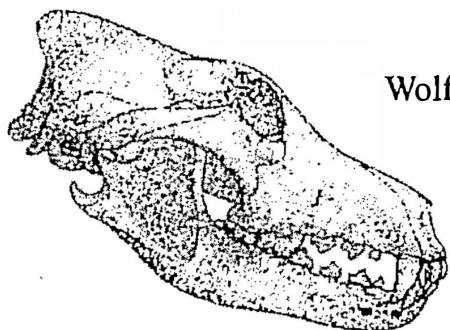


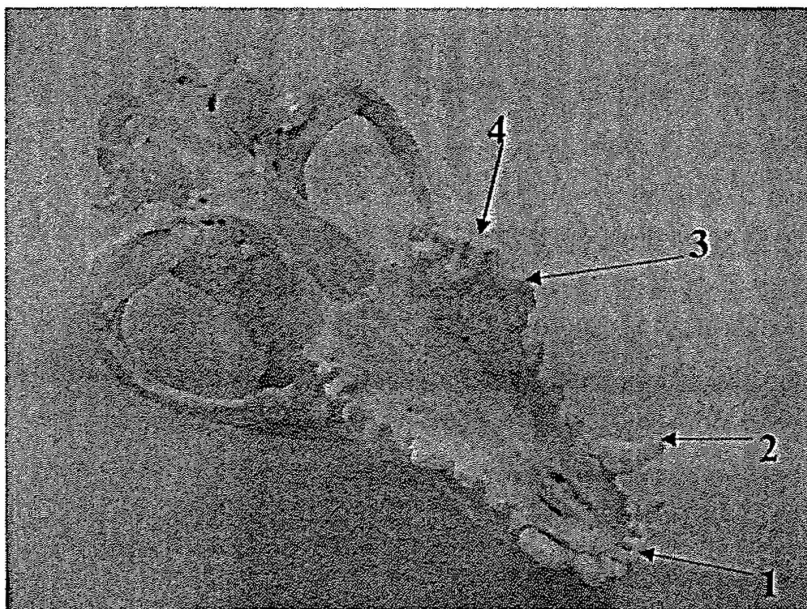
My, What Big Teeth You Have!



Wolf Skull Profile



Wolf Head Profile



At the front of the jaw are found the incisors (1). These teeth are mainly used to cut meat. Behind them are the canines (2), which function to hold prey. In *Canis lupus*, the canine teeth can reach 2 inches in length. The large, specialized *pre-molars* known as the *carnassials* (3), are designed for the purpose of shearing and slicing flesh. Beyond the carnassials lie the last teeth in the series, the molars (4).

Members of the dog family (wolves, domestic dogs, coyotes, and foxes) have a high ridge on top of their head, called the sagittal crest. The sagittal crest is where their jaw muscles attach. Having longer jaw muscles allows these meat eaters to exert more pressure when they bite. Wolves typically produce twice as much biting pressure as a German Shepherd. German Shepherds generate about 750 pounds of pressure per square inch (psi). Wolves generate about 1,500 psi, enough to crush large leg bones of deer and elk.

Sagittal Crest

