Molves And Market



Amazing Animal Books For Young Readers

By John Davidson and Virginia Fidler



Wolves - For Kids - Amazing Animal Books for Young Readers

by John Davidson and Virginia Fidler

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1. Introduction

The wolf belongs to the canine family. In America, the gray wolf, also called a timber wolf, is the largest member of that family. This majestic animal is the ancestor of the dogs we keep as pets, and he is a cousin to the coyote and the fox.

Gray wolves can survive in most climates, although they prefer the cold. They have roamed the Americas from Alaska to Mexico since the last Ice Age. By 1960, hunting reduced the wolf population to 300 in the lower 48 states, most of which lived in Minnesota and Michigan. Some of the wolves were placed in Yellowstone Park, where they are able to breed successfully. Today, there are 4,000 wolves roaming the Rockies and Northern states. Some farmers are upset that the wolves are stealing their chickens and young livestock, but that's what wolves do. They hunt to survive and eat.



2. 10 Facts About Wolves

- 1. Wolves are social and very loyal animals.
- 2. Collectively, wolves are known as Canis lupus.
- 3. Wolves live in packs and each pack usually comprises of 4-6 wolves.
- 4. Wolves communicate with each other through sounds. They bark, grunt and growl.
- 5. Gray wolves are the most common type of wolves. The gray wolves have very good communication skills.
- 6. They are found to be more active during the night time.
- 7. The wolves are found to run on their toes. This enables them to be active and sharp runners.
- 8. The wolf pups are born blind and deaf. They weigh only about 1 pound at the time of their birth.
- 9. Wolves have small webs between their toes which enable them to swim up to a distance of 6 miles.
- 10. The adult male in a pack is termed as the "Alpha Male" and the adult female is termed as the "Alpha Female".

3. Wolves as Pets

Wolves are beautiful animals, and they look so much like our pet dogs, it can be difficult not to confuse the two species. It's easy to want to give a wolf a hug. There are people who try to turn a wolf into a pet, and that's a very bad idea. Wolves may learn to live among humans, especially if they've been raised by humans since they were a pup, but they don't lose their natural and wild instincts.



Wolf © JackF - Fotolia.com

Wolves should not be kept in captivity. Dog pups and wolf pups act pretty much the same when they are young. As they mature, however, wolves will exhibit much of the behavior of wolves in the wild.

Dogs and wolves may come from a common ancestor, but it has taken 10,000 years for the dog to be what we know today – man's best friend. During that same time, wolves have lived on their own, defended themselves, and taken care of themselves. That behavior is bred into them. So try to imagine this independent wolf living with people and doing what people tell him to. After 10,000 years, the dog will happily fetch your slippers. The wolf will rip them apart.

In the wild, wolves want to become alpha or the leader. It's in their nature. If they were a pet, they would respect you as the alpha, but they would continually challenge you. It's in a wolf's nature to want to be alpha, no matter where he lives. He will become hard, if not impossible, to control.

Wolves are beautiful and smart – if they are allowed to be wolves. If you try to domesticate a wolf, it won't work. Wolves are territorial pack animals by their very nature. They respect the alpha, and with a wolf, you might be the alpha, for a while. But like in the wild, the alpha can be dethroned and killed. It's what wolves do. And they belong in the wild, with their pack.



4. Do Wolves Hurt People?

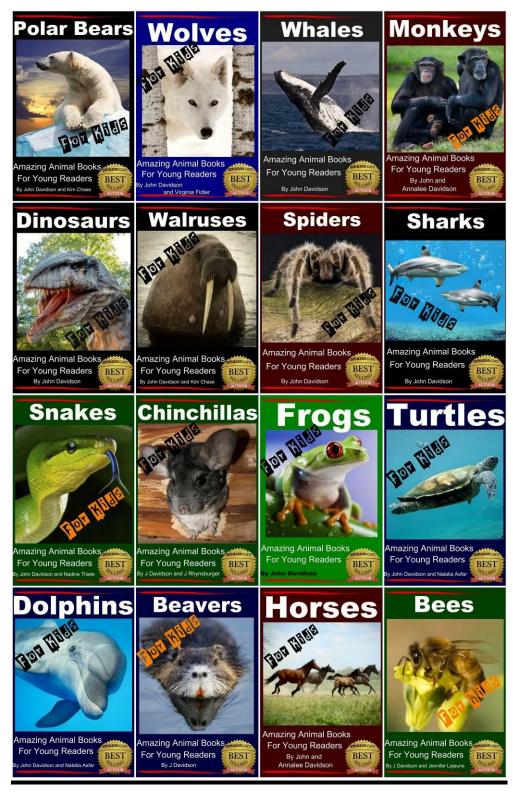
Probably no piece of literature has given the wolf as bad a reputation as Little Red Riding Hood, a story about a wolf and a little girl. The wolf is mean and nasty, and that is the way many people think of the wolf.



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The fact is, wolves are scared of humans. They will hunt very large animals, but they try to stay out of sight of people. They understand that humans have guns and that guns can kill. When wolves feel threatened by people, they will take a stance. Their eyes look angry, and their lips are pulled back in a snarl. All they want is a chance to retreat without getting hurt or killed. Wolf attacks on humans are extremely rare, and then, most likely the attack is a defensive act.

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