Flash Flood! Learning to Say Goodbye Ariel, Bella Roux & Outlaw

Summer 2013 wolfsanctuary.net

# Summer 2013W.O.L.F.Letter From the Director

**Dear Supporters:** 

As with the Summer of 2012, this Summer has had its own challenges as a result of the High Park Fire. Larimer County, Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department and the National Resource Conservation Services are concerned with flooding issues as a result of the devastation of the burned landscape lacking vegetation and the ability to absorb and hold back the water. Rainfalls that normally would not be a problem could now cause flooding, especially in valleys with streams.

We needed rain but we needed it in slow steady gentle showers instead of downpours. Unfortunately on July 5th, we were barraged by a flash flood, see our YouTube video http://www.youtube. com/user/WolfSanctuaryDotNet and article later in this issue. It is estimated that almost two inches of rain fell in one hour, with the storm front hovering over the top of Rist Canyon. Gratefully no one and none of the animals were harmed. However, our ponds have filled with large amounts of debris and ash; and our roads (the main road leading into W.O.L.F. and the fire road behind the south enclo-



sures) suffered greatly. Additionally ash and debris have built up in the enclosures. After the waters receded, Lance and Pride had an instantaneous in ground swimming pool with the water trough buried to the rim from washout rubble. Our neighbors up road from W.O.L.F. have also suffered with several of the damns upstream breaching, contributing to the severity of the flooding. As we were digging our way out, another flash flood occurred on July 14th leading to more erosion, ash build up and damage.

Authorities expect more flash flooding and, with the lush undergrowth resulting from the rain coupled with the dead but standing trees, additional fire danger to continue for as much as 3-5 years. This issue alone presents serious problems for W.O.L.F. as we are still trying to recover from last year's fire. To compound these challenges, we are limited, under a legal private easement agreement at the front end of Spring Valley Road, to only 5 vehicles trips per day. Scheduling contractors and work groups coupled with staff and volunteers is making it extremely difficult to adequately address daily operations let alone continue our work on safety and fire mitigation tasks. In addition, under current restrictions we are also not allowed to be open to the public, which can be prohibitive to accepting help from supporters.

The current location of W.O.L.F. is a wonderful setting for the animals but it is a crippling environment in which to function. Another logistical problem is coupled with the fact that we are off the grid: no electricity and a patched shared setup to the only well on site. So when you see staff looking 'road weary' you'll understand why. We are exhausted with a barrage of imminent issues in front of us. We are in desperate need of hardworking volunteers and donations to help with mitigation work.

Since our last issue, we heartbreakingly had to say 'Goodbye for Now Sweet Souls' to Tunyan, Webster and Kiki, see enclosed memorials. We also have new residents Ariel, Bella Roux and Outlaw. The stories of their journeys to W.O.L.F. are in this newsletter. I am sure that you will fall in love with them as you read about these wonderful spirits. They captured our hearts before they arrived.

As Always, Humbly Yours,

Shelley

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Cover Photo: Cree



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The decision was made to try an introduction between Renata and Sigmund. Early in the morning we harnessed Sigmund and walked him to Renata's enclosure.



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### 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 Wolf 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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# Summer 2013 Flash Flood by Bob Proulx

Friday, July 5 started out like most summer days at the Sanctuary, warm and sunny with a wedge of bright blue cloudless sky above us. Our rather narrow valley location gives a sense of immediacy to weather conditions and the affairs of the day, which often preclude us from looking up. Our task that afternoon was to take a truckload of wood chips to the top of the fire road and spread them along the dig guard inside of the New Mex pups' enclosure (Peta, Tate and Makoce). It was awkward, sweaty labor but the teamwork paid off, and we were dumping the last few buckets of chips when the first grumble of thunder told us to pay attention to what was coming over the ridge.

About 3 p.m. the first few drops of cool, cleansing rain began to fall, signaling our retreat. The fire road, a steep, one-lane swath cut into the hillside, is no place to be in the event of a down-pour, so we returned quickly to the trailer just as the rain began its own steady descent. At this point there was no waiting for the weather; chores needed to be done. Thoroughly wet but feeling refreshed, we began passing out meats. Intern Dani Gilbert and volunteer Maddie Trost started with Artke and Cowboy. Intern Nick Salter and I took the ATV and dropped off the buckets in front of each enclosure down the road.



By the time we reached Cree and Matoska, the rain was coming down hard. The buckets were filling with water faster than we could pull the meat out. At Lance and Pride's enclosure it became apparent that we were in the first real monsoon storm of the season, and witnessing a repeat of the brief heavy rains of the previous July. A cascade of water was pouring down the steps leading from the enclosure gate. Ash from atop the fire road funneled down the narrow ravine that runs through the enclosure, filling the catch-up area with a berm of muck along the outside fence and flooding the yard so that the 100-gallon water trough, normally a wading pool for the wolves, was itself floating in the flood waters. Just beneath this new foot-deep layer of muck, multiple jets of water were shooting out of the newly formed dike. Nick got out his pocket video camera and started capturing the scene and we were surprised to see a large plastic dog crate floating down the road.



Nick and I caught up with Dani and Maddie, who were finishing with the meats, and drove them back to the trailer, assessing the enclosures along the way. The New Mex enclosure was experiencing some washout at the west gate, but apart from that there seemed to be little damage. The seasonal stream did not appear to be overburdened with runoff, and nothing, as we approached the dam, gave us any indication that we were about two minutes, and only a few feet, away from the worst flooding anyone had seen here in years.

We reached the opposite end of the pond and only then realized that it was full to the brim, with all manner of debris being pushed toward the spillway. Dani and Maddie started moving the buckets away from the stream, which was now rolling fast and deep. Another crate started floating away, Dani gave chase, not knowing at that moment a wall of water and debris several feet high had reached the pond, forcing a mass of muck over the entire length of the dam and down the road, where she was in pursuit of the kennel.

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Dani quickly sidesteped the torrent, now close to a foot deep, and followed the fence line along what little high ground there was back to the trailer. From there we waited and watched the water rush by unabated for the next half hour or so until the rain began to taper off. As the floodwaters began to calm down, we ventured forth cautiously to get a close-up view of the damage.

Three crates, two lawn mowers, two steel shelving units, several windows, half a dozen kennel fence panels, 50 feet of plastic drain pipe and more cable than I knew we had, were all swepted away to be buried or destroyed. The footbridge by the upper pond was gone, as was a significant stretch of the roadbed, leaving behind a truly 4WD landscape. About a dozen of our neighbor's newly-purchased framing timbers, the beginning of their reconstruction, were scattered all along W.O.L.F.'s property and their ten-foot pontoon boat was washed over to our side of their dam, resting awkwardly at the bottom of a freshlyscoured 12 foot-deep hole. At the top of the fire road behind Lance and Pride's enclosure, where runoff in a narrow ravine above the fire road had caused significant damage to the fence line just the year before, the rain had deposited yet another three feet of ash and muck against the fence,



putting enough pressure on the chain link to separate it from the dig guard. Several large boulders were dislodged, leaving a four-foot vertical section of the already narrow road unsupported. The improvements from the recent roadwork had all but washed away.

Of course our residents took it all in stride. Despite the runoff in some of the enclosures, and with the aid of the fire dens, they remained out of harm's way, and got back to howling just as soon as, well, as soon as they felt like it.



Since then three more storms have each dumped between 1-2 inches of rain over the region, causing additional flood damage. Being at the bottom of a five-pond drainage system, the earthen dams above us in the valley we call home have begun to be undercut by the flood waters but do remain intact. With that encouraging thought, the cleanup and repair work has begun.



We want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone that has assisted in the effort through manual help, the donation of materials or monetary gifts. There is much to do and we still need your help! Visit our website at www.wolfsanctuary. net to view a list of materials needed for rebuilding and repairs or to make a secure donation.

# **Welcoming Bella Roux**



On June 29th we witnessed one of the quickest adaptations to the Sanctuary we have ever seen when Bella Roux, our constantly smiling and vocal new resident, arrived. Her comfort in her new surroundings was immediate; this made little sense in one respect, and total sense in another.

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Bella Roux's life began in Alaska, and her first year and a half of life, like Arkte's, was spent virtually 24/7 in a small kennel, being let out (and physically beaten to keep her under control) once a day. Neighbors took her from this environment and turned her over to the local humane society. Adopted, her new home for the next four years was a far cry from the old environment, and can be seen in her ease with people and seeking of attention.

Unfortunately, this loving environment would not be long term. Bella Roux's human mom was brutally beaten by her ex-husband. Bella took her two pups out of the house and out of harm's way, and then placed herself between the abuser and her human "siblings". Her loyalty and bravery was repaid with a beating from him. After the attack, she became hypersensitive to the moods of her human mom, and when she became upset with the kids, Bella started nipping

them, causing a concern for the safety of the kids.

Thankfully for Bella Roux, and W.O.L.F., her mom called the Sanctuary. It was quickly determined she would potentially be a good match for Rajan, who had recently lost his companion, Kiki. After a postponed trip due to health issues, arrangements were made and staff picked her up in Kansas, the halfway point between her home in Oklahoma City and W.O.L.F.

Her introduction to Rajan, and her new enclosure, was swift and heart-warming to behold. Rajan quickly went from king of his castle to her majesty's attentive enclosure mate. She and JJ can be heard running the fence discussing the weather, or whatever, most mornings. Bella Roux is also helping her other neighbor, Ariel, come out of her shell by demonstrating how to train her human caretakers.

Becoming an ambassador and making educational journeys with Rajan is certainly in her future. Without a doubt, Bella Roux will be a wonderful representative of the Sanctuary and her new family; a family she knew from the start of her trip on June 29th that she was destined to join.





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On a lovely Sunday morning in June, a miracle happened at W.O.L.F. Ariel, a lonely sad wolf dog that spent several years in a boarding facility, finally found her forever home.

gan in Ohio when a woman named Karen rescued her. Karen found Ariel roaming in the woods near her property with two other dogs - a puppy and a shy shepherd mix. Karen, who worked in animal rescue, knew that it was critical to humanely trap the trio and bring them to a safe place since they were alone and very frightened. It became clear that one of the animals was a different kind of dog, a wolf dog. Once crated, she threw herself against the walls, drooled uncontrollably and seemed terrified. When the dogs were released into large outdoor kennels, she and the pup hid behind the shy shepherd to avoid human contact. Karen's 5-year-old daughter named her Ariel.

Ariel was the shyest of the three and when a veterinarian came to exam the dogs and administer routine shots Ariel could not look at the humans and tried to get as far away as possible. If Karen or the veterinarian looked at Ariel, she would urinate out of fear.

The puppy and shepherd were soon adopted. Karen worked to clean Ariel's fur from soiling herself and Ariel was terrified but she allowed Karen to help by clipping her filthy fur. Ariel showed no signs of aggression and Karen tried to socialize with Ariel. She was concerned that if Ariel managed to escape from her kennel, she would run away, die of starvation or be hit by a car.

Because Ariel was so frightened, some of

# Saying Hello to Ariel

Ariel's story be-

the rescue staff thought it would be best to humanely euthanize her but Karen could not give up and she adopted her. Karen did not have adequate space to keep Ariel at home, she decided to place her in a boarding facility where she would have the company of other dogs during play times and she would be safe. Karen visited often and desperately tried to find a sanctuary placement for Ariel but struck out repeatedly: sanctuaries were full, she was too low content or she was too high content.

Months turned into years but over time Karen was able to walk Ariel to her car to take her to a veterinarian for annual check-ups, shots, and dental cleaning. Ariel was fine until she reached the vet's office and then she would urinate on herself out of fear.

Eventually the boarding facility asked Karen not to visit Ariel as often since they felt it upset Ariel. Karen continued to provide the financial resources for her care and never gave up on finding sanctuary placement. She began to feel discouraged and she wondered if she had done the right thing by boarding Ariel for so long.

Then things began to change. Karen's

Jennifer. friend who worked in animal rescue. offered to help and one day she called Karen and said "I've found the perfect place for Ariel!" Karen was elated but was afraid to believe it had finally happened.

W.O.L.F. had space and Ariel would finally have a forever



### W.O.L.F.

home at the Sanctuary. Karen, her niece and Jennifer would drive Ariel from Ohio to Colorado in a non-stop trip that would get Ariel safely to the sanctuary in less than 24 hours. They rented a van, loaded Ariel into a special crate equipped for potty accidents and headed west. Ariel traveled with ease throughout the long day and night and arrived at W.O.L.F. early on a Sunday morning.

They stared in amazement and Karen could not fight back the tears. Karen and W.O.L.F. staff helped Ariel out of her crate and she calmly walked into her new enclosure. From the moment Ariel entered her enclosure, she seemed happy. She explored every inch of her mountainside home and even approached one of the volunteers.

As they said their goodbyes the tears flowed. Ariel was finally able to start her new life in a place that understood her needs and could provide for them. She will soon have a new companion but for now, she is content to explore her



beautiful mountain home and visit with neighbors Rajan and Bella Roux. Ariel is still very shy but she is also curious about all of the daily happenings and peeks out from behind her greenery and watches in contentment as her new life at W.O.L.F. unfolds.

# A Contractor and Much More



W.O.L.F. extends our deepest appreciation to Aztek Fencing, located in Johnstown, for their help over and above what we had hoped for with our insurance claim, our fencing issues due to the High Park Fire and materials for our emergency evacuation location.

For any who have walked/hiked the "old Kiki/Rajan" enclosure, the Sanctuary's largest at over an acre, they would understand the challenge of securing scores of rebar into the logs holding the dig guard in this extremely steep and rocky location. Matt Illum of Aztek has been invaluable in his advice and procurement of materials, not only for this huge enclosure, but also for the temporary kennels in our off site emergency location, several of those being his days off. And if it wasn't enough to put in the achingly taxing hours of repairing this enclosure, Edger & Norma (now joined by Fransisco) have found it in their hearts, on many days, to bring homemade burritos and sodas for the staff and volunteers. Their attention to detail and care in the safety the enclosure will provide for its future inhabitants has been a

bright light on many dim days as we tackle the rebuild and curves thrown at us by Mother Nature.

They will soon be building a perimeter fence to secure Cree in her enclosure. Although she is more comfortable than we imagined, you never know when an army of angry squirrels or chipmunks may decide to storm her enclosure and take over Cree and Matoskah's fire den, so we won't leave anything to chance!

Thanks from the bottom of our hearts for your help and caring...ah-wooooooo!

# W.O.L.F. **Animal Update** Cowboy, Cree & Drake

We often get strange looks for expressing delight over one of our animals behaving in a manner that's typical for most domestic pets, like tail wagging or taking treats from a hand. However, the animals given sanctuary here have all had their worlds turned upside down, for various reasons, and are by no means typical pets. The adjustment comes easily for some, but for others it's a very long process. Baby steps are huge to us, and we celebrate every one of them. We hope you'll have the same feeling as we share how three newer residents are settling in.



Cree has become guite comfortable with her arrangements at W.O.L.F. She seems to enjoy the company of her handsome companion, Matoskah, as well as the perks of room service and housekeeping. She is now at a healthy weight and stunningly beautiful. She's much calmer when humans are in the vicinity. The roof of the fire den near the top of the enclosure is her favorite spot. It provides the best vantage point for supervising the humans working nearby. Recently, Cree has taken to pointing out to the overnight caretaker exactly where she wants her treats placed, and occasionally ventures within 3 feet of him.

Drake often displays a

play stance and huge smile when people enter his enclosure. His supervisory style is more up close and personal. Periodically, he sneaks up from behind and gives a gentle touch of his nose, as if to let us know he's paying attention. Drake has become more food selective, preferring beef versus chicken. This indicates to us his growing confidence and contentment. Kasota is his companion and they get along very well, sometimes trying to push each other aside for treats, but not in an aggressive manner. Drake's favorite activities are play racing Loki along their common fence line and silently stalking people as they walk by the front of his enclosure.





Cowboy is getting more comfortable everyday with his human caretakers. Recently, the housekeeping crew spent time hanging out with and grooming him. His fur is very thick, and he hasn't completely shed his winter coat. Cowboy was a little nervous about this attention at first, but it wasn't long before we could see that "aaahhhh" look on his face and his eyelids getting heavy. He has also become more food selective. When treats are passed out in the morning, he takes them one at a time through the fence and piles them up between his feet until no more are given. Then, he makes himself comfortable and enjoys all of them. He limits his supervisory role to meat preparation. Cowboy's favorite spot is a shaded, dug out hole near his companion Arkte's spot at the top of the enclosure.



# Bella Roux & Rajan

### W.O.L.F.

# Webster - Age 14 Kiki - Age 14 Tunyan - Age 11

# Learning to Say Goodbye

Loosing the ones we love is never easy and this year several of our residents have crossed over the rainbow bridge. Sadly, since our last newsletter, we have said goodbye to three more of our dear friends Tunyan, Kiki and Webster.

You may find yourself wondering why there seems to be so many passing this year. The answer, as much as we would like to deny it, is simple; the animals are getting older. Over half of our residents are 10 years of age or older. Since the average life expectancy for a captive wolf is 10 to 12 years, we are forced to face the unpleasant reality that we may soon be saying goodbye again.

So how does one cope with the realization that loved ones may not be with us much longer? How does one deal with the grief of their loss once they are gone? The answer is simple, though not always easy. The trick is to remember that at W.O.L.F. they were given a good life. Deeply loved by those honored to know them personally and by individuals who found it in their hearts to love them from afar. But most importantly, we celebrate their memories and unique personalities, each one making this world a brighter place.

**Tunyan** arrived in 2002 at the tender age of 4 weeks old and was one of the Sanctuary's more challenging individuals. Full of personality, Tunyan was the ringleader of "The Brat Pack", a group of three wolves specializing in thievery and mischief. As she grew, she used her enormous bulk to lure humans into a false sense of security. Surely a wolf so large could not sneak up and take something without your knowledge! You could see the mischievous sparkle in her eyes as she raced up the hill with your bucket or gloves while you stared, unsure of how that had happened. Later on, with her companion Sigmund, she would delight in engaging him in wrestling matches in your lap. She passed away unexpectedly on May 25th when a

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tumor on her spleen ruptured.

Kiki was one of the toughest wolves rescued by the Sanctuary. Originally found ranging near Anchorage, Alaska in 1999, Kiki had already survived months on her own despite a collar around her neck impeding her ability to swallow. After being rescued, Kiki outlived three of her companions before being paired with Rajan. She was fiercely protective of him and despite her general reluctance to interact with her caretakers, when Rajan would leave for programs, Kiki would race to the bottom of the enclosure doing her "war dance", a routine of barking, growling, and head tossing. While he was gone she would howl mournfully and upon his return Kiki would risk getting close to the humans just to assure herself Rajan was safe. During the High Park Fire in 2012, Kiki had to be left behind until the second evacuation five days later and survived unscathed in an enclosure that was a third burned by the fire. Kiki was helped to pass June 8th as a result of a spinal condition taking away her ability to walk unaided.

**Webster** came to W.O.L.F. from a horrible backyard breeding facility in 2006. This beautiful, yet shy boy, who for years would nervously pace whenever people came near, started to come out

of his shell in 2010 when he was paired with Renata. Curious about her interest in their caretakers, Webster began coming down to cautiously watch her interactions, standing within 5 feet of a person or, if one sat really still, coming close enough to sniff at one's shoe. However, during the High Park Fire, we began to catch a glimpse of his confident, playful side. Playing with toys and other objects, Webster was soon joining Renata for walks with an enthusiasm that no one expected from an older animal or with the severe arthritis Webster had. Eventually he was even coming up to some of his caretakers for scratches or leading them on a merry chase around his enclosure when trying to get him to take his medications. Webster was helped to pass June 18th with Renata at his side at the VCA veterinary hospital after being diagnosed with advanced stage heart cancer.

Tunyan, Kiki and Webster have now left this world for the next, yet their memories live on, still filling our hearts with warmth and happiness. Though their physical absence is keenly felt, in a way that has been a gift, we are now able to rescue new friends and continue making memories. And as our loved ones continue to get older we will treasure each moment with them. For even after they pass, they never truly leave us.

# Rams and Wolves

In July we welcomed the strength and energy of two student athletes from the Colorado State University Rams football team. Although the workday was shortened by threatening weather a week after our flash flood, Jared Biard and Nick Callender provided the muscle and work ethic of many in clearing dead trees and debris out of Sasha and Pax' enclosure. All of this amazing effort for a few slices of pizza, soda and the opportunity for an up close and personal visit with Isabeau. Not only have Jared and Nick expressed their intentions to come back and help again, but next time to bring reinforcements... other members of the team. Thanks go out to Tom Ehlers, Director of Football Operations, for his willingness to bring W.O.L.F., and our needs, to the attention of the team.



# Outlaw's Spirit: The Young

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Wolf

In July the Sanctuary welcomed our newest and youngest resident, Outlaw. Picked up as a stray and taken in by an animal shelter in Utah, shelter staff listed him as a 1-1/2 year old Siberian Husky/Shepherd mix, not knowing that he was really a wolf dog. This actually worked in his favor for two reasons: 1) he most likely would have been deemed unsuitable for adoption and euthanized; 2) he was adopted by an incredible, kind, loving woman who did everything in her power to provide for his every need. She is his champion and gave him the name Outlaw's Spirit, a.k.a. Outlaw.

The woman and her family had recently lost their pet due to old age, and shortly afterward, all agreed that the house was just too quiet and began visiting shelters. The woman's older brother found Outlaw and brought the family to meet him. Outlaw greeted the woman first by licking her hand, and when she discovered he had only one day left, she immediately initiated the adoption process and was approved. She knew he needed a home and couldn't bear the thought of what would happen if he weren't adopted.

Outlaw lived with his champion and her family for a little over 3 months. During this time, he became increasingly more willful, destructive and difficult to handle, even after obedience training. He was overly protective and possessive of his champion, refusing to allow other canines and some people near her. He pinned her and other family members against walls, doors and counters with his body, mouthed faces and heads of people and cats. He didn't like being confined, at all, and began to dig under the suburban back yard fence or tried to go through windows if he was inside. The entire family became concerned about their safety, as well as his.

The commitment of his champion is amazing and commendable. She's been a paraplegic for over a decade and lives on a modest fixed income. She wasn't fully aware that Outlaw was a wolf dog when she adopted him, and when the realization came that he was she consulted and employed professional trainers to work with them. Some told her not to bother trying and that euthanasia would be best. Despite the physical limitations that would make dealing with an

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exuberantly wild wolf dog puppy especially challenging for her, she wasn't about to give up. She'd made a promise to Outlaw to love and care for him for the rest of his life, and she meant a long life. One trainer was also a behaviorist with 30 years experience who had worked with several wolf

dogs before. His recommendation for Outlaw was sanctuary, describing him as "generally good natured, pleasant, a loving young wolf, but exceedingly willful", though he "did not see any behavior that [he] would term aggressive." Indeed, as scary as Outlaw's behavior can be, he's never intentionally harmed anyone. His champion loves him tremendously and unconditionally. It was heartbreaking for her to let him go, but she kept her promise to him by ensuring he'd have a secure environment that best suits his nature.

We met Outlaw and his family in western Colorado. His champion made the four plus-hour trip in the back of the vehicle so she could be next to him. She had every document pertaining to Outlaw since adoption and some photos in a folder, all of his toys (lots of toys), food, treats, and his pillow ready to send with him. He was on leash and greeted us with wagging tail and toothy kisses. He walked into our travel kennel with no resistance, and slept peacefully nearly the entire trip to the sanctuary.

Outlaw has only been at the Sanctuary a short time, but we fell in love with him long before he arrived. He likes human companionship and his larger space, but still misses his family. He cries for a bit when he's left alone, then quiets down and watches everything. We're working on

acclimating him to others of his kind and hope to find a suitable companion for him to live and play with soon. We promise to love and care for him as much as she does, and look forward to seeing the two of them together when she's able to visit.





W.O.L.F.

# Waltz for the Wolves 2013

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On Saturday June 1st supporters and volunteers gathered to celebrate W.O.L.F.'s accomplishments and help raise funds to continue rebuilding efforts and provide for the animals in our care. The Waltz featured gourmet vegetarian food, silent and live auction, mystery boxes and entertainment. Thanks to the generosity of supporters near and far, nearly \$20,000 was raised!

We want to extend a special thank you to our live auction donors for their generosity: Christy Grandjean of Goldenwolf, Heather Ponce of Longmont Humane Society, Rosetta of Sculpture by Rosetta, artist Julie Kramer-Cole, Kris Paige of Wild and Wolfy, and Monty Taylor of Stone Lion Sculpture.







# Purchase "Breaking Trail" by Rosetta to Benefit W.O.L.F.



Loveland artist Rosetta used her amazing talents to our benefit by sculpting "Breaking Trail" for Waltz for the Wolves. Casting #1 was placed in the live auction with all proceeds benefiting the animals in our care. Once complete and cast in bronze, a limited edition of 24 "Breaking Trail" sculptures will be available for purchase with 40% being donated to W.O.L.F. Sculpture will be 11.5" x 19" x 7.5" with its granite base, not shown.

The photos are the almost finished clay before its final smoothing. For more information on ordering or to view Rosetta's work please visit her website at http://www.rosettasculpture.com/news. html. Her work is stunning and we are thankful for her support!

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# **Renata & Sigmund**

After Tunyan passed in May of this year, we began looking for a new companion for Sigmund. He was obviously very lonely, craving the attention and company of his human caretakers. Originally we had planned on a female from Oklahoma named Bella Roux, but after Kiki's passing in June, we reconsidered. From what we had heard about Bella, she seemed like she would be a better match for Rajan and we started looking for Sigmund once again.

This time, a shy female from Ohio came to our attention, Ariel. Arrangements were made to have her brought to the Sanctuary, but shortly before her arrival another tragedy struck.

While Renata was at VCA Veterinary Specialists of Northern Colorado being treated for an increase in her seizure activity, Webster suddenly fell ill. He was rushed down to VCA where he was



diagnosed with fluid around his heart as the result of a tumor. The decision was made to help him pass. Now Renata was also in need of a companion.

With Renata's seizure activity, and the number of medications she is on to manage her condition; we were concerned about being able to find her an appropriate companion. A lack of behavioral experience with potential rescues would leave our staff unaware of how another animal would react to Renata's seizures or how interested they would be in food, increasing the risk of the other animal getting her medications. Both of these situations could prove dangerous for Renata or the new resident but we could not leave Renata by herself.

As we tried to come up with a solution, our thoughts returned to Sigmund and the more we thought it over, the more it seemed like the right solution. We know Sigmund well and have a pretty good idea how he would react in most situations. Another advantage, Sigmund is a very picky eater and would be extremely unlikely to eat any of Renata's medications should she spit them out or drop them.

An introduction was planned and early one morning we harnessed up Sigmund and walked him down to Renata's enclosure. At first Sigmund was more interested in exploring the new space and Renata wanted human attention, but after a half hour of going their separate ways they finally took an interest in one another.

Now they are often seen in each other's company and have been spotted running and wrestling. They love to go for walks and are both very eager to greet any humans who may enter their enclosure, although Renata can sometimes be a little protective of her people when Sigmund is about. All in all, it couldn't have gone better and we are thrilled to see both of them happy again.



# Summer 2013 New Staff



Amelia Wieber, originally from Hillsdale, NJ, grew up in a very pet friendly environment, always had a love for animals and was involved in 4-H. When the time came for college, she chose to continue this path and earned a B.A. in Animal Behavior from the University of Connecticut in 2005. While in school she trained a variety of animals and studied marine mammal behavior.

W.O.L.F.

After graduation Amelia moved to Los Angeles, CA where she acquired experience as a veterinarian's assistant, dog trainer, and zookeeper. She worked at a big cat sanctuary as a tiger keeper, and clicker trained some of her large feline friends for behavioral enrichment. She also served as the Volunteer Coordinator, furthering the experience and education of many animal lovers.

In August of 2012 Amelia moved to Fort Collins, CO. She continues her dog training experience as a trainer in the DOGTALES Activity Center at Advanced Animal Care of Colorado. Amelia will be testing for her Certified Pet Dog Trainer (CPDT-KA) credential in September 2013.

Amelia began volunteering at W.O.L.F. Sanctuary in February 2013 and tested up to level 1. She is honored to have been hired as the Volunteer Coordinator and is making it her mission to meet the needs of all current and future volunteers. In her free time, Amelia loves to hike with her dog Cabernet and play with her cats Alice, Angie, and Frankie Bones.

Cary Rentola grew up in Broomfield, Colorado always surrounded by family pets. She graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a duel B.A. in Journalism and Communications and an M.A. in Communications.

After graduation Cary worked for a small animal veterinary clinic that also did wildlife rehabilitation and volunteered with multiple humane societies and rescues. She realized a career in nonprofit work, benefiting animals and the environment, was her calling. In 2002 she joined the staff at Larimer Humane Society and was responsible for marketing, community outreach, humane education and the volunteer program.

Her 13 years of nonprofit experience include specializing in public/media relations, event planning, fundraising, online and traditional marketing, community relations, grant writing and volunteer management. Cary earned the Certified in Volunteer Administration (CVA) credential in 2010 and completed a Nonprofit Management Certificate from Front Range Community College in 2012.

Cary began volunteering at W.O.L.F. Sanctuary in February 2013 assisting with marketing and fundraising events. Joining the staff as Director of Marketing and Community Relations fulfills her passion to continue service based work and being an advocate for animals, whose spirits and stories drive her. In her free time Cary enjoys hiking, reading and board games. She is also working on her goal of running a half marathon in all 50 states (25 done!) and spends lots of time with her rescue dogs Tucker, Willow Rae and Monroe and shelter cats Lego, Oliver, Milo, Piper and Ember Lee.



**Summer 2013** 

# **Volunteer Spotlight**



We are so grateful for the immense and diverse talents of the people who choose to volunteer with W.O.L.F. This quarter we are proud to feature our Senior Maintenance Volunteer Jim Englert, head of W.O.L.F.'s new emergency evacuation site. Jim has been volunteering with W.O.L.F. for over a year. As a result of last year's High Park Fire in June, Jim went to work planning and implementing a permanent evacuation site for the animals, which is located one hour from W.O.L.F. allowing for a swift evacuation and easy access by staff and volunteers.

Place of origin: I'm originally from northern Colorado.

**Furry Companion:** Coalie, an 11 year old Australian Sheppard Border Collie mix.

**Likes:** Doing anything outdoors, whether it's helping out W.O.L.F. or just enjoying the mountains.

What might we be surprised to know about you? I originally started out building and restoring classic cars and hot rods.

### What has surprised you most about working with W.O.L.F.?

What surprised me the most was how many wolf dogs there are that need a good, loving place to live where they can be properly cared for.

What is your favorite part about your position in building this evacuation site for the animals? My favorite part of building the evacuation site is being able to reduce the stress of being in a fire-prone area and, of course, working around the animals.

### If you weren't in this position, what would you be doing?

If I wasn't doing this I would still be building cars.

Why do you support W.O.L.F. when there are so many worthy nonprofit corporations in the area? I support W.O.L.F. because I've always loved animals and the great nature of Colorado. And W.O.L.F. has a great group of employees, supporters, and volunteers.

# What is your personal philosophy on what should be done about wolves and wolf dogs being kept as pets?

Personally I don't believe any random person should just be able to have a wolf. Wolves are not pets, they are wild animals. There should be a strict training and screening process so the animal will be treated well and cared for properly.

# Do you have a favorite memory involving dogs, your own pets, wolves, or W.O.L.F.?

My favorite memory of wolves was the first time I heard them all howl in unison.

# Describe one volunteer experience that has terrifically impacted you.

The volunteer experience that most affected me was evacuating for the High Park Fire. That really motivated me to have a well thought out plan and to have this evacuation center prepared in case it is ever needed again.





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# **Summer 2013**

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# **Upcoming Events & Appearances**

**New Volunteer Orientation** Sunday August 18, 2013 2:45 p.m. The Empire Grange, Fort Collins, CO

**Rist Canyon Mountain Festival** Sunday September 1, 2013 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Rist Canyon (CR 52E), 8 miles west of Bellvue

Howlin' Good W.O.L.F. Garage Sale Saturday September 7, 2013 7:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Windsor, CO

**Outdoor Adventure Fest** Saturday September 7, 2013 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m. The Wildlife Experience, Parker CO **Rocky Mountain Sustainable Living Fair** Saturday Sept 14, 2013 10 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Sunday Sept 15, 2013 10 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Legacy Park, Fort Collins, CO

**New Volunteer Orientation** Sunday September 15, 2013 2:45 p.m. The Empire Grange, Fort Collins, CO

**NoCo Nature Festival** Saturday September 21, 2013 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Fossil Creek Regional Open Space W.O.L.F. presentation 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Want to keep up to date on the happenings at the Sanctuary? Follow us online to find out about upcoming events, learn more about the animals in our care or simply enjoy the videos and photos.

www.wolfsanctuary.net



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