



Short Stories from Little Wolf:

While visiting the International Wolf Center in Ely, young wolf enthusiasts can visit a special area called "Little Wolf." In the Little Wolf area, kids learn about wolves through several fun activities. One activity is to write a wolf story! Below is a recent story.

Vocabulary

Rendezvous site:

A small territory or site where the pack lives when the pups are big enough and old enough to leave the more sheltered den site. The adults leave the rendezvous site to hunt while the pups wait for adults to return with food for them. Most of the time, an older wolf stays behind to protect the pups. This rendezvous site is also where the pack plays and sleeps. The pack uses the rendezvous site until the pups are large enough to keep up with the adults as they travel around their territory during late fall and winter.

Den: A shelter where the mother bears her pups. The den is usually a big hole dug into the ground or a small cave. Dens protect the mother and her pups from other animals and bad weather.

Hormone: A chemical messenger in the body.

there once was a littel
wolf who lived in the
woods alone with no mother.
But one day his life changed
he was walking down
his street another wolf
came and he asked to
play so he said YES and
they playd all day and
became freinds. the

END



By ELLIE FROM MN Forest
LAKE



Notes from the Field

Wolves in the wild in this area are born in late April or early May. During the late summer and early fall, the pups live with the pack in an area called a rendezvous site. By this time of year, the pups are very active. They start joining the adult wolves on short hunts and test their independence in many ways. They are growing fast and usually weigh between 30-70 pounds! Soon they will be almost full-grown and will look like the other adult wolves.



Aidan turned seven years old earlier this year. He continues to be the dominant male in the pack. The pack's dominant female is Luna. Aidan and Luna have spent a lot of time together during the latter part of the summer. There may be biological reasons behind this behavior. Mammals have a chemical or hormone in their bodies called prolactin. This hormone is important for wolves because it helps them display more nurturing behavior towards pups. Even in our captive exhibit where the wolves don't have pups, prolactin is believed to increase in the late spring and decrease by early fall. Whether the hormones influence the wolves' social behaviors or summer is more relaxing, the staff does observe the dominant pair spending more time together. ■



Make-a-Word

How many words can you make from these terms?

Try making two-, three-, and four-letter words using the letters found in each term below. If that's too easy, see if you can make a five-letter word from each term.

Example: habitat

a	t		
h	i	t	
t	h	a	t

rendezvous

CHALLENGE: FIND A FIVE-LETTER WORD FOR EACH PUZZLE!

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prolactin

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independence

CHALLENGE: FIND A FIVE-LETTER WORD FOR EACH PUZZLE!

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den site

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