

*Info shared by Pitbull SA.*

*Manjaro APBT kennel.*

*South Africa.*

*My Website <http://www.pitbullsa.co.za/>*

*My E mail "manjaro@pitbullsa.co.za"*

*My Facebook "Gawie Manjaro"*

*My Facebook page "Manjaro Kennel"*

*My mobile +27827838280.*

*Zello.com "VoIP" – ask for info.*

***Fish in the diet.***

Research have proved the importance of fish in the dog's diet.



*It's all about the AMPT. Either you know or you don't.*

**Chris Darimont** from the University of Victoria and the Canadian Raincoats Conservation Foundation stated that wolves (carnivores) are the largest members of the dog family.

Grey wolves are by far the most common and were once found all over the Northern Hemisphere.

Wolves and humans have a long adversarial history.

Though they almost never attack humans, wolves are considered one of the animal world's most fearsome natural villains.

Wolves do attack domestic animals (easy prey), and sadly countless wolves have been shot, trapped, and poisoned because of this tendency.

It is well recorded and believed and research have proved that salmon and other available fish would be an alternative prey for the wild wolves, reserved for times when deer were and other prey animals are scarce or seasonal, when fish are available and a food source of choice.

**Chris Darimont** led a team of researchers who studied the feeding habits of wolves as carnivores in a remote 3,300km<sup>2</sup> untouched area of British Columbia.

Publicized in Science Daily - Sep. 4, 2008 it reveals that the ***carnivore's wolves*** in coastal British Columbia will *eat the fish almost exclusively in the fall and ignore their more common prey, deer.*

Salmon, as you know is seasonal and when the fish are available become a sought after food source of choice – not only for humans but also for wolves in the wild.

The wolves stand at the riverside or at estuaries, using their muzzles to make their catch. In prime season, they eat only the head of the salmon, avoiding the body and viscera- intestines.

**Chris Darimont** stated "The deer are there, they could persist on deer but find that the wolves seemed to prefer salmon in the fall, when the fish are migrating upstream to spawn" From an ecologically viewpoint **Darimont remarked** – "with wolves in the wild, many of these animals don't have options – they have to eat what is available or die of starvation."

***Darimont*** found and that it makes sense that the wolf's food choice is driven by the abundance of salmon, not the scarcity of deer.

The wolves taste for fishy fare is likely based on availability, nutrition and energetics.

Selecting benign prey such as salmon (no risk no fuss) makes sense from a safety point of view.

While hunting deer, wolves commonly incur serious and often fatal injuries.

Salmon then provides enhanced nutrition in terms of fat and energy.

This "buffet" from the sea comes to them.

They do not have to search dozens of kilometres for deer and then to hunt down - outrun and kill these flight animals.

In addition wolves know the salmon is seasonal and predictable.

Wolves are more widely distributed than any known large mammal.

This strongly suggests they have a lot of genetic variability, which allows these predators to adapt to different environments, from deserts to high mountains.

Still, *Darimont* sees British Columbia's fishing wolves as relics of a time when the association between wolves and prey other than deer was much more mainstream.

"People forget, but it wasn't too long ago when both salmon and wolves co-occurred over much, much greater portions of North America and even Europe and this fishing wolf would have existed from southern California up to Alaska"

Wolves fishing behaviour was also noted in the early journals of Lewis and Clark and other early North American naturalists.

Today there are multiple threats to salmon systems, including overexploitation by fisheries and the destruction of spawning habitats, as well as diseases from exotic salmon aquaculture that collectively have led to coast-wide declines of up to 90% over the last century.

As *Darimont* research identified prey remains in wolf droppings and carried out chemical analysis of shed wolf hair determine what the wolves like to eat at various times of year.

The diversity of their diet depending on where the wolves are what season and what available prey.

Wolves normally hunt hoofed animals and then available smaller mammals.

Isolation is an important factor in determining how wolves make their living.

Predators like wolves can run out of resources in isolation.

This suggests wolf have to be opportunist when animals depart from their main prey list, they then are taking greater risks and have to be more opportunistic to survive.