

Werewolves

Werewolves look just like normal people and there's nothing to distinguish them from those around them. They do look older than people around them by at least a few years though. Part of the strain on the body. Werewolves, however, can sense others like themselves. They know from sight if someone else is a werewolf but that is the extent of any 'sixth sense' they have, some are better at sensing it than others. When they transform it is into a pure wolf form and not some half-wolf/half-human creature. In London they could almost pass as stray dogs if they kept out of the light, but most werewolves, when they change, seek out uninhabited areas anyway.

About half of werewolves get it genetically from their parents. In others the genetics can skip many many generations, leaving those werewolves to learn everything for themselves unless they can seek out some sort of mentor. Quite a few 'parentless' werewolves die without someone to teach them things, but those that do it on their own and survive tend to be stronger, for obvious reasons.

The transforming doesn't work on a lunar cycle as in folklore. There is no certain time when they must turn into wolves. But the urge will come over a werewolf and they can choose whether to give in or to fight it off. Some werewolves never transform into the pure wolf form or do it very rarely. Those that do choose to change wouldn't do it more than a few nights a month or the toll is too great. After changing back they will be tired and sleep for a long time. (Some werewolves would ignore their bodies advice and keep transforming over and over. These werewolves usually die young as the body gives out.) Changing is *painful* and not instant.

When they transform they keep their human intelligence. Some choose to let the animal side take over more than the human but this is dangerous on one level: if you let the wolf take over too much you may neglect to transform back. Werewolves cannot sustain themselves in wolf form and staying in wolf form will kill them. (It could take any time from a week to a month, but the werewolf's heart and body will eventually give out.) It's also dangerous not to listen to the wolf side at all. Werewolves must find the balance in being human and being wolf.

Werewolves are stronger than normal humans and have faster healing abilities. This doesn't mean they can't be hurt- they can be hurt, but they will heal from wounds faster than others would. Heightened senses at all times. Not hugely but they tend to notice small noises, smells, sounds, a little more than normal humans. When in wolf form they have very strong senses.

They have huge appetites, even more so after changing back. It takes a lot of energy out of the person. Werewolves tend to find themselves very active. They eat a lot of food and most get uncomfortable and very fidgety if they are still for too long.

Werewolves are born werewolves. A person doesn't get made into a werewolf except

under almost impossible circumstances. (It has to do with a massive exchange of blood and even then, for it to actually do anything than kill the other person, it's *very* rare and the body chemistry in the 'victim' must be absolutely suited.) Werewolf traits begin to manifest themselves at puberty, probably because the changes and the massive amounts of energy needed would kill a child.

Things you read in stories about werewolves mean nothing. Werewolves don't hate or get hurt by silver. (The silver bullet myth would hold true but that's because it's a *bullet* and a werewolf can be shot dead just as easily as anyone else.) Also unlike in folklore, if you kill a werewolf in wolf form they won't change back. You'll just have a dead wolf.