

North Carolina's Red Wolves



USFWS

Red wolves are **ENDANGERED** animals. A long time ago, red wolves were almost hunted to **EXTINCTION**. The last 17 **WILD** red wolves were taken to zoos to live safely. In **CAPTIVITY**, they had many pups. When there were enough **RED WOLVES** living in captivity, scientists returned four pairs of red wolves to the wild in North Carolina. Today, the **POCOSIN** habitat and farm fields of northeastern North Carolina are home to the only wild population of red wolves anywhere in the world! There are about 25 red wolves living in North Carolina and about 275 red wolves living in captivity across the country.

Red wolves live in family groups known as **PACKS**. Each year, the mother and father wolves dig a **DEN** and have about four **PUPS**. When those pups grow up, they usually 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.

Red wolves are mostly **CARNIVORES** (meat-eaters). They eat white-tailed deer, raccoons, rabbits and rodents such as mice and **NUTRIA**. Red wolves are **PREDATORS** and play an important role in nature. Red wolves are shy and stay away from people. No one has ever been attacked by a red wolf.

How you can help red wolves

DRIVE SAFELY.

Red wolves need a lot of habitat to live. They have to cross roads and canals to find enough food to survive. Pay attention while driving.

KEEP THE ROAD CLEAN.

Food and trash thrown from vehicles attracts wild animals to roadsides. These animals can be injured or killed by vehicles. Save red wolves and other wildlife – don't litter!

LEARN.

Learn about wildlife and enjoy sharing the world with wild animals. Understand that red wolves are not dangerous to people when left alone. All wildlife, including red wolves, should not be approached in order to avoid injury to the animal or the people involved.

REPORT

DEAD red wolves. Wildlife managers keep track of wolves in North Carolina. It is important that they know when a wolf is found dead. If you find a wolf that has died, report it to a wildlife professional and do not touch it.



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Greg Koch

Top left: adult red wolf

Left: wolf den in a farm field

Above: red wolf father and pup

Right: two to three-week-old wolf pups in a den created from an uprooted stump

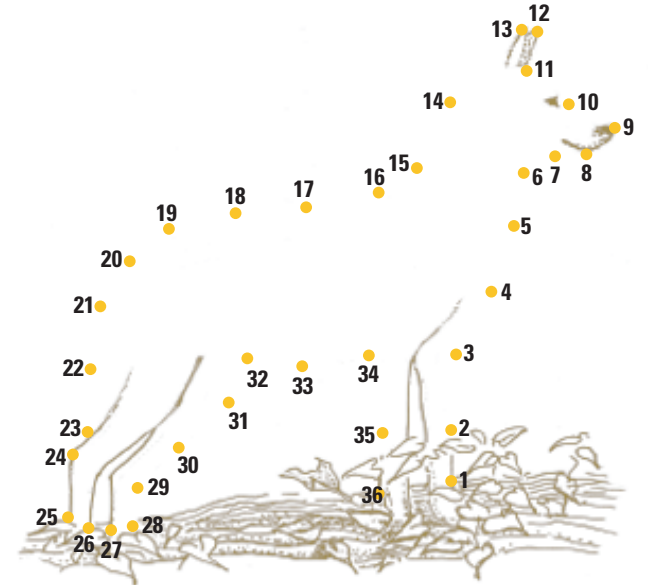
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