



Important Note: The following is an extract from „The Wolf in the Thicket of Paragraphs“ by Prof. Dr. Reinhard Hehl, Technical University, Braunschweig, Germany. The whole document is available here in the library. It provides comprehensive background information, supported by additional graphics, and should be read in addition.

The Wolf in Germany

History / Expulsion / Comeback / Future

Author: © Prof. Dr. Reinhard Hehl, TU Braunschweig.

Le MOOC des grands carnivores
www.mooc-large-carnivores.org

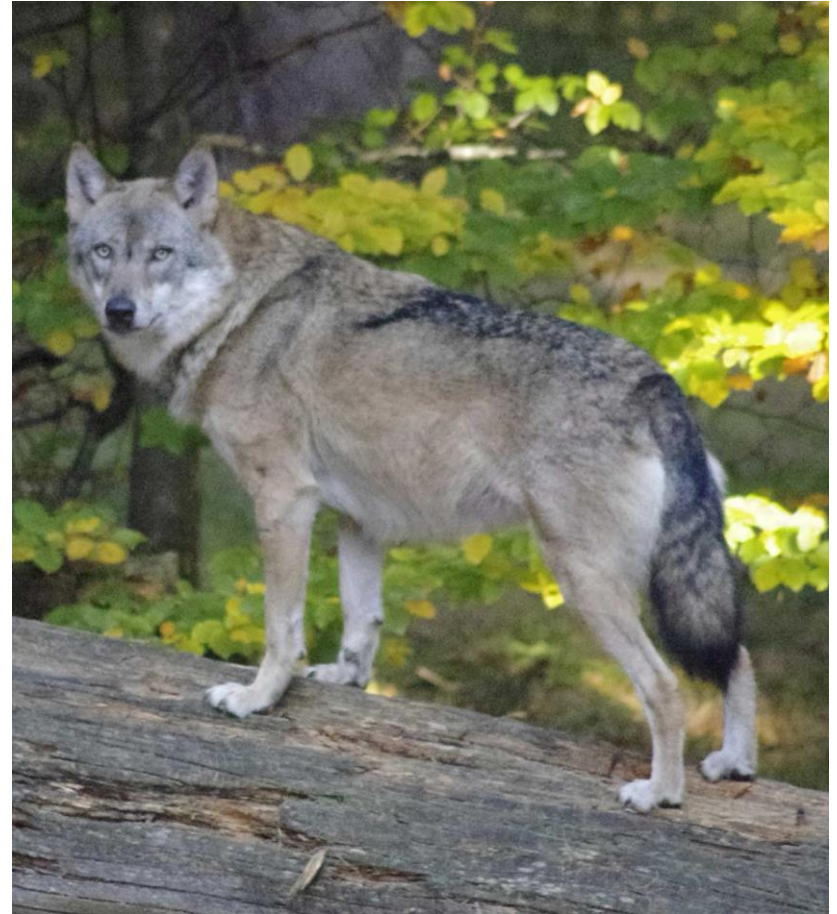
Photo: M. Heymann



History



- The wolf is one of the most controversial animals that we can think of. He is met with everything, from square refusal to enthusiastic acceptance. Persecuted for centuries as a pest, it was placed under protection after its disappearance in Germany and in large parts of Europe. Perhaps no one expected his return.



The Wolf Pack or Family (1)



- The wolf pack usually consists of a pair of parents, the pups born that year, and pups from the previous year that have not yet left the parental pack.



The Wolf Pack or Family (2)



- The wolf territory is 150 to 350 km² in size, depending on the food supply, and is marked by scent marks and howling. An adult wolf needs about 2-3 kg of meat a day and its natural diet in Europe consists of wild ungulates such as red deer, wild boar, roe deer, elk and reindeer.



The Expulsion of the Wolves (1)



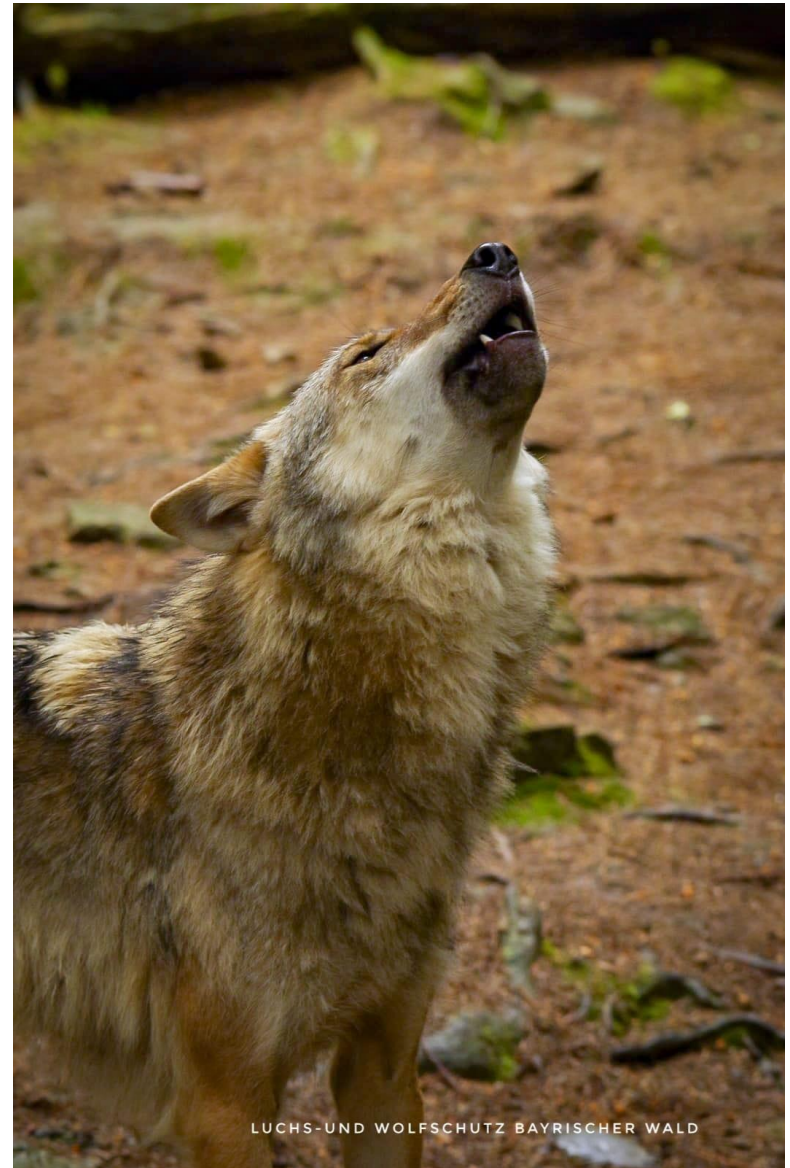
- Emperor „Karl der Große“ enacted a law as early as 813 to exterminate the wolves, which were causing great damage among the livestock, grazing unprotected in the woods and meadows. By this law each count in his role as a landlord had to employ two so-called luparii or wolf hunters, who received a share of the grain harvest as wages.



The Expulsion of the Wolves (2)

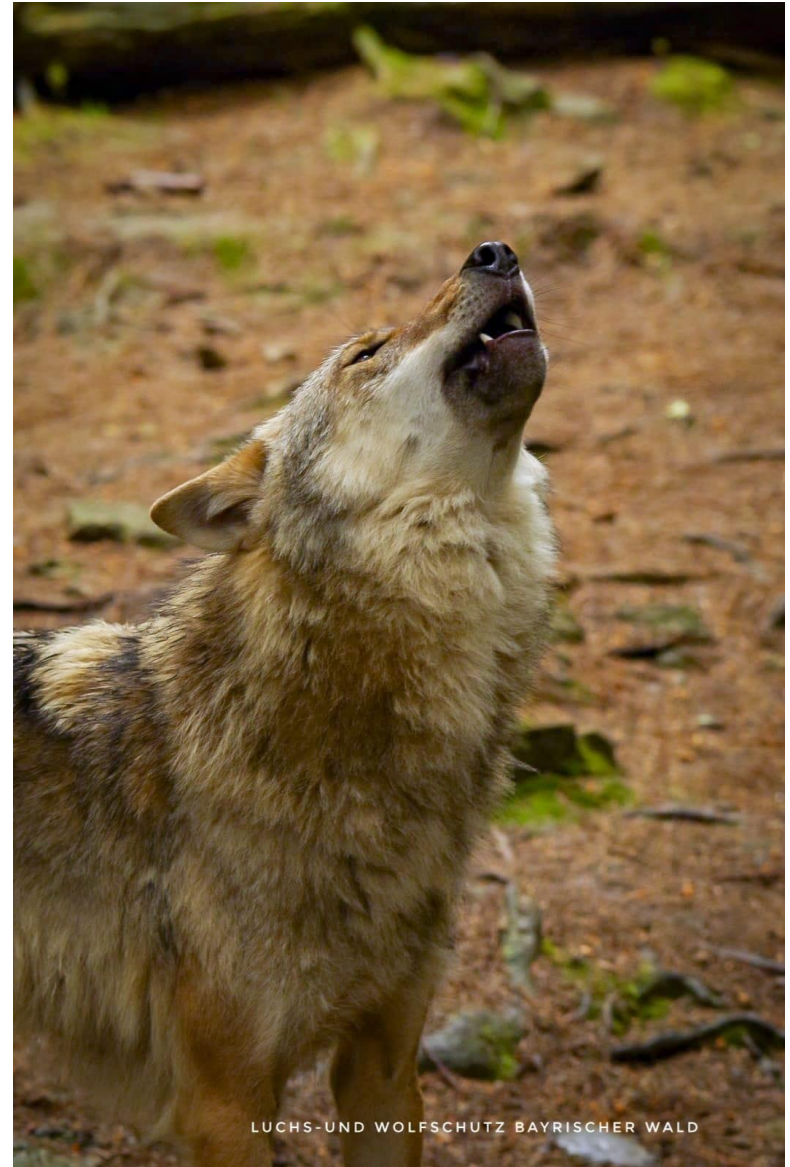


- Due to the strong persecution of the wolves, the wolf population steadily declined and reached its lowest point, the extermination of the wolf in Germany, in the 19th century. After that, there were still isolated attempts at immigration, but all of them failed due to the vigilance of the hunters.



The Expulsion of the Wolves (3)

- Around 1850 the last evidence of a wolf pack in Germany disappeared and in 1904 the “last” wolf was shot on today’s German territory near the town of Hoyerswerda.



The Return of the Wolves (1)



- In Germany, the return of wolves began with the establishment of a first family association in Saxony in 2000 in the “Muskauer Heide”.



In The Thicket of Paragraphs (1)



- After the expulsion or extinction of wolves in Germany and many European countries, they were placed under international protection.
- These regulations are laid down in the "Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats", in short the Bern Convention, of 1979 and in the "Fauna-Flora-Habitat Directive", in short FFH, of the European Community, of 1992.



In The Thicket of Paragraphs (2)



- In addition, the Federal Nature Conservation Act (Bundesnaturschutzgesetz) in §45 allows exceptions under almost the same conditions as the Bern Convention and the FFH and authorises the authorities responsible for nature conservation and landscape management under Land law to issue legal ordinances.
- With regard to the wolf, these are the so-called wolf ordinances, which, depending on the federal state, have been or will be enacted sooner or later.



In The Thicket of Paragraphs (3)



- The importance of the wolf in the law is clear from the fact that in March 2020 § 45a of the Federal Nature Conservation Act entered into force.



The Future of the Wolves



- A further increase in wolf territories is expected in the future. A current estimate of the potential number of wolf territories in Germany assumes 700 to 1400 territories with a territory size of 200 km², which in principle offer room for the corresponding number of packs.

The wolf has returned to Germany to stay and resume its important role as part of our ecosystem.

