Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Wolf Identification

It is sometimes hard to tell the difference between wolves and coyotes, especially from a distance. Wolves are larger, bulkier, and stout on their feet. Coyotes are shorter, sleeker, and light on their feet. Look for a combination of characteristics.





- Gray wolves are built for travel with narrow bodies, long legs and large feet;
- They can easily cover 10-20 miles in a day;
- Montana wolves can be either gray or black, and sometimes white;
- Montana wolves weigh 70-120 pounds and have a blocky square head;

• Coyotes weigh 25-40 pounds and have a narrow, triangular shaped head.

