

Supporting Information

The positive experience of encountering wolves in the wild.

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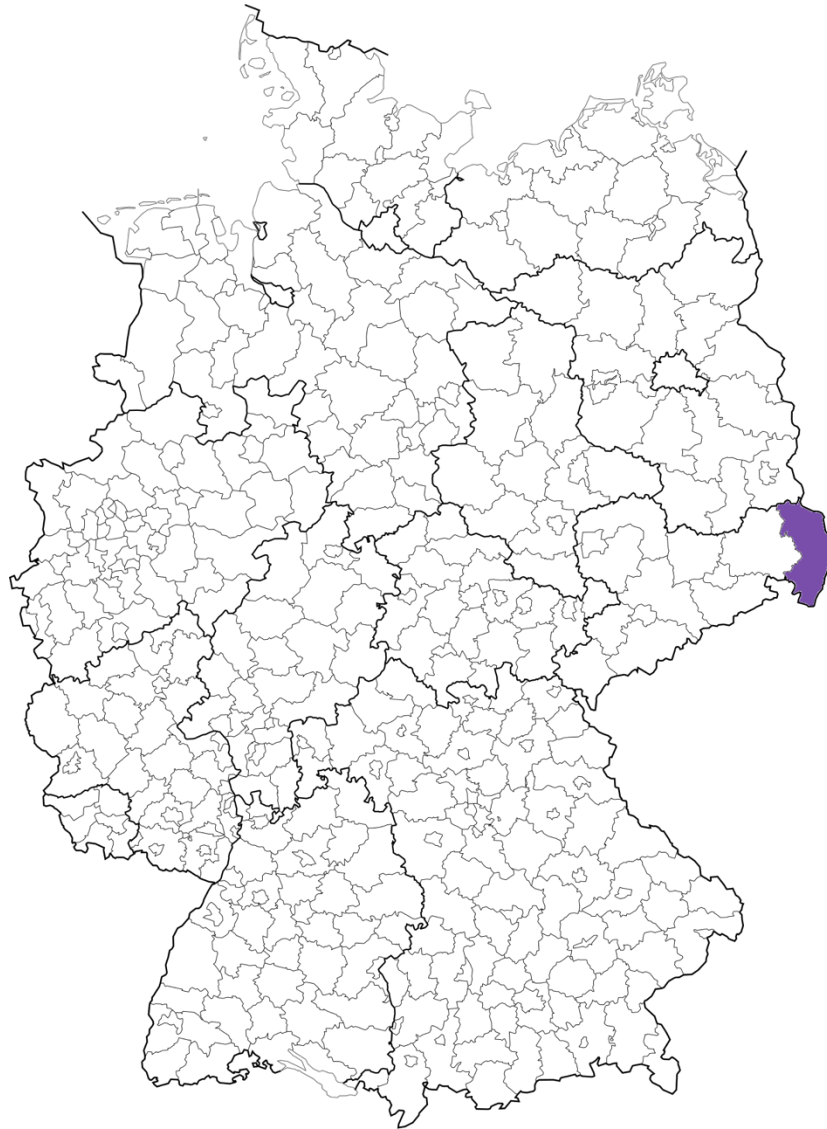
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Figure S1. Map of the study area. We conducted the phone survey to obtain a representative sample of the whole German population (“Germany” in the main text, n=1000) and a representative sample of the population living in the specific region in eastern Germany (Landkreis Görlitz, n=250, in blue) where wolves have been present the longest since their return to Germany in 2000.



Methods S1. Survey questionnaire originally in Germany and translated in English, with 5 sections pertaining to knowledge on wolves (Section A), sources of information on wolves (Section B), personal exposure and experience with wolves (Section C), attitudes towards wolves (Section D) and socio-demographic characteristics (Section E). Cells in green colour represent the questions considered in this study. Questions in red colour were not asked if answer to A1 was “no”.

SECTION A: KNOWLEDGE ON WOLVES							
A1 - Did you know that there are wild wolves living in Germany?	yes	no					
Please give us your opinion on the following statements:							
A2 - Since when (how many years) did the wild wolves return to Germany?	open answer	does not know					
A3 - How many wild wolves are currently living in Germany?	open answer	does not know					
A4 - How far from your place of residence does the next wolf pack live (in km)?	open answer	does not know					
A5 - Where do wild wolves living in Germany come from?	some wolves were always present	illegal reintroduction	legal reintroduction	natural recolonization	does not know		
A6 - What do wild wolves eat in Germany?	mainly roe deer, red deer and wild boar	mainly sheep, goat and cattle	mice and other small animals	does not know			
A7 - How many men have been killed by wild wolves since 1950 in Europe?	open answer	does not know					

SECTION B: SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON WOLVES							
B1 - How well do you feel informed on the topic "wild wolves in Germany"?	very well	well	neutral	not so well	not at all		
B2 - Where does your knowledge on wolves come from?	zoos & museums	news (TV or press)	social networks	exchanges with family and friends	books and films	Nature Organizations	Wolf Information Centre
B3 - Where do you hear the most on wild wolves in Germany?	zoos & museums	news (TV or press)	social networks	exchanges with family and friends	books and films	Nature Organizations	Wolf Information Centre
B4 - How much trust do you have on these sources of information?	very good	good	neutral	not much	not at all		
B5 - How often do you hear or read on the topic "wild wolves in Germany"?	once a day	once a week	once a month	once every 3 months	once a year	never	

SECTION C: PERSONAL EXPOSURE AND EXPERIENCE WITH WOLVES							
C1 - Have you ever seen a wolf in a zoo or in captivity?	never	once	5 times	10 times	100 times		
If yes - How did you feel about this experience?)	very positive	positive	neutral	negative	very negative	does not know	

C2 - Have you ever seen wild wolves outside Germany?	never	once	5 times	10 times	100 times		
If yes - Where have you seen these wild wolves?	open answer						
If yes - How did you feel about this experience?)	very positive	positive	neutral	negative	very negative	does not know	
C3 - Have you ever seen wild wolves in Germany?	never	once	5 times	10 times	100 times		
If yes - Where have you seen these wild wolves?	open answer						
If yes - How did you feel about this experience?)	very positive	positive	neutral	negative	very negative	does not know	
C4 - Have you lost a domestic animal because of a wolf attack?	yes	no	does not know				
C5 - Has any of you family member or relatives lost a domestic animal because of a wolf attack?	yes	no	does not know				

SECTION D: ATTITUDES TOWARDS WOLVES							
D1 - What is your opinion about wild wolves?	very positive	positive	neutral	negative	very negative	does not know	
D2 - How do you feel about wild wolves living in Germany again?	very positive	positive	neutral	negative	very negative	does not know	
D3 - Would you enjoy seeing wild wolves or wild wolves' signs (e.g. tracks, hair, howls...) in the wild in Germany?	would enjoy very much	would enjoy	neutral	would not enjoy	would not enjoy at all		
D4 - How far from your place of residence would you tolerate the presence of wild wolves (in km)?	open answer	does not know					
D5 - How acceptable is it for you, that wild wolves live in Europe?	very much acceptable	acceptable	neutral	not acceptable	not acceptable at all		
... and in Germany?	very much acceptable	acceptable	neutral	not acceptable	not acceptable at all		
... and in your Bundesland?	very much acceptable	acceptable	neutral	not acceptable	not acceptable at all		
... and in your Landkreis?	very much acceptable	acceptable	neutral	not acceptable	not acceptable at all		
... and in your municipality?	very much acceptable	acceptable	neutral	not acceptable	not acceptable at all		
D6 - What evolution in the wild wolf population of Germany would you wish for the future?	more wolves	as many wolves as today	fewer wolves	no wolves	not important	does not know	
To what extent do you agree with the following statements?							
D7 - Wild wolves have, like other animals, a right to live in Germany.	totally agree	agree	neutral	does not agree	does not agree at all		
D8 - Wild wolves should only live in Nature reserves and other Protected Areas	totally agree	agree	neutral	does not agree	does not agree at all		
D9 - The presence of wild wolves increases the value of	totally agree	agree	neutral	does not agree	does not agree at all		

a landscape, whether I get to see them or not							
D10 - For me, it is important to protect wild wolf populations also for future generations	totally agree	agree	neutral	does not agree	does not agree at all		
D11 - Because of the presence of wild wolves, I would be scared to walk alone in the forest	totally agree	agree	neutral	does not agree	does not agree at all		
D12 - The presence of wild wolves would negatively affect my leisure activities	totally agree	agree	neutral	does not agree	does not agree at all		
D13 - The number of wolves should be controlled by human shooting	totally agree	agree	neutral	does not agree	does not agree at all		
D14 - Only those wolves who cause problems and damages should be controlled in Germany through scaring, capturing, relocating or shooting	totally agree	agree	neutral	does not agree	does not agree at all		

SECTION E: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PARAMETERS							
E1 - Age							
E2 - Gender	woman	man					
E3 - Higher Education diploma	Hauptschule	Realschule	Oberschule	Gymnasium	Fachhochschule	Universität	Others
E4 - How much time do you spend in nature?	Several hours per day	a couple of hours per week	a couple of hours per month	a couple of times a year	never		
To what extent do you agree with the following statements?							
E5 - Men should protect nature, because animals and plants have a right to live.	totally agree	agree	neutral	does not agree	does not agree at all		
E6 - We humans have the right to shape our environment according to our needs	totally agree	agree	neutral	does not agree	does not agree at all		
E7 - How important is it for you to protect nature?	very important	important	neutral	not important	Not important at all		
E8 - Are you a hunter?	yes	no					
E9 - Do you own livestock?	yes	no					
E10 - Do you have a dog at home?	yes	no					
E11 - What is your postal code?	open answer						