



Gray Wolves

Gray wolves are large, carnivorous mammals that can live in a variety of habitats, including forests, tundras, deserts, and grasslands. They need large areas of land to roam and hunt. Adult gray wolves are about the size of a very large dog, but with longer and stronger legs. Males are generally larger than females. They have long legs, a narrow chest, and large paws, that help them travel long distances. Gray wolves are highly social animals that live in packs ranging from 2 to over 20 wolves.

Gray wolves are apex predators with a diet consisting of deer, elk, moose, caribou, rabbits, mice, and birds. Wolves hunt in packs using their numbers and coordinated strategies to bring down prey much larger than themselves. They rely on their keen senses of smell, hearing, and sight to track and capture prey.

Gray wolves, once widespread across North America, were listed as endangered in the United States in 1974 due to habitat loss, hunting, and government predator control programs. Today, conservation efforts are in place to help protect and restore wolf populations.

With the goal of balancing the ecosystem, 31 gray wolves from Canada were released into Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho in 1995. Reintroduction programs have also been initiated in other regions, such as the Great Lakes, Pacific Northwest, and most recently Colorado.