

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.

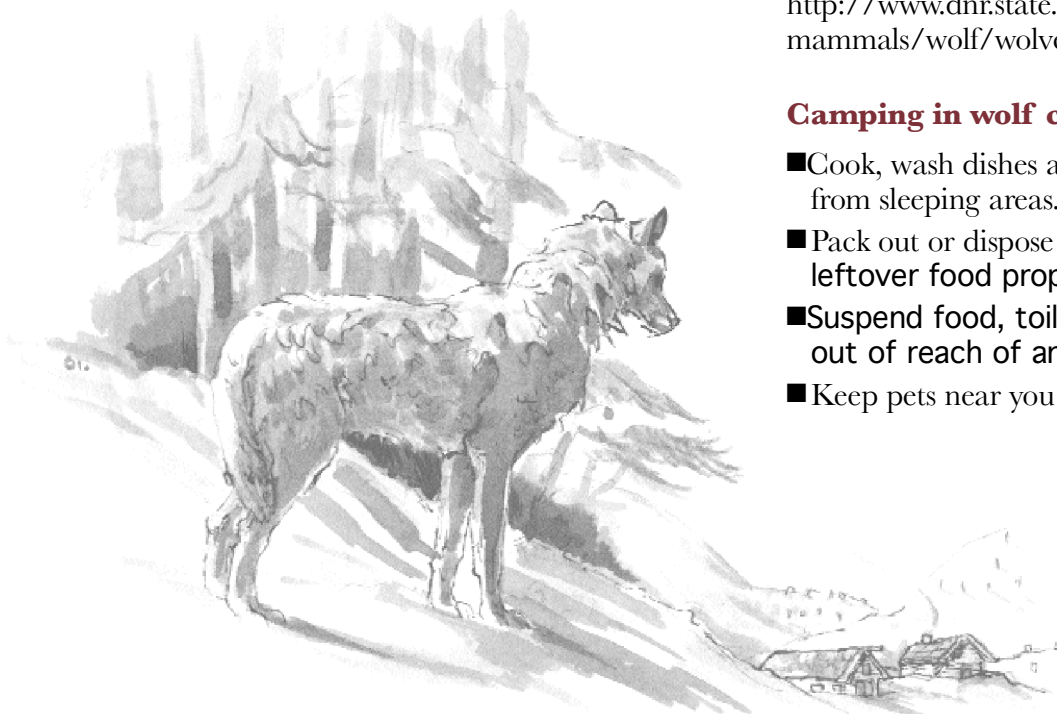
Raising livestock in wolf country:

A printable brochure on wolf depredation on livestock can be obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/mammals/wolf/wolvesinfarms.htm>

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.

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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:¹

- 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.

¹ Recommended by BC Parks, British Columbia, Canada



Report fearless or aggressive wolves to a local government office:

Arizona and New Mexico:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.....888-459-9653

Michigan:

Department of Natural Resources

Western Upper Peninsula.....906-875-6622

Eastern Upper Peninsula906-293-5131

Minnesota:

Department of Natural Resources.....888-646-6367

Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and surrounding states:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.....888-264-0103

Wisconsin:

Department of Natural Resources715-762-4684
ext 107

Please call only to report fearless or aggressive wolves.

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.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOAN OUELLETTE

For more information visit the International Wolf Center's Web site at www.wolf.org



International Wolf Center

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