



# Mexican Wolves

Mexican wolves, also called lobos, are a subspecies of the gray wolf that prefer mountain forests, scrublands, and remote desert-edge areas. Adult Mexican wolves weigh between 50-80 pounds and are about 25-32 inches tall at the shoulder. They are the smallest subspecies of the gray wolf, but still fairly large compared to coyotes. The bodies of Mexican wolves are long and lean, built for speed and endurance. Their large ears help them hear sounds from far away and their strong nose helps them smell prey from long distances. Their camouflage coloring helps them blend into forests and desert areas.

Mexican wolves are apex predators that primarily eat elk, deer, javelina, and smaller mammals such as rabbits and rodents. They live and hunt in packs using howls, scent marking, and body language to communicate. Their howl is higher-pitched than other wolves. Mexican wolves are highly territorial and intelligent.

Mexican wolves originally ranged across northern Mexico and the southwestern United States (Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas). They were listed as endangered in 1976. Reintroduction programs in the U.S. began in 1998 when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released the first 11 captive Mexican wolves into the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area in Arizona and New Mexico. As of 2025, there are at least 286 Mexican wolves in the wild in the U.S. and 45 in Mexico.