

## HIMALAYAN WOLF



The Himalayan Wolf is found at an altitude between 7000- 13000ft above msl in the Western Himalayas. This carnivore preys upon larger mammals to rodents, birds or even crabs etc. This wolf differs from the common wolf (*Canis lupus lupus*) in its thick blackish coat and heavier build. This wolf is thought to be the ancestor of the domestic dog. They have powerful jaws and vocal communication is well developed between them. Increased human settlement and persecution of the animal for the commercial value of its fur are responsible for the depletion of its numbers in the wild. It is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act (1972) and the wolves in India and Nepal are listed in CITES Appendix I as endangered due to international trade.

### HISTORY

Darjeeling Zoo has been breeding Himalayan wolves very successfully and it's the only zoo in the world to breed Himalayan wolves. In the year 1990, the first pair of wolves were received from Shimla Zoo. In 1999, a molecular study was conducted on the Himalayan wolf population in the Zoo by the Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad. The results showed that the captive Tibetan wolf population in Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling had considerable genetic variation and were genetically healthy. The results also suggested the Himalayan / Tibetan wolf and grey wolf probably had two different evolutionary lineages. It was also indicative of the possibility of the Tibetan wolf being a new species that may be named *Canis lupus himalayensis*. As the wolves are breeding well in the zoo, the population was as high as 32 wolves in 2003, hence to control the population, the wolves were selectively sterilized through vasectomy and ligation. In 2007, the Park was designated as the coordinating zoo for the conservation breeding of the species by the Central Zoo Authority. Himalayan zoological park, Sikkim; Himalayan Nature

Park, Kufri, and Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant High Altitude Zoo, Nainital were declared as participating zoos.

Himalayan wolves from Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park have been given to different zoos in India. In 1997 a pair of Tibetan wolves were given to Nainital Zoo. In 1999 another pair went to Gangtok Zoo. In 2004, two male and three female wolves were sent to Nainital Zoo and three males and three females went to Shimla Zoo. In 2005, two male and two female wolves were given to Gangtok Zoo. The Zoo at present has 5 (2:3) wolves.

### **ENCLOSURE AND ENRICHMENTS**

The enclosures are designed with consideration of the biological and behavioral needs of the animals. The design incorporates sufficient space to facilitate normal movements, a range of natural behaviors, as well as adequate space for members of the public who come to view them. The provision of an appropriate amount of space, along with factors impacting animal well-being, at the design stage helps ensure an acceptable quality of life for the captive and prevents animals from constantly searching for escape routes.

The enclosures are open, with undulating topography with small trees, shrubs, logs with intact bark and leaves, stumps, and rock piles. Furnishings like dens are also provided for the provision of shade and hiding spots for animals that wish to remove themselves from the view of the public or each other.



Fig: A. Enclosure, B. Tree Stamp, C. Wooden Platform & D. Hidden Cave

## FEEDING

2.5 kg of either beef or chicken is provided every day except on Thursdays. The meat is checked by the Veterinarian before being given to the animals.

Species	Feed item	Quantity		Fasting Day
		Winter	Summer	
Himalayan Wolf ( <i>Canis lupus himalayensis</i> )	i. Beef ii. Chicken	1.5 kgs 1.5 kgs	1.5 kgs 1.5 kgs	Thursdays

## VETERINARY CARE

To prevent infections the enclosures are regularly cleaned and disinfected. The stool is collected and tested for parasites regularly, deworming is done every 3 months or when a parasite is detected during stool tests. Behavioral observation is done regularly to check for any symptoms of diseases.

### Vaccination Schedule

SPECIES	DISEASES VACCINATED AGAINST	NAME OF THE VACCINE AND DOSAGE/QUANTITY USED	PERIODICITY	REMARKS
Himalayan Wolf ( <i>Canis lupus himalayensis</i> )	Rabies	RAKSHARAB	06.03.2021-10.03.2021(Annually)	Booster is given after 1 month
	Canine Distemper Virus, Canine Parvo Virus, Canine Adenovirus Type 1, Canine Adenovirus Type 2, <i>Canine parainfluenza</i> , <i>Leptospira canicola</i> ,	MEGAVAC – 6	Annually	Booster is given after 1 month

	<i>Leptospira icterohaemorrhagi ae</i>			
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### De-Worming Schedule

SPECIES	DRUG USED	MONTH
Himalayan Wolf ( <i>Canis lupus himalayensis</i> )	Praziquantel, Pyrantel Pamoate, Fenbendazole Albendazole Fenbendazole	APRIL- JUNE JULY-SEPTEMBER & JANUARY – MARCH OCTOBER- DECEMBER

### Disinfection Schedule

SPECIES	TYPE OF ENCLOSURE	DISINFECTANT USED AND METHOD	FREQUENCY OF DISINFECTION
Himalayyan wolf	OPEN	1. Virkon S: 10% Solution Sprayed	Every Two Weeks
	NIGHT SHELTERS	1. Virkon S: 10% Solution Sprayed	EveryTwoWeeks
		3. Blow Flame: Flaming	Every Two Weeks
		4. Glutraldehyde Concentrate.: 10% wash	Every day
		5. Potassium Permanganate: Foot bath	Every day

