



WS Wildlife Services

Protecting People | Protecting Agriculture | Protecting Wildlife

Information on Gray Wolf in California

Gray Wolf Protections

To report wolf activity or sightings:

Call the California Department of Fish and Game (530) 225-2300

To report a dead, captured, or injured wolf:

Call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (916) 414-6660

While waiting for the agencies to respond, the caller should follow these instructions to protect the scene:

- Treat area as a potential crime scene.
- Do not touch anything and keep all people and animals from the area to protect evidence.
- Place a tarp over the wolf carcass.
- If possible, use cans or other objects to cover footprints and animals tracks.

To report possible wolf-caused livestock depredation:

Call Wildlife Services (916) 979-2675 or (530) 336-5623

The caller should follow these instructions to protect the scene:

- Avoid walking in and around the area.
- Do not touch anything and keep all people and animals from the area to protect evidence.
- Place a tarp over the carcass.
- If possible, use cans or other objects to cover tracks and scats that can confirm the depredating species.

For assistance with discouraging possible wolf depredation of livestock:

Contact:
Wildlife Services
(916) 979-2675 or
(530) 336-5623

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(916) 414-6660

California Department of Fish and Game, Northern Region
(530) 225-2300

Federal Law: The gray wolf is federally listed as an endangered species and is protected by the Endangered Species Act (Act) in California. Under the Act (Act), it is unlawful to “take” any listed wildlife unless permitted by regulation (50 CFR 17.21). The term “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Harass is further defined as “an intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding or sheltering” (50 CFR 17.3). Penalties associated with the Act may include up to \$100,000 fine, up to one year imprisonment, or both.



Additional information:

- www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/wolf
- www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/mammals/wolf/
- www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/protecting_livestock/gray_wolf_rocky_mnt.shtml

Methods to Discourage Livestock Depredation by Wolves

Habitat Modification – Make your property less attractive to wolves.

- Remove diseased or dying animals from areas where they can attract wolves. Do not leave these animals out in the open.
- Dispose of carcasses in properly constructed and maintained carcass pits.
 - Carcass pits should be routinely burned or covered with dirt.
 - Carcass pits should be at least 8 feet deep and located away from livestock, homes, outbuildings, etc.
 - Surround carcass pits with predator-resistant fencing can further reduce the chances of attracting wolves.
- Haul away carcasses to a rendering facility or commercial landfill.
- Fence or pen livestock at night using permanent or portable fencing.

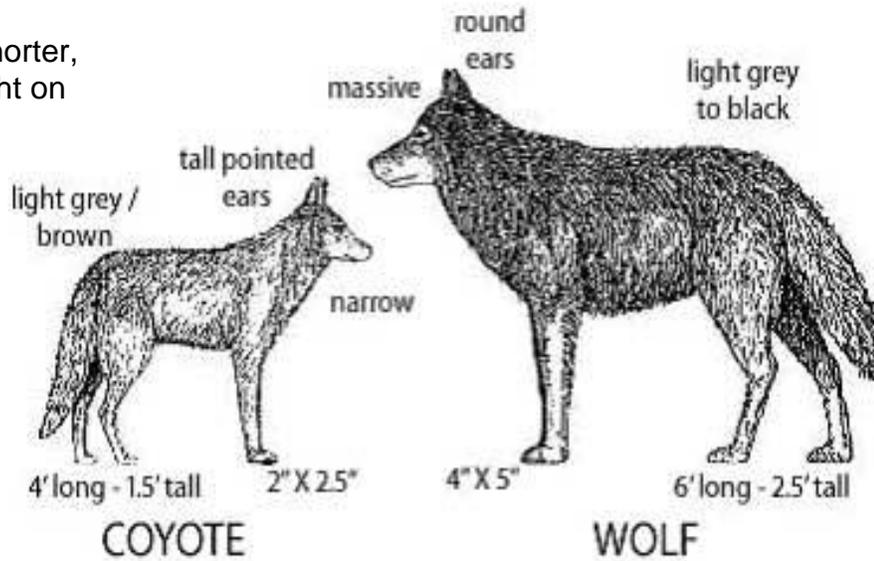
Other Tools – The tools below are most effective when used in combination, so that discouragement is consistent rather than sporadic and one type/tool reinforces the effectiveness of another tool.

- **Fladry:** Wolves can be reluctant to cross fladry lines (a series of cloth flags hung at intervals along a rope or fence line) for 30-60 days.
- **Hazing:** Install flashing lights, triggered by motion sensors, around perimeter of sensitive areas (e.g., calving areas). Lights should be moved regularly to increase effectiveness.
- **Livestock Guarding Dogs:**
 - Use multiple livestock guarding dogs. In most situations, livestock guarding dogs can be effective at alerting people to the presence of wolves but not in actually keeping wolves away.
 - Effectiveness of livestock guarding dogs is dependent on breeding and training. There is little overlap between the breeds of dogs that make good guarding dogs (such as Great Pyrenees, Anatolian shepherds, Akbash) and ones that make good herding dogs.
 - Dogs may be seen as competition by wolves.
 - Dogs should not be allowed to chase or attack wolves as this may result in the injury to or death of the dog.
 - Do not allow dogs near active wolf den sites.

Coyote or Gray Wolf: Know the Difference?

Coyotes are shorter, sleeker, and light on their feet.

Wolves are larger, bulkier, and stout on their feet.



Weight: 15-45 pounds

Weight: 70-130 pounds

Shoulder Height: 1 ½ feet

Shoulder Height: 2 ½ feet

Snout/Muzzle: Long and Pointed

Snout/Muzzle: Large and Blocky

Ears: Long and Pointed

Ears: Short and Rounded

