



Wildlife Wonders- A Zoo to You-North Georgia Zoo

Bringing People & Animals Together. Caring. Connecting. Conserving.

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Location: 2912 Paradise Valley Rd. Cleveland, GA 30528

Not a Zoological facility, but still interested in obtaining a Wolfdog? There are numerous reputable sanctuaries and breeders that offer opportunities for responsible owners!

It is still very important to keep in mind that wolfdogs overall cannot be treated like normal dogs, no matter how low the content. If you do not have prior experience with true wolfdogs or high-energy Northern breeds, we recommend starting with a low content or mid content.

Here are some quick, basic tips to know before searching for your future companion:

LAWS:

Wolfdogs are not legal in every state in the USA, and laws differ based on individual counties even in legal states. You are responsible for knowing the laws regarding Wolfdog ownership in your state, city, AND county. Keeping a wolfdog in an illegal area WILL put the dog's life at risk.

CONTAINMENT:

Wolves and wolfdogs can jump up to 9ft, can climb fences, dig massive holes under fences, and chew through very tough material. Proper containment will need to be constructed out of materials the dog cannot chew or scratch out of. Proper containment also includes but is not limited to: very tall fences with lean-in tops, dig guards, and hotwire lining.

DIET:

The diet of a wolfdog requires raw meat with bone, organ meat and high-quality kibble as a supplement. High contents require full a raw diet for optimal health, whereas lower contents can handle more kibble. Talk with your reputable breeder and find out what they use and recommend.

A couple of other pointers when searching for the right breeder.

- Ask to see pictures of their animals and enclosures
- Ask for multiple pictures of the pup's parents from different angles
- Ask for an Embark DNA and health test for the puppy AND both parents. This makes sure the breeder is not lying about the wolf content, and it ensures they are selling you a healthy animal.
- Ask to see pictures and videos of the wolfdog interacting with people
- Follow the breeders on Facebook – this always tells you a lot about their character and their animals.



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- Feel free to ask around about the breeder, but make sure you are getting **FACTUAL-BASED INFORMATION**. Getting information from multiple sources is the most beneficial.

TERMINOLOGY

"Timberwolf" is an umbrella term for all of the forest-dwelling subspecies of the Grey wolf. A "timberwolf" is not a species of wolf itself.

True Arctic wolf lines in private breeders are incredibly rare. Red wolves and Mexican Grey wolves are federally protected, and not being bred to dogs to create wolfdogs.

BEWARE OF BREEDERS WHO CLAIM THEIR PUPS HAVE RED WOLF, ARCTIC WOLF, MEXICAN GREY WOLF OR A PURE WOLF PARENT. Do more research on the breeder and their credentials to avoid scammers.

Pure wolves are illegal to privately own as pets in most states in the USA, and it is very uncommon for them to be bred to dogs in this day and age.

BIRTH DATES

High content wolfdog pups are **ONLY BORN** late winter and early spring. If someone is offering you a high content that they claim was born at any other time of year, it is not high content.

PERCENTAGE, GENERATIONS, BEHAVIOR, ETC.

Wolfdog percentages are classified as Low content, Mid content, and High content. Those terms are based on the percentage of wolf DNA they have. They can also be referred to as things like low/mids, mid/high, etc. depending on their wolf DNA percentage.

Wolfdog generations are classified as F1 (Pure wolf parent,) F2 (Pure wolf grandparent,) F3, etc.

Never judge a dog just by their looks. Low content wolfdogs and some mid-contents have a very wide range of appearances. Low content wolfdogs especially can have very strong "doggy" physical features, while still having wolf DNA and personality traits. There are also multiple dog breeds and dog mixes that look extremely "Wolfy," but have zero wolf content.

High content wolfdogs, on the other hand, will always look practically identical to pure wolves. This is why Embark DNA tests are important to be sure of what you have!



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BEHAVIOR

Wolfdog owners must know how to handle certain behaviors that wolfdogs are known for. The most common behaviors include things like food aggression, high possessiveness levels, resource/possession aggression, territory marking, very high energy levels, and same-sex aggression. Behavior will also change with maturity and hormonal fluctuations throughout the year. Winter Wolf syndrome is a great example of annual hormonal-based behavior changes.

While percentages of wolf content can be good indicators of potential behavior, they never tell you the whole story. The story is better unraveled by seeing how the individual animals behave in a variety of situations.

Genetics and bloodlines play a big role in wolfdogs and their behavior and looks, but behavior is also GREATLY influenced by the way the animal is raised. Just like how children take after their parents in personality, but socialization and proper upbringing play a big role in how they behave as they grow up. You cannot blame one or the other. Both good genetics and good upbringing are important!

Don't be afraid to ask questions, and don't be afraid to be picky about where you get your dog! Caring for a wolfdog for its entire life is a huge responsibility. The wolfdog deserves the best life it can possibly get, and you deserve to find the perfect companion that is the best fit for you!