Can reintroduced hand-reared wolves survive?

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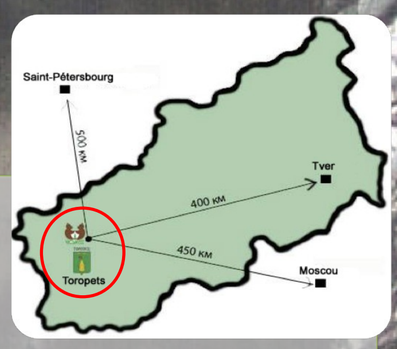
Background

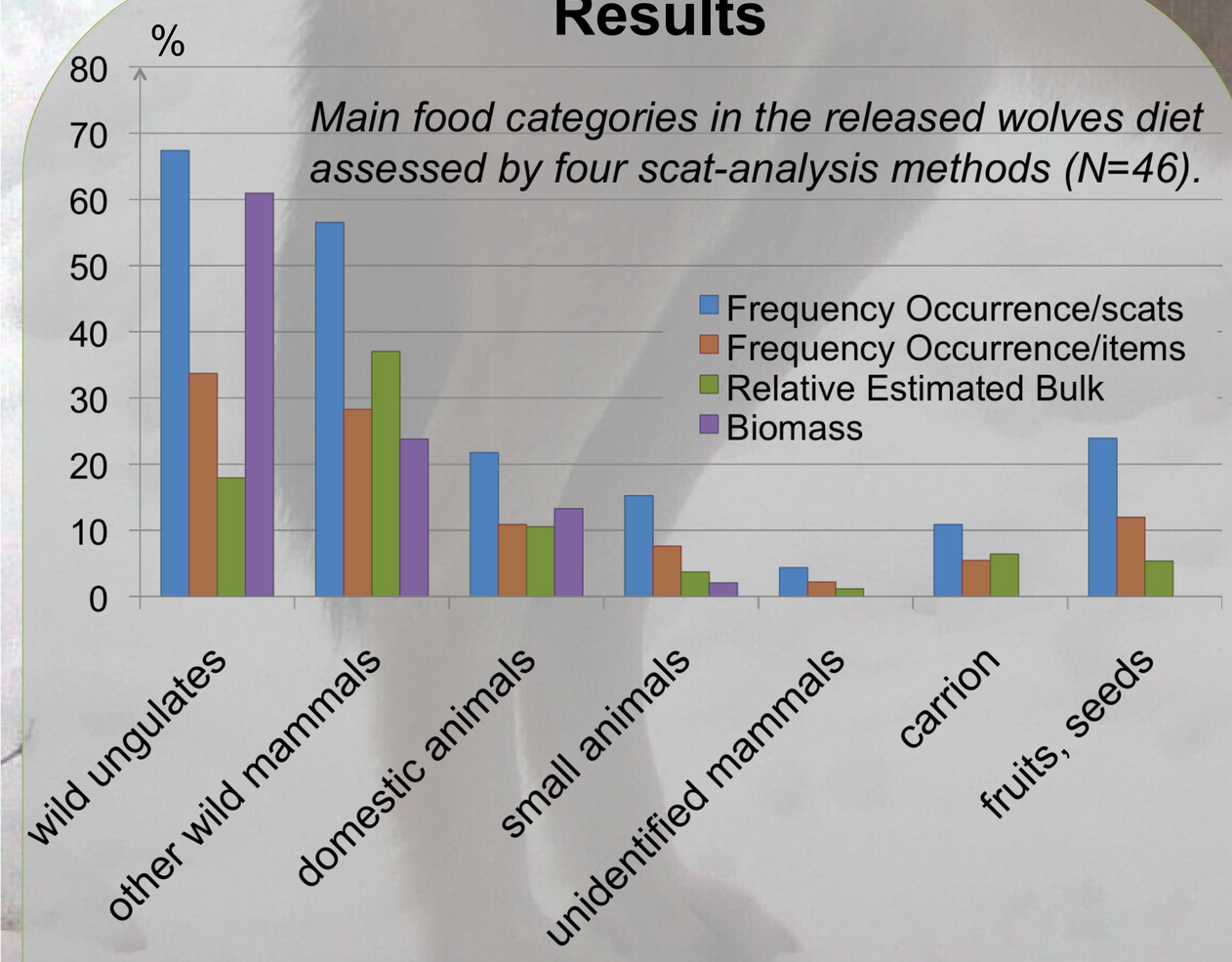
• Studies on **hand-raised wild animals** suggested that **young released wolves** might be **able to survive** into the wild **without previous fastidious training** => **instinctive** survival behaviours



Objectives

• 9 young wolves reintroduced in Tver region (Russia)
• Aim: **Assess their survival chances**
• Focus on: **their fear of humans, movement patterns and food habits.**

Results



✓Consummation of:

• **ungulates** (moose) & **other mammals** (hares & beavers) mainly
• domestic animals occasionally
• vegetal matter regularly
• small animals as alternative prey

Conclusions & perspectives

✓**Individual movement patterns** depend on ecological conditions for finding food

✓**Individual behaviour** due to Genetic inclination & past environmental influences

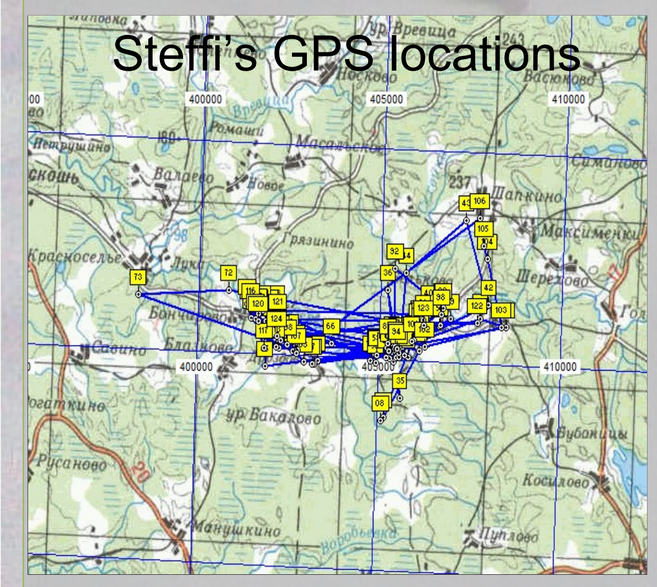
✓**Success in foraging & killing prey**

✓Our findings could:

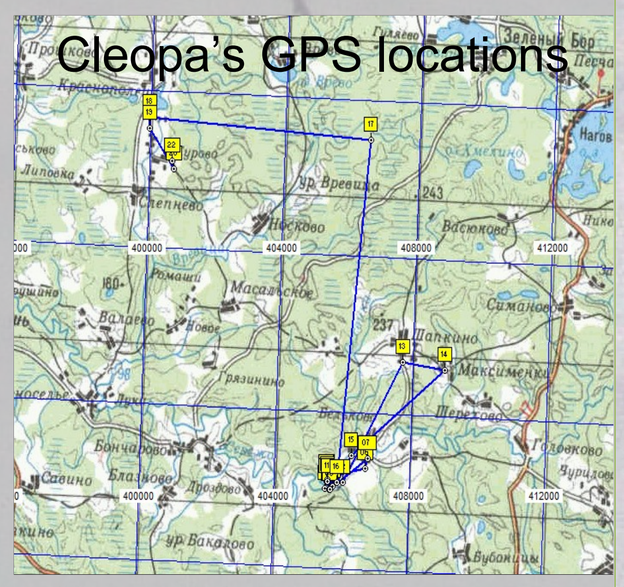
• Allow a **controlled release** in **isolated populations** (need of genetic influx)
• Help endangered **canids conservation**

Methods

•**GPS-Argos collars** fitted to 3 Wolves & **snow tracking**



•124 GPS loc in 89 days,
•163.7 km, 1.8 km/day
•Home range ~ 14.7 km²



•21 GPS loc in 18 days,
•30.9 km,1.8 km/day
•Home range~ 40.1 km²

•Diet assessment via 4 **methods of scat analysis**