

FORSIDEFOTO: JONAS KILDEGAARD

Watch out for your dog on nature walks

Wolves normally avoid people and dogs that are with people. In rare cases, a wolf may follow you and your dog at a distance. This is usually because the wolf mistakes the dog for another wolf and shows social curiosity. This is not dangerous for neither you nor your dog, as long as the dog is on a leash and you follow the advice below.

Keep your dog on a lead

Always keep your dog on a leash when walking in nature. It is highly unlikely that a wolf would attack a dog in accompany with a human and on a leash.

Keep hunting dogs close to hunters

If you are hunting with unleashed dogs, make sure they stay close to the hunting party. The hunters should make themselves both visible and audible to wolves, as it will make them retreat.

Do not let your dog roam freely

Do not let your dog roam freely even on your own property if you live in a wolf area - especially at night. Be aware, it is not allowed to let your dog roam freely on land you do not own, unless you have a specific agreement with the landowner.

Call your dog back, if a wolf appears

If your unleashed dog encounters a wolf, call it back immediately and keep it on a leash for the rest of your walk.

If you meet a wolf and feel uneasy

If a wolf follows you on a nature walk, keep walking. If the wolf comes closer, turn towards it, shout loudly, clap your hands or wave your arms. It will most likely scare the wolf away. This shows the wolf that you are human, which is frightening to the animal.

Defend yourself if attacked

Although extremely unlikely, if the wolf against all odds attacks you, resist with full force: hit, kick, and use whatever weapon at hand. If the wolf attacks another person or your dog, hit and kick as hard as you can, aiming for the wolf's hindquarters. Do not go between the wolf and your dog.

Help with monitoring wolves

You can support the authorities by reporting wolf sightings to the national wolf monitoring programme. This is in particular important, if you suspect that a wolf is unusually bold or shows little fear of humans.

If possible, take a photo or video as documentation.

Have you encountered a wolf? Report your observation at www.ulveatlas.dk