

# WOLF VISIONS

Volume 28

THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER FROM MISSION: WOLF



McKinley (left) and Texx strike a rare pose together for the camera (L. McGehee)

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**FEATURED WOLVES**  
 Texx and McKinley (pictured left) grow into their golden years together. Read more about them on page 3.

**THANK YOU**  
 Howls of gratitude for your continued support!

## Mission: Wolf

Mission: Wolf is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that connects people with nature using hands-on experiential education. Through volunteer internships and education programs, we inspire individuals to become stewards of the earth. While providing a home for rescued wolves and horses, we create opportunities for growth through community service and personal interactions with animals. We value education, sustainability, and improving relationships between people, animals, and the world around them.

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# Sanctuary

Mission: Wolf is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that has provided a sanctuary home to wolves and wolf-dog crosses for 30 years. Our mission is to inspire respect for the wild and connect people with nature. As people learn compassion for the wolf, they also learn to respect all forms of life, which leads to further protection and enhancement of wild habitat. M:W is run by a group of dedicated and hard-working volunteers, who live and work sustainably in the remote Wet Mountains of Southern Colorado. Read on to learn more about the people and wolves of our sanctuary.

## 30 Years of Wisdom

Thirty years ago, I was working hard to simply survive; I was caring for over a dozen wolves and trying to keep them, and myself, fed. As more calls came in to rescue captive wolves, it was time to throw away any personal ambitions. On January 7, 1988, we put the land in the wolves' name, and Mission: Wolf became official. In commemoration of our 30th anniversary, I was asked to write 30 lessons; there is just not enough room or time to do that here, but I have managed to outline a few of the most important.

**What is the best way to help wolves?** Become a biologist? A veterinarian? A forest ranger? No—the best way to help any wild animal, or its habitat, is to change human behavior.

**Expectations breed disappointment:**

Whenever a person is told what to expect by someone else, the outcome will always be different than the expectation, and that itself creates disappointment.

**You cannot help anyone if you do not take care of yourself first:** It is all too easy for people to overwork themselves out of unnecessary personal sacrifice.

Momentary victories are quickly lost without long-term stamina.

**We fear what we do not understand:**

This applies to our daily routines and fuels most human conflicts. We do this with our families, spouses, and jobs. Wildness has no future when people fear it out of ignorance.

**Direct communication:** Wolves are masters at this, and do not beat around the bush to make their intentions known.

**Humans learn best through experience:**

I realized that it was a personal experience, an eye-to-eye encounter when human and wolf were allowed to be themselves, that truly changed people's perspective.

**Love:** Compassion and empathy are often replaced by fear and loathing. Taking time to truly understand and love one another, even when we do not understand, allows us to release the jealousy that causes competition between humans.

**Hope for the future:** We all need a ray of hope that tomorrow will be a better day. When we get to a point where we continue to be beaten down and denied the

ability to grow, we become aggressive and challenging to those we love.

**Thirty years later,** I look back and see the results of allowing people to just be themselves, without expectations. The goal was to get the wolves far away from civilization and provide them with the most natural life possible in captivity. And instead of hiding them to live and die in vain, we opened our doors to allow any motivated person an opportunity to help, and learn firsthand. M:W has become a place where people cannot buy their way in, but simply a place where anyone that is interested, from any walk of life, has an opportunity to make a difference in their own way. -K. Weber



Photo by Monty Sloan, circa 1992

## New Arrivals

### PUPDATE: Nashira & Saurya

Nashira is a wolf-dog cross who came to us from North Dakota in the spring of 2017. She is becoming a very social Ambassador, happily following in the footsteps of her elders, grandpa Abe and uncle Zeab.

Saurya came to M:W early last summer from an accidental captive litter. After briefly living with the Ambassador pack, Saurya was hesitant to be social with humans, and her wild side came out strong! Fondly referred to as the "Velociraptor" or "wild child," she can often be seen hanging out in her treehouse, gnawing on her prized bones.

-M. Gaarde

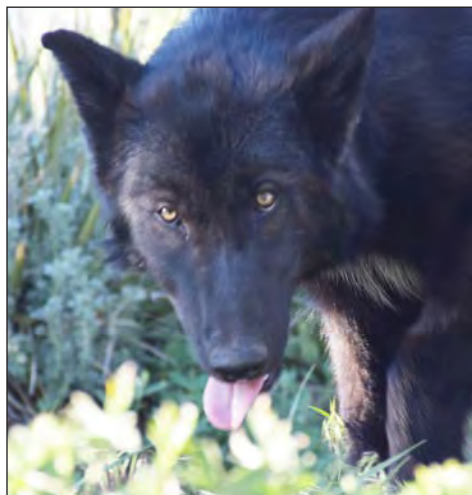


Guardian (TAB)

### Guardian

Meet Guardian, the newest addition to the horse barn. He is a draft/cross youngster, who thinks he should be a wild horse. He fits right in with the rest of the herd! He loves grazing with his horse friend Merlin and doing his own horsey business. In reality, Guardian has very well-developed riding and driving skills. When it comes to getting saddled up for a ride, however, he puts on a frown and gets grumpy. This gives us the opportunity to delve deeper into the mind of a well-trained horse who doesn't like doing his people job. The challenge is to learn how to change his mind, and make it fun and rewarding for him.

-TAB



Nashira (J. Thompson)



Saurya (M. Gaarde)

Wolves of M:W

### Farah

Farah (arabic for "joy") is filled with boundless energy and love. She showers her mate Apollo with affection, and performs some of the silliest antics you will ever see from a wolf.



### Apollo

Reclusive, mysterious, and handsome, Apollo is the perfect balance to the erratic Farah. He lives at the top of the sanctuary, and keeps a watchful eye on the refuge.



## Featured Wolves: Texx & McKinley

The photo on the cover of this newsletter, featuring wolves Texx and McKinley, involved approximately 600 failed photographic attempts; check out the back cover (page 16) if you want to see a few blurry Texx ghosts lurking in the background, or McKinley obstinately refusing to look at the camera. Such is the nature of these two—visible but never available.

If you ever visit Mission: Wolf, either Texx or McKinley will probably be the first wolf you see, as they are fond of lounging on their shade structure and watching visitor traffic with detached intrigue. They both recently turned an incredible 13 years old and have spent nearly a decade together in one of the largest



*While McKinley investigates, Texx prefers his space (L. McGehee)*



*The much younger Texx (right) and McKinley, circa 2008 (K. Weber)*

enclosures in the lower section of the refuge.

Texx is fondly known amongst the staff as “the friendly ghost” due to his white lion’s mane, opaque eyes, and tender tip-toe-trot along the fenceline at breakfast time. McKinley’s rich auburn coat and piercing amber eyes do not bely her age; she is our eternal fountain of youth. Together, they are one of the calmest couples at the refuge. They spend their days basking in the sun and observing the humans from a respectable distance. Their enchanting howls float softly down the valley, and their gentle, perceptive nature reminds each of us to pay attention to the rich world that surrounds us.

-L. McGehee

## The Senior Pack

### Daisy



*Daisy spreads her howling wisdom (Mission: Wolf Archives)*

Daisy is the resident grandmother of the sanctuary. She spends warm sunny days sleeping under a shady tree, or taking a delighted stroll around her enclosure. When feeding time comes around, it does not matter if the sun is shining or snow is falling—little Miss Daisy springs into action and runs circles around her younger buddy Fenris in excitement. It is an incredible sight to see this 16-year-old ageless wonder rushing to her feeding spot with a big smile on her face. Although she is nearly 115 in wolf years, her puppy-like antics make the staff smile each and every day.

### Soleil



*Soleil basks in the springtime sun (L. McGehee)*

Soleil recently celebrated her 13th birthday! She is a beloved and iconic member of Mission: Wolf’s family. On most days, she can be found peacefully napping on her shade structure, or gossiping with her neighbors, Cephira and Illiamna. Soleil sadly lost her life partner, Orion, last October, but she is entering into her golden years happy and healthy. Staff and visitors alike have been touched by her dignified, wise howl; it often rings out amidst the tranquil silence of the refuge. She continues to be a fan favorite among the Mission: Wolf community.



### Rosie Valkyrie

This canine diva considers herself to be the queen of the sanctuary, and lets everyone know it by yodeling loudly at new visitors. Rosie adores her brother Tiger, though she is a bit overprotective.



### Tiger

Despite his feline name, Tiger seems a bit goofy and clumsy at first. Nevertheless, this handsome timber wolf continues to gain confidence and poise as he grows older.



# Memorials



**ASH 2011-2017**

Ash was a wolf-dog who came to M:W after escaping numerous times from his former home. He was among the wildest, most tenacious animals that ever resided here. Even so, he was a gentle soul with a deep desire to be loved and to give love. He passed suddenly due to bloat on a hot summer day. It is a common cause of death among large canines, and is extremely hard to detect before it sets in. The life he shared here with Cephira was filled with peace and happiness. He lived about as long as wild wolves do; it seemed as if this world could not contain his passion and lust for life. Now, Ash can run free as he always wanted.



**MAX 2008-2017**

Max was a multifaceted personality who quickly stole the hearts of visitors and staff alike. He had to leave his loving family after the first two years of his life, but always retained a strong, deep-rooted bond to his human pack. We spent the mornings with Max's silly antics at breakfast time, and the evenings with his firetruck siren howl floating up the valley. He was a bold, vibrant, and thoroughly complicated creature who deeply changed the lives of those who were lucky enough to meet him. To know Max was to know that there were parts of him that you would never fully understand.



**ORION 2005-2017**

Orion arrived at the refuge as a wily, jet-black puppy, and was quickly introduced to a female pup named Soleil, another rescued wolf-dog. Despite attempts to place them with elder pack mates, the youngsters stubbornly refused to be separated. They became one of the most bonded couples the refuge has ever seen. In 2014, Orion was diagnosed with cancer, and was given only months to live; he surpassed that prediction by over three years. As he grew older, Orion's fur turned a distinguished gray, and he developed an aura of dignity about him. He leaves behind a legacy of love and courage.



**BATAL & DANCER 2007-2017**

Dancer was two years old when he arrived at our barn as a rambunctious youngster with an out-of-proportion body. His half-brother, Batal, came the following year at just a few months old. These two would become famous for being high-strung, feral, and often quite challenging. They spent a decade filled with days of grazing in their pastures, playing and sparring with one another, crunching hay day or night, and teaching the subtle cues of silent communication to many volunteers, classes, and groups. They lived happy lives until they both passed suddenly in a freak accident in their pasture. It is unknown exactly what happened, but it appeared they rammed into one another head-on at top speed. To honor them is to remember the lessons they shared, and reflect on their beauty, grace, and the way they lived their lives. Free to be.

## BETTY BROOKS

9/2/1934 - 3/11/2017

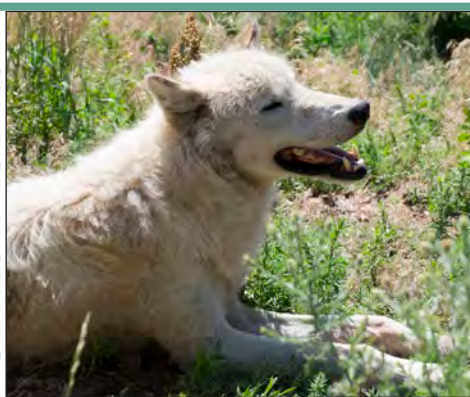
Elizabeth "Betty" Brooks was the mother of director Tracy Ane Brooks, and a strong and silent supporter of Mission: Wolf. Betty loved M:W and cared deeply for all the wolves and people. She rescued two chihuahuas who currently romp around the M:W farm. She was a tough, independent, and happy lady, and many will remember Betty's sweet nature and hospitality.



## TED HUBBARD

11/23/1967 - 2/20/2017

Considered the first volunteer at the sanctuary, Ted was very creative and made sturdy, amazing bracelets and other artistic pieces. He also helped construct much of the original fencing of the sanctuary. We want to honor our dear friend Ted, who did so much to help Mission: Wolf during his lifetime, and inspired many with his passion, talents, and friendship.



**Illiamna**

This massive Arctic wolf was perhaps a competitive eating champion in a past life. Illiamna impresses upon visitors the beauty and majesty of the wild with his powerful presence.



**Fenris**

Although named after a fearsome Norse god, Fenris is quite timid, and prefers a reclusive, laid-back lifestyle. He is a supportive and patient partner to the elderly Daisy.



## 🐾 The Legacy of Magpie and Raven 🐾

It is the fall of 2002, and the Wolfhound bus is gearing up to hit the road for a 14th consecutive year of touring New England. In the process, tens of thousands of people will get to see a wolf for the first time. Traveling solo for the past three tours, lead Ambassador wolf Rami met senators, congressmen, and countless students and environmentalists; she's a pro.

But this time, Rami is not alone. She is joined by three wild-eyed, curious puppies: Magpie, Raven, and Luna. At the first few programs in NY state, in front of crowds of hundreds, Rami did what any good wolf mother would do and regurgitated pounds of food for her adopted pups. People watched in awe (some in fascination, others in disgust) as the food was devoured. Two of these brave wolf puppies, Magpie and Raven, were sisters. At only four months old, they were already traveling across the U.S. and forever changing people's ideas about wolves and wildlife.

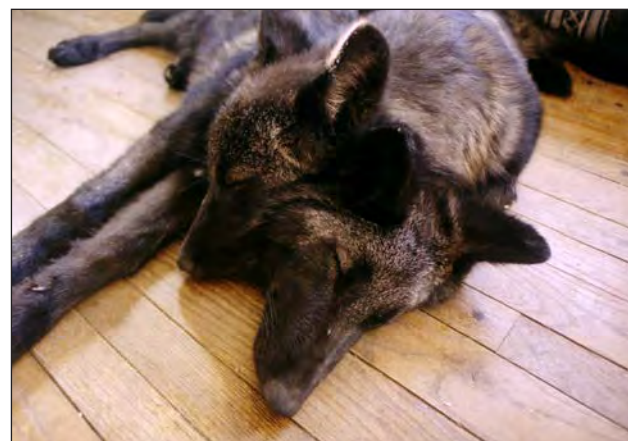
Magpie and Raven were part of a litter that was bred for the film industry. The girls ended up in the care of a man in Colorado, who quickly realized he could not give the pups the life they deserved, and contacted M:W. The girls arrived at the sanctuary on August 21, 2002. They were immediately the princesses of the entire wolf pack.

They were both jet-black as puppies (hence their names), with the exception of a tuft of white fur on Magpie's chest. Raven was the enthusiastic and outgoing

one; in contrast, Magpie was shy at first, and a bit clumsy, too. Nevertheless, the two pups were very interested in humans. On the road with directors Kent and Tracy, Raven would dazzle audiences with her feats of athleticism—she could leap higher than Kent's shoulder! Meanwhile, Magpie slowly began to enjoy the attention and enrichment. The four wolves traveled together for four years, visiting nature centers, universities, schools, and other venues. Everywhere they went, they impressed upon humans the beauty of the wild, and stimulated compassion and understanding.

Always the headstrong one, Raven eventually began to challenge her sister for alpha position, and so in 2006, she was retired from the traveling program and placed with a wolf named Sabretooth back at the refuge. The spotlight was eventually left entirely to Magpie, who—in a few short years—had transformed into the regal and confident Queen of the Wolves. Over the course of 12 tours, Magpie would swim in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the Gulf of Mexico, gaze over the rim of the Grand Canyon, and howl with wild wolves in Yellowstone. All the while, her charisma and noble aura left people in awe. In 2008, Magpie would meet the love of her life, a goofy wolf-dog rescue named Abraham. They formed a dynamic Ambassador duo and would go on to foster over a dozen puppies at the sanctuary.

In 2015, after many years on the road,



Raven & Magpie's first day at M:W (A. White)

Magpie and Abe retired from traveling and began to lead on-site programs alongside their adopted pups. Meanwhile, Raven had been placed with Illiamna, a handsome young Arctic wolf, and the two were very happy together. The wild black pups had now become wise, platinum matriarchs at the refuge.




In July of 2017, after showing signs of ailing throughout the spring, Magpie let out her goodbye howls as she passed away next to Abe, Zeab, and her adopted granddaughters, Nashira and Saurya. Raven followed her sister in October, leaving us peacefully in her sleep under her favorite piñon pine tree.

The sisters left behind a tremendous legacy, and helped nurture and guide generations of wolves that are still with us today. Their memories will live on in the hearts and minds of thousands of humans who had the honor of meeting them. We are indebted to you, Magpie and Raven, for all you did for your species, and ours.

-A. Hoffman



Photos above credited to A. White, C. Tellekson-Flash, TAB, K. Weber, Mission: Wolf Archives

<p>Wolves of M:W</p> 		<p><b>Abraham</b></p> <p>The undisputed king of the wolves (even though he's mostly dog...shh!). Abe is the gregarious leader of the Ambassador pack. He is beloved by all, especially the young pup, Nashira.</p>		<p><b>Zeab</b></p> <p>Zeab is one of the most calm and composed male wolves the sanctuary has ever seen, which makes him an amazing Ambassador. He lets his silly side show when he gets comfortable.</p>
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## Education

Mission: Wolf offers educational tours of our facilities to visitors and volunteers, as well as more comprehensive experiential programs for schools, universities, youth groups, treatment centers, and environmental organizations. We strive to present the most up-to-date scientific information about wolves and the vital role they play as a keystone species. However, our most important task as educators is to facilitate positive experiences between animals and humans. The wolves are the true educators at the sanctuary. Simply observing a wolf up close can change people's lives and their entire perspective about wildlife. No amount of research, no lecture, book, or film, can do justice to the feeling of looking into the piercing, contemplative golden eyes of a wolf. The wolves teach us to be more aware of our bodies, minds, and emotions. Our ultimate goal is to put ourselves out of business; we hope one day no more captive wolves will need sanctuary, and we can listen to them howl in the wild. In the meantime, we want to create a space that allows people to restore, or even establish, a connection with nature.

### 🐾 Ambassador Update 🐾



*Nashira, the newest addition (P. Cannon)*



*Kent greets Zeab (P. Cannon)*



*Abraham rules the pack (P. Cannon)*

Mission: Wolf has given life-long sanctuary to over 100 wolves in our 30-year history. Only a few unique wolves have chosen to become part of our Ambassador program. As you might imagine, not many wolves get enrichment from traveling around the country for up to six weeks on a bus! For the past couple of years, we have done exclusively local programs due to the advanced age of the Ambassadors, and we continue to focus on our on-site education at the sanctuary. We are always adapting to the increasing amount of visitors to our tiny mountain home, which also means accommodating large groups of people participating in our wolf behavioral sessions. Our staff has begun to understand how movement and peripheral vision speaks volumes to wild animals. As long as we listen to what the wolves are telling us, we can foster positive—and sometimes truly miraculous—interactions between our two species.

With the passing of Magpie, the Ambassador program is entering into a new era. Magpie's life partner, Abraham, and her adopted son Zeab, mourned her loss but have adjusted well overall. The two boys are now showing the ropes to the newest Ambassador, the yearling wolf-dog Nashira. The trio has developed into a quirky family unit; Abe is the kind but stern grandpa, Zeab the thoughtful and goofy uncle, and Nashira is the crazy, joyful kid who keeps them all young at heart. While she can get a little rambunctious at times, Nashira is settling well into her Ambassador role. With wolf-dog Abe and gray wolf Zeab, Nashira allows visitors to observe a spectrum of behavior in between the two. We hope she will continue to be excited about meeting new people, as the Ambassador Wolf program is hoping to get back on the road in the future.

-A. Hoffman

### 🐾 The Wolf as Refugee, the Wolf as Inspiration 🐾

Why has the wolf inspired such passion and hatred, for as long as mankind has been able to communicate? This question



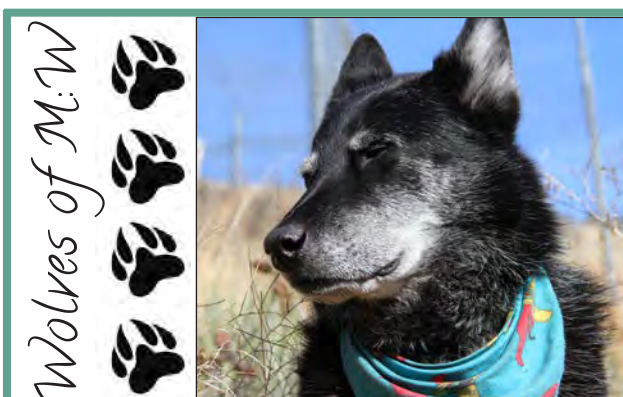
*La Veta Writer's Workshop (Bob Kennemer)*

was at the heart of two educational programs Mission: Wolf led this winter. Education Caretaker Austin Hoffman and Outreach Caretaker Laura McGehee were guest speakers for a Brown University course examining animals as refugees in the human world. The course involved creating a virtual tour and then leading a discussion with a talented and bright group of college students who were grappling with the various ways that animals get caught up in human narratives.

In beautiful neighboring La Veta, CO,

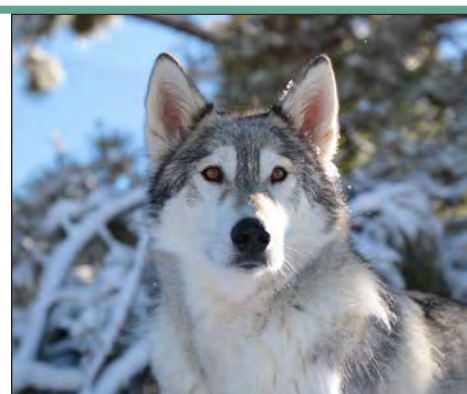
Mission: Wolf led a discussion and workshop focusing on the literary themes of wolves in myth, legend, story, and film. Outreach Caretaker Laura and Sustainability Caretaker Charles Mandemaker discussed the complicated portrayal of wolves, and then used the narratives of M:W resident wolves as inspiration for a writer's workshop. We were hosted by Sandy Dolak and the Huajatolla Writer's Group, and we hope to collaborate on further educational and creative projects with our artistic neighbors.

-L. McGehee



#### Minigan

The bizarre majesty of Minigan defies description. This odd wolf-dog has stolen the heart of every staff member since he first set paw on the sanctuary grounds.



#### Zuko

A boisterous malamute who feels he MUST be the center of attention. Zuko simply loves people, and he helps illustrate behavioral differences between wolves and dogs.



## 🐾 The Agency of Choice: Wild vs. Captive Social Dynamics 🐾

Wolves live, fight, hunt, love, travel, and raise puppies as a family—but how do wild and captive wolves differ in their social dynamics?

### Pack Structure

A pair of mated wolves is the basic social unit in both captive and wild wolf packs. A pack in the wild typically consists of six to eight related wolves led by the alpha male and female. Both wild and captive wolves typically mate for life, though it is not uncommon for challengers to disrupt alpha partnerships.

In the wild, when a lower-status wolf challenges an alpha for leadership, whoever loses is likely to be exiled from the pack. In captivity, there are fences, which means that human caretakers must intervene before fighting escalates. Pairs of wolves are less likely to experience this kind of challenge, and so at Mission: Wolf, we separate the wolves into couples instead of larger packs. One notable exception is the Ambassador pack, where Abraham, Zeab, and Nashira live together in haphazard harmony.

Pairing wolves at M:W is similar to choosing two strangers off the street and giving them an apartment to live in together! We strive to pair wolves who we think would work well as roommates, though ultimately it is up to their unique personalities. Some wolves find their partner as a pup, and others live their whole lives without ever finding someone they like (just like humans).

### Communication

Both wild and captive wolves communicate using their body language. Alphas carry their tail high and look others in the eye, while lower status wolves lower their bodies and lick the muzzle



Rosie and Tiger learn through play (P. Cannon)

of their leader. Both wild and captive wolves howl, though wild wolves need to communicate across longer distances and organize themselves as they disperse to hunt. All wolves scent mark, but wild wolves must defend their territory from neighboring wolf packs.

At M:W, we find that wolves view humans as weird two-legged wolves and expect us to be able to speak their language. We have found over thirty years of operation that there are certain wolves and wolf-dogs who find purpose and meaning in meeting humans, and accordingly, the Ambassador program provides an outlet for these uniquely social creatures. Our on-site behavioral sessions focus on decoding the communication of wolves with the belief that these relationships will enrich the more social animals and the humans who care for them.



Zeab follows Abe's leadership (C. Hoyt)

### Hunting Strategies

Wild wolves hunt and captive wolves do not; the wild wolf pack's energy and movement is directed by the need to hunt for survival. Cooperation and teamwork is essential to a successful kill.

In captivity, wolves are given food by their human caretakers. Here at M:W, we receive donated, deceased livestock and process it for the wolves. They are given all parts of the animal so that they can maintain a healthy and balanced diet. Our biweekly feeding days mimic the feast and famine cycle of wild wolves and build trust and routine. This captive dependence demands that these rescued wolves stay under the care of humans; they are not candidates for reintroduction into the wild because they do not know how to hunt.

### Cycle of Life

Regardless of where they live, wolves form complex and deep emotional bonds.



Farah shows submission (P. Cannon)

In the wild, the entire family will share the responsibility of feeding and caring for puppies. Wolves are strongly predisposed against inbreeding, but it can happen in times of desperation. In captivity, inbreeding is much more common. This results in a higher proportion of genetically-linked illnesses amongst captive-born wolf populations. We believe that resident wolf Tiger's discoid lupus has likely been caused by inbreeding.

M:W spays and neuters all resident wolves so that no more puppies can be born in captivity, but this is not the case for every organization. The arrival of new puppies to M:W illustrates the fact that wolves will nurture and care for unrelated pups as if they are their own. Abraham and his late partner Magpie have raised more than a dozen wolf pups through the years. As these puppies grow up, their own unique personalities will determine where they live.

At M:W, we strive to create the most natural existence possible for the wolves while still providing resources and enrichment. Relationships between wolves and humans make the sanctuary more rewarding for everyone. Yet even in this environment of increased agency, captive wolves are inherently denied the freedom of their wild counterparts. The enduring social bonds in both wild and captive populations speak to the intensity of emotion and companionship that all wolves experience, regardless of their environment.

-L. McGehee

Sources: *Wolves*, Mech and Boitani (2003); *Wolf*, Greeley (1997); *Slave to a Pack of Wolves*, Smith (1978)



### Lil' Hailey Star

Hailey is a sweet and shy brindle-colored wolf who blends in seamlessly with her surroundings. She howls at a high-pitched, almost inaudible frequency.



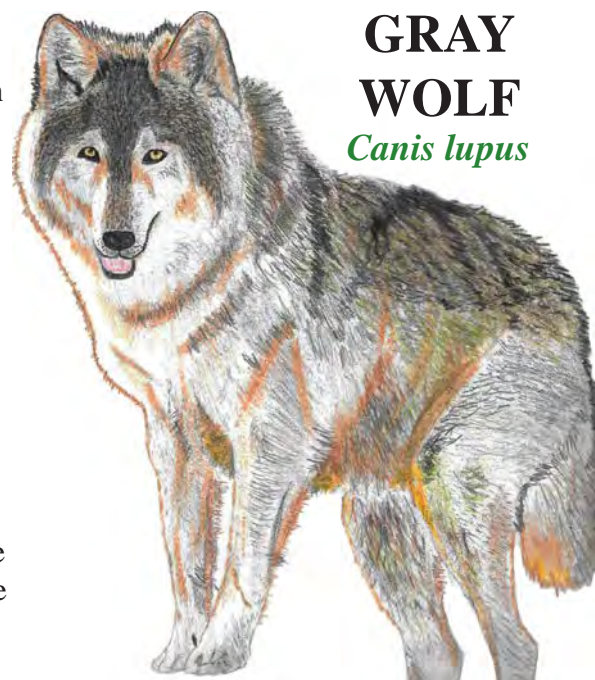
### Aria

Aria loves to bound along his hillside enclosure with Hailey, and always seems to be grinning from ear to ear when you are lucky enough to catch a glimpse of him. He simply radiates joy.



# WOLVES OF THE WORLD

- **Population:** ~5,600 in continental U.S.; 7,700-11,200 in Alaska; ~60,000 in Canada
- **Range:** Regionally across 13 U.S. states and most of Canada
- **Avg. Size:** 70-150 lbs, 26-38 inches at shoulder
- **Coat Color:** Many different variations from gray, tan and brown, to pure white or jet-black
- **Diet:** Ungulates such as deer, elk, caribou; rodents; beaver
- **IUCN Status\*:** Least Concern. Federally endangered in U.S. due to poaching and hunting, with the exception of MT, ID, and WY



**GRAY WOLF**  
*Canis lupus*

The gray wolf is the largest, and perhaps the most iconic, of the 35 living species of canine. There are five different subspecies of the gray wolf that differ in size depending on geographic region. As European settlers spread westward in the 19th and 20th centuries, they killed off most of the bison and elk, which forced wolves to prey on livestock. The U.S. government then placed large bounties on wolves, and began systematically exterminating them. The passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973 saved the gray wolf from extinction, and in 1995, they were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park. It was in Yellowstone that scientists witnessed wolves balance the ecosystem by managing elk populations, which caused a “trophic cascade” effect across the food web, and dramatically increased biodiversity in the park. Gray wolves now inhabit 13 U.S. states, and efforts are underway to restore the endangered Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*).

One of the wolf’s most remarkable traits is its ability to adapt to any type of habitat. Wolves were once the most widely ranging land mammal on Earth other than humans. They feel at home in both the arid desert and the frigid Arctic tundra—and everywhere in between. Wolves in the Rocky Mountains hunt elk and moose, while their relatives in British Columbia prefer seafood like salmon and crab, and their cousin the Indian wolf pursues blackbuck antelope in the shadows of the Himalayas. In the classic book *Never Cry Wolf*, biologist Farley Mowat writes of a pack of Arctic wolves

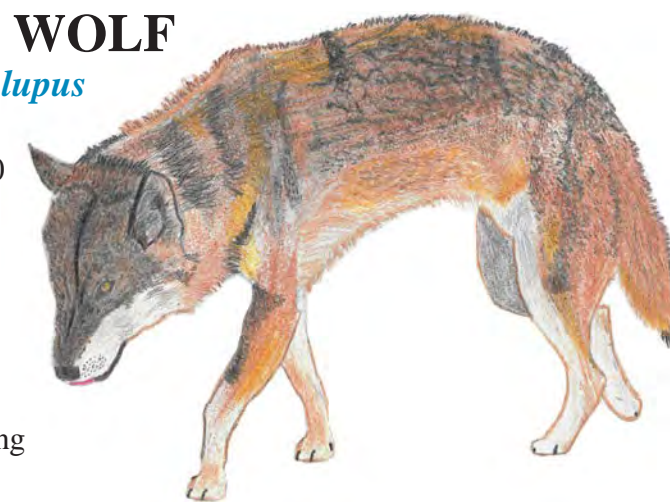
that subsisted largely off mice for an entire winter because bigger prey was scarce. As long as there is some source of food, wolves seem to find a way to get by, even in the most extreme of climates and conditions. The physical characteristics and behaviors of wild canines change based on their environments, and some have been classified as entirely different species as they evolved. Still, all large wild canines have a few things in common. First, they are highly social animals that rely on their family unit, the pack, for survival. Second, they are coursing predators that make their prey run and prevent them

from overgrazing vegetation; this ultimately helps maintain balanced and healthy ecosystems. Finally, almost everywhere wild canines are found, they have been persecuted by people. Human attitudes remain the biggest factor influencing wolf conservation. Below is a brief analysis of different wild canines around the globe. President Teddy Roosevelt once famously called the wolf “a beast of waste and desolation,” yet when we look at how these animals manage to adapt and overcome in this rapidly changing world, we might begin to see them instead as symbols of tenacity, determination, and resilience.

## EURASIAN WOLF

*Canis lupus lupus*

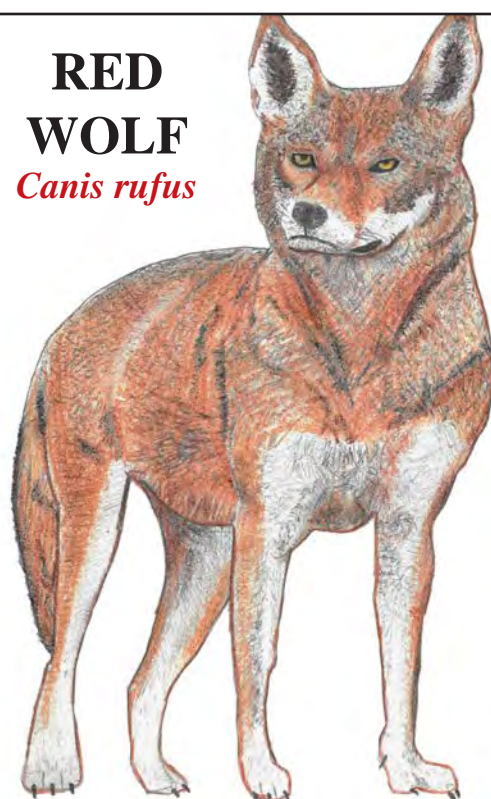
- **Population:** ~10,000 in Europe; up to 30,000 in Russia; ~90,000 in Asia/Middle East
- **Range:** Wilderness areas across Eastern Europe, Asian steppes, Arabian peninsula, and Himalayas. Recolonizing Western Europe
- **Avg. Size:** Wide variation. 85-150 lbs, 24-38 inches at shoulder
- **Coat Color:** Gray or tawny fur with white throat and chest markings
- **Diet:** Ungulates, wild boar, various goat/deer species (regional)
- **IUCN Status:** Least Concern. Regionally endangered populations



Active extermination of the Eurasian gray wolf dates back to 300 BCE. The wolf was viewed as a destructive, violent beast in the Middle Ages, and this line of thinking was brought to the Americas. By 1900, the wolf was extinct in most of Europe, with the notable exception of Russia. But the wolf is gradually returning to Western Europe; Belgium recently saw its first wolf in a century, and Germany now has 60 different wolf packs. While there continue to be some human/wolf conflicts, particularly in France and Scandinavia, the European Union’s conservation model has made important headway towards coexistence.

## RED WOLF

*Canis rufus*



- **Population:** ~40 in the wild, 200+ in captive breeding facilities
- **Range:** North Carolina, Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge
- **Avg. Size:** 45-80 lbs, 26 inches tall at shoulder
- **Coat Color:** Reddish-brown, copper and cinnamon with gray and black undertones
- **Diet:** White-tailed deer, raccoons, groundhogs, rabbits, and rodents
- **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered

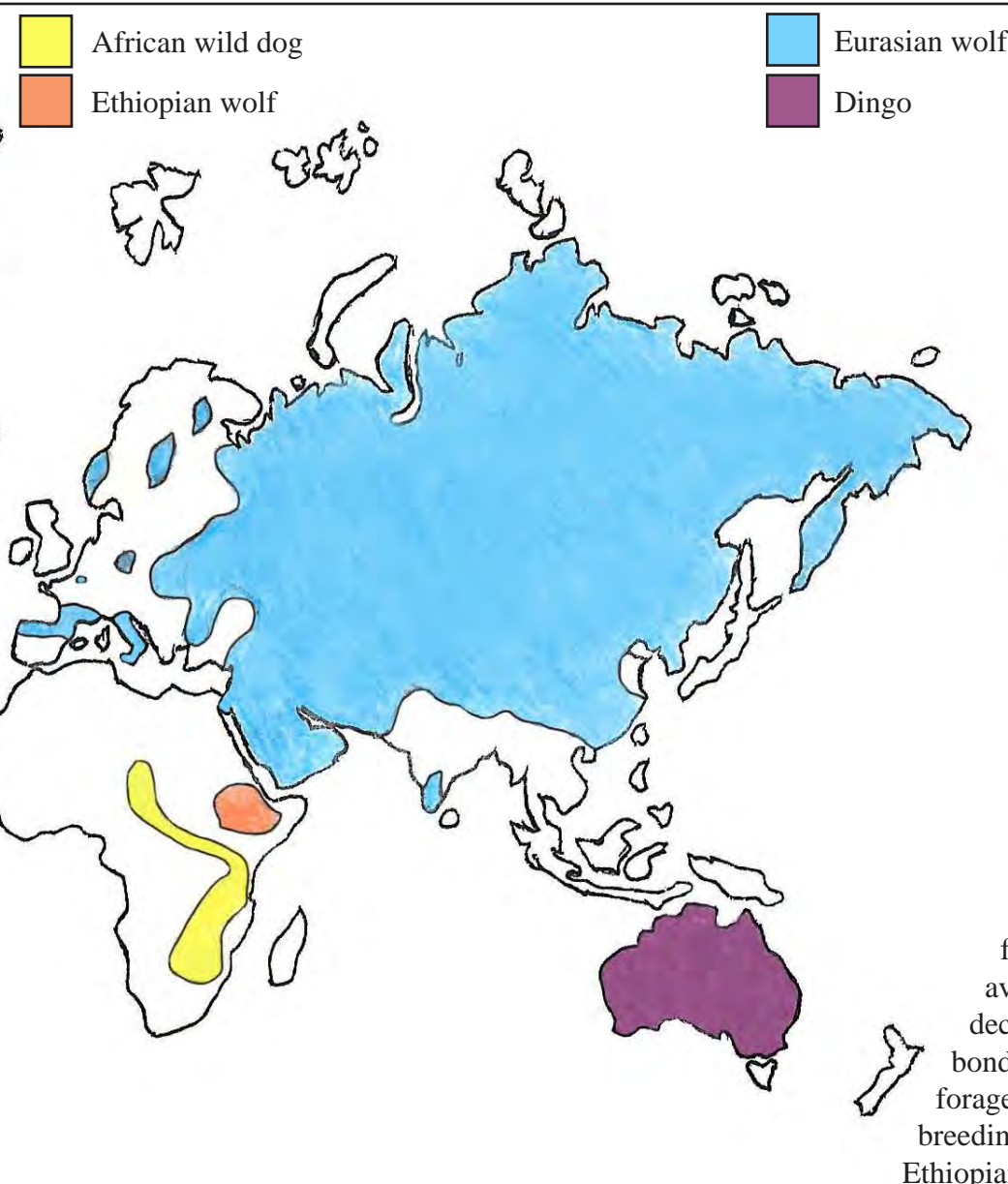
The only distinctly American wolf, the red wolf was once the apex predator of the southeastern U.S. They ranged along the gulf coast from Florida to Texas, and up the Mississippi River Valley to Illinois. They are smaller and more slender than gray wolves, and hunt smaller prey. They too were subject to extreme persecution and habitat loss, and the red wolf was declared extinct in the wild by 1980. After a successful captive breeding program was instituted, they were reintroduced into North Carolina in 1987. However, they continue to be shot by hunters and private landowners, and hybridization with coyotes remains a problem. The future of this unique species is uncertain as political infighting and scientific disputes about the red wolf’s genetic purity hinder the recovery program.

- **Population:** ~6,600
- **Range:** Sub-Saharan African forests, deserts, and grasslands. Remaining populations primarily in Tanzania and Mozambique
- **Avg. Size:** 40-70 lbs, 30 inches at shoulder
- **Coat Color:** Highly variable; blotchy markings of black, brown, golden-red, yellow, white, and tan
- **Diet:** Ungulates such as gazelle, wildebeest, zebra, kudu, and impala
- **IUCN Status:** Endangered

Also known as the Painted Dog, the African Wild Dog is a distant relative of the Eurasian gray wolf. While it is an entirely different species than the wolf, wild dogs are similar in their social organization and ability to manage prey species. Their diet mainly consists of fast-moving ungulates, and they can reach speeds of up to 44 mph to keep up with these fleet-footed animals. Large packs of up to 40 wild dogs have been seen demonstrating incredible feats of coordination as they hunt. They can range long distances in search of prey, meaning one pack can have a large territory. Habitat loss is the main threat to the wild dog, because it means that they come into conflict with humans more often as farmers and ranchers utilize more land. Due to their wide territories, even large protected areas can only sustain small populations of these animals. Conservation efforts are thus mainly focused on improving coexistence between humans and wild dogs, including managing land use in ways that benefit the wild dog, and improving connectivity between protected areas.



**AFRICAN WILD DOG**  
*Lycaon pictus*

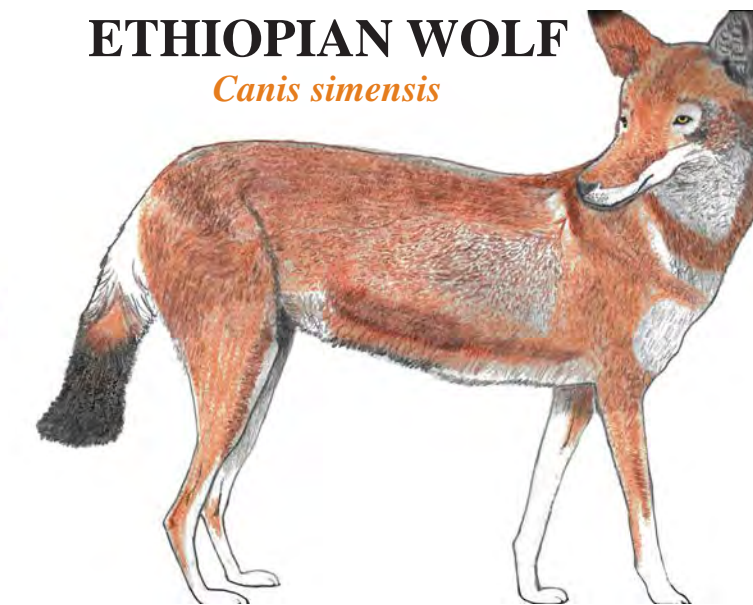


### SOURCES

\*Endangered species status from: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Wolf Center, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, World Wildlife Foundation, *The Wolf Almanac*, Busch (2007), *Wolves*, Mech and Boitani (2003), *Wolf*, Greeley (1997)  
Original Art & Content By: Les, A. Hoffman, M. Seidel, P. Cannon, L. McGehee

## ETHIOPIAN WOLF

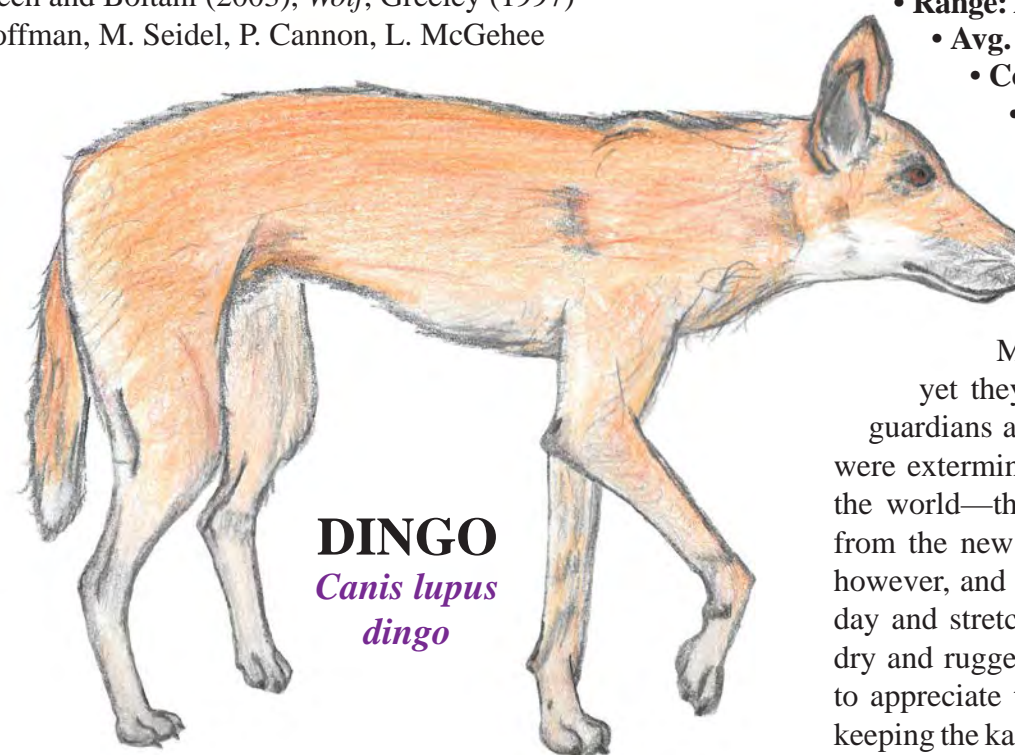
*Canis simensis*



- **Population:** ~360-440
- **Range:** Restricted to isolated mountain ranges in Ethiopia; lives above 10,000 feet elevation
- **Avg. Size:** 24-42 lbs, 21-24 inches at shoulder
- **Coat Color:** Reddish-brown with distinctive white markings on throat, feet, chest, and tail
- **Diet:** Primarily alpine rodents, occasionally hares and antelope
- **IUCN Status:** Endangered

The Ethiopian, or Abyssinian, wolf diverged from the gray wolf about 130,000 years ago. It is Africa’s most endangered carnivore, and one of the most endangered canids globally. They have a slender, coyote-like build, and live in highlands with heavy annual rainfall and rich fertile soil. Farmers covet the Ethiopian wolf’s habitat for agricultural and ranching purposes, and as humans encroach, this elusive canine is forced out of its historic range. Climate change also contributes to the rapidly decreasing available habitat, as prey populations dwindle. In addition, outbreaks of rabies have decimated population numbers. Like its relatives, the Ethiopian wolf forms extremely strong bonds within the pack in order to care for pups and protect territory. However, it does tend to forage and hunt alone, rather than in large numbers like other species of wolf. Although captive breeding programs have been recommended by wildlife advocacy groups to help restore the Ethiopian wolf’s population, no such programs are currently active. With all the threats it faces, it is miraculous that this canine somehow manages to survive in Africa’s rugged mountaintops.

- **Population:** Unknown, though some estimates are upwards of 200,000
- **Range:** Australia, from tropical rainforests to harsh deserts and snowy alpine regions
- **Avg. Size:** 22-40 lbs, 20-25 inches at shoulder
- **Coat Color:** Varies between white, tan, cinnamon, ginger and black
- **Diet:** Mice, rabbits, water buffalo, kangaroos, and other large marsupials
- **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable



**DINGO**  
*Canis lupus dingo*

While not technically considered a “wolf,” the dingo is still in the canine family, and is thought to have evolved from wolves earlier than dogs. Dingoes were brought to Australia around 4,000 years ago. Many indigenous cultures have intricate relationships with the dingo, yet they were never truly domesticated. Rather, they were often considered as guardians and protectors—part of the family. Like gray wolves in America, dingoes were exterminated by colonial settlers, especially sheep farmers. The longest fence in the world—the Dingo-Proof Fence—was built in the 1880s to keep the dingo away from the new colony’s prized merino sheep ranches. It was not completely effective however, and dingoes continue to roam south of it. The fence is still maintained to this day and stretches 3,488 miles, separating Australia’s fertile southeast corner from the dry and rugged desert ranges to the northwest. Recently, some ranchers are beginning to appreciate the dingo’s trophic cascade effects. Dingoes are particularly effective at keeping the kangaroo mobs moving so they do not compete with sheep and cattle for grass.



## Sustainability

The sanctuary is designed to keep our environmental impact minimal while working to become as self-sufficient as possible. We continually strive to improve our sustainability efforts while educating visitors about resource conservation, gardening, sustainable building design, renewable energy, and recycling.



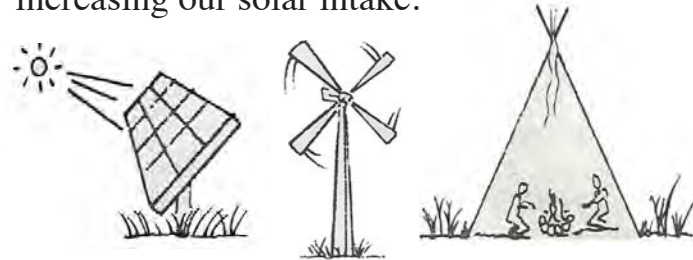
*Garden Guru Charles harvests kale*



*Brand new solar array at M:W!*

## Renewable Energy

Mission: Wolf uses solar energy to generate power for the sanctuary, along with a backup propane generator that is used only when needed. We recently installed nine new solar panels on a custom-built array, further increasing our solar intake.



## High Altitude Gardening

Gardens reduce our dependency on local grocery stores while providing a habitat for multiple species and fresh food and herbs for staff. At an altitude of 9,300 feet, growing food has always been a challenge for the community; however, with the addition of two greenhouses, we are now able to grow food year-round. If you want to be happy for a year, plant a garden; if you want to be happy for life, plant a tree. Our two geodesic growing dome greenhouses, courtesy of Growing Spaces (Pagosa Springs, CO), have enabled us to continue growing food throughout the winter on rocky terrain in an ever changing climate using near-net-zero technology. A large above-ground pond, a subterranean air circulation system, and automatic window vents keep these domes warm in the winter and cool in the summer, maintaining the perfect growing environment in every season.



*Borage attracts beneficial insects*



*Greenhouses provide veggies year-round*

## Sustainable Design

Our buildings were designed with large south-facing windows, which allow passive solar heating during the winter, while awnings keep out the solar heat during the summer. Community buildings are well-insulated and earth-bermed around the north side. All structures were built using recycled or donated materials and with volunteer labor (with the exception of our domes and tipi canvases). Domes are both aesthetically beautiful and strong in design. The triangles that form a dome create a geometric shape that can endure powerful winds, heavy snowfall, and harsh hailstorms. Unlike most structures, tipis have a minimal impact on the environment. We currently have six tipis that are used as personal quarters by several of our staff, and a community tipi that is frequently used by visitors when weather permits.

## Veggie Oil Vehicles

In addition to recycling glass, metal, plastic, paper, and food scraps, we also recycle vegetable oil. One of our structures, nicknamed "The Greasy Spoon," uses passive solar heating to filter used vegetable oil that we collect from local restaurants. The purified oil is used to power one of the sanctuary's diesel trucks, which has been converted to run on vegetable oil using a frybrid fuel system. This allows staff to travel around the hundreds of acres of sanctuary grounds without relying on fossil fuels.

## Water Retention

Living off the grid in a high desert environment is a constant reminder of how limited natural resources are. Increasing water retention in the soil reduces the need for a pump to transport water from our well. We are digging swales for our trees which can absorb and hold several times their weight in water, allowing the soil to keep water longer where plants can utilize it, and protecting them from drought. We were fortunate to receive a lot of precipitation last summer, and for the first time in over a decade, we saw the return of the natural spring stream which would seasonally flow down the valley and through the wolf enclosures. Despite the wet summer, there are dozens of aspen trees around the sanctuary that did not produce any leaves last year. Increasing water retention in the soil will assist our trees and vegetation in a climate that receives less and less precipitation on average each year.

-C. Mandemaker



### Arrow

Considered the golden-boy of M:W, Arrow is photogenic and regal. When not getting his picture taken, he enjoys lazily gnawing on bones and playing with his mate, Zephir.



### Zephir

An Arctic wolf with an eloquent howl, Zephir contemplatively observes her neighbors. Her golden eyes give her a piercing gaze, and she helps keep her mate Arrow humble.





### Six Months of Rain

Rain, a four-year-old wild mustang gelding, was captured and separated from his herd by the Bureau of Land Management in Delta, Utah and brought to Colorado in the summer of 2016. The little horse had an intense fear of people, which we saw as a learning opportunity. Upon his arrival, the dunn buckskin horse avoided humans like the plague. We developed several games in order to help make him comfortable. Every single time someone entered Rain's space, in order to keep him calm, we would stay at a distance that he could accept, and then Rain could be at peace. By playing this personal space respect game with Rain until he warmed up, it helped prevent injury to both horse and human. To some, it may seem strange to practice personal space respect with an animal; in large part, the history of animal husbandry teaches us to be dominant over animals. In reality, this is counterproductive to the emotional welfare of both horse and human, even if the human does not consciously recognize it at the time. For us to freely move around within the perimeter of Rain's paddock and continue

to keep him calm, we taught him to read our body language at a distance. By focusing our gaze and using arm and hand movements to gesture in the direction of where we were going to walk, this let Rain understand our intentions. He stood in place calmly instead of running around, disembodied, anxious, and frightened. Rain gradually gained confidence, and realized people were not a danger to him. When we needed Rain to move in order to do work, such as mucking, we had to teach him to move in a calm and relaxed manner, not bolt in fear, which was his instinct. Over time, we were able to witness the fluidity and ease with which Rain read body language and responded naturally. Through subtle cues such as arm movement and pointing, a person could stand on the complete opposite side of Rain's paddock and communicate movements to him, and he responded calmly and without hesitation. We thank Rain for being such a great teacher. He became a master at liberty-style groundwork, and responded well when there was no pressure. Towards the end of his time



Rain (TAB)

at the refuge, he finally let director Tracy gently stroke his nose—we never thought he would allow anyone to touch him! Six months into working with Rain, Tracy had to stop due to family issues. A former volunteer at M:W, Stefanie Skidmore, stepped up and continued his training. She halter-trained him, and desensitized him so a farrier could trim his hooves. Stephanie ultimately facilitated finding Rain a forever home. Thank you, Stefanie! -TAB



Jane Cane cared deeply for the wolves and staff of Mission: Wolf. She was truly inspired by our ability to teach self-awareness and instill respect for nature conservation. With her passing in February 2017, she provided us with the enthusiasm and resources to fulfill a dream—the construction of a solar-powered workshop and creative center. It will be known as "Jane's Studio," in her honor.

### Jane's Studio Update



Computer rendering of Jane's Studio design, SE and NE corner (K. Weber)

This workshop, heated by a solar radiant floor, is designed to handle the increasing public demand for hands-on learning experiences at M:W. The entry will provide shelter and educational displays for visitors and volunteers, with handicap accessible bathrooms. An art gallery and merchandise displays will be included, and a loft will provide 360 degree views, from the Spanish Peaks to Blanca Basin to Crestone Peak, and north to the wolves living at M:W.

A two-story, 3600 sq. ft. metal building provides a lower level for art and educational materials. Staff will have access to laundry, showers, kitchen,

veterinary, and storage rooms. The second floor will host a fine art workspace, and will offer several different areas for oil painting, drawing, jewelry-making and

silversmithing, photography, picture framing, sewing, wood-burning, and other fine arts. A single-level, 1200 sq. ft. structure will shelter an open work area, with bays for mechanics, automotive repair, carpentry, painting, and welding. The creation of Jane's Studio is expected to take a few years, and contractors estimate it will cost about \$1.2 million. By utilizing our own sustainable design skills, reclaimed materials, and lots of eager volunteers, we believe we can complete it for less than half that price. If you ever wanted to reach out and make a difference, we need help! We need support to buy the project materials, and skilled craft people will find plenty to keep them busy. If you have the patience to teach your craft to others, we have many willing but inexperienced students ready to learn! Jane is known as our "Wolf Angel," and will be dearly missed. This project will live on for years to come, and will give future generations of people a place to learn varied skills while caring for the wolves. Thank you, Jane! -K. Weber



#### Batman

A pitbull-wolf cross named for the bat emblem on his chest. Much like Bruce Wayne, he is mysterious and elusive. Batman is the epitome of stoicism, and nothing seems to phase him.



#### Amulet

A vocal and sassy lady, Amulet enjoys running madly around her enclosure when she's about to be fed. She and her mate Batman are the perfect example of "opposites attract."



## How to Help: The M:W Wish List

In-kind donations are a huge help in keeping our daily operations going. Here is a list of items we can use. Please call us if you have questions, or if you would like to ask about our current needs. Thank you for your help! For USPS, our mailing address is: PO Box 1211, Westcliffe, CO 81252. For UPS/FedEx, our mailing address is: 80 Sheep Creek Road, Westcliffe, CO 81252.

### Wolf Care:

- Boxes of latex gloves (all sizes)
- 5 gallon buckets
- Galvanized water tubs (sizes 10-15, 30-80, or 100-200 gallon)
- Supplements and medications:
  - My Active Dog
  - MSM/Glucosamine
  - Vitamins A, B complex, C, and E
  - Devil's Claw
  - Nexgard or Bravecto chew flea and tick prevention
  - Heartgard chewable heartworm prevention
  - Vetericyn
  - General antibiotics
  - Rimadyl or Novox
- Needles (20-23 G) and syringes (3 ml)
- High quality butcher knives (non-serrated)
- Kibble (Nutrisource lamb meal and peas formula)
- Wolf food (raw meat, no pork or spices)

### Sustainability:

- Potting soil or seed-starting mix
- Solar panels and batteries (contact us first)
- Solar-powered lights
- Solar cooker/oven
- Solar water heating system for new shop/studio
- Veggie oil converted vehicles

### Construction:

- Concrete block
- Flagstone and brick pavers
- Rebar, sheet metal, angle iron, etc.
- 2" diameter steel poles (10')
- Chain link fence (9 ga., 8' tall; 11 ga., 4' tall)
- Fencing tools and materials (fencing pliers, hog rings, fencing staples, tie wire, etc.)
- 2" x 4" steel horse panel (16' x 48", 4 ga.)
- Lumber, treated or untreated (warped wood is fine)
- Hardwood flooring
- Log poles (especially lodgepole pine)

### Horse Care:

- Clean grass hay and supplies (hay trailer, tarps, straps, and shed)
- Grain buckets
- Horse trailer
- 4' tall graduated field fence (12 ½ and 14 ga.)

### Office:

- Ballpoint pens
- Candles
- Postage stamps (old stamps work, too)
- Manila envelopes (9" x 12")
- #10 and #6¾ mailing envelopes
- Printer ink & toner (Brother TN-336, HP 61XL)

### Tools:

- Garden hose (¾ inch) and hose repair parts (splitters, couplings, valves, etc.)
- Hand tools (shovels, trowels, rakes, pickaxes, etc.)
- Ryobi battery-powered tools (drills, saws, sanders, flashlights, etc.)
- Welding rods (all sizes)
- Air compressor
- Large flatbed trailer
- 4WD truck
- Lathe

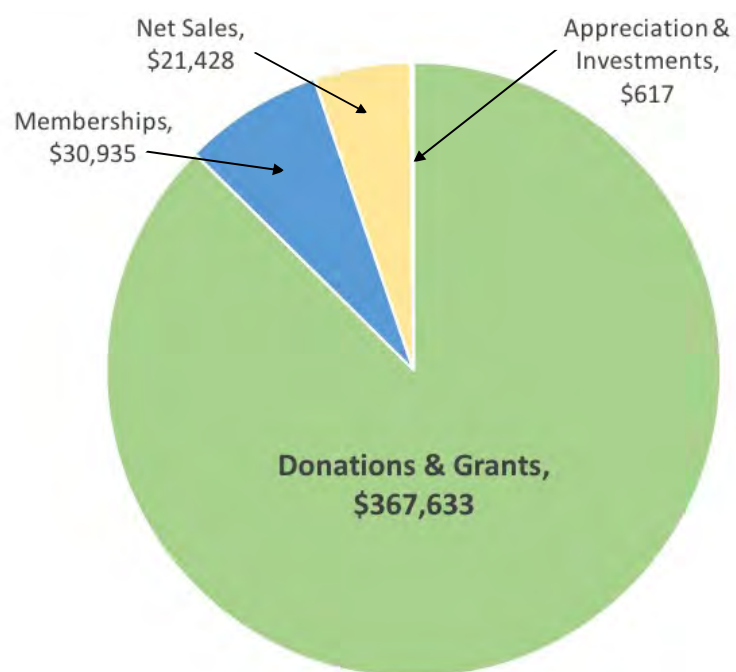
### Volunteers:

- Toiletries (septic safe liquid hand soap, body wash, and shampoo; deodorant; toothbrushes; toothpaste; feminine products, etc.)
- Dr. Bronner's products
- Blue Dawn dish soap
- Simple Green all-purpose cleaner
- Environmentally friendly laundry detergent
- Cleaning supplies (sponges, scrub brushes, steel wool, etc.)
- Bulk toilet paper
- First aid supplies (bandaids, ibuprofen and tylenol, antiseptic and antibacterial, etc.)
- Mattresses, futons, foam pads, pillows
- Sleeping bags
- Winter appropriate boots, hats, gloves, socks, etc.
- Trash bags (especially 13 gallon tall kitchen)

## Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2016

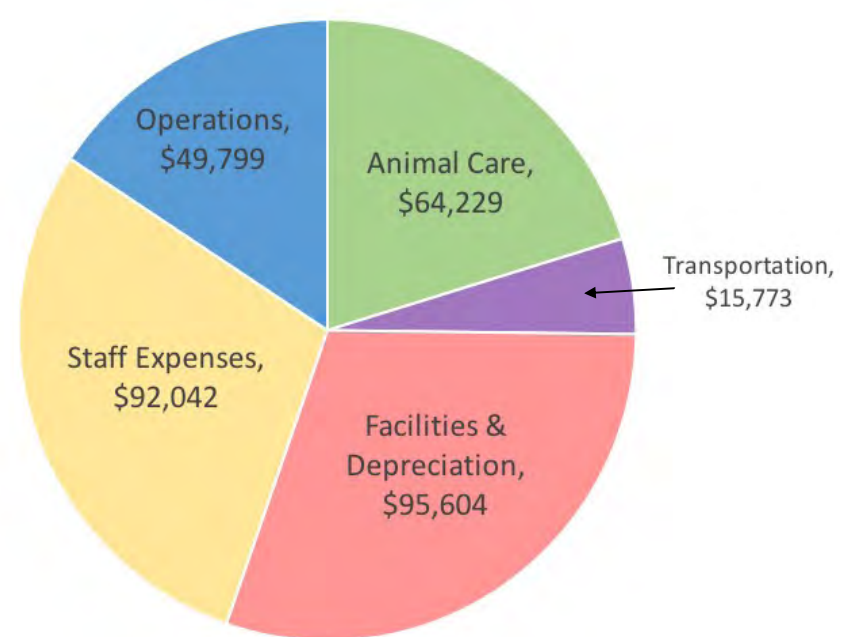
Mission: Wolf is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has been open to the public free of charge for three decades. Our goal is to operate the sanctuary and educational programs in the simplest and most efficient manner, and to keep overhead costs to an absolute minimum. Still, it takes money to pay for transportation, supplies, land acquisition, and insurance. All profit goes toward reducing our land debt. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Nancy, our bookkeeper at Sangre Solutions, for helping to prepare these numbers.

### Revenue



**Total Revenue: \$420,613**

### Expenses



**Total Expenses: \$317,447**

In addition to the above figures, we received **\$50,103** worth of donated materials (including wolf food, tools, volunteer supplies, etc.) and **\$774,549** worth of donated labor from all of our dedicated volunteers! This generous support is what allows the sanctuary to grow and thrive as the decades pass. We are all looking forward to what next year brings. Thank you!

		<p><b>Buku</b></p> <p>Buku prefers his alone time, and resides in a secluded part of the refuge with his brother, Oreo. Ever vigilant, he is quick to let out a howl when he notices people in his domain.</p>		<p><b>Oreo</b></p> <p>Compared to his excitable brother, Oreo is relatively calm. He is unsure of how to feel about people, but has gradually become more curious. He safeguards and treasures his bones.</p>
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# Color Me Wild!

It's the annual M:W coloring contest! Flex your creative muscles by decorating this original design any way you see fit. The contest is open to all ages, and a winner will be chosen in each of these three categories: Most Creative, Most Intricate, and Judges' Favorite. Winners selected by the staff at Mission: Wolf will receive a Caretaker Packet for a wolf of your choosing, and an authentic wolf fur bracelet!



Artwork by Missy McKibben, circa 1989

Please submit your best work to:  
Mission: Wolf  
PO Box 1211  
Westcliffe, CO 81252

**Submission Deadline:**  
**July 15, 2018**

**Winners will be notified by:**  
**August 1, 2018**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Wolf Teacher Pam Brown

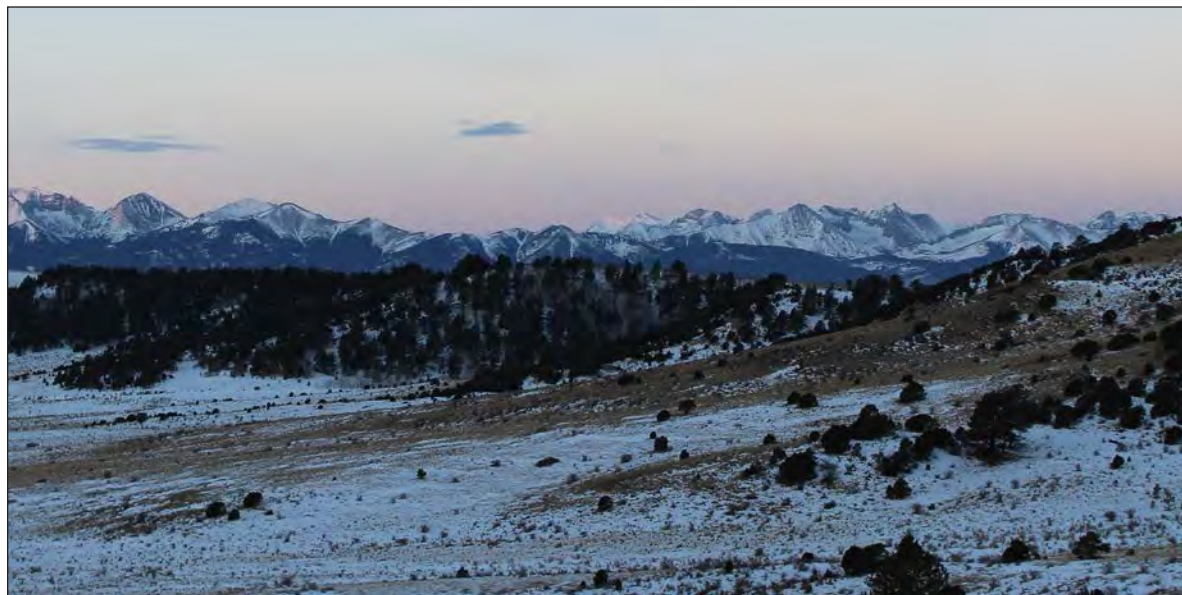


Magpie & Pam (Photo by Jeff Kollbrunner)

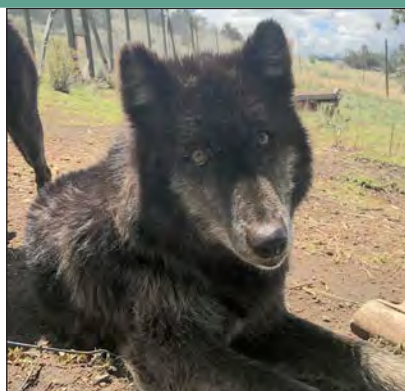
Pam Brown has been a tireless advocate for wolves and wildlife for nearly 50 years. She worked throughout the 1970s and 80s to raise public support for wolf conservation and to extend endangered species protections for wolves. In the past, she coordinated M:W's fall Ambassador tour on the east coast, and collaborated on many wolf education programs with our directors. Pam continues her educational work in upstate New York. She was recently featured in the Spring 2018 issue of "Wild at Heart," by WildEarth Guardians, and is preparing to publish a book about her work with ambassador wolves. Visit Pam's website at [www.wolfteacher.com](http://www.wolfteacher.com) to learn more about her work.

## Land Conservation Update

Colorado's well-known alpine areas have been preserved as National Parks and Wilderness Areas, but the lower elevation wild lands are still threatened by development. Explosive population growth in Colorado is turning up the pressure to claim land for fossil fuels and vacation homes; it has never been more important to conserve land for future generations. Only by protecting the surrounding environment can we ensure a home for the wolves for years to come. Mission: Wolf has an incredible opportunity to purchase 80 acres of neighboring land, but we need your support in realizing our dream! To help us build a legacy of conservation, contact us at 719-859-2157 or [info@missionwolf.org](mailto:info@missionwolf.org). Donations directly to the land conservation program can also be made online at [www.missionwolf.org/donate](http://www.missionwolf.org/donate).



The sunset over the Sangres (E. Behzadi)



### Valley Spirit

Known affectionately as "Mama" around the refuge, this strong lady is the matriarch of the pit-wolf clan. Despite her age, she has the leaping skills of an Olympic athlete.



### Talon

Talon is the step-father of the pit-wolves, and has both a loving and dominant personality. He is a sociable wolf-dog who immensely enjoys feeding time and naptime.



**Assistants and Volunteers:** Builder Bob, Norm & Marlena Hanne, Aaron Young, Hailey Adams, Alan Korth, Mike Lydon, Paul Ross (aka Chainsaw Paul), Moses Cooper, Kathy Bennett, Jason McMullen, Cynthia Giard-Guillou, Melanie Roussy, Jeff Wagner, Jenny Wagner, Mary Loftus, Carolyn Munro, Lydia Jones, Zolie Wiegandt, William Fontana, Gabriella Behzadi, Bryant Behzadi, Stefanie Skidmore, Patrick Hurley, Bruce Kreutzer, Tina & Alan Seidel, Katy Collins, Jess Frye, Josh Fobes, Matt Plichta, Paul Staples, Donato Rios, Dylan McGonigle, Samantha Downs, Klaus Schmidt, Liz Blakely, Jeff Caldwell, Adrian Pforzheimer, Stephanie Sysak, Navid Rafizadeh & Jessica Chang, Theresa Braun, Dean Lu-Chin Chu, Indigo Crockett, Christina & Anthony de Martino, Vanessa Dimiziani, Caleb Madison, Diana Martinez, Zac Mueller, the Grassfed Bluegrass Band, Rebecca Watson, Theresa Simcie, Kristi Ellerbroek, Jamal Peters, Jose Castilles, Breana Kitchen, Daniel Collins, Madeleine Woods, Curt Jones, Daniela Carrera, Rachel & Taylor Krauss, Michael & Barbara Wilson, Lizzy Adamson, Anisa Heins, David Ray, Jordan Goodman, the Schneider Family, Jay Chia, Jill & Shona McDonald, Emma Markert, Hallie Linnebur, Sarah Zarr, Amy Walsh, Maya Ling, April Pishna & family, Archit Kulkarni & family, Hannah Modjeski, Grace Boyd, Russell & Nancy Friedman, Zach Salapatek, Isabel Verhaeghe, Mary & Aric Olson, Jennifer Wray, Yasmin, Brooks, & West Shaddock, Kayla Barber, Ella Matsuda, Kyra Neal, Vaughn Ramsey, Eve Hausman, Anna Luhrmann, Camilla Ffrench & Eve Wening, Charles Sisson, Tameran McMullen, Harley Knapp, Josh Luschen, Stephen Jefferson, the Fuller Family, Nicholas & Benjamin Morris, Courtney Hoyt, Ty Klinker, Rosemary Freeman, Red Freeman, Jason Marshall, Don & Sheri Price, Blaise Yafcak, Ryota Torimoto, Patric Spriggs, Courtney Alexander, Sarah Renkey, Caleb Wilson, Shay Otis, Karen & Mallory Hajek, Keith Lawyer, Dave Washko & family, Sean Kretchmer, Laura Zajac, Roman & Adrian Landon, Ewelina Bochenska, Hattie Beal, Talmage Trujillo, Hope Hendry, Anna Gaw, Laura Lindegaard, Lauren Fertig, Andrew Manwiller, Tanya Lawyer, Virginia & Jenny L. Carter, Wilson B. Flick, Rachel Harvey, Dustin Backhus, Dani Compton, Pat Willis, Bryce Chicago Struttman, Max Imatter, Kevin McGehee, Cayla DeLillo, Jared Otto, Cory Priestler, the Calkin Family, Molly McCormick, and Tom Davis.

**Volunteer Groups:** The Road Less Traveled (5280 & Call of the Wild), Jaywalker Lodge, Cottonwood Institute, Telluride Academy, the Wildheart Foundation, Service Civil International, Colorado College, Kansas University, Northwestern University, Rice University, Colorado College, Naropa University, Teens Inc., Daniel C. Oakes High School, Colorado Academy, Carbondale Community School, Centennial High School, Doral Academy, AIM House, Girls Athletic Leadership School, Boulder Valley ICO, Joan Farley Academy, Let's Explore Colorado, United World College USA, Colorado Outward Bound School, JCC Ranch Camp, Pikes Peak Community College, Mountain Park Environmental Center, Camp Shai, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Western State Colorado University, Colorado University Boulder, EcoArts Connections, Women Rising Wild, Craver Middle School, Cathy & Joe Solano & Creative Kids 4-H Club, Running River School, Living Well Transitions, Horizons Exploratory Academy, Chaffee County High School, Cornerstone Christian School, Americorps NCCC, Destination Summit, Beulah Elementary, TRIO, and Fountain Valley School.

**Girl Scout Troops:** 1748, 35159, 33418

**Boy Scout Troops:** 519, 361, 640, 47, 114, 564, 308, 737, 1776, 685

**Generous Local Support:** Elevation Meat Market, First State Bank of Colorado, Challenger Electric, the Sangre Art Guild & 3rd Street Art Gallery, Valley Ace Hardware Store, Chappy's Bar & Grill, Jane & Sunflower Natural Foods, Highway 96 Roadhouse, Hunger Busters, Silver Cliff Mountain Inn, Westcliffe Supermarket, Westcliffe Petroleum, Gary Taylor & 91.7 KLZR, Cliff Lanes Bowling Alley & Rancher's Roost Cafe, Sangre Home Decor & Coffee Shop, Sugar & Spice Mountain Bakery, Sean & West Custer County Public Library, the Courtyard Country Inn, the Westcliffe Inn, Westcliffe & Silver Cliff Post Office, Valley Feeds, Westcliffe NAPA, Oak Disposal, Custer County Schools, Cole McCollum, Lia Coleman, Gardner Elementary School, Nancy & Jerry at Sangre Solutions, Crestone Graphics, the Wet Mountain Tribune, Custer County Chamber of Commerce, High Peaks Animal Hospital, the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation, The Daily Perks, La Plaza Inn, Dundee Memorial Dog Park, Trails West Trading Co., Growing Spaces, Rye Elementary School, Sandy Dolak, La Veta Public Library, the Huajatolla Heritage Festival, John C. Fremont Library, Amy Martin & the Pueblo Rawlings Library, the McClelland School, Lathrop State Park, Nature & Raptor Center of Pueblo, John Mall High School, the Mountain Mail, Solar Solutions, Dragonfly Coffee Roasters, Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center, Paula Woerner & Wolfwood Refuge, Pueblo Animal Emergency Hospital, Paint Stain & Stucco, Clear Glass, SustainAbility Recycling, Fine Line Graphics, Colorado Gives & the Community First Foundation, Outdoor Buddies & Wounded Warrior Project, the Ezulwini Foundation, Stan & Bill Stiffler, Richard Miller, Pam & Wolf Edwards, Dr. Bill Hancock & Belcrest Animal Clinic, Paul Biron, Dr. Davis, Dr. Julie Sperry & Cliffee Veterinary Clinic, Ron & Beatknick Auto, Karen & Trey Croskell, Adele Rose, Terra Lyn Joy, Libra, Saj, RJ, Zoe, & Jada, Sky Clark, Audrey & Dick Stermer, Paul & Linda Schutt, Jason Stewart, Alicia & Jake Shy, Joshua & Erika Wofford, Erin Farrow & Lake County High School, Shirley Nickerson, Cathy & Joe Solano, Gil Vasquez, Hannah Crawford, Willie Britt & family, Eric King, Heather Whitlock, John Johnson, Luke George, Bruce Medina, Pat Neverdahl, Wendy Rusk, Rebecca Harnish, Jim & Claudia Cole, Mark & Doris Dembosky, Phoenix Rising, Bonnie Rose, Nancy Joroff, Kathy Reese, Mike & Lisa Herring, Enos Yoder & family, Bill Tezak, Mike Shields & family, Jennifer & Steve Macoskey, David & Amy Shepard, Bill & Sallie Stout, Alicia Waugh, Bob & Carol Allison, Mitch Campbell, Nequette Drilling, Greg Curtis & family, the Sanders Family, Birgit Burplechner, Kay Ingram, Kris & Michael Gates, Lexus of Colorado Springs, Royal Gorge RV, Big O Tires of Canon City, Neil Peachy, Southern Colorado Cold Storage, Bob Fulton, Cross Creek Equine, the Wilson Family, Bob and Kay Parker, and friends & neighbors of Centennial Ranch & Aspen Mountain Ranch.

# Thank You

## Mission: Wolf Staff:

Mike Gaarde, Austin Hoffman, Tyler McKee, Megan Seidel (aka Megatron), Charles Mandemaker, Tricia LePore, Jake Menzies, Laura McGehee, Nick Christensen, Christian Pietzsch (aka Robot), Carissa Shoemaker, Joshua Cunha (aka Squashy), John Ramer, Elisa Behzadi (aka 90s Mom), Mo Schmidt, Shannon "Hufflepuff" Douglas, Rachel Walton (aka R2-D2), Dominique Gaither (aka Dom), Rachel Jacobson, Hayley VanDuyse-Secor, Kacey Wilson, Leigh Woods, Claire Tellekson-Flash, Misha Brindlepup, Darien Ash, Pele Cannon, Ted Gefell, and Dave Phillips.



*Thank you Karen Croskell for always making us smile!*

## Board of Directors:

Tara Ash, Matt Ash, Tracy Ane Brooks, Kent Weber, Tamas Christman, Julie Kreutzer, David Kreutzer, Jeff Schwartz, Randy Woods, and Sarah Woods.

## In Memory:

Cheryl Dudik, Cathy Solano, and Michael Harris.

**Caretakers and Educators:** Wolf Angel Jane, Karen Mines, the Fred & Donna Nives Foundation, Nora Maloney, David & Jean Farmelo, Sander & Deb Orent, Anita Keefe & the Alpha Omega Foundation, the Jocarino Family Fund, the Van Beuren Family, the Stephens Family Foundation, Mo Sparks, Rosemarie Sweeney & family, Hannah Snyder, the Douglas E. Mitchell Charitable Fund, Blake Facente, Susana Blackman, Paul Jacob, Connie Emmerson, Rhonda Cleland, Bonnie Yurkanin, Richard & Debbie Keefe, Alan & Sally Bailey, Ann Collins, Ralph Marzulla, Karen & William Snyder, Joan Silaco, the Red Empress Foundation, the Gardner Foundation, Michelle Baxter, Nancy Monson, Alice Victor, Nona Hattan, Stephen Young, Nathan Varley & Linda Thurston, Harold Slater, John & Molly Ammondson, Steven & Cynthia Magidson, Wayne Cadden, Gary Crandall, John, Amy, & Dudley Hoffman, Bev McGehee, the Footbridge Foundation, Inge Lauwers, Elizabeth Warren, Cynthia Houston, Susan Gardner, Curtis Bauter, Kenneth Olivier, Lewis Roca, Norman Williams, Monica Glickman, Karen Byington, Steven Sledziona, Virginia Redman, the Bielawski Family Fund, Sara Mattes, Kay Weldon, Gay Davis Miller, Ralph Noistering, Barry & Lee Fisher, Deborah Spring, Dan & Millie Matlock, Irene Larusso, Rebecca Bayang, Charles Landrum, Julie Welte, Craig Weaver, Jennifer Melvin, Joshua Johnson, Lewis Coonley, Suzanne Westgaard, Roy Gandolfi, Stephanie Burt, Donna Heyse, Cliff & Pam Wren, Bonnie Boex, Mark & Carol Rickman, Pearl Gosnell, Thomas Funkhouser, the Huydic Family, Susan Lin, Alexis Pyatt, Roberta Asher, Linda Giers, Anita Littlewolf, Elaine Shields, Anne Suk, Peter Meisler, Pierre Schlemel, Earl Adam, Fredric Lax, John & Judith Rinas, Karl Hemmerich, Greg Nazimek, Nancy Vanderhoeven, Charles Palmer, Barry & Erin Sharaf, Anne Turyn, Linda Beilstein, Sharon Martel, Brian Blackman, Betty Quinlan-Sheldon, Nancy Turnbull, Dot's Diner, Randy Tucker, Jessica Becker, Cathie Gagnon, Cynthia Wayburn, Priscilla Seimer, Susan & Leah Meisel, Marjorie & James Penrod, Holly Cerretani, Yellow Lunch Box LLC, Jack Longo, Kelley Brockmeyer, Kathleen Suozzo, Laura Gelfand, the Ted Gorski Trust, Joyce Comin & Wini Milby, Ray Windisch, Sal Bellofatto, Robert Poole, Irene Becker, Tom & Susan Luchka, Bob & Pam Troyer, Kathleen Blanco-Losada, Cathy Davis, Donna Lovell, Elspeth Baillie, Carolyn Buongiorno, Mica Costerousse, Bill & Edna Gaarde, Kirk Scott, Tina Winzent, Richard Clark, Lauryn & Curt Eisenhower, Gayle Spitzfaden, Lucy Coleman & Lydia Lee, Amy McCarthy, Corbin Cowan, Rita & Richard Savage, John Orth, Rebecca & George Rose, Maria Hudson, the Abel Family, Charles Carlson, Kay Ledyard, Wally Sykes, Sandy Buckner, Marie Amicucci, Peter Fahrenwald, Peggy Kavookjian & David Nora, the Guy B. Reno Foundation, Chris Ross, Fay Forman, Nancy Ayotte, Marilyn Hall, John Kearns, Melanie Cypher, Thomas & Mary-Lynn Foreman, Steve & Becky Andrews, Ken & Annie Dunigan, Ralph & Donna Hood, Janette Logan, Tamara Atkin, Bradley Kay, Dr. Thalia Field & Brown University, Friends of Horses, Safe Landing Horse Rescue, Carol Martinez, Nelson Brooke & family, Susan Menz, John & Deb Mitchell, Betty Stanley, Wolf Teacher Pam Brown, and Dr. Jeff & the Rocky Mtn. Vet Crew.

**Business Friends:** Deb Gaarde & Legacy Custom Embroidery, Jim Morris Environmental T-Shirt Co., Andy & Photography by Noel, White House Custom Colour, Doggy Doors, Pacific Domes, SolaRight, Bomb Footbags, JVS Graphics, Metro Solar, Provider's Resource Clearing House, and Droneworld.



*Builder Bob with Magpie (K. Weber)*

# Caretaker of the Year!

**Bob Dudik**

Acknowledging Bob's contributions to Mission: Wolf is long overdue. He has been a staple at the sanctuary for nearly two decades now, and has devoted countless hours toward helping it grow. Indeed, Bob has recognized that caring for the people in the M:W community is almost as important as caring for the wolves themselves. He has been an integral part of many of our construction projects, including the staff kitchen. His handiness with electrical wiring, plumbing, and carpentry earned him the endearing nickname, "Builder Bob." The sanctuary has been a place of peace and rejuvenation for Bob, especially in recent years. The thoughtfulness, compassion, and dedication Bob has shown to all of the creatures of M:W is truly remarkable. He is as stalwart of a volunteer as M:W has ever seen, and the wolves and staff consider him family. **You are an inspiration, Bob, and thanks for all you do!**



## Asia

The lone lady of the pit-wolf litter, Asia has a tough exterior but is a true sweetheart. Her head is often cocked to one side in confusion, trying to understand the odd humans.



## Cephira

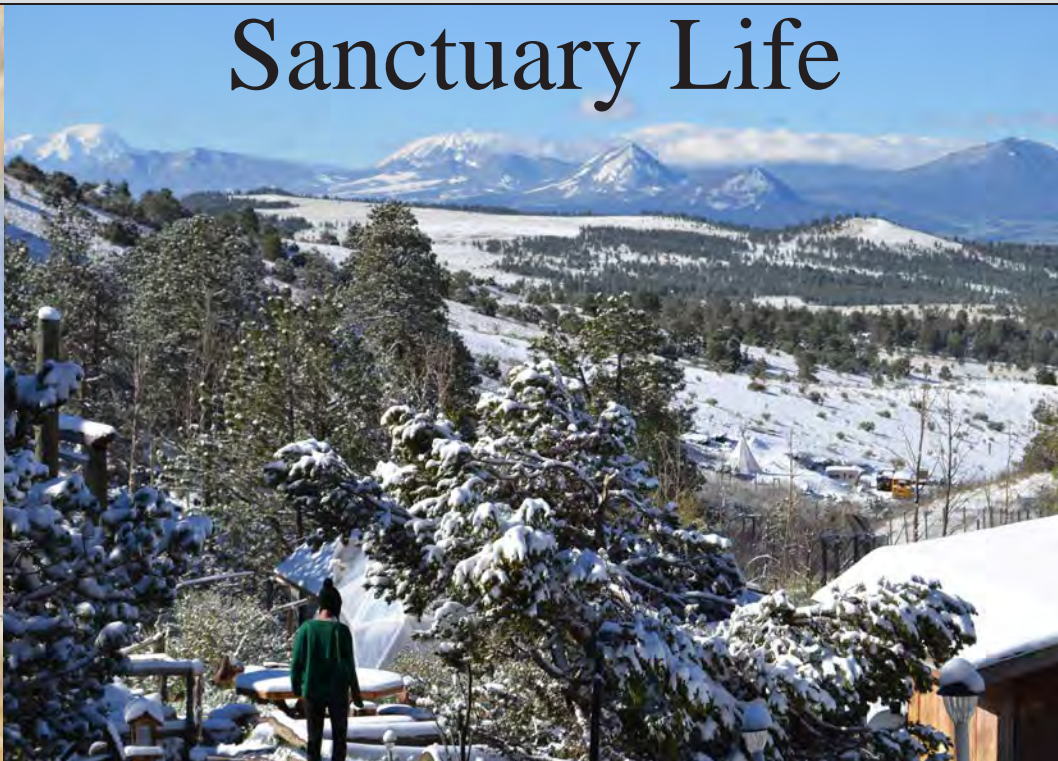
Cephira is an athletic and playful wolf who enjoys sprinting along the ridgeline before feeding time. She's gorgeous inside and out, and is a darling amongst the staff.



# Sanctuary Life



Illiamna



Abraham



Texx



Staff preparing wolf food



Edible nasturtium blossoms



Grinder



Pele & Zeab



Arrow & Zephir



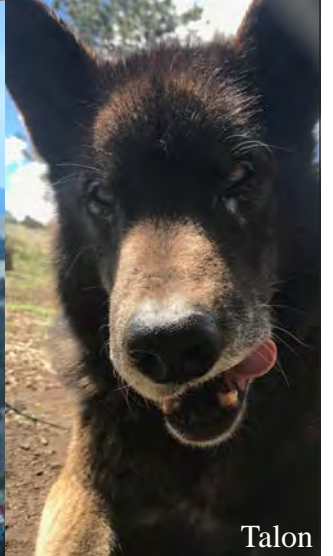
Ultimate Frisbee!



Saurya



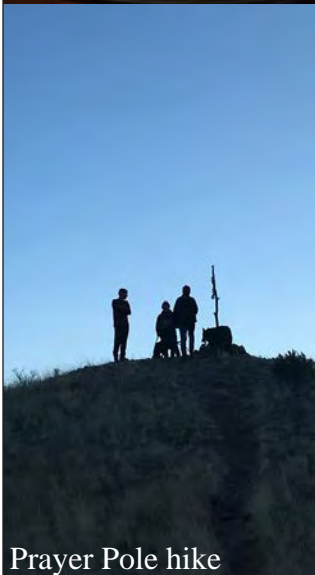
Staff hike to Hota Hill



Talon



Saurya's birthday cake



Prayer Pole hike



Batman



Cephira



Tiger



# MISSION: WOLF

Education vs. Extinction

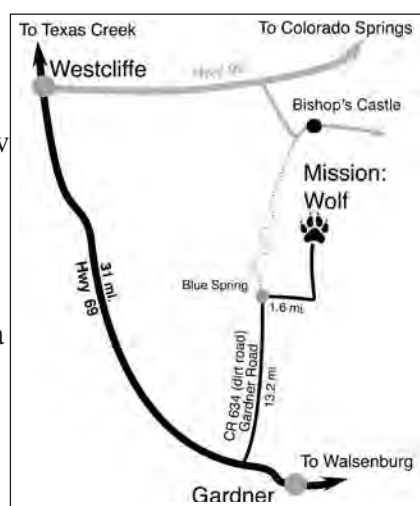
## Visit Us

Visitors who survive the dirt roads are welcome Monday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays and Sundays are closed to drop-in day visitors. These days are reserved for volunteers who are willing to contribute their time and energy for at least a few hours, to assist us on current sanctuary projects. Please contact us beforehand if you are interested in this option.

## Driving Directions

**From Westcliffe (coming from the north):** Take Highway 69 south approximately 31 miles and turn left on Gardner Road (County Road 634). Follow this dirt road 13.2 miles, keeping right at two Y intersections in the first 5 miles. At the Blue Spring State Land Trust sign and cattleguard, turn right. Follow the Mission: Wolf driveway 1.6 miles along a fenceline and to the left up the hill to the sanctuary.

**DO NOT USE GPS. Once on the dirt roads, stick to the directions or you will get lost.**






Map courtesy of C. Pietzsch

## Contact Us

**Website:** [www.missionwolf.org](http://www.missionwolf.org)  
**Email:** [info@missionwolf.org](mailto:info@missionwolf.org)  
**Phone:** 719-859-2157  
**Mail:** PO Box 1211  
Westcliffe, CO 81252

## Follow Us

 [facebook.com/missionwolfcolorado](https://facebook.com/missionwolfcolorado)  
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 @missionwolfsanctuary  
 [youtube.com/missionwolfsanctuary](https://youtube.com/missionwolfsanctuary)



While they have a rich private life, featured wolves Texx and McKinley are most often photographed as if they do not know each other (L. McGehee)

## Caretaker Corner

Since the founding of the sanctuary, Mission: Wolf has depended on donations from our supporters and members. With roughly 30 hungry canines to feed, we go through nearly 1,000 pounds of raw meat each week. Your contribution goes directly toward the care of the animals, as well as the education of thousands of visitors. Please consider becoming a member of the Mission: Wolf family today, and help keep the wolves happy, healthy, and well-fed! Wolf membership packets make great gifts for birthdays, holidays, and memorials. You get a tax-deductible receipt, and your friend or loved one receives a wolf membership packet as

a gift from you. Visit [mission-wolf-store.myshopify.com](http://mission-wolf-store.myshopify.com) to order, or use the order form below to sponsor one of the M:W wolves.

### What's Included?

- One year membership to the Wolf Caretaker program
- 8x10 color photo of your chosen wolf
- Your wolf's biography
- Lock of your wolf's naturally shed fur
- Mission: Wolf window decal
- Subscription to the *Wolf Visions* newsletter
- Personalized Membership Certificate



## Feed a Wolf! Become a Caretaker at Mission: Wolf!

Which wolf would you like to sponsor? (please circle)

Abraham, Amulet, Apollo, Aria, Arrow, Asia, Batman, Buku, Cephira, Daisy, Farah, Fenris, Illiamna, Lil' Hailey Star, McKinley, Minigan, Nashira, Oreo, Rosie Valkyrie, Saurya, Soleil, Talon, Texx, Tiger, Valley Spirit, Zeab, Zephir, Zuko

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 Student/Senior  
 \$40 Individual  
 \$100 Family, Group, or School  
 \$250 Contributor  
 \$500 Patron  
 \$1,000 Feed a Wolf for a Year  
 \$3,000 Feed a Pack for a Year

Please send this form with  
cash or check to:  
Mission: Wolf  
PO Box 1211  
Westcliffe, CO 81252  
Visit [mission-wolf-store.myshopify.com](http://mission-wolf-store.myshopify.com)  
for credit card orders