

# Wild Kids



## Meet the Pack



Ambassador wolf Luna is a Great Plains subspecies of the Gray wolf. Three-and-a-half years old, she is the only female in the exhibit pack at the interpretive center in Ely, Minnesota. Luna's confidence shows around the three males in the pack. Every Saturday night, the ambassador wolves get a deer carcass to eat. While the other wolves are eating, Luna tries to steal the food. When a wolf possesses food, it's theirs until they leave it or give it up to another wolf. But Luna has been observed trying to distract both Denali and Boltz as they are eating by approaching them and doing a playbow. Sometimes she will move closer to the feasting wolf and just lie down. Then the wolf will try to guard the carcass by showing Luna a lip curl to warn her to stay back. In response, Luna will casually look away, as if she is ignoring the feeding wolf. When the feeding wolf moves a slight distance away from the food, Luna quickly darts in and takes the food. Other times, in order to claim other wolves' food, Luna will distract them away or simply wait as long as she needs to until they finish.



## Vocabulary

### Behavior:

The way an animal or person acts in response to a particular response or stimulus.

### Playbow:

A behavior used to invite play with another wolf. The front legs are stretched forward, the chest is low to the ground and the rear remains high in the air.

### Ignore:

Refuse to take notice of or acknowledge.

### Distract:

To divert attention from the original focus or interest.

### Guard:

To protect desired objects from others.

### Lip Curl:

The curl up of a lip to reveal teeth.

### Foreleg Stab:

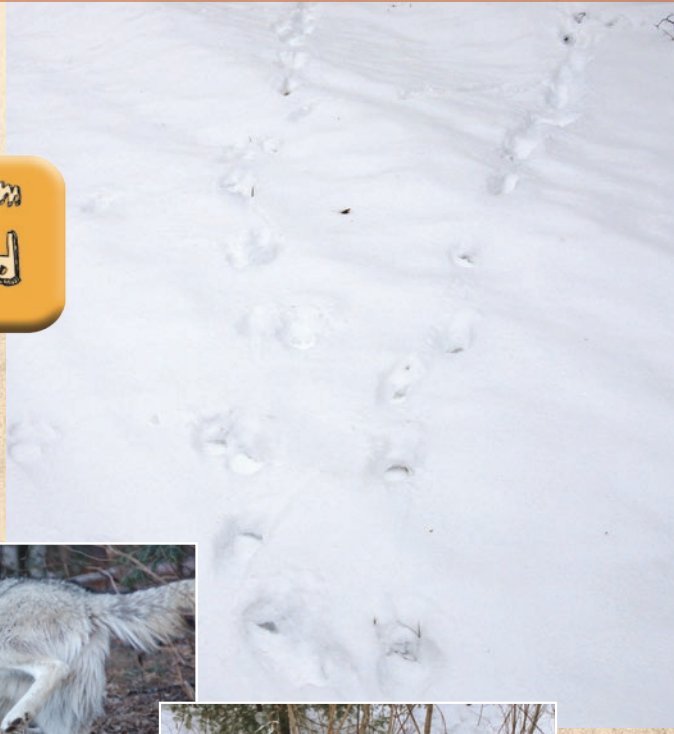
To swat or stab another wolf with the foreleg.



Winter is the easiest time for wolf tracking because in snow, the signs, including tracks, scent posts and scat are more visible.

A wolf trail is only about 5-to-10 inches wide. Look at the photo on this page and notice the wolf tracks are quite direct and linear compared to domestic dog tracks, which wander in different directions. With wide paws and long legs, a wolf is well-equipped to travel around its territory in the snow.

Wolves mark their territory through different kinds of scent-post markings, including urination and scat. The dominant wolf will mark with raised-leg urination. This is done by lifting a hind leg and squirting on vertical objects like trees and shrubs. A non-dominant wolf will urinate by squatting with its legs spread and squirting on the ground (female) or standing and squirting directly under him (male). Wolf scat is often deposited along a trail or at the junction of two or more trails. Wolf scat will contain hair from the food the wolf ate. Scat color can vary from dark to light, depending on what parts of a carcass the wolf has eaten. The scat will be darker when it contains remains of organs and muscle. Scats are lighter when they contain more hair and bones. ■



Scent marking by a dominant wolf (above) and non-dominant male wolf (right).

Photos: International Wolf Center



## Double Puzzle

First: Unscramble each of the clue words right using the vocabulary words (opposite page).

PLBYAWO	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	5				
REGONI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		2				
GURDA	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>				6				
TAISTCRD	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	3				
LPI LUCR	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	4				
GOFRELE TABS	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	1

Then: Copy the letters in the numbered cells to the cells below with the matching number to reveal what all these words have in common!

WOLF	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	V	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	1	2	3	4	5	6		