










If you encounter a wolf ...

-  **Remain calm!**
Watch the wolf and keep a respectful distance - just like you would with other wild animals. Should you feel uneasy, back away slowly while facing the animal. Do not run away!
-  If the animal sees you, it will usually retreat, so give it time and space to do so. It normally retreats calmly. The wolf will, for example, trot away slowly and possibly turn around several times.
-  If the situation permits, take photos. But do not follow the animal.
-  **Do not feed the animal under any circumstances! Do not entice the animal, it could lose its natural fear!**
-  Young wolves are often more curious than older ones. In the unlikely event that an animal follows you, stop. Appear self-confident. Rather move towards the animal than away from it. Make a noise and try to intimidate the animal by standing tall, waving your arms or items of clothing in the air, yelling or throwing things at it.
-  If it makes you feel safer, carry pepper spray or a whistle with you.
-  If you have a dog with you, keep it on a leash and close to you. Otherwise behave in the manner described above.

The same code of conduct applies if you encounter several wolves

Local contacts and reporting of wolf sightings

Wolf consultants:

Contact details can be found under www.wolfsbuero.nlwkn.niedersachsen.de
➤ Wolfsberaterinnen und Wolfsberater



Wolf consultants

General questions concerning wolves:

Wolf Portal of the Ministry of the Environment of Lower Saxony
www.der-wolf-in-niedersachsen.de



Wolf Portal

Wolf Office of the NLWKN (Wolfsbüro):

www.wolfsbuero.nlwkn.niedersachsen.de
wolfsbuero@nlwkn-h.niedersachsen.de
Tel.: +49 511/3034-3034



Wolf Office

Reporting of wolf sightings and activities:

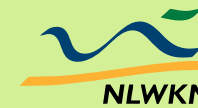
Wolf consultants (see above) or Hunter's Association of Lower Saxony (Landesjägerschaft Niedersachsen e.V.)
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Niedersächsischer Landesbetrieb für
Wasserwirtschaft, Küsten- und Naturschutz



The Wolf Has Returned to Lower Saxony Information and Code of Conduct



Niedersachsen



A Return by Their Own Strength

The wolf was long considered extinct in Germany - now it has taken up residence once again in Lower Saxony. But its living conditions have changed: Human population density has increased and roads criss-cross the evermore-cultivated landscape.

The return of the wolf poses an important challenge for all sides: to live together peacefully. The state of Lower Saxony intends to increase the acceptance of the wolf in order to enable a peaceful coexistence, because the future of the wolf depends largely on whether it is perceived as what it is: a wild animal as expression of biological diversity that has a rightful place in nature.









The Wolf is a Protected Species

The wolf is strictly protected by EU laws and also enjoys the highest conservation status in Germany. This is because it is still a rare species whose survival in our part of the world is far from certain. Wolves may not be killed or injured. But as always when dealing with wild animals, the safety of humans comes first.

All over Lower Saxony, state-appointed volunteer wolf consultants are devoting themselves to promoting a good coexistence of humans and wolves. Contact details can be found on the back of the page.

A Profile of the European Wolf

-  **Facts:** Shoulder height 60 - 90 cm. The fur is grey-brown with black tips. The underside of the muzzle is white, the tail tip is black.
-  **The pack:** Wolves live in family groups consisting of parents and young wolves ranging in age from pups to one year olds. Within free roaming packs there is generally no competitive ranking order, the parent animals are accepted as natural authorities.
-  **Reproduction:** The mating season is end of February to beginning of March, the gestation period lasts 63 days, the litter size is 4 - 6. The pups are born at the end of April / beginning of May, leave the den for the first time after approximately three weeks and are sexually mature after 22 months.
-  **Diet:** The wolf's diet consists mainly of wild animals such as does, deer and wild boars, sometimes also of smaller mammals. If easily accessible, farm animals such as sheep or goats may also fall prey to the wolf. Appropriate safety measures reduce or prevent the risk of wolves going after livestock.
-  **Range:** At the age of 11 to 22 months, young animals might decide to leave the pack, which means the size of the pack does not grow. Some young animals attempt to settle close-by, others wander for hundreds of kilometres.
-  **Territory:** The size of the territory is dependent on availability of prey. In Central Europe, the territory may cover an area of 150 - 350 square kilometres and is only inhabited by a single pack. Thus wolf density in a given territory is never higher than the pack size.



Humans and Wolves

Generally, wolves do not pose a threat to humans. The animals usually keep out of the way of humans, although young wolves tend to be more curious than adult animals. Wolves do not associate cars and houses with humans and therefore do not perceive them as a threat. Wolves use settlement areas as a normal part of their natural habitat - mostly at dusk and at night, when they are less disturbed by humans, but sometimes also during the day. Humans can move around freely in areas where wolves reside.

But beware: Feeding wolves will accustom them to an easy and convenient source of food. This may cause them to become bolder and even dangerous. Therefore:

Never feed wolves!

In areas with wolf occurrence, any waste containing edibles should thus be stored securely in a closed container to prevent passive feeding. In the past, rabid animals also posed a threat, but Germany has been considered rabies-free since 2008.

Also talk to your children about wolves. The same code of conduct applies for children as it does for adults. When hiking with your dog in wolf territory, always keep your dog in check, just like you would in the open country, so that it can immediately act on your call. An unattended dog runs the risk of being attacked as an "intruding wolf" encroaching on their territory.



Wolves howl to communicate with their pack. This does not signify danger to humans.