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The wild art of wolf drawing. Learn the basics of drawing every kind of Canis lupus, from the realistic wolf for an album cover to

a growling cartoon wolf in your graphic novel.



the giant wolf god in Norse mythology, to the creator god of the Pawnee, wolves hold a central place in human culture. And they look pretty cool, too.

Start with reference photos. Study your subject before you start any step-by-step drawing tutorials. Wolves have a distinctive

appearance that sets them apart even from more wolfish dogs like huskies. Before you begin drawing

the thick neck scruff, and the leaner torso. "A wild animal is typically going to have a more severe and

angular look because it has less fat," artist Jonathan Case agrees. "Emphasize those angles when you're

Wolves are from the same family and genus as dogs and coyotes, but they're larger, more social, and

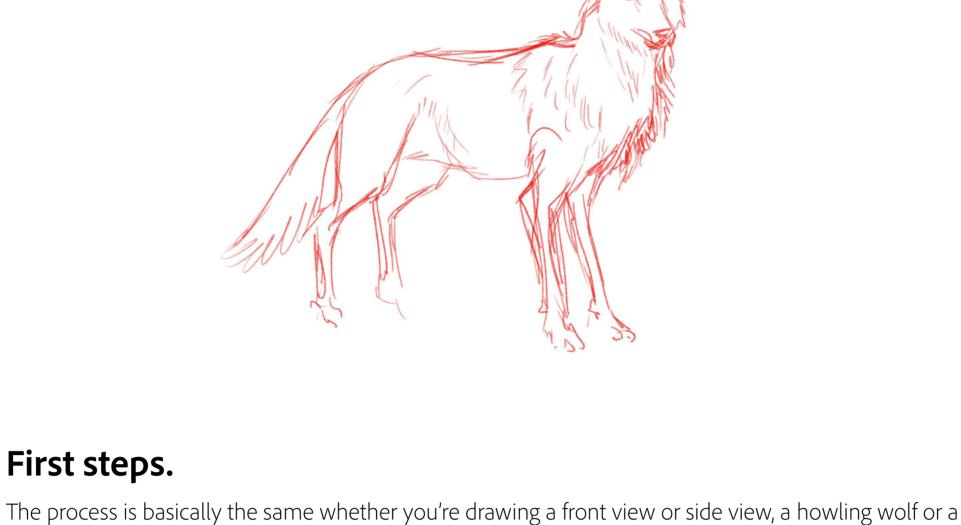
more vocal than other canines. From the she-wolf that raised the founders of ancient Rome to Fenrir,

wolves, examine some reference photos to get a sense of their features and proportions. "They look like they're constantly looking out for themselves," says artist Lucas Elliott. Note the wolves' long legs,

drawing a wolf." Even the body posture of a wolf differs from that of a dog. "Wolves carry themselves like apex predators, much more upright than dogs. They move a little more elegantly," says artist Megan Levens. When she's drawing a wolf's body, she says, "I think about what this animal is designed to do and focus on those features. So the legs are designed to run fast and catch prey. The jaws are strong to capture prey and kill it. The ears are perked up to stay alert."

basic shapes of some of your reference photos.

To gain an even better understanding of what the lines of a wolf should look like, practice sketching the



Refining your wolf.

First steps.

tend to be proportionally smaller than those of a German shepherd. Draw a cone or oval to represent the snout. Using your reference photos to guide you, start turning those basic shapes into a wolf by connecting and smoothing the lines. Sketch new lines to fix any mistakes in proportion. Remember that part of being a good artist is being a good eraser. At this point, you can begin erasing

sleeping one. Begin drawing the wolf as you would other four-legged creatures like dogs, using curved

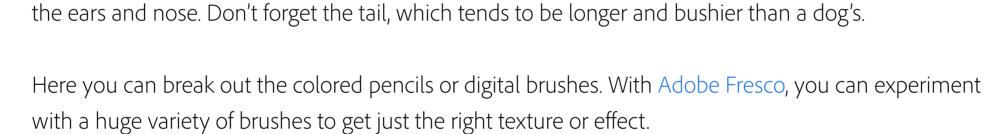
lines to make shapes that represent the wolf's head, rib cage, and pelvis, along with hinged rectangles

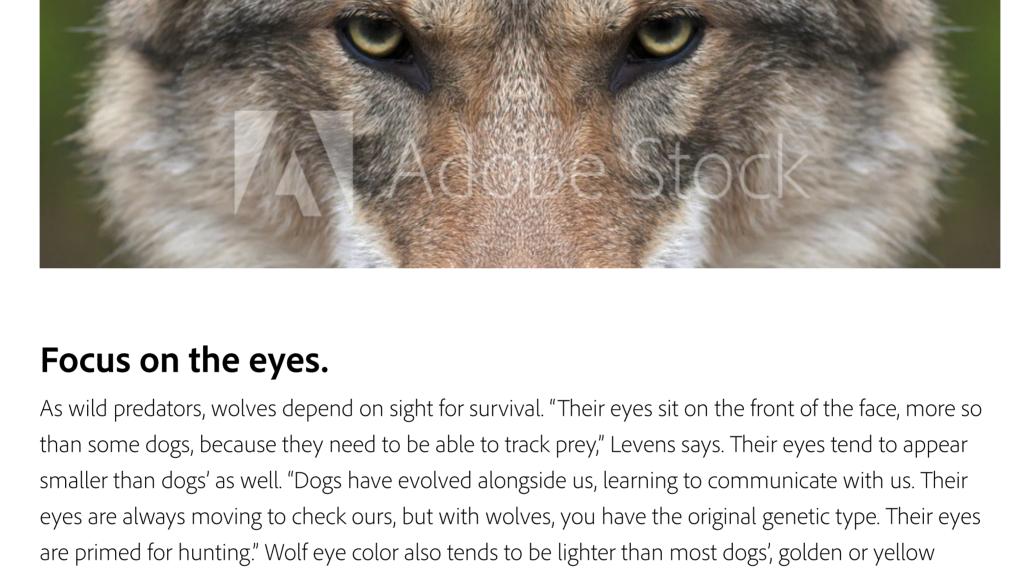
for hind legs and front legs. Draw two triangles on top of the head for ears, noting that wolves' ears

When your wolf has a recognizable silhouette and major features, you can begin filling in the details. Bring out the body contours, shading in the shadows and suggesting muscles and variations in the fur.

Recheck your reference photos to note the direction and texture of the fur. Also note how the light hits

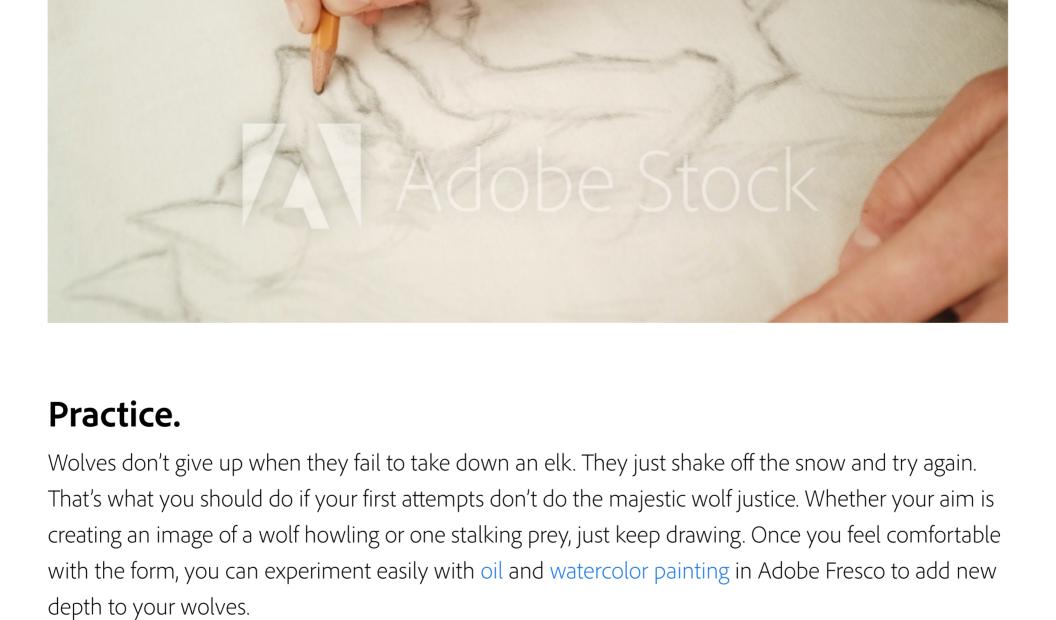
your guidelines or, if you're drawing digitally, hide the outline layer.





instead of a warm brown or husky blue. "I would paint them in lighter colors," Levens says. "Big brown

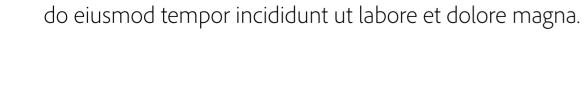
puppy-dog eyes on a wolf wind up suggesting a shaggy dog."



Contributors

Lucas Elliott, Jonathan Case, Megan Levens

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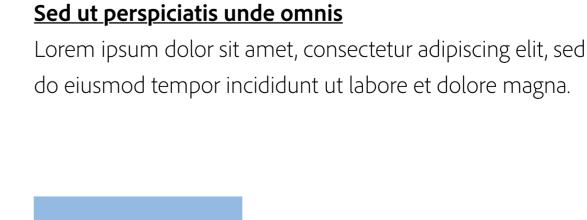


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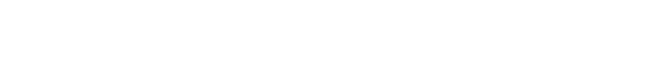
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