



International Wolf Center

## Paws and Effect:

**W**olves have fantastic feet with adaptations that set them apart from other animals in their environment. Wolves' very large feet help them move around confidently on harsh terrain. In the winter those big feet even double as snowshoes, keeping them from sinking down into the snow as much as do other animals.

They also have hair between their toes. These hairs have a very important job. When the wolf is out in cold, snowy winter weather, these hairs help stop snow from freezing in between their toes. (If snow gets between their toes, they can have problems or suffer damage to their feet!)

Wolves' feet also help make them excellent swimmers because of another adaptation called "interdigital webbing." This means they have a special piece of skin between their toes that acts like a flipper in the water. This interdigital webbing helps them swim more easily so they can chase swimming prey, like a moose or deer. ■



International Wolf Center



Jennifer El

## Meet the Pack:

Grizzer is 14½ - years old, making him the oldest wolf currently living at the International Wolf Center. He came to the center in 2004 with his littermate, Maya, and has lived in retirement since March 2011. Aidan and Luna live with him in retirement. He currently weighs 112 pounds.

Grizzer



Kelly Godfrey



International Wolf Center

## Notes from the Field

Fall's arrival means that wolves need to get ready for the cold winter months ahead. One way they do this is by growing an undercoat (fur). The dense, thick hairs in the undercoat grow underneath the outer guard-hair layer. The undercoat has a very soft texture and acts as an insulating layer to help the wolves stay warm and dry in cold climates.

## Vocabulary

**Adapt** To adjust or change in order to fit in a specific location or situation

**Biologist** A person who studies living organisms, life processes and/or the animal and plant life of a particular place. Biologists also study the relationships of living things to one another.

**Carnivore** An animal that eats meat

**Ethogram** A catalogue or table of an animal's observed behaviors and actions

### Word Search

Words can go any direction

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| cache      | carnivore |
| play       | den       |
| pups       | habitat   |
| scent roll | howl      |
| undercoat  | jawspaw   |
| wolves     | pack      |
| yawn       |           |

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