

LIVING WITH WOLVES: TIPS FOR AVOIDING CONFLICTS

Wolves 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 7 feet above the surface of the ground or snow.
- Don't leave pets unattended outside: dogs and cats are easy targets for wolves.
- 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.

Wolves in farm country:

A general brochure on wolf depredation on livestock can be downloaded from the [Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website](#) or by e-mail (Adrian.Wydeven@wisconsin.gov). Request publication number ER-103-2007.

Camping in wolf country:

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

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.

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.

Report fearless or aggressive wolves to a local government office:

Please call only to report fearless or aggressive wolves

Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources
715-762-1363 or 715-762-1362

USDA-Wildlife Services
Northern Wisconsin 1-800-228-1368, or
Central and Southern Wisconsin 1-800-433-0663

Reality of Wolf Attacks in North America

It is important to keep wolf attacks in perspective. There has been only one case of a healthy, wild wolf killing a person in North America in the last 100 years. 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.

Information from International Wolf Center, Ely, MN
<http://www.wolf.org/wolves/index.asp>

Reporting Wolf Observations in Wisconsin

Use the online report form:
http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/forms/rare_mammal.asp

Or submit the form below to:
Wolf Program
Wisconsin DNR
875. S. 4th Ave
Park Falls, WI 54552

Reporting Form for Wolf Observations in Wisconsin

| Observer | |
|--|-----------|
| Name | |
| Address | |
| Phone | |
| Observers background | |
| Description of Animal | |
| Estimated size | |
| Tail Length (stub, 1/4 body, 1/2 body, long as body) | |
| Track Size: | |
| Length | |
| Width | |
| Coloration | |
| Other Descriptions | |
| No. and Species | |
| Sex | |
| Adult | |
| Young | |
| Photo taken? | |
| General Comments | |
| Location | |
| GPS: Latitude | Longitude |
| Section | |
| Town | |
| Range | |
| County | |
| Road and Nearest Town | |
| Habitat | |
| Date and Time | |
| Reviewed by | |
| Agency | |
| Phone | |
| Code: PB PS NL | |