



## Overview

Wolverines have several unique physical adaptations that help them survive in extreme habitats. Physical adaptations are special features or modifications that a species has developed in order to better survive and reproduce in its natural habitat. Wolverine are solitary and elusive, but if you happen to spot one, it would likely be in remote, mountainous terrain.

### Eyes

Wolverines have small eyes, which is no surprise, as they are nocturnal. This means they are active primarily at night, and rely on other senses to navigate the rugged terrain.

### Smell

Wolverines have a highly developed sense of smell that gives them the ability to smell frozen carcasses buried up to 20 feet deep in snow.

### Diet

Wolverines are opportunistic predators and scavengers, with their main diet consisting of rabbits, rodents, and carrion remains from kills made by other predators. If necessary, they may supplement this with bird eggs, berries, roots, or insect larvae. Wolverine have been known to take on remarkably larger prey such as deer, especially if the prey is weak or injured. Like other members of the weasel family, wolverines have a pair of molars that are rotated 90 degrees, allowing them to tear tough, frozen meat and even crush bones to access the highly nutritious marrow.

### Legs and feet

Wolverines have wide, webbed, furry feet that act similarly to snowshoes to help them move quickly on the surface of snowy terrain. Their five claws on each foot help them to climb steep, rocky slopes and trees.

### Size

Wolverines are the largest terrestrial member of the weasel family, with adults weighing 20-55 pounds. Males are typically 30 percent larger than females. Wolverine are known for being incredibly strong and tough for their relatively small size, and have been recorded defending their prey against significantly larger predators, such as bears.

### Scent glands

Wolverines have scent glands that produce a pungent stinky substance. This is used to mark their territory and signal availability to potential mates.

### Fur

Wolverine's thick, oily fur is hydrophobic, meaning it repels water. This keeps them warm and dry through harsh winters, which they do not hibernate through.

