



**Full Moon Farm, Inc.**  
**Wolfdog Rescue & Sanctuary**  
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### Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Are Wolfdogs Legal?** Laws vary from state to state and even from county to county. Some states have total bans while others have no regulations whatsoever. In Florida, wolfdogs are legal if they are less than 75% wolf; pure wolves require Fish and Wildlife Commission permits that can be obtained if you live on at least 2 1/2 acres and can document 1000 hours of experience working with high-content wolfdogs and wolves.
- 2. How Are They Around Kids, Cats, Small Dogs, Etc.?** Which one? We like to avoid generalization, as these animals are as individual as you and I. Some are exceptional with children while others are not. The same is true with cats and small dogs. These are some of the points we take into consideration when we go over your application. Each animal is carefully evaluated and placed in the home that best matches its profile.
- 3. Do They Make Good Watch Dogs?** Not at all! The majority of wolfdogs do not bark so they will not alert you in case of a potential intruder. In addition, the natural instinct of a wild animal in a fight or flight situation is to choose flight. We have spent thousands of years selectively breeding and creating the aggressive, protective loyalty of the dog. The first priority of the wolf is to protect the wolf. They will NOT risk their own safety to protect a house or property! An animal with which you have built a strong bond may in time choose to become a personal protector, but it can't be taught. If you have an alpha personality, they may be hiding behind *you* for protection in the face of an impending threat.
- 4. What Are They Mixed With?** The majority of breeders use Malamutes or Siberian Huskies to obtain the wolfish look. However, as this is not a standard breed, we see a wide variety of wolf mutts mixed with anything and everything. Some breeders cross with aggressive breeds such as German Shepherds or Rottweilers, endeavoring to create a super intelligent guard dog. *This is a very bad idea!* This is not to say that this idea is impossible. We have seen wonderful animals come out of Shepherd crosses, but we have also seen the other side of this dangerous coin. It is like spinning a roulette wheel. The problem is this: The wolf is a highly intelligent and freethinking animal. When you combine this with aggressive tendencies, you may end up with animals that are a serious bite risk, as they will not have the same inborn respect for human authority as the domestic dog. The best wolfdogs are crossed with Northern Breeds, which are their closest genetic cousins.
- 5. Do They Ever "Turn" On People?** In the context this term has come to be used, we feel safe to say, virtually never. We have not seen or heard of a situation in which a loving companion animal wakes up one day, remembers it is a wolf, and viciously attacks its owner. Wolfdogs can, however, exhibit strong personalities and their communications can include mouthing, growling, and showing teeth. With education and understanding about how these animals communicate and how to effectively communicate back, these behaviors can easily and safely be managed. People need to learn about pack structure, hierarchy, posturing, and all other aspects of wolf behavior before bringing one of these animals into their home. If they fail to do so, the end result is completely the owner's fault and most likely could have been headed off by the reading of a few books and consulting with an expert or two.

It is also important to remember that an abuser is not usually telling the truth. Just because individuals tell you they provided a loving home and have no idea why the animal bit them, does not mean it is true. The "unprovoked" attack may, in fact, have been well deserved. The majority of wolves and wolfdogs are not likely to inflict a bite even when abused. The most common response to abuse is running into a corner and urinating at the very sight of a human. If you ever have the misfortune to see such behavior, you will realize how truly absurd most of these stories are. Wolves and wolfdogs are not unpredictable or aggressive. They are complex.

**6. What and How Much Do They Eat?** They will eat the same amount as a dog of equivalent weight. They can eat a good, high protein kibble, but they do require fresh meat as well in order to thrive. Their digestive systems cannot assimilate sufficient protein from kibble alone. Without fresh meat, their muscle tone may suffer and their coats may become dry and coarse, along with other less obvious health problems. The best and richest meats are organ meats. These are also very cost effective. Heart and kidney can be obtained cheaper than canned dog food. It is best to feed this raw as valuable enzymes can be destroyed in the cooking process. Eggs, cottage cheese, and goat's milk are some other good, inexpensive ways to boost their protein.

**7. Does Raw Meat Make Them More Aggressive?** ABSOLUTELY NOT! Let us put this old wives' tale to rest. If anything, your animal will love you even more for providing it with such a wonderful diet.

**8. Do I Need A Big Piece of Property to Keep a Wolf Dog?** Not necessarily. When you consider that the Fish and Wildlife Commission only requires a 20 x 20 pen for one of these animals, more space and enrichment can be provided in the average, suburban back yard than in the housing in many "sanctuaries."

There are creative and inexpensive ways to provide a secure and happy environment for your animal(s), even if you do not live on ten acres in the mountains. The key to a happy life for your wolfdog is to provide it with an interesting and stimulating environment. They are highly intelligent, thinking beings, who will become bored and stressed without cognitive stimulation. Take them on outings and provide them with lots of fun toys. Most importantly, give them plenty of quality time with you! These things will mean far more to them than an acre of land.

**9. What Is Their Average Life Span?** The average life span is 12 to 20 years. The cause of a shorter life span in larger dogs is mostly the result of too much selective inbreeding to create certain traits. With wolfdogs you cannot only expect a long life, but usually a healthier one as well, since these animals are far less tainted by the hands of man. Incidence of hip dysplasia, chronic skin conditions, heart disease, and genetic abnormalities are rare.

**10. How Much Does It Cost to Adopt One?** We charge no adoption fee. We will gratefully accept a donation, but we would rather see your extra money spent preparing your home, and providing well for the needs of the animal once it comes into your care.

Not charging an adoption fee also takes away any misconceptions about an animal having been sold or purchased. We do not sell animals, we do not breed animals, and no animal leaves our care without being spayed or neutered. Many excellent rescue organizations do charge adoption fees simply to help cover the cost of what they have put into the animal. We honor and respect their choice. There are others out there, however, who use rescue as a means to acquire breeding stock and hide behind terms like "accidental litter" and "adoption fee" to line their pockets at the animals' expense. We do not wish to be confused with people such as these.

*For further information on wolfdogs we recommend the following websites and books.*

[www.federalwolfdogrescue.org](http://www.federalwolfdogrescue.org), [www.floridalupine.org](http://www.floridalupine.org), and [www.wolfpark.org](http://www.wolfpark.org)

*The Wolf Hybrid and Above Reproach by Dorothy Prendergast*

*Living with Wolf-Dogs by Nicole Wilde*

*The Wolf: Ecology and Behavior of an Endangered Species by David Mech*

