

Wolf Pup Physical & Social Development

<p>BIRTH</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One pound, blind, deaf, light brown fur • Small ears, rounded heads, “pugged” nose, little if any sense of smell • Slow crawl, mainly with front legs • A good sense of balance, of taste, and of touch, can whine and yelp • Will feed four or five times a day for periods of three to five minutes • Average females will gain 2.6 lbs. and males 3.3 lbs. per week for the next fourteen weeks.
<p>2 WEEKS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eyes open and are blue at 11-15 days • Vision is poor and they are not able to perceive forms • Milk incisors present (15 days) • Vocalizations include whimpering and squeaks.
<p>3 WEEKS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin romping & playing near the outside of the den • Can start eating small pieces of meat regurgitated by adults • Begin to stand, walk, growl, and chew • Hearing begins (~27 days, ears begin to raise; ~31 days, ears erect but with tips still flopping) • Canines and premolar teeth present.
<p>4 WEEKS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weigh 5-6 lbs. • Growth of adult hair around nose and eyes • Large feet and head • High-pitched howls are gaining strength • Mother may go off for hours on end to hunt • Dominance and play fighting begin
<p>5 WEEKS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradual process of weaning begins
<p>8 - 16 WEEKS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bodies begin to take on the conformation of adults • Adults abandon den and move to rendezvous site • Weaning complete • Pups can feed on food provided by adults • Adult hair becomes apparent on body • Eyes gradually change from blue to yellow-gold

<p>12 WEEKS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to accompany adults on hunting trips for a short while and return to den by themselves.
<p>14 – 27 WEEKS (3.5 months)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “period of rapid growth” begins: • The pups will gain approximately 1.3 lbs. per week for the next three months.
<p>4 – 6 MONTHS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milk teeth replaced • Winter fur becomes apparent • Pups begin to accompany adults on hunts • Pup appearance nearly indistinguishable from adults.
<p>7 – 8 MONTHS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “period of slow growth” begins: the female pups will gain approximately .07 lbs. per week and the male pups will gain approximately .4 lbs. per week; • Pups begin to travel with pack. • Actively begin hunting.
<p>1 YEAR</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The end of skeletal growth • Pups status in the pack may start to take shape. By this, pups may display either more dominant or submissive behaviors.
<p>2 YEARS (22 months)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual Maturity • May choose to disperse from pack. • Offspring may disperse between one to three years old