

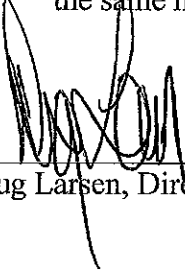
Division of Wildlife Conservation
Wolf Pup Protocols

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) implemented predator control during spring 2008 to increase early calf survival and restore the declining Southern Alaska Peninsula (SAP) caribou herd. Over the last six years, this herd had dropped from 4,100 to approximately 600 animals. During the last two years, calf survival through the fall was less than one percent. In response to this extreme situation, the department implemented a targeted wolf control program during the 2008 calving season. This program was the first in many years to be conducted by department staff using helicopters and the first to be conducted in the spring during the wolf denning season. Twenty-eight wolves were taken, including 14 pups orphaned when their mothers were killed. In response to public concern about the handling and fate of the wolf pups and in an effort to mitigate those concerns in future control efforts whenever logistically feasible to humanely do so, the department has implemented the following protocols. These protocols will apply to all wolf control operations implemented directly by ADF&G staff during spring calving and pupping seasons. For the purposes of these protocols, pups are considered to be wolves that are young of the year and at or in the immediate vicinity of den sites.

1. When spring wolf control operations are being contemplated, involved Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) staff will contact DWC's Permit Section (Permit Section) staff at headquarters to inform them of the possible need for orphaned pup placement.
2. Upon notification of a contemplated spring control operation, Permit Section staff will investigate and evaluate placement options for orphaned wolf pups as follows:
 - a. Investigate placement options:
 - i. Check availability of placements at Alaska zoos.
 - ii. Request that the Alaska Zoo (AZ) and Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center (AWCC) make inquiries on ADF&G's behalf to zoos in other states.
 - iii. Contact the Canid Taxon Advisory Group of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums for additional placement options.
 - b. Solicit permit applications from all interested and qualifying zoos and compile and maintain a list of those whose applications are approved, along with the number of pups each facility is authorized to receive.
 - c. Contact listed zoos to confirm interest and space availability.
 - d. Confirm with the AZ and AWCC that they can serve as temporary holding facilities for wolf pups.
3. DWC staff will provide Permit Section staff with copies of proposed spring control plans submitted for Board of Game (BOG) consideration.
4. Actions taken by the BOG on spring control plans will be related to Permit Section staff as soon as outcomes are known.
5. Prior to initiation of spring control activities, Permit Section staff will notify the appropriate DWC staff of the number of wolf pups that can be placed and develop

plans for dealing with logistics of transferring and transporting pups from the field to holding facilities.

6. Involved DWC field staff will make every effort to humanely live capture and transfer orphaned pups to authorized facilities rather than euthanize them in the field, as long as such efforts will not interfere with their other duties, activities, and responsibilities.
7. If no placement facilities are available (or if more orphaned pups are encountered than facilities can accommodate), and if orphaned pups can be humanely retrieved, they will be euthanized in the field using the protocols recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association.
8. Pups encountered away from dens during aerial control activities will be treated in the same manner as adults.



Doug Larsen, Director

Nov. 11, 2008

Date