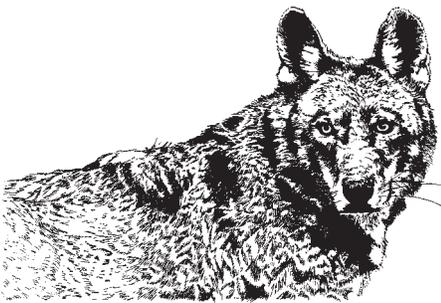


As a Matter of Fact: Vital Statistics at a Glance

Status: Endangered/experimental non-essential

Scientific Name:
Canis rufus

Common name:
Red wolf



Jane Rohling

Physical Characteristics:

- Larger than coyotes, smaller than gray wolves
- Color varies from dark gray to gray mixed with cinnamon, buff, tan, and black. Often has reddish tinge on ears and leg
- Mature adults weigh from 50 to 80 pounds
- Slender body, length about 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 feet from tip of nose to end of tail
- Long legs with height at shoulder about 26 inches
- Ears are longer than a gray wolf's and are often held at an angle away from the head

Behavior, Habitat, and Home Range:

Range:

Originally found from the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, north to the Ohio River Valley, through central Pennsylvania and New England, and west to southern Missouri and central Texas. Presently living in the wild in Alligator River, Mattamuskeet, and Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuges and adjacent private property, and on island propagation sites.

Habitat:

Mixed forests, wetlands, agricultural lands

Food:

Red wolves are carnivores. In northeastern North Carolina, the diet is mostly white-tailed deer, raccoons, nutria, rabbits and rodents. They will occasionally eat other items such as insects, grass, and fruit.

Habits:

Live in packs or small family groups. Often hunt in pairs or alone. Usually active at dusk, at night, and in early morning, rest during the day.

Breeding:

Mating usually in February. One litter per year. Gestation period 63 days. Average litter 3-5 pups usually born in April. Sexual maturity generally at age 2.

Vocalization:

Clear and resonant, not as deep and "chesty" as the howl of the gray wolf.