

RED WOLF

Canis rufus

Extinct in Texas



Photos by:
Barron
Crawford



Order: Carnivora

Family: Canidae

Description

- Smaller than gray wolf
- Gray-black with reddish cast
- Size
26 inches at shoulders
4.5-5.5 ft. long, including tail
weight: 50-80 lbs.

Life Cycle

- Mating season-late winter
January and February
Born annually March and April
- 2-8 pups per litter
- Bond for life
- Life span 7-8 years in wild
- Group is called a pack

Behavior

- Prey on raccoons, rabbits, white tail deer, other rodents

- Active at night (primordial nocturnal)
- Shy, hunt alone or in small pack
- Communicate by scent marking, vocalization, facial expression, body postures
- Generally avoid humans and human activity
- More social than coyotes

TRACKING PRINTS



Habitat

- Forest, bushy areas
- Dens in hollow trees, stream banks, sandy knolls

Environmental Contribution

- Declared extinct in the wild 1980-1987
- Only wild population live in Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge – North Carolina
- TPWD and U.S. Fish and Wildlife listed as endangered.
- Successful reintroduction into the state is doubtful.



Photo by Greg Koch