

Red Wolf

The Red Wolf (*Canis Rufus*) is the most endangered of all the wolf species. It has a smooth reddish coat, a silver-grey forehead, long ears and long legs. They are similar in size to a German shepherd dog.

The red wolf belongs to the canidae family, which includes wolves, foxes, jackals, coyotes and domestic dogs. Red wolf packs usually contain between 2 and 10 members.

Red wolves eat smaller ground dwelling animals such as rabbits and rodents. They also hunt together as a group in order to catch a larger animal such as a deer.

Red wolves generally hunt alone or in small packs. They communicate by howling, scent marking, facial expressions, and body movement. Red wolves are nocturnal animals.

Red wolves inhabit forests, wetlands, coastal prairies and mountains. They make their dens in hollow trees, stream banks and in sand knolls.

The female red wolf gives birth to a litter of 4 - 6 pups. The pups are born blind and are nursed by the rest of the pack until they are able to hunt for themselves. They will either remain with their parents or leave to start a pack of their own.

Today, about 50 red wolves exist in the wild and about 200 live in zoos and breeding facilities. Predators of the red wolf include wolves, coyotes, and humans.



Quick facts

Diet: Carnivore

Life span: 10 - 12 years

Lifestyle: Pack

Weight: 18kg - 41kg

Top speed: 75km (46mph)



Did You Know?

- Red wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world.

Name: _____

Subject: Themes - Endangered species

Date: _____

Sheet: Red wolf

Read the information sheet about red wolves on the previous page and then answer the questions below.

1. What is the scientific name for a red wolf?

2. What is the top speed of a red wolf?

3. What do red wolves eat?

4. What is a predator?

5. How many pups are in a litter?

6. Does only the mother take care of the pups?

7. What does 'nocturnal' mean?

8. How do wolves communicate?

9. How do wolves kill large animals?
