

height, and they weigh from eighty to one hundred pounds when in good condition.

I give the latter measurements and weight from the bodies of wolves which I have killed, and I am confident that I am rather under than over the actual size and weight of the American wolf.

There are several varieties of American wolves, differing so much from each other, chiefly in colour, as to lead naturalists to the conclusion that they are different in species, and do not originate from the same primeval stock. They are all about the same size, and when they chance to meet, band together in the same pack.

In size and other distinctive peculiarities, the larger wolves differ from the prairie wolf and the coyote. Both of these smaller varieties burrow in the ground; are much less savage or destructive, and much more docile and affectionate in a state of domestication; and also, much more easily tamed than are those of any variety of the larger species.

According to the best zoological authorities, all the varieties of the larger species of wolves are dwellers upon the surface of the earth, sleeping in the open air, or making their dens in caves or crevices of rocks.

The most valuable skins are obtained from the white arctic wolf. The next in thickness of fur and costliness, is the skin of the grey wolf of North America, and so on down to the pelt of the black wolf, which being a southern animal, ranging in a warmer habitat, carries the coarsest and thinnest coat of the entire genus, and his skin consequently is of the least value.

The grey wolf, the variety most common in Canada, bears a striking resemblance to the European wolf. There are, however, differences between them, which appeared at one time to be distinct and permanent. Naturalists of later years seem to be unanimous in the conclusion that the wolves of the old and the new world belong to one species.

The American wolf, notably the Canadian variety, is at least equal in size to that of any other country.

Billings tells us, that the body of the American wolf is long and gaunt, muzzle elongate and somewhat thicker than that of the Pyrenean wolf, head thick, nose long, ears erect and conical, eyes oblique, as is the case with all true wolves; pupil of the eye circular, tail straight and bushy. The animal does not carry it curled over his back like a dog."