



Ask about Ireland



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Wolf



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Latin: *Canis lupus*
Irish: *Faolchú/Mac tíre*

Size: Body length is roughly 140cm, with a tail of 40cm.

Months seen: Now extinct in Ireland, although they were once an integral part of the countryside. The last wolf is said to have been killed in 1786 in Co. Carlow.

Habitat: Wolves live in remote forests and mountain regions.

Food: Wolves are carnivorous animals and mainly feed on deer. They will also eat berries and other foods when prey is scarce.



Features: The wolf is a dog-like animal, with a grey-brown coat and thick bushy tail. It has pointed ears, long legs and a deep chest. All domestic dog breeds originated from the domestication of some wolves, which started over 10,000 years ago.

Wild populations of wolves can still be found in Europe, particularly in Romania, Poland and the Balkan region. Despite their reputation, wolves are quite shy and will try to avoid humans rather than attack them. However, they can pose a serious threat if they lose their fear of humans.

In a pack of wolves, only the dominant female will breed with the dominant male and produce a litter that the whole pack will help to raise. If these pups die, the same pair will breed again.