T F

1. False 2. True 3. True 4. False 5. True 6. True