

Tests confirm mystery animal shot in Montana was a wolf

June 18 2018



This undated file photo provided by the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks shows a wolf-like animal that was shot on May 16, 2018, after it was spotted in a private pasture with livestock near Denton, Mont. The mystery is over: Montana wildlife officials confirm that an unusual-looking animal shot in central Montana was actually a wolf. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials initially weren't certain what the creature was when a rancher shot it near Denton in May. They noted the legs, front claws and canine teeth were shorter and its ears bigger than normally seen on wolves. Officials said in a statement Monday, June 18, 2018, that an inspection of the animal at its wildlife health laboratory revealed it to be a

relatively normal looking wolf. DNA tests confirmed that the animal was a gray wolf. (Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks via AP, File)

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Officials say the wolf was a 2- or 3-year-old female with unique physical features.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service geneticist Mary Curtis says it's not unusual for there to be physical variations of animals within a species.



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Citation: Tests confirm mystery animal shot in Montana was a wolf (2018, June 18) retrieved 5 July 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-06-mystery-animal-shot-montana-wolf.html>

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