Special Edition

Changing of the Guard The High Park Fire In Memory of Atlantis



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Special Ddittion 2012



Wolf has ever experienced. Our victory is that all the animals are safe, unharmed

Changing of the Guard I want to thank you with all my heart for your support during the trying times of the High Park Fire. This event has been one of the most challenging times

and back home. Wolf has been my life and constant dream for over 17 years. I love each and every animal for whom Wolf has provided sanctuary. They are my passion, and it has been my very great honor to have them under my stewardship. The ability to provide lifelong care and shelter for the animals could not have happened without your commitment. So you too have been, and continue to be, their steward.

With these changes and renewal of Woll, I have decided to retire from the position of Executive Director. I will be taking on a different role with Wall where I can interact more with, and be more in touch with, the animals I so dearly love. I will continue to live at the Sanctuary and also remain on the Board of Directors in an effort to insure a smooth and effective transition.

We are fortunate that Dr. Shelley Coldiron will become the new Executive Director of Wolf. She has extensive experience in technology entrepreneurship as co-founder of 3 biotech companies and will bring her experience in management and fundraising to Wolf. Coldiron raised over \$9M in her first two companies. Shelley also has over 25 years in animal care and management experience as well; she is very passionate about Wolf and excited about this new path in her life. Please give Shelley your support just as you have given me for all these years. She will need your caring confidence as she takes on the role of Executive Director, learning the ropes and continuing to grow Wolf.

Please reaffirm your dedication to Wolf Sanctuary as we go down the long, arduous road to recovery from the High Park Fire, and as we continue to grow and to advocate for the welfare of wolves and wolf-dogs everywhere.

I thank you for the trust and confidence you placed in me during my tenure as Executive Director. And, I look forward to seeing you around the Sanctuary on your next visit. Please make sure you stop in at the main cabin and say hi.

- Frank Wendland, Co-Founder

"Hello!" from the New Executive Director

Some of you already know me from my volunteering at Wolf. I come from a biotech background in entrepreneurism, cofounding three companies, and fundraising with a lifelong love of and devotion to animals. I have served over 25 years with animal shelters, rescues and coalitions. In particular, with the Iowa Federation of Humane Societies we raised money to hire a part-time lobbyist and spearheaded changing some animal abuse statutes from Misdemeanors to Class D felonies.

A dream was to someday have a pivotal role with an animal rescue or sanctuary. I am excited and honored for this opportunity to care for the beautiful spirits of Wolf. I pledge to devote myself to support, love and protect all that is Wolf.

Thank you for your belief in Wolf. We would not be able to provide lifelong sanctuary for the Wolf animals from abuse and suffering without your support. I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. See you soon!



- Dr. Shelley J. Coldiron, PhD, Executive Director

Wolf

In This Issue



Highlighted are some of the exceptional advocates who supported W_{oll} during the worst natural disaster in Rist Canyon's history!



Atlantis: An Incredible Journey 5-6

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Wish List 14

Material donations, known as "In-Kind" donations make up a significant part of the Sanctuary's operating budget.



IRS Tax Exempt Status Under Section 5-1(c)(3) Colorado Nonprofit & Tax Exempt Corporation United States Department of Agriculture, Licensed Colorado Department of Agriculture, Licensed Colorado Parks and Recreation, Licensed Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, Accredited American Sanctuary Association, Accredited Community Shares of Colorado, Member **Mission:** To improve the quality of life for all wolves and wolf-dogs.

Strategic Objectives:

- Rescue Save captive-bred wolves and wolf-dogs whose guardians are no longer able to care for them.
- Sanctuary Provide a lifelong home at W_{oll} that takes into account each animal's physical and emotional needs.
- Education Provide the public with information about wolves (both wild and captive) to help foster a greater understanding of them and their value.

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...And to all of the people behind the scenes who we may not know abou





tes who supported Wall during the worst natural disaster in Rist Canyon's history! d Emergency Crews S. Swearingen N. Vickers Hogan D. Lundmark V. Burton R. Millington The Larimer Humane Society - Wildlife Division K. McGorun The Ridgeways C. Kratt C. Williams tony C. Rousseau J. Doyle K. Potter V. Ferguson B. Stewart PetCo Poudre Pet and Feed Supply M. Miller Fort Veg*n V. Sannan PetSmart T. West D. Haskew 3. Warner The Dennisons

about! We are truly grateful for everyone's support.



Atlantis: An Incredible Journey by Susan, Volunteer

Born in 1999, Atlantis was one of the first wolves evacuated with his blind companion Mucqua when the High Park Wildfire hit the Sanctuary on June 9. Both wolves came to the Sanctuary in 2006, from a horrific breeding situation in Wisconsin.

By 2012, they were frail, elderly wolves who needed a quiet place to convalesce during the evacuation. My garage became a barn and within days, they began to flourish. Atlantis became quite social (a change from his normal shy personality) and seemed to revel in the attention. I groomed him, cleaned his ears and even gave him a "sponge bath" to make his coat shine. He had herbal treatments and supplements and he seemed to grow stronger.

Atlantis suffered from failing eyesight and degenerative myelopathy, a condition for which there is no cure. He was on medications for pain and every day he seemed to become more active and alert. I started to leave the enclosure open in the early mornings while I gardened. Soon Atlantis was venturing out to join me for a stroll. I used a leash at first and then simply guided him with my hip as we walked side by side.

Atlantis had a sly sense of humor and he nudged me with his hip when he wanted to guide me in a different direction. We played that game and sometimes I won and sometimes he did. He would shake his head and look at me with his gorgeous eyes and start to grin. When Atlantis grew tired, we sat in the grass or his favorite spot near the flower garden where he smelled the roses. When he was ready, we walked back to his enclosure. He loved his walks and we started a daily routine of dawn and dusk strolls.

His appetite was good and if Mucq wasn't eating fast enough, Atlantis would sidle over and steal some of Mucq's meat. I chided him for it and he looked at me with that sly grin. I often sat in the enclosure on a cot and read aloud to the two of them. Atlantis would come close and lay at my feet where he fell asleep.

Then came a day when Atlantis struggled to get to his feet. The degenerative myelopathy was overtaking him. He was frustrated with his inability to get up and when he did, he staggered and lurched around the enclosure. He could no longer take his strolls. I started sleeping on the cot in his enclosure. I gave him water when he was thirsty and kept vigil through the night. I knew his time was limited and felt he wanted to return to the Sanctuary.

Arrangements were made but Atlantis was unable to make the trip. He made his wishes quite clear to preferred to stay with me. His decision was honored and the Sanctuary came to him. His caregivers and fr to be with him. He ate his last meal with his usual gusto and took his pain meds. He stopped struggling to he gently slipped into a deep sleep.

He was helped to pass on July 4 – Independence Day. His spirit was set free as he was surrounded by friends and his loyal companion Mucq. The wildfire that devastated so many people and places enabled As renaissance of the spirit and body. When he passed, he was at peace and his spirit now roams free.

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clear that he and friends arrived ing to get to his feet and

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"Song of S by Julie Kran

by Julie Kran The "Song of Survival" was inspired by a dream...a dream in which a wolf came and told her to creat

fSurvival"

Kramer Cole

o create a painting in remembrance of the High Park Fire. A wolf named "Renata" - meaning rebirth.





The High Park Fire by Cassi Camara

Saturday June 9th: Advancing Flames

Rust began to seep into the sky appearing to swallow the trees whole. Slowly colors draped across the landscape and I found myself peering through the scope of an amber spyglass. The world seemed serene and yet the only hint of impending danger came from the smoke that trickled into my nostrils. Perhaps if we had known that Saturday would be the start of the most intense emergency event the Sanctuary has been a part of we would have been prepared, or at least have started our days off with breakfast.

An evacuation warning came but, as has happened before, with one shift of the wind we would be far from harm's way. Typical of a Saturday, early afternoon found us hacking at raw meat. As the task concluded I continued with chores as if my asthmatic lungs weren't struggling in the smoky air, smoke that soon added chaos to an otherwise abnormally normal weekend. The animals became antsy, pacing their fence lines and trotting with ears perked and tails stiff. With baited breath and all digits crossed in hope of a changing wind the three of us with opposable thumbs began prepping for evacuation; building kennels, filling troughs and making a multitude of necessary phone calls.

By five o' clock, when the mandatory evacuation was announced a hodgepodge of staff and volunteers had made it past the roadblocks to the Sanctuary. The scene was similar to an accident during rush hour traffic; each of us knew the final goal but ended up swerving into other lanes cutting one another off. Ultimately we succeeded in maneuvering thirteen animals into kennels and down the canyon in barely three hours.

Night settled as we traversed down the mountain; all the emotions and adrenaline my companion and I had kept in check were unloaded into darkening sky as Rajan peered at us from the back with his thoughtful gaze. Straining to see through tears, smoke and darkness, struggling to control emotions stretched to the limit by fear, guilt and frustration I couldn't keep myself from fast-forwarding to a scene of devastation upon our return; there really are no words that can adequately convey the complexity and bone-jarring depths of such thoughts and memories.

We pulled into the parking lot of Overland Foods in Laporte, intent upon presenting some measure of sanguinity to those awaiting word. Instead, we were greeted by a sea of faces all of whom had brought enough hope, determination and optimistic concern to squelch our myriad of thoughts. That Saturday became a sixteen-hour work day and through the haze I confirmed that each animal was headed to a temporary location accompanied by someone who would stay beside them overnight. Assured that they were safe, I slept, waking after just four hours, seemingly rested, to a constant influx of ringing phones, overflowing in-boxes and histrionics that would consume me for the next eight weeks.

Wolf

June 10th – June 16th: Into the Fire

Internally I could hear finger nails tapping against a desk, constantly awaiting news; who decides if we can travel the road? How much destruction has occurred? When can we return? Where is the fire now? Externally the story was different; there was no time to stop at a desk let alone have the luxury of tapping your nails against it.

Nails however were indeed in motion. After generously receiving a multitude of donations, our volunteers rallied together and built temporary enclosures on private property in Loveland, CO. Metal crashed, zip-ties were zipped and in a matter of hours we had constructed what would be become *Wolf* in exile. As animals trickled in they were released into their makeshift homes, though not comparable to the spread of land they were accustomed to, after thirty minutes of thorough sniffing, marking and approving, exhaustion settled in, eyes began to droop and eleven wolves cluttered the landscape.

Unfortunately it wasn't until a full five days later that we managed to evacuate the remaining seventeen animals. Don't wor-

ry! In that period, we made our way up Rist Canyon on two separate occasions; animals were accounted for and water troughs were filled. We even encountered a few firefighters independently making their way to the Sanctuary to check up on our animals as well! While these visits gave us some peace of mind they also made us all the



more anxious to remove the wolf-hybrids still in the canyon.

Luckily we made contact with Pat Craig, an invaluable animal advocate and the founder of The Wild Animal Sanctuary (TWAS) in Keenesburg, CO. His 30+ years of experience coupled with his resources (i.e. trailers large enough to accommodate lions and bears) made it possible for us to catch up and evacuate the remaining seventeen animals in under four hours, a feat which I do not have the ability to do justice to the scope of its formidability! On June 14th, the animals that remained at *Wolf* were kenneled and ready to make the trek to TWAS.

Once at his facility, Pat's staff and ours together built enclosures where each pack was situated next to a neighbor they

had at the Sanctuary. The animals adapted well and even thrived in their new environment away from the smoke and flames. They even, along with the animals in Loveland, received misting systems to help them deal with the intense heat that plagued Colorado this summer.

Now that all the animals were safely out of the fire's path we took a breath, just one. While Keenesburg saw our volunteers during business hours, the location in Loveland was staffed around the clock, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We rallied for the animals and each night an average of three individuals (volunteers and staff) could be found camping outside of enclosures to keep an eye on the animals and minimize stress; I can't say if anyone slept soundly but I know there is no alarm that compares to the routine 5:30 am group howl.





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June 17th - June 30th: Limbo

Though I consider these two weeks of waiting to be relatively uneventful, there was an exceptional amount of work to be done. We were sustaining 24 hours of animal care (an obvious priority), keeping up with and participating in local news and attempting to stay connected with our dedicated supporters and volunteers through mass communication efforts; oh yeah, we were also preparing for the 8th Annual Waltz for the Wolves.

Clearly this time was awash with events but instead of giving you the blow-by-blow report on our efforts, I believe it is imperative to inform you about the animals that have been so diligently supported, by you. The following are abbreviated accounts of some of the fascinating on-goings of the animals during evacuation.

A Moment with Kasota

During the fire I was able to help care for the wolves that had been evacuated to Loveland. Among these animals is a very shy but curious wolf-dog named Kasota. During my time volunteering at the Sanctuary Kasota has always been content to watch volunteers from afar, her curiosity peaked, but she was always unsure about approaching us. During the time in Loveland, she seemed to gather the courage and allow her

curiosity to take over. She began to approach volunteers at the fence, even allowing a volunteer to brush her. It progressed to where even when I didn't have a treat and came to say hello, she would sniff my hand and give me a quick lick before going about her business.

On the last night I was there, I was getting the animals their evening



dinner. I gave Matoskah and Kasota their bowls and she didn't seemed particularly interested, so I left her to finish feeding the others. Out of the corner of my eye, I could see Matoskah gobble up his food, as well as hers! I went and got more food and approached Kasota. She came up to the fence to see what I had and imagine my surprise and utter delight when she started eating out of my hand!

I had the great privilege of doing something I never thought would happen and I got to hand-feed her the entire bowl of meat. It is definitely a memory I will always cherish.

-Becky Robertson, Volunteer

Personality Shifts

They've been surrounded by fire, lions, tigers, and bears, traveled miles from mountain to prairie to mountain again, and during their stay at TWAS, some of the wolf-dogs presented very pleasant surprises. Frackette, Makoce, Tate and Rachane willingly took medicated treats from my hand for the first time. None of them had ever come that close to me before. Arkte, who usually dislikes anyone or anything entering her space, didn't raise an objection when her water bucket was emptied and refilled. She considered the long hook



(used to pull old meat and waste out of the enclosures) a toy, and took great pleasure

pouncing on it. Loki completely dismantled both igloo houses, twice. Playing with the pieces was more satisfying than shelter, I guess.

Unfortunately, there was some mischief at night when humans weren't around. Arkte took a good portion of Tonka's right ear off through the fence, and Loki did some serious damage to Odin's lower lip during another fence mishap. Poor sweet Tonka is extremely shy and easily frightened, but his fear visibly faded each day and his ear is healing nicely. TWAS' vet did a wonderful job stitching Odin's lip back in place, and it's healing nicely too. It seems as if nothing can dampen Odin's spirits! His enthusiasm has had a calming influence on JJ, who is beginning to understand that it doesn't hurt to have more than one human.

-Karen Silva, Volunteer

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July 1st - July 7th: Homeward Bound

The previous stories are merely two out of hundreds of treasured moments that associates of *Wolf* hold near and dear. On June 28th word came that we (humans, that is) were able to access the road which leads to *Wolf*. However, the full mandatory evacuation was not lifted until June 30th. The logistics for putting on the Waltz, which had an astounding turnout, and managing the return of all thirty animals was not simultaneously possible. This year the Waltz was no mere fundraiser but a celebration of the culminating end to the fire and unification of spirits in recovering from it.



On July 3rd we were finally ready to start bringing the animals home. The process began in Keenesburg where we said goodbye to the orange-uniformed staff of TWAS. Soon the wolves were making their way back up the mountain, and appeared ecstatic upon release into their old homes. Even though some of the *Wolf* property was severely damaged their enclosures were flush with vegetation.

On July 4th I went to help transport Atlantis and Mucqua home. Unfortunately Atlantis' health had been rapidly declining the previous days, and although we knew his time with us was coming to an end, we believed his passing should happen at the place that had become his own sanctuary. True to his nature Atlantis had his own

plans and would not allow us to relocate him again. The giant, who had given us a glimpse into his true nature the past four weeks, gracefully slipped away in the presence of his companion Mucqua and a lucky few who were witness to his recent transformation.

The remaining animals returned home on July 5th. Again, we did routine blood draws, vaccinations and vet exams for each wolf, and we took advantage of the animals being sedated for some intensive grooming. Scissors, brushes and clippers worked tirelessly to remove the remnants of winter coat and accumulated matted hair, while the vet went about her business. By the end of the day, everyone was home, safe and sound--although Sigmund returned with a bad haircut and do.





While some have returned to their pre-fire state of being, others are continually embracing their new paths. Nashoba is not only approaching the fence for goodies but has let a hand linger under his chin. Isabeau has now decided that eating treats may be just as beneficial as smearing them on her fur or your face. And Webster, who has dropped his ponderous gait for a rather zany one, is losing his previously timid demeanor, now playfully attempting to sneak away with your walkie-talkie!

These recent encounters are not the only good things to come from these bad times. We tend to look at most images and to experience the world as snapshots in time – fixed points of reference. A for-

est burns, and we think of it as dying rather than being rejuvenated. We fail to perceive the underlying increase in soil nutrition that will be aided by the coming disintegration of those burned trees. To perceive nature as static - or for that matter, "catastrophic" or "tragic"- is to fail not just in our ability to learn and make larger connections, but in our ability to imagine (Robert H. Busch, Nature 2007). From the High Park Fire we find ourselves covered in soot, yet we do not become consumed by the tragic remnants we find. We imagine the coming snow and wait, not only for the remaining stench of smoke and ash to wash away, but also a wealth of dreams that *Wolf* will emerge more focused, more intact and more flourishing than ever.

Wall

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On Saturday June 09, 2012--a mere three months ago--the High Park Fire began its onslaught of Rist Canyon and the surrounding areas of Fort Collins, Colorado, laying waste to over 87,000 acres of land. The fire, originating from lightning, destroyed over 250 homes, displacing a multitude of people and animals from their jobs and residences. Included in this supplanting were the thirty wolf-hybrids that consider the mountain their home. While the intimate details of the fire have been recounted, *Wolf* understands that subsequent questions have been raised; and while we understand that every question invoked may not be addressed in this newsletter, our attempt is to target several which have been communicated.

Why didn't you move the animals sooner?

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Episodes of extreme stress can cause many health problems among canids, especially wolves. We have had numerous pre-evacuation notices in the past that have not come to fruition, and during our first fire evacuation back in 2000 Cherokee passed away from the stress of being moved, so we did not want to risk the animals' health with a possible false alarm. In light of past experience, the animals' welfare was top priority, and an evacuation traumatizes the animals by initiating stress due to physical restraint, separation and change in routine. Health-related problems associated with stress can include urinary malfunctions, loss of fur, aggressive behavior, dietary decline, hiding, seizures and adrenal shutdown leading to death, as we saw with Cherokee.

How did you decide which animals to evacuate?

It was not an easy decision, although having the fire dens did offer us some flexibility. Essentially we went though and chose animals on a priority-need basis. Animals that could be easily harnessed and transported (taking minimal effort to catch up) and those groups without any kind of den protection were our primary focus. Once those individuals were caught up we began to work our way down the line. If we were not able to catch them up quickly we moved onto the next group in an effort to evacuate as many as possible.

What was done to protect the animals that were initially not evacuated?

In anticipation of a large-scale fire several projects were already underway at *Wolf* since early 2009 when we began construction of our fire road, which runs behind the enclosures. Included in the fire road project was extensive forest thinning surrounding the enclosures back to 100 feet. In 2011 we began building our fire dens, which are underground concrete structures designed to give the animals a place to escape the flames and smoke in the event of a fire. On the day of the evacuation we also proceeded to fill every enclosure with an excess of 75 gallons of water, additional meat and dry dog food in 25 lb self-feeders.

Has their health been compromised?

No. In fact upon returning the animals to W and W each one had a quick examination, vaccinations and blood drawn for profiling. This provided us with a perfect opportunity to address in mass some non-critical pre-existing health conditions that had been on the list of things to do before the fire. Frackette, Odin, Renata, Webster, Rachane and Tonka were all given more in-depth exams before returning. After three root canals, one tooth extraction, the removal of a few stitches and a short stint of antibiotics, all five of them are currently looking healthier than ever.



Wish List

Material donations, known as "In-Kind" donations, make up a significant part of the Sanctuary's operating budget. The items listed below have a direct positive impact upon the Sanctuary. If you happen to have any of these items, the ability to provide any of the services we are seeking, or know anyone who does, please contact Wall by e-mail, telephone or post-mail! All items are tax deductible at fair market value.

Bobcat Attachments

Power equipment

Chain saws

Vehicles

Forklift forks **Snowblowers** Auger (post hole drill) Flat Bucket/Grading Bucket Snow pusher/plow/snow-bucket

Gas power hydraulic log splitter

Snow plow for pickup truck

Gas powered Jackhammer

Large electric winch

Generator – greater than 7000 watt

Gas or diesel-powered air compressor

New Teeth and Pins for Current Bucket

Branch/log chipper - 6" minimum capacity



Misc



Photovoltaic solar panels Propane refrigerators Propane freezers Roofing material/shingles 200 lb propane tanks Large hydraulic jacks Shop tools Batteries - for solar and RV power Garage doors 8' and 14' Sheds up to 120 square feet

Electronics

Laptops Dymo label printers Emergency/weather radio

Long range walkie talkies/two-way radios

Labor

Work teams to: Lay sterile seed to stabilize soil Lay dig guard Stabilize fence posts Lay rock and soil to stabilize erosion Trench fire road for better runoff

Services

Trucking service to haul road base **Excavators** Construction contractors Foundation contractors Electricians

Plumbers

Landscaping

Commercial grade weed eaters Industrial grade mowers Landscaping tools



e in an Enclosure





New or like-new heavy duty truck tires Backhoe, loader, bulldozer, road grader Large air-conditioned horse/race car trailer

Habitat supplies

5 foot or greater 9-gauge chain link fence 3-4 foot 11-gauge chain link fence Metal fence posts, at least 12' tall 4-5 foot Wildlife or climb-proof fencing Electric fencing and insulators #3 or 3/8" rebar Bagged concrete or sackrete 8"x 8"x 16" cinder blocks 8"x8"x8" cinder blocks Bagged mason mix



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Wall

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Each animal at Wolf is continuously cared for by every donation received, ranging in sponsorships from individuals to packs. Funds Raised from this issue will be directly incorporated into the recovery from the fire.

-Your gift of \$50 helps to lay new seed across burn areas -Your gift of \$100 helps to fell and mulch damaged trees -Your gift of \$500 helps to replace damaged fence lines -Your gift of \$1,000 or more

helps to rebuild the caretaker cabin and sheds destroyed by the fire

Please, Contribute Today!



A visitor came in the night. In the shape of a wolf named "rebirth", she came with a song. A "Song of Survival" and renewal. So inspired by the beauty of her voice, Julie Kramer Cole, a local artist and supporter of *Wolf*, created this exceptional painting in honor of the 30 wolf-dogs who survived the High Park Fire earlier this year. Sold in live auction at the 8th Annual Waltz for the Wolves, this painting (valued at \$1,200) sold for nearly \$4,000!

Do you want to share in this memory? Check out our website (wolfsanctuary.net) for exclusive merchandise and time-limited edition prints!