

# LIFE WOLFALPS EU



Story 1



# LIVESTOCK BREEDER

**I live in the core large carnivore area. We have had a farm for as long as I can remember. Until now, we have not experienced any damage. This year has been unbearable for us as wolves have killed most of our sheep and also some calfs. I protect my animals in the right way so that they do not escape from the pasture and do no harm to foreign property. How will the owner of the carnivores – the state make sure that their animals will not do damage to my property? We are constantly drawing attention to this escalating problem, but the situation is not progressing, since no one is taking us seriously. I suggest that all “animal lovers” come to live in our area and actively protect our animals.**

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Story 2



# LIVESTOCK BREEDER

**I also live with my family in the large carnivore area. The farm presents the main financial source for us. We raise goats mainly for milk, therefore only the final products - yoghurts, cottage cheeses, cheeses are a real source of income. If we did not use various protection measures, such as fencing permanent pastures with electric fences and using high electric fences for night enclosures, while having at least one livestock guarding dog present at all times, we would probably not have no more animals. Because we do not raise goats for meat processing, the loss of every animal represents irreparable damage. My personal opinion is that no one will do anything for us. Every farmer must do everything to carry out his business.**

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Story 3



# HUNTER

**Until the wolves were reintroduced to the Alps, such extensive damage to game did not occur. Now our hunting grounds are almost empty. In our hunting club, we no longer see the possibility of realizing the culling plans at all. However, our existence depends on it. In addition, current managers and politicians make such demands for wolf culling that it is impossible to implement them. We hunters are volunteers. Who will pay for our work to sit for several days in the pasture and wait for the wolf to return? The local farmers then point the finger only at us, saying that if we have no profit from the captured wolf, we have no desire to shoot it.**

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Story 4



# HUNTER

**In our hunting club, we have already participated in many projects regards the large carnivores. In our hunting ground, we get involved in collecting noninvasive samples, setting up photo traps and prey inspections. I believe that only together can we do something for nature, because experts need us in the field, and we need them, because only then can we stay up to date on the abundance and distribution of each species, including the wolf. We believe that the wolf is an animal that needs to be respected and we can learn a lot from it as hunters.**



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Story 5



# LARGE CARNIVORE RESEARCHER

**Wolves are territorial animals that actively defend their territories. As a result, they cannot multiply excessively in a given area. In addition, only the leading (alpha) male and female mate in the pack, which represents an additional regulation of their abundance.**

**In the first year of their life, about half (maybe even more) of the wolf cubs die.**

**Wolf behavior is extremely plastic, which means that they can adapt extremely well to changes in the environment. This can also be observed in foraging behavior. Namely, they are opportunistic predators, which means that they feed on the prey that is most easily accessible and most numerous in a given area.**

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Story 6



# MANAGEMENT EXPERT

**Different management aspects are needed to effectively manage the wolf population and ensure human tolerance. It is therefore crucial to allow the culling of wolves that cause unacceptable damage (e. g. many damage cases in the same area, damage to large grazing animals, such as horses and cows). However, we must be aware that culling alone will not solve the problems with damages. In all areas where the wolf is only occasionally present, it is necessary to adequately protect human property. With proper use and maintenance of preventive measures, the damage can be greatly reduced. In our work, we are in constant contact with local communities and various stakeholders, which makes us well aware of the situation on the field.**

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Story 7



# LOCAL INHABITANT

**I live in large carnivore area, but we do not notice many encounters with the wolf or experience conflicts. I spend a lot of time in the nearby forest, but I have to admit that I have only observed a wolf from the distance once. As soon as he noticed my presence, he withdrew. I think wolves are much more careful than bears and avoid humans more. At the same time, I also believe that the presence of the wolf does not lower the quality of life in the countryside, as we do not feel any significant differences now.**

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Story 8



# LOCAL INHABITANT

**In the last year, we have been constantly detecting the presence of wolves near our villages. This way of life is unbearable, as we no longer dare to let children play alone in the village and especially in the woods. They are now transported to school by van and accompanied by a hunter on school walks. We are constantly drawing attention to the issue, but none of the politicians and experts wants to hear us. At the same time, they believe that the wolf is not dangerous to humans. Injuries to humans also occur everywhere else. Does an attack have to happen in our country as well, for any of those responsible to take action?**



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Story 9



# REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY

**Wolves are extremely intelligent and sensitive animals. They would do anything for their family. Not even a man is so loving and sensitive. I believe that every animal is invaluable, so killing is not acceptable at all. Not all residents who have problems with wolves do enough to coexist with them. There is enough finance for everything, but not for the prevention. There are other effective measures instead of killing. For example, why not put all the wolves on the collars and constantly monitor their locations? Maybe sterilize all the dogs so they wouldn't be able to mate with the wolf? Shelters for lonely and orphaned wolves or perhaps even "problematic" individuals would also be crucial.**

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Story 10



# TOURIST GUIDE

**Wildlife watching programs and visits to the large carnivore habitat allow people to have a genuine experience, gain new knowledge, and at the same time overcome the fear of these species. As I guide tourists through the forest, where they observe the signs of the animal presence, including wolves, they show incredible interest and enthusiasm towards the species. I believe that visiting a wolf habitat can be extremely effective for raising acceptance of the species. In addition, tourists can effectively learn about proper behavior in the nature, which also leads to conflict reduction in the long-term.**

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Story 11



# LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE (MUNICIPALITY)

**In our municipality, we have already participated in past projects on large carnivores. I have always been a supporter of the use and promotion of preventive measures, but in the long run we cannot subsidize them with the municipal budget, and people will not invest the funds themselves. However, I believe that the size of the wolf population has overgrown and a reduction in their number is also crucial.**

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Story 12



# REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY

**We need to be aware that wolf is a protected species managed under well-defined conditions. In order to change the financing of measures and to introduce new practices into everyday use, it is necessary to change legislative procedures and regulations, which requires a lot of work and, above all, the procedures are timeconsuming. At the ministry, of course, we support all effective ways to ensure coexistence with large carnivores, especially wolves. We try to be as proactive as possible in solving problems and take into account all aspects, for which we are often understaffed.**



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Story 13



# AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR

**Even without the presence of large carnivores, the Alpine area is largely unsuitable for agricultural activity. Protection against large carnivores requires an excessive financial and time investment from breeders, which makes breeders in the large carnivore area much less competitive in the market than other breeders. Due to all these burdens, young breeders no longer decide to farm. As a result, the Slovenian countryside will overgrow even more, we will soon no longer be able to obtain domestic dairy and meat products and we will be completely dependent on imports.**

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Story 14



# VEGANS REPRESENTATIVE

**Every living being has the right to live a dignified life. We humans have no right to take that. It is not acceptable that humans raise animals for the food, so controversies over the large carnivore issue are pointless. If people were to eat more sustainably, and above all to use predominately plant food sources, which are completely sufficient to the needs of our body, this kind of problem would become irrelevant. I think that people who raise domestic animals for slaughter are much more morally irresponsible than carnivores that just eat this kind of food for their living.**