



Information Leaflet

Instructions for citizens and Preventive Measures prior Habituated-to-Human Wolf Removal

Background and Purpose

The General Secretariat of Forests of the Ministry of Environment and Energy has issued a decision to implement immediate management measures for the removal of a habituated-to-human wolf in the area of Neos Marmaras, Regional Unit of Halkidiki. This decision was taken for reasons of public safety, following a recent incident in which a human was attacked and injured by a specific wolf that has become strongly habituated to human presence.

A Task Force has already been established, comprising members from relevant agencies and services, and is actively working toward the removal of that particular habituated wolf in Neos Marmaras. The presence of this wolf in inhabited areas is primarily attributed to easily accessible human-related food sources, such as livestock carcasses, waste, stray dogs, and other domestic animals, which serve as easy prey and attractants for wolves to urban and peri-urban areas. To prevent further incidents and reduce the risk of the wolf approaching humans, residents are requested to follow the instructions outlined below.

Preventive Measures for Residents

- Avoid unnecessary walks to areas (inside and outside the settlement of Neos Marmaras) with known wolf presence during hours of limited natural light (nighttime, early morning, or dusk) to reduce the risk of encountering a wolf.
- When out walking, it is preferable not to be alone.
- Do not leave children unattended or unsupervised during outdoor activities.
- Always keep your dog on a leash. During walks inside or outside settlements, alert wildlife to your presence by making noise (i.e. speaking loudly).
- Restrict your pets and/or domestic animals within well-fenced areas during the night. For a female dog in heat, it is strongly recommended that she be confined throughout this period.
- Do not intentionally or unintentionally feed wildlife for any reason, whether inside or outside settlements.
- Do not leave food scraps outside bins within settlements and suburban areas.

Guidance in Case of Wolf Encounters

- Do not be afraid or run. Wolves are mostly cautious animals that fear humans but may show curiosity and observe people. If they are far from you (>50m), do not disturb them.



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- If you encounter wolves at a close distance (<20–30 m) and especially if they approach you, do not passively observe the animals. Do not approach further to take photos. Always maintain eye contact and do not run.
- Show aggressive behaviour by making loud noises by any means and shaking objects to appear threatening and larger in size. This behaviour signals to wolves that a close human approach is unacceptable and maintains their fear of humans.
- Report any wolf encounter to the Forest Authority (Polygyros Forest Office: 2371022250, 2375071207), the Police (Sithonia Police Station: 2375032410), or the Municipality of Sithonia (2375350100 & 2375350101). Provide details, including the day, time, and a thorough description of the location.

Legal Notice

It is strictly prohibited to kill or injure wolves using weapons, traps, poison bait, or any other means. Such illegal actions are punishable by law.