



**Gray Wolf  
(Canis lupus)**



general  
info



03-0103-11



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## **Gray Wolf (Canis lupus)**

Federal status: Endangered  
Colorado status: Endangered

The largest wild members of the dog family, gray wolves generally have grizzled coats, with gray, black, and light brown fur covering their head and upper body. Compared to dogs and coyotes, they have longer legs and larger paws. The adult's head and body length is 40 to 58 inches, plus a bushy tail 13 to 20 inches long. The animal's weight varies by subspecies, with a typical average of 80 pounds.

**Habitat:** Colorado is part of the gray wolf's native range, but wolves were eradicated from the state by the mid-1930s. Over the past decade, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reintroduced gray wolves into Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico and Arizona. Some observers believe it is only a matter of time before wolves start migrating into Colorado from the north and south.

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