

Swedish court gives green light to wolf hunters

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Three wolves stand in a pen at the Kolmarden Wildlife Park in Norrkoping, Sweden, June 18, 2012

Swedish hunters were given the go-ahead Thursday to shoot 36 wolves this winter as animal activists suffer a setback on one of the country's most divisive environmental issues.

The seasonal wolf hunt had been stopped at the last minute by a lower [court](#) but will go ahead after a Gothenburg appeals court lifted the ban.

"It's a good thing that we will finally get going with managing the [wolf pack](#) in the way that our parliament has decided," Torbjørn Loevbom of the Swedish Hunters Association told AFP.

Activists said that by the time the case heard by a higher court, this season's hunt for 36 wolves—nearly 10 percent of the Swedish pack—will have already ended.

"Even if we win the case in the end, there is a great risk that the wolves will be dead by that point," said Oscar Alarik, a legal counsel with the Swedish Nature Conservation Society, which expects the Swedish hunting policy will eventually be put before an EU court.

But Loevbom responded: "People far removed from reality should not decide how life should be organised for those who are directly affected."

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