



International Wolf Center

# Ethogram

Ely, Minnesota, USA  
Teaching the World about Wolves  
www.wolf.org



## The Retired Pack: Malik, Shadow

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### Malik

In recognition of the Retired Exhibit's contribution to the Center's educational mission throughout the years, their photos are included in this Ethogram.

Malik was born on May 8, 2000 at a private facility in southern Minnesota. He represents the arctic subspecies of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus arctos*). Malik, along with his littermate Shadow, are great ambassadors to the wild wolves in northern Canada. Adapted to their northern climate, arctic wolves have rounder ears, shorter legs, shorter muzzles and more heavily furred feet than their southern relatives. These features help them to conserve heat in their native environment.

The Retired Pack has been in existence since 2002, when the 1993 litter was systematically tested for weakness by the arctics, Shadow and Malik. This is a natural process that occurs in the wild as well as in captivity. In the wild, wolves have the freedom to leave their pack or disperse. In captivity, managers have to make that decision for the wolves. The original Retired Pack of MacKenzie, Lakota and Lucas have all passed on, and we are in the formation of the next generation of retirees. In November of 2009, Malik was experiencing some intense aggression from the pack, and rather than risk an injury, the decision was made to move him into retirement. Shadow was transitioned into the Retired Pack in June 2010, after a seven month separation. They were reunited without incident.

In photographs, Malik is distinguished by a raised cowlick, or patch of hair, in the center of his face. He is also lighter in coloration than his littermate Shadow, and his head is a bit structurally smaller and slimmer than is Shadow's. A close look at Malik's face will reveal the classic almond-shaped eyes of a wolf.

To distinguish these two in video clips, watch their behavior. Shadow is confident; if there's a mix of dominance, aggression, wolf conflict or other anxiety in the enclosure, Shadow may be involved, if so, he will carry a high tail and remain in the mix. Malik is a lower ranking male that is nervous about any fast movement or any person or wolf behind him. So, if there are two white wolves, and one is springing around trying to face everyone, then panics and runs, it's the sign of a lower ranking male. He is quick and agile though, and has no problem getting out of the way if there's too much focus.

### Shadow

Shadow was born on May 8, 2000 at a private facility in southern Minnesota. He represents the arctic subspecies of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus arctos*). Shadow, along with his littermate Malik, are great ambassadors to the wild wolves in northern Canada. Shadow, similar to MacKenzie, has been a dominant wolf since he was a pup. He has similar traits, harder muzzle bites, more intense dominance during winter, and strong social bonding behavior towards the 2004 and 2008 pups introduced to the Exhibit Pack.

Identification of Shadow and Malik can be a bit challenging with the white pelage characteristic of the subspecies. In photographs or video, Shadow is distinguished from Malik by his darker muzzle,



12/7/2009



19/4/2004



4/28/2007



10/16/2008



6/1/2000



6/30/2000



7/14/2000

broader head and overall larger size. Shadow also bears a few bite mark scars under his right eye, the results of a scuffle with Malik. A close look at Shadow's face will reveal that his eyes are rounder than his littermate's almond-shaped eyes. His face looks like the face of a wolf with more intensity and more face to face interactions.



5/9/2010



8/8/2008



12/8/2005



6/14/2006



6/1/2000



7/4/2000



7/31/10

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