



species factsheet

| species introduction |

Common name: Arctic wolf

Scientific name: *Canis lupus arctos*

The Arctic wolf is a medium to large, mostly-white, wolf inhabiting North America north of about 60 degrees N. latitude and the north-eastern, northern, and north-western shore of Greenland. It intergrades with other wolf races south of it. It preys on muskoxen, Arctic hares and caribou and can live in packs of up to at least 20 animals.



Arctic wolves in Québec:© Eric Pépin <http://www.flickr.com/photos/zorro-the-cat/2341125207/>

| status in the wild |

The population status is secure. Although Arctic wolves are hunted and trapped primarily by Inuit and other native people the species is not threatened.

| species reproduction |

These wolves mate in late March and early April. Gestation period is 63 days, and pups are born late May to early June. They den in rock caves, shallow pits, holes, enlarged fox dens, etc. Litter size up to 6. Both parents care for and feed the pups, as do yearling and older sibling helpers.

| species habitat |

Habitat is taiga, tundra and barren grounds

| species food |

Preys primarily on muskoxen, Arctic hares, caribou, seals, but like all other wolves opportunistically eats all other types of vertebrates available.

| threats |

Although hunted and trapped primarily by Inuit and other native people the population status is secure. No known long-term or general climate-change threat, although local climatic conditions can adversely affect local populations temporarily.

| conservation |

Various Canadian provinces and territories regulate harvesting to varying degrees, but human density in the Arctic wolf's range is low enough that populations are secure so long as fur prices do not increase considerably.

| find out more |

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