

All About Red Wolves



The red wolf is one of America's most endangered animals. A long time ago, thousands of red wolves roamed the southeastern United States. Because early settlers were afraid of wolves, they nearly hunted red wolves to extinction. By the 1970s, there were very few red wolves left in the wild. To save the red wolves, scientists took the 17 remaining red wolves into captivity to live and breed in zoos. Luckily, once the red wolves were protected in captivity, they reproduced and had many puppies. By 1987, red wolves were ready to return to the wild. Four pairs of red wolves were released on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern North Carolina. Today there are over 100 wild red wolves living in northeastern North Carolina and over 150 red wolves living in zoos and captive breeding facilities across the country.



Do red wolves live in packs?

Yes. Red wolves live in family groups known as packs. The mother and father have a litter of about four pups each year and when those

pups grow up, usually they will stay with their family and help raise the next year's pups. Red wolves live in packs so they can help each other hunt and raise their young together.



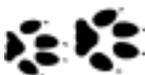
What do red wolves eat?

Red wolves are mostly meat-eaters. They eat a combination of white-tailed deer, raccoons, rabbits and other rodents such as mice and nutria.



How do biologists study red wolves?

When biologists catch a red wolf, they give it a radio collar that sends out signals or "beeps." Each collar makes its own signal, so that biologists can use a radio receiver to listen for individual animals.



What do red wolves look like?

Red wolves weigh 45 to 80 pounds, have tall pointed ears and long legs with large feet, and are about the size of a German shepherd dog. They are mostly brown and tan with some black along their backs and a cinnamon-color on their ears, head and legs.

Are red wolves dangerous?

Red wolves do not attack humans. Red wolves are shy and stay away from people. However, all wildlife, including red wolves, should not be approached in order to avoid injury to the animal or the people involved.



Learn more, visit these websites:

<http://alligatorriver.fws.gov>
www.redwolves.com
www.fieldtripearth.com