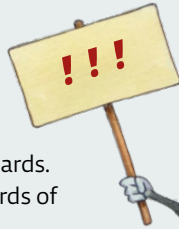


## ! Herd protection

Measures are being taken to protect certain livestock, such as sheep and goats, in areas where wolves are reappearing. Unprotected or poorly protected livestock are easy prey for wolves. In addition to shepherds and temporary fencing, livestock guardian dogs are also used to protect livestock.

### How to act in the presence of livestock guardian dogs:

- > Read and take heed of the information boards.
- > Wherever space allows, stay away from herds of sheep and goats.
- > Stay calm if a livestock guardian dog barks at you and starts running towards you.
- > Turn around and walk away from the dog, keeping well away from the herd.
- > Do not provoke the dog with sticks or rapid movements.
- > Cyclists should stop, dismount and walk past the herd slowly.
- > Do not stroke, feed or try to play with the livestock guardian dog. Ignore it if it starts to follow you.
- > Keep your own dog(s) on lead(s). Let go of the lead if the livestock guardian dog approaches you.



## The wolf (*Canis lupus lupus*)

**Size:** Length: 100-150 cm, height: 50-70 cm

**Weight:** 30 – 50 kg

**Lifespan:** Approx. 10 years in the wild (high juvenile mortality rate of 70-80% during the first year of life)

**Senses:** Good eyesight – including at night (250° field of vision, humans: 180°), very good sense of smell and hearing (can hear the howls of other wolves from a distance of up to 10 km and can smell other wolves and prey up to 2 km away)

**Packs of wolves:** 4 to 7 animals in a large territory of 100-350 km<sup>2</sup>. Packs generally comprise parents, their current litter of cubs and often the cubs from the previous litter.

**Characteristics:** Both males and females can roam huge distances (they can cover up to 60 km in one night) and are very good swimmers.

**Diet & predators:** Wolves have an extremely varied diet. In our regions, their natural diet consists of wild, medium-sized hoofed animals, such as roe and red deer. Wolves also eat carrion, berries, fruit, small mammals and (unattended) livestock. Humans are the only species to pose a threat to wolves.



## Encounters with wolves



### Report tracks and sightings of wolves

**Austria:** Österreichzentrum Bär, Wolf, Luchs, Ph +43 6646219419, georg.rauer@vetmeduni.ac.at, baer-wolf-luchs.at/monitoring.htm

**Switzerland:** www.kora.ch

**Germany/Bavaria:** Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt (Bavarian Environmental Agency), fachstelle-gb@lfu.bayern.de, www.lfu.bayern.de/natur/wildtiermanagement\_grosse\_beutegreifer/hinweise\_melden/index.htm

**South Tyrol:** Amt für Jagd und Fischerei (Hunting and Fisheries Agency), jagd.fischerei@provinz.bz.it, www.provinz.bz.it/landforstwirtschaft/fauna-jagd-fischerei/default.asp

**Italy:** Grandi Carnivori, Davide Berton, Ph+34 05070948, info@cai.it



www.alpenverein.at  
www.alpenverein.it  
www.alpenverein.de  
www.cai.it

www.pzs.si  
www.ffcam.fr  
www.sac-cas.ch  
www.club-arc-alpin.eu


**Concept and content:** CAA, Club Arc Alpin, **Graphics:** Theresa Girardi, Österreichischer Alpenverein, **Coordination:** Birgit Kantner, Österreichischer Alpenverein, **Illustration:** Roberto Mangosi, **Photo:** Gray Wolf II - dalliedee, CC-BY-2.0, 2021

## Dear Hikers and Mountain Lovers,

The Alpine associations encourage a relationship of respect between humans and wildlife. As soon as wild animals sense or see people, they will usually turn back. This is also the case with wolves and brown bears. Both species have been living in parts of the Alps again for a number of years now.

Just like bears, lynx and wildcats, wolves are an important component of biodiversity and therefore of an intact ecosystem. Due to environmental and socio-economic changes, as well as strict protection programmes, wolves have been recolonising their original habitats since the 1970s.

These recommendations provide general guidance on safety when encountering wolves and on how to act in the presence of livestock guardian dogs.

! All-round view:  
The wolf sees  
more 



## ! Wolves are a protected species

Wolves are strictly protected by both national and international laws. In the EU, their „habitats“ must not be damaged and they must not be disturbed during breeding, migration and hibernation periods. There are, however, some exemptions to this which allow measures to be taken to manage the wolf population in the Alps under certain circumstances.

## ! There is no reason to be afraid of wolves

The likelihood of encountering a wolf in the wild is low. These shy predators generally avoid direct contact with people. If they do see you, they will usually retreat quickly. Wolves very rarely attack people. The only documented incidents have involved wolves with rabies, wolves which have become stressed during efforts to capture them or wolves with no means of escape.

Healthy wild wolves therefore pose virtually no risk to hikers and mountaineers. Dog owners should nevertheless keep a close eye on their dogs and should not let them wander off in order to prevent them from coming to any harm should they encounter a wolf.

## ! Spotting a wolf

If you do encounter a wolf, do not show any fear and do not panic and run away. Instead, follow these rules for how to react:

- > Slowly walk backwards to create distance between yourself and the animal
- > Make the wolf aware of you (e.g. by speaking loudly).
- > In the very unlikely case that the wolf does follow you, shout at it, make yourself big and tall and, if necessary, throw something at it.
- > Never feed wolves, not even for a good photo opportunity!
- > Report any signs of wolves, such as sightings, photos, tracks or signs of attacks on other animals (with photos, wherever possible).

