

## **Grey wolf behaviour in captivity**

### **Summary**

The objective of this paper is to describe the typical behaviour and type of hierarchy observed in a pack of wolves kept in captivity at the Polish Fauna Garden in Myślęcinek. The main research method was observation of behaviour in a pack of wolves consisting of a mother and 6 cubs, kept in captivity at the zoo in Myślęcinek. Observations were made at different times of day over a period of 6 months (from February to July 2012) in order to obtain data reflecting actual behaviour as accurately as possible and to take into account seasonal variations typical for the wolf (increased activity and aggression in spring). Despite the fact that the animals were born in captivity, their behaviour is typical for wolves in general. The hierarchy in the pack is linear, linked to the hierarchy based on the birth relations between the animals; the leading individual is the one that wins fights with other pack members, while the mother of all the pack members maintains an important position. There are 2 types of communication within a pack: visual and vocal. Animals behave in a certain way to manifest their status within the pack.

**KEY WORDS:** grey wolf, pack organization, behaviour, visual communication