

# Eastern Wolf

*Canis lupus lycaon*



Status: **Special Concern**



Photo: Michael Runtz



Photo: Christian Mehlführer

## Threats:

- ◆ Habitat loss and fragmentation
- ◆ Poaching
- ◆ Hybridization between Eastern Wolves and Coyotes

## Description:

- ◆ Small wolf (much smaller than the Grey Wolf); males weigh between 25 and 35 kg and females weigh between 20 and 30 kg
- ◆ Pelt is fawn-coloured with long black hairs on the back and sides
- ◆ Back of the ears is reddish
- ◆ May resemble a coyote, but appear to have larger head and feet, longer legs; coyotes are much smaller and more common as you move away from Algonquin Park
- ◆ Communicate by howling and scent marking

## Biology:

- ◆ Live in packs with 3-6 adults
- ◆ Home range can be as large as 500 km<sup>2</sup> (average 150 km<sup>2</sup>); will loosely defend territory from neighbouring packs
- ◆ Feed primarily on White-tailed Deer, Beavers and Moose; tend to prey on young and adults weakened by injury and disease
- ◆ Predators include people, bears and other wolves
- ◆ Alpha pair mates in February; 4-7 pups are born approximately 63 days later in a den dug into the ground
- ◆ Is shy and easily disturbed by human presence and activity

## Habitat:

- ◆ Requires large areas of unbroken mixed or coniferous forest
- ◆ Algonquin Park is the largest protected area for Eastern Wolf in North America; the highest density of Eastern Wolves are found here

Species at Risk  
STEWARDS' GUIDE SERIES

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### Eastern Wolf on Your Property? *Here's What You Can Do:*

- ◆ **Don't disturb dens, pups or adults.** Be respectful and observe from a distance.
- ◆ **Support sustainable forestry practices when you purchase wood products.** Look for an FSC logo.
- ◆ **Support year-round closed hunting and trapping season in and around Algonquin Provincial Park.**
- ◆ **See or hear an Eastern Wolf close by?** Submit your sighting to the Natural Heritage Information Centre at [nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/species/species\\_report.cfm](http://nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/species/species_report.cfm). Photographs with specific locations or mapping coordinates are always helpful.
- ◆ **Contact the Ministry of Natural Resources.** If you find an Eastern Wolf or den on your property, you may be eligible for stewardship programs that support the protection and recovery of species at risk and their habitats. Contact the MNR for more information.
- ◆ **Learn More.** Check out the Species at Risk section on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website at [www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca).



**Wolf Pup**  
Photo: Brad Steinberg



### Ontario's *Endangered Species Act*

Ontario's *Endangered Species Act, 2007* came into force on June 30, 2008, making Ontario a North American leader in the protection of species at risk and their habitats.

Compared to Ontario's previous Act, written in 1971, the new ESA 2007 provides:

- ◆ Science-based assessment of species' status
- ◆ Automatic protection of a species and its habitat once it's listed as endangered or threatened
- ◆ Broader protection for species at risk and their habitats
- ◆ Greater support for volunteer stewardship efforts of private landowners, resource users, and conservation organizations
- ◆ A commitment to recovery of species through recovery planning
- ◆ Greater accountability, including government reporting requirements

Ontario is home to more than 30,000 species, most of which have stable populations.

However, more than 180 species in Ontario, 34 of which are found in Parry Sound-Muskoka, are currently considered "at risk" because of threats like:

- ◆ Habitat loss
- ◆ Global changes in insect populations
- ◆ Pollution
- ◆ Invasive species
- ◆ Climate change
- ◆ Over-harvesting
- ◆ Road mortality



Learn more about Species at Risk on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website at [www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca).