



Haliburton Forest

& WILD LIFE RESERVE LTD

LOCAL PUBLIC NOTIFICATION Escaped Wolf from the Wolf Centre

16 August 2023

This document is a local public notification about an escaped wolf from the Wolf Centre. It provides a summary of the incident and guidance on what the public should (and should not) do.

What has happened?

Haliburton Forest staff noticed that one wolf was missing from the Wolf Centre enclosure at 9:00 am on 12 August 2023. Efforts to locate and live-trap the wolf were initiated immediately.

The wolf that escaped the enclosure is a juvenile female named Ula. She is three years old and in a non-breeding position within the pack, meaning that she is not a dominant or “alpha” female.

Ula appears to be ranging and has been sighted numerous times in the region surrounding the Wolf Centre over the last few days, usually along public roads.

Ula escaped through a small hole in the fence that surrounds the Wolf Centre. The hole has been repaired and the rest of the fence has been examined for other holes.

The cause of the hole in the fence through which Ula escaped is not known at this time.

What should the public do?

If you see Ula (or another wolf), please report the sighting with a geographic location by contacting Haliburton Forest by phone (1-800-631-2198) or email (info@haliburtonforest.com).

Stay calm. It is extremely unlikely that Ula will show any aggression towards people or animals. It is much more likely she will avoid people, vehicles, houses, and other developments.

However, similar to any wildlife encounter, if for whatever reason you feel threatened by an animal, make lots of noise, seek shelter in a building or a vehicle, then call the Ontario Provincial Police, and then (if the animal is a wolf that might be Ula) call Haliburton Forest.

What should the public NOT do?

We ask that members of the public do not attempt to capture, kill, chase, or locate Ula; do not tamper with live traps; do not leave food out to feed Ula; and do not post locations of Ula or the live-traps on social media.

These requests are important because the probability of capturing Ula in a live trap in the region surrounding the Wolf Centre is highest if she not stressed or pushed further away.

We also ask that members of the public do not contact Haliburton Forest or the Wolf Centre to ask about where Ula has been sighted. Our attention at this point is on live-trapping Ula.

Do not panic. It is extremely unlikely that Ula will show any aggression towards people or animals. It is much more likely she will avoid people, vehicles, houses, and other developments.

What is Haliburton Forest doing?

Efforts to live-trap Ula have been underway since 12 August 2023. Live-traps are mechanisms that use bait to capture animals without causing it bodily harm.

There are multiple live traps distributed in the region surrounding the Wolf Centre.

The deployment and maintenance of these live traps is being led by staff from Haliburton Forest, with the support of staff from the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry.

The top objective of Haliburton Forest is to live-trap Ula without causing her any bodily harm, so that she can be returned to the Wolf Centre.

Is the wolf dangerous?

There is no reason for members of the public to be concerned about their safety as wolves at the Wolf Centre are unsocialized and have an instinctual fear of humans.

The region surrounding the Wolf Centre is already frequented by many kinds of wildlife, which most residents have learned to live with.

The wolves at the Wolf Centre are regularly fed a diet of deer, moose, and beaver. While they have retained some instincts, they are not aggressive and have no hunting experience.

Why didn't this get announced earlier?

In discussion with other stakeholders, Haliburton Forest concluded the probability of capturing Ula would be highest if the situation remained calm, quiet, and without public involvement.

However, after several days of trying to live-trap Ula, and noting that others are discussing the issue on social media, we have decided to reach out to the local public with this information.

As noted above, if you see Ula (or a wolf in general, which might be Ula), please report the sighting with a geographic location by contacting Haliburton Forest as soon as possible by phone (1-800-631-2198) or email (info@haliburtonforest.com).

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