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Living with Wolves

Wolves are an important part of our ecosystem, and contribute to Ontario's rich biodiversity. The presence of wolves is a good indication that our natural spaces are healthy.

Ontario's wolves are found in forests from the southern edge of the Canadian Shield, throughout the boreal forest and into the Hudson-Bay Lowlands in northern Ontario. Wolf sightings south of this area are rare.

Wolves are shy and generally avoid humans. However, they can lose their fear of humans if they learn to associate people with easily available food. When this happens, wolves can be seen in daylight hours and may approach camping areas, homes and people.

Aggressive behaviour toward people is unusual, but you should use caution when a wolf is close. If you see a wolf keep your distance and the animal will most likely avoid you.

If you encounter a wolf

- Never approach or touch a wild animal
- Do not turn your back or run, back away from it while remaining calm
- If the wolf tries to approach, stand tall, wave your hands, and make lots of noise
- Use whistles and personal alarm devices to frighten it
- Carry a flashlight at night
- If the wolf poses an immediate threat or danger to public safety – call 911.

Responsibility for managing problem wildlife on properties

- You are responsible for managing problem animals on your property. For example, if there is a wolf problem on municipal property, it is the municipality's responsibility to deal with it.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry helps you and municipalities respond to problem wildlife by providing fact sheets, appropriate agency and animal control services referrals, and information necessary to obtain authorizations where required.
- You can take steps to ensure wolves are not attracted to your property and to keep your pets safe.

How to report a wolf death

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act sets out the legal actions you can take to [respond to problem wildlife](#) on your property. Generally, you or your agent may capture, kill, or harass problem wolves to prevent damage to your property.

- A person who kills a wolf in protection of property in northern and central Ontario – Wildlife Management Units 1-42, 46-50 and 53-58 – must immediately report it at <https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/keep-dead-wild-animal> if the animal is being kept, or call the local ministry in all other cases.
- You can invite a licensed small game hunter or a trapper to hunt or trap wolves on your property during the open seasons where local bylaws permit. To locate a licensed trapper, contact the [Ontario Fur Managers Federation](#) at 705-254-3338 or email furmanagers@gmail.com.

Keep pets safe

Cats and small dogs may be seen as prey by wolves, while larger dogs may be seen as competitors. To avoid these situations consider the following suggestions:

- Feed pets indoors.
- Do not allow pets to roam. Wolves may try to kill a dog or a cat when given the opportunity.
- Walk your dog on a leash at all times.
- Do not leave pets unattended outside unless they are in a kennel with a secure top; wolves can jump into fenced yards, and dogs confined by chains are vulnerable to attack.
- Spay or neuter your dogs. Wolves are attracted to, and can mate with, domestic dogs that have not been spayed or neutered.

Secure garbage and minimize attractants on your property

- Properly store and maintain garbage containers.
- Put garbage at curbside the morning of the scheduled pickup rather than the night before.
- Use enclosed composting bins rather than exposed piles. Wolves are attracted to products containing meat, milk and eggs.
- To prevent attracting wolves to your property, do not feed wildlife such as deer; remove deer food and salt blocks.
- Keep pet food indoors.

Prevent predation on livestock

- Barns or sheds can provide effective protection from wolf predation for livestock that bed inside or nearby at night.
- Remove bush and forest cover that can help conceal predators like wolves from all active pastures.
- Consider electric fencing to help deter wolves and other predators.
- Guard animals, such as donkeys, llamas and dogs, can be a cost-effective way to protect livestock from wolves. Guard animals develop a bond with livestock if they are slowly integrated and will aggressively repel predators.
- Well-lit yards or the use of motion-sensitive lighting may make your property less attractive to wolves and other nocturnal wildlife.
- For more information on preventing livestock predation, visit the [Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs website](#).

Learn More

- To learn more about wolves, including how to deal with wolf problems, call the ministry's [district office](#) that serves your area at ontario.ca/mnrfoffices.
- Read more on wolves in the community, including biology and behaviour of wolves, at ontario.ca/livingwithwildlife.