

# LIVING WITH WOLVES:

## Tips for avoiding conflicts



- If pets must be unattended in the yard, keep them in a kennel with a secure top.
- Install motion sensor lights, as they may help keep wolves away.

### RAISING LIVESTOCK IN WOLF COUNTRY

The University of Minnesota conducted a study in early 1999 to determine if any livestock management practices could prevent wolf depredation. The study could find no management practices certain to prevent wolf depredation. The only method proven to prevent wolf depredation was removing the depredating wolves from the farm. However, farmers and ranchers have reported a few practices that may help in some cases. These include:

- Maintaining healthy, well-fed animals. Wolves typically select the weakest and easiest prey. Healthy animals are more difficult to take. Move lame or sick animals to a safe area when possible.
- Using guard animals. Although not always effective, the presence of guard dogs can be a deterrent. When using guard dogs against wolves it is important to use several dogs, as wolves may kill a single animal. Moving and consolidating sheep, as is done in rotational grazing, can help guard dogs be more effective. Keep in mind, however, that rotational grazing is less suitable during lambing as it may disrupt the bond between mother and offspring.
- Moving calving or lambing activities closer to the barnyard. Newborns are easy prey. Some farmers move calving or lambing closer to the barnyard because it allows for more frequent monitoring.
- Grants to implement measures to reduce wolf-livestock conflicts are available from the MDA.
- For more information, visit <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/disaster/wolf.aspx>

**W**olves are shy and generally avoid humans. Most people will never see a wolf, let alone have a conflict with one. Wolves can, however, lose their fear of humans through habituation and may approach camping areas, homes or humans. When this happens, there is an increased possibility for conflict between wolves and humans. Below are guidelines that you can follow to decrease the chance of wolf habituation and conflict while living and visiting wolf country.

### LIVING IN WOLF COUNTRY

- Do not feed wolves.
- Feed all pets indoors; leave no food outdoors.
- Dispose of all food and garbage in cans with secure lids.
- Do not feed wildlife: attracting any prey animal may attract wolves.
- Hang suet feeders at least seven feet above the surface of the ground or snow.
- Don't leave pets unattended outside: dogs and cats are easy targets for wolves.

## WATCHING WOLVES IN WOLF COUNTRY

While seeing a wolf is a memorable experience, like any other wild animal, you should use caution when they are close. Keep the following things in mind while you are viewing them:

- Do not feed wolves.
- Do not entice wolves to come closer.
- Do not approach wolves.
- Leave room for a wolf to escape.
- Do not allow a wolf to approach any closer than 300 feet.

## CAMPING IN WOLF COUNTRY

- Cook, wash dishes and store food away from sleeping areas.
- Pack out or dispose of garbage and leftover food properly.
- Suspend food, toiletries and garbage out of reach of any wildlife.
- Keep pets near you at all times.

## AGGRESSIVE OR FEARLESS WOLVES IN WOLF COUNTRY

If a wolf acts aggressively (growls or snarls) or fearlessly (approaches humans at a close distance without fear) take the following actions:

- Raise your arms and wave them in the air to make yourself look larger.
- Back away slowly; do not turn your back on the wolf.
- Make noise and throw objects at the wolf.

*Recommended by BC Parks, British Columbia, Canada*

## REALITY OF WOLF ATTACKS IN NORTH AMERICA

It is important to keep wolf attacks in perspective. Most wolves are not dangerous to humans and there is a greater chance of being killed by lightning, bee sting or car collision with a deer than being injured by a wolf. The injuries that have occurred were caused by a few wolves that became fearless of humans due to habituation. Nonetheless, like bears and cougars, wolves are instinctive predators that should be kept wild and respected.

For more information, visit:

**WOLF.ORG**



**International Wolf Center**

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