

## Types of Wild Animals

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### Wolf

The wolf is the most famous grey-coloured carnivore, about 80 cm tall and up to 1.5m in length. Wolves live in packs and that is how they prey the cattle, mainly sheep, thus causing great losses to the villages who live in the mountains. They are quite strong and cunning, however, lately people tend to think that wolves are pests and as a result they are exposed to extinction. Those who know better warn that wolves are facing the threat of extinction. To survive the hunters, the wolves have withdrawn deep into the forests. Most of them die of hunger due to the fact that other animals run away from areas where wolves live. To survive, nature has gifted them with speed and cunning, but very often they fight each other because of hunger. The wolf is the biggest enemy of cattle-breeding. Although the wolf has a bad reputation, it also performs a positive role in nature by hunting down the sick, weak and undeveloped animals i.e. by acting the factor who selects survival.

### Roebuck



Roebuck is one of the dearest creatures on Earth. This animal is gentle and loved by nature lovers and children. However, it is also the favourite prey of hunters in our country, but also in Europe. Hunting this animal is permanently prohibited in our country. The roebuck is one of the oldest species on Earth that lives in forest areas. Today, there are about 10,000 roebucks in Macedonia. Roebucks can be found in forest valleys in the mountains (Bistra, Sar, Stogovo, Baba, Jablanica, Babuna, Kozuv, Plackovica, Plakena Mountain, Belasica, Karajica, Rozden etc.). Roebucks eat exclusively vegetable foods. The body of the roebuck is graceful, elegant and harmoniously built. They have long and thin legs. The colour of their hair is reddish in the summer periods, while it turns into greyish and chestnut colour in winter.

## Deer



The most beautiful and noble of all are the deer, the roebuck being one of them. The male have big, strong horns with many branches. Most of the deer loose their horns before the Winter, but they grow them back in Spring.

## Weasel

Weasels belong to a family that consists of real weasels, water weasels and ground weasels. There are more species of weasels in our country, but most prominent are the golden weasel and the white weasel.



## Chamois

The chamois is one of the most beautiful inhabitants of European mountains, thus there are chamois in our country. The chamois is very mobile and it moves about very easily amongst the rocky areas in the mountains. Today chamois are facing rapid reduction in number and as a result, there is a need for it to be completely protected.



## Brown Bear

This is one of the most prominent animals from the family of bears that can be found nearly everywhere in the northern hemisphere (thus, in Europe). The bear's habitat are the mountainous forests and river valleys.

Brown bears are big mamles and their size is different according to their habitat. Its average size is 100 cm when upright on all fours, while the length of the body is in average about 200 cm. Its average weight is 150 - 375 kg and its average life span is about 25 years. Their paws are brown and they

about 25 years. Their paws are brown and they have thick fur all over their body. They eat mainly vegetable and fruits such as balckberries, raspberries, various roots, hazelnuts, grass etc. However, they also eat honey, fish, various insects, ants and various small mamles.

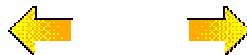
The brown bear that lives in our country is facing the same problems as the brown bear that lives all over Europe - its complete extinction. Its habitat - the forests - are threatened, and as a result, the brown bear itself is threatened. The brown bear can be found in all three national parks, however its number is constantly decreasing.



## Lynx

Lynx have greyish fur with black spots. Its long legs and big feet are adjusted for cold climates, thus in Winter it does not sink into the snow. It lives in forests and mountains faraway from inhabited places. It usually sleeps during the day. The lynx feeds on various mamles, and its favourite meal is the small cubs of the deer. It hunts its prey thanks to its developed senses of sight and sound. It usually eats at night.

The average length of the body is 800-1300 milimetres, and they weigh 18-35 kg. Its life span is about 17 years.



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