

# WOLF



Finding a New Home  
Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?  
Remembering Arkte & Cowboy



Spring 2014



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Cover Photo: Outlaw



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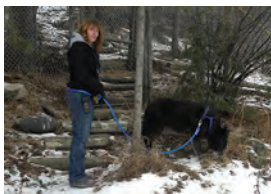
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IRS Tax Exempt Status Under Section 501(c)(3)  
Colorado Nonprofit & Tax Exempt Corporation  
United States Department of Agriculture, Licensed  
Colorado Department of Agriculture, Licensed  
Colorado Parks and Recreation, Licensed  
Global Federation 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.O.L.F. 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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# Letter from the Director

Dear Supporters:

Spring has sprung and life is anew. That is how we feel at W.O.L.F. We see this year as a year of rebirth and growth! The crises and relentless tragedies dealt by Mother Nature over the past 24 months will soon be in the rearview mirror. We are now looking forward, repairing and recovering from Mother Nature's ill-tempered rage at the Sanctuary.

So what do we have to look forward to? Many things. Let's see. First of all, June 14th marks our 10th Anniversary Waltz for the Wolves. This will be the best event yet! There will be live music with Hipster Momma and the Honeycomb Band. Be sure to wear your dancing shoes because you'll be wriggling around in your seat to tunes that will take your feet to the dance floor! We will have extraordinary auction items like we've never had before. Some ticklers are: The 2014 New Belgium Bike, a night and dinner at The Stanley Hotel in Estes Park, 4 tickets to the Denver Zoo, 4 tickets to the Wild Animal Sanctuary, 4 tickets to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 4 tickets to the Ft. Collins Ghost Tours, Henry's Pub gift certificates and many more, original art such as a shawl made of Tunyan's naturally shed fur, charcoal portraits by artist Dawn Johnson of some of our past and current animals, and a stunning painting by Julie Kramer Cole memorializing this year's honored wolf, Tunyan.

This year we will hold an on-line auction starting June 1st and ending June 13th for some of our exciting items which have national appeal! So even if you are unable to attend the Waltz, you can still participate. Several of these items will include: the stunning Breaking Trail sculpture by nationally acclaimed artist Rosetta, guitars signed by Rascal Flatts and Zac Brown, and 2 tickets to the 2015 Winter Dance Party at the Surf's Ballroom and lodging in Clear Lake, Iowa. Stay tuned to our website, Facebook and Twitter posts for teasers to entice you to come to our 10th Anniversary Waltz. Also new for this year: you will have the opportunity to bid on becoming the Guardian Angel of your favorite fur baby at W.O.L.F. The bid-winning Guardian Angels will receive special gifts so you can keep them with you always. More news on the Waltz and how to purchase tickets are detailed inside.



Now the *crème-de-la-crème*. Drumroll please. Do I have your attention? **WE HAVE FOUND A NEW HOME FOR W.O.L.F.!** Yes, our dreams are going to come true. We are in the very early stages of planning, but it is so exciting and we want to share this initial excitement with you. We will be away from flood threats, and the possibilities of what we can do at this property seem endless. For starters we will have electricity and running water--bye-bye generators and port-a-potties! An introduction article on our new site is inside the newsletter. Of course it will require a lot of planning and considerable funds to build at this location. Please be part of this excitement through financial help and labors of love to build our new home. Become part of our relocation team! Stay tuned to our social media sites as details unfold.

As Always, Humbly and Gratefully Yours,

Shelley



# Animal Updates:

## Tundra & Hachi



**Tundra** has continued to flourish at the Sanctuary, blooming into a very bold, demanding and playful personality. She has taken over the role of “most enthusiastic scent rubber” and if you are the object of her attention you could just as easily find yourself knocked over despite her small size. It can become even more intense when she manages to awaken Sigmund’s often dormant competitive side. When that happens you find yourself trapped at the bottom of a writhing mass of fur as Sigmund and Tundra try to out do each other with their scent rubs and kisses.

Recently Tundra has started joining Sigmund in his walks around the property. At first, she refused to get close enough to a person to get a harness and leash on her, but once we managed to get her dressed she was eager to go. Now she gets excited whenever she sees us with a leash and will oftentimes try to sneak out past us through the gate without her harness in excitement.

When people aren’t present, Tundra keeps herself busy playing with Sigmund, riling up her neighbor Ariel, and shamelessly flirting (much to Sigmund and Ariel’s dismay) with Thor through the fence. If none of them are interested in playing with her, Tundra’s loyal teddy bear is there to keep her company while she surveys her domain from her favorite perch on top of the dog house.

**Hachi** has also adapted well to life at the Sanctuary. He definitely enjoys a low-energy lifestyle. He is watchful, deliberate in his movements, and somewhat aloof. He is tolerant of humans in his enclosure but has no interest in directly interacting with them and will often give a little lip curl or quiet growl if you get too close.

Hachi’s favorite spot in the enclosure is his dog bed and it takes a lot to encourage this little wolf to get up once he has settled down to sleep in the sun or watch his caretakers and neighbors go about their daily routines. However, come breakfast and dinner time you will find Hachi eagerly watching the road for his caretakers to approach. Once he sees them he “races” over to his cinder block and waits impatiently for his food to be pushed through the fence, his tail moving back and forth (a Hachi-style wag).

Although Hachi is still by himself at the Sanctuary, he does not seem to be bothered by his solitary lifestyle. We are looking forward to rescuing him a companion in the near future, but until then Hachi is enjoying his bachelorhood.





# Waltz for the Wolves

## A Sneak Peak!

**Saturday, June 14th, 2014 from 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm**  
**The Ranch Events Complex - 1st National Bank Building N. - Loveland, CO**

June is fast approaching, which means we will soon be celebrating our 10th Annual Waltz for the Wolves Benefit Gala! This one is shaping up to be one of our best yet. In fact, we are so excited that we could not wait to share with you some of the exciting things that will be happening this year.

### The Entertainment



So just how will we go about celebrating ten years of Waltz for the Wolves? With pure, sweet and sticky funk, soul and R&B music! We are thrilled that this year we will be joined by Honey Comb, one of the newest bands to hit the music scene. With their wide range of genres there is sure to be something for everyone. You will find it hard to keep your toes from tapping to the engaging music of this eight-piece band.

Not only will there be fantastic music but this year we will also have games and information for anyone interested in learning about wolves. There will be something for everyone, even the kids! And of course where would the Waltz be without a "meet and greet" with some of our wonderful ambassador wolves. Make sure to arrive early as the ambassadors will be there starting at 5 p.m.!

### The Auction

As always, we are overwhelmed by the generous support of individuals and businesses in their willingness to donate beautiful items for our auction, but it seems that this year has topped them all. From beautiful, original artwork featuring some of our residents, to concert tickets and getaways, we know that you will find it an exciting challenge to figure out what you are going to bid on first! Here are just a few of the many items that will be featured in both the silent and live auctions:

- Two tickets to see Dierks Bently at Red Rocks**
- A George Strait autographed acoustic guitar**
- A free night at the Stanley Hotel**
- Two tickets to the Great American Beer Festival**
- A 2014 New Belgium bicycle**
- A day at W.O.L.F. with veterinarian Dr. Ron Bright**

Many thanks in advance to Seaworth Auctions who will once again be running the live auction.



# New This Year!

## The Online Auction

With so many unique items being donated this year, we felt bad knowing that not all of our wonderful supporters would be able to join us at the Waltz for a chance to win these amazing items. But what could we do to enable those of you unable to attend in person to participate? Create an online auction of course! Visit our website ([www.wolfsanctuary.net](http://www.wolfsanctuary.net)) starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 through June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 for the chance to bid on and win a selection of our auction items.

- Two tickets to the 2015 Winter Dance Party at the Surf's Ballroom in Clear Lake, IA
- Two, four-day concert passes and free campsite at the Kicker County Stampede in Manhattan, KS
- Autographed guitar by Rascal Flatts
- Autographed guitar by Zac Brown
- "Breaking Trail" bronze wolf sculpture by Rosetta
- "Waiting To Get Hitched" bronze horse sculpture by Dan Ostermiller
- "Catching the Scent" signed and numbered print by Terry Redlin
- Autographed drawing of University of Nebraska Cornhusker's Coach, Tom Osborne



## The Guardian Angel Auction

This year we are also starting our first ever Guardian Angel Silent Auction for the residents of the Sanctuary. What exactly is a Guardian Angel Auction? We have decided that everyone deserves a guardian angel, including our wolves, so we are giving you the chance to become that for them. Each winning bid will be acknowledged as a "Guardian Angel" on our website with the story of the individual they choose for one year. Guardian Angels will also receive a framed photo and photo mug of their animal, a packet of their naturally shed fur, and monthly updates for one year.

[Editor's note: we realize that the "angels" will be human, but Thor looked so cute with a pair of wings that we couldn't resist making him our model for this auction!]

# Finding a New Home

W.O.L.F. is very excited to announce that we have identified a new location for our Sanctuary. As you know, W.O.L.F.'s property has been hit very hard by wildfires and flooding over the past two years. We are grateful that all of our wolf residents have remained safe during the traumas brought by Mother Nature. However, we have spent countless hours and many of our scant resources to repair our infrastructure simply to keep the Sanctuary operational. Our primary goal in finding a new location is to guarantee the safety and health of our wolf residents who are the very reason we exist.

Now it is time to begin a new chapter for W.O.L.F. We are calling our new location The Mountain House. It is only a few miles away from our current location, still in the burn zone, but safely away from flooding. We also believe the new property will provide more safety from the wildfires that caused such enormous damage to areas that were far too close for comfort to our current Sanctuary location. The new site consists of approximately 165 acres with a large buffer area from traffic providing a tranquil, safe and secluded environment for our wolf residents. We will operate from two beautiful buildings already existing on the property and we have the option to expand our operations onto additional land as we blossom and recreate ourselves.

The new location has amenities that we are prepared to thoroughly enjoy, including running water and electricity! Since our current location is entirely off the grid, it has always been a challenge to generate our own electricity and to have adequate, portable water. Our possibilities at the new location seem limitless by comparison. We believe we will spend far less staff time and financial resources on the operational basics because of the upgraded infrastructure already in place at the new site.

## Our Dreams

There is much work ahead of us with regard to permitting, funding, planning and building. Our dreams include the following elements:

- On-site clinic for exams
- On-site infirmary
- Education and nature centers
- Permanent on-site caretaker quarters
- On-site programs and retreats
- Visitor's center
- Gift shop
- Public access
- Volunteer facilities
- Memorial gardens



Caretaker Residences



Scouting the Future



The Future Vision

The Rocky Mountains and Mummy Range...What a View!



**Residence & Office****Clearing the Property****Future Vet Clinic!**

### The Next Steps

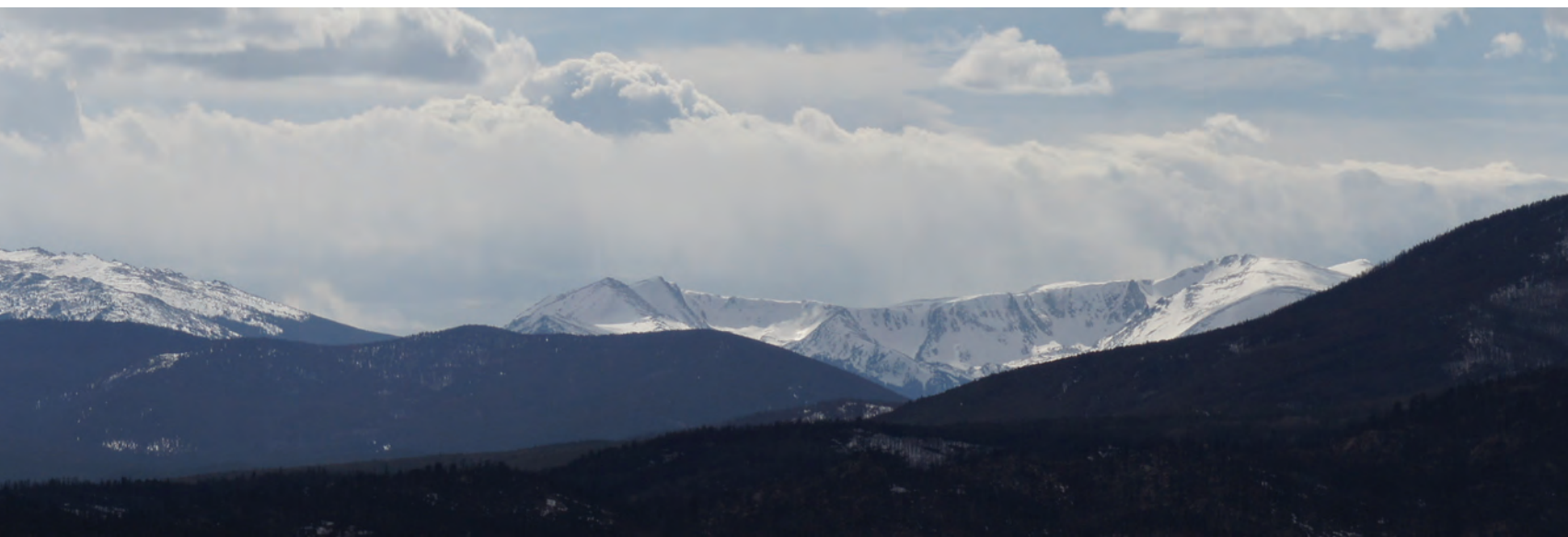
In order to make our dreams a reality, we will need to raise a significant amount of money to rebuild W.O.L.F. at the Mountain House. The undertaking is daunting but we are encouraged by our supporters and our volunteers who have embraced the new ideas for our future. The new facility will require a complete redesign and upgrade of the animal enclosures in order to meet Larimer County and U.S.D.A. requirements. The new construction must take into account wind loads, snow loads, containment and safety. We will redesign the space for our animals to meet the new standards and to provide some additional operational features to make caring for our animals safe and more functional. All of this work is costly and time-consuming. However, we feel this is the ideal opportunity to take W.O.L.F. to the next level in animal care and safety.

In order to help us raise the funds needed for our new facility, we have created a group funding page through GoFundMe at: [www.gofundme.com/754aqs](http://www.gofundme.com/754aqs). We urge you to visit the site and contribute as much as you are able. Every dollar we raise is critical to our success. We know that many of our supporters have been very generous in the past and we ask that you continue your generosity to help us build our new facility. No gift is too small!

We also have other opportunities for giving to W.O.L.F. through estate gifts and wolf sponsorships that will help us realize our dream. W.O.L.F. is developing some new giving opportunities for the Mountain House facility that will be available to memorialize our donors' dedication to our wolves. We are still developing the details and will announce them later this year.

Additionally, we will need your muscle, energy and enthusiasm as we clear the land, set posts, pull fencing, cut roads and move our precious wolf residents to their new homes with million dollar views above and below the property. If you are able to donate time and/or construction resources, we hope you will contact us through our Volunteer Coordinator. Information on volunteering is available on W.O.L.F.'s web page at: [www.wolfsanctuary.net](http://www.wolfsanctuary.net). We have many opportunities for volunteers who can help us as we plan for the move to the new facility.

We hope you will join us and share in the excitement about the Mountain House facility. We invite you to become part of our new and evolving legacy! Participate in any way that you can and please campaign for W.O.L.F. to raise monies and recruit volunteers to help us build our new home. The wolves at the Sanctuary are depending on you to help us make the vision of the Mountain House a reality for them.











**Sigmund & Tundra**



# Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?

## Apparently Not Their Owners

by Tim Harrison, Director of Outreach for Animals



In the late 1970's through the early 1990's I was a wolf and wolf hybrid breeder and dealer. I felt that these magnificent animals were perfect for non-trained owners to bring into their homes. The wolf has great qualities which made me believe that making them part of my family was a good idea. Wolves are pack animals; extremely family oriented and know no orphans. When a wolf pack comes across an orphaned wolf pup, the pack "adopts" the cub into their pack. These qualities are what humans could learn a valuable lesson from. The wolf's mystique and legend is also what attracts humans to want to own them. These owners believe they can take on the wolf's traits and be "one with the wolf." They can go from being held in a religious context by Native Americans to being hated by ranchers as if they are demons from Hell. This love/hate relationship has made the Grey Wolf and its hybrid an attractive pet.

I know this because I was part of the problem. I knew how to sell these animals to the public. I was a breeder/dealer of wolves and hybrids. I bought into the propaganda that these animals made "perfect pets." Some of the pure Gray Wolves I owned actually came from an



AZA Zoo, so I believed I was helping preserve the Gray Wolf. At this time in American history, the Gray Wolf was considered endangered in the western states. The wolf hybrids (also known as wolf dogs) that I was breeding were mixed directly with pure wolves and Malamutes. This combo of wild and domestic formed a uniquely beautiful animal that was also intelligent and somewhat manageable. The setback was that these wolf dogs still had the wild instincts that would trigger when the owner least expected it. When these natural instincts erupt not many owners know what to do to control this now large predator. The wolf dog usually destroys their home and "turns on" the owner. I hate the words "turns on." No wild animals "turn on" anyone. I say, "that the wolf did not 'turn on' its owner, that wolf just went wolf and that is what it's supposed to do." Why is anyone surprised when an animal acts like it would in the wild?

As time went on I realized not all people handled their wolf dogs like I did. I was being contacted by disgruntled owners that did not want their "pets" anymore.

I was also getting calls from local law enforcement agencies, as well as animal control departments, that there were "wolves" loose in their communities. This information stunned me and started me to think, should untrained people own these animals? I also found out that other breeders were saturating the "market" with wolf hybrids that were not as good quality as mine. These wolf dogs were attacking their new families or escaping and terrorizing the neighborhood. There were incidents where





police shot and killed these wolf dogs almost on a regular basis across the USA. Humane Societies, animal control, and dog rescue groups across the USA were becoming overloaded. I learned a wolf hybrid usually cannot be placed in a second home like an adopted dog. They do not socialize well with the new owners. Most have been removed from their original owners because of aggressive behavior. A large percentage of these animals are euthanized. There were very few happy endings with anyone that bought a wolf dog.

I was shocked and saddened to know that I was causing mistreatment and death of these animals I thought I was helping. My eyes were opened. I had to reevaluate what I believed. Upon investigation of the problem I found that wolf dog rescue facilities were overloaded, with hundreds more requesting to give up their wolf dogs. Wolf dogs were being killed by law officers and local people on a larger scale than I could ever imag-

ine. Something had to be done. I decided to stop breeding. I then began to try and educate other breeders/dealers to stop or regulate their business. None wanted to stop selling or even regulate their breeding. This attitude really angered me. The breeders/dealers then turned on me and attacked me. They tried to discredit me and continued the propaganda to the uneducated public. More and more wolf dogs were being sold, and eventually, sadly killed. I began to speak to the public to try and stop them from wanting to own these animals. This was a slow and aggravating process. How do you tell people not to buy a cute, adorable wolf pup? They are dog-like and extremely affectionate. If only people would realize what happens to a full-grown wolf dog when the cuteness is gone. I have, and I've prayed that others will investigate this problem. I pray they will decide not to sentence a wolf pup to death. I hope people will stop loving these animals to death.



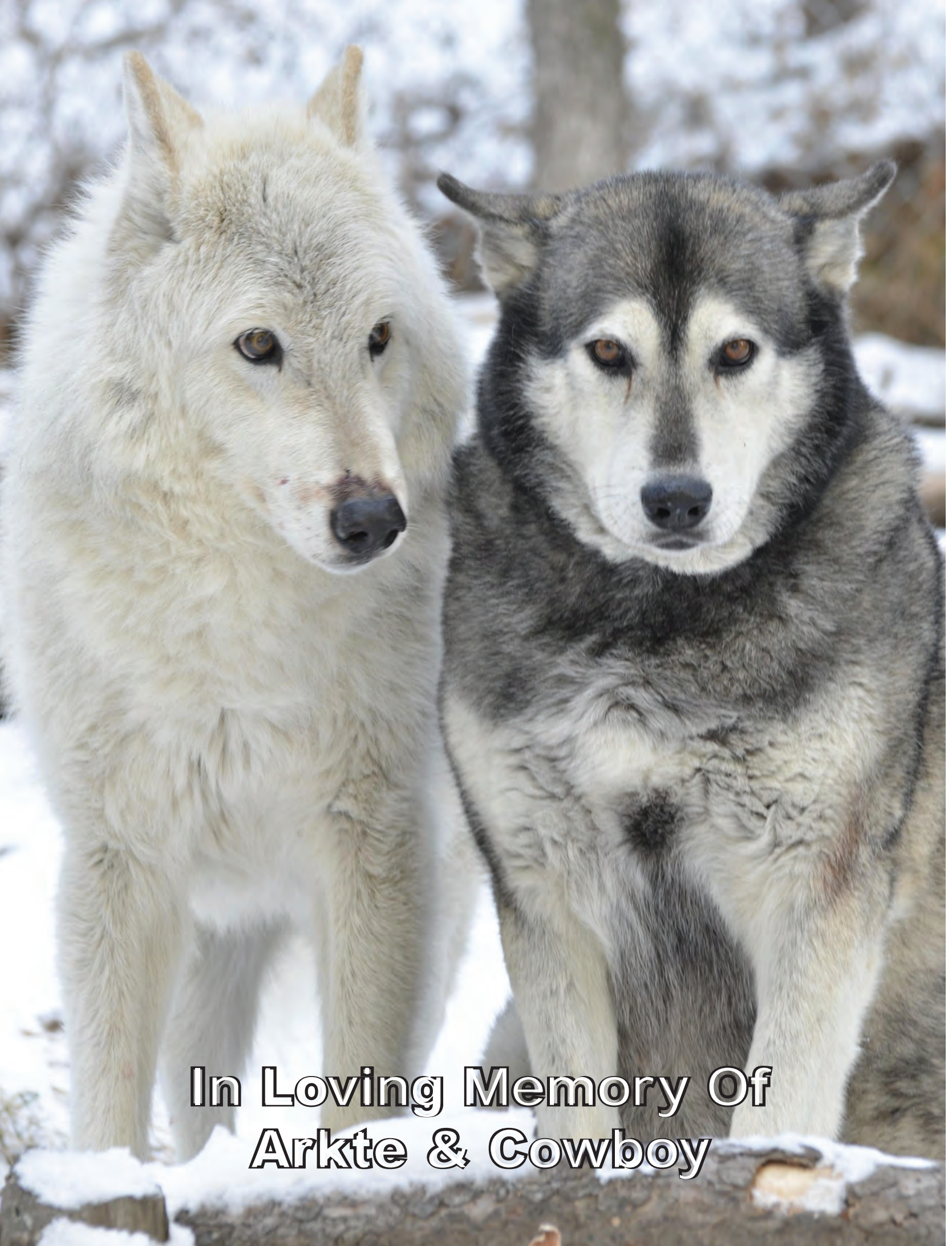
Tim Harrison is the Director of Outreach for Animals, a non-profit organization established in 2001 by a group of police officers, firefighters, and paramedics to educate young people to respect wildlife and its natural habitat. Their goal is to continue to be the number one advocate for proper behavior around wildlife by bringing greater understanding of wildlife to the general public through a national presence with lectures, programs, educational materials and experience. They are committed to always be the goodwill ambassador and liaison between humans and animals. They are a for-impact organization that saves lives, transforms lives and changes lives.

Tim began working with animals at the age of 16 as a veterinarian's assistant. While volunteering at a local nature center, he assisted in the development of outreach programs and the rehabilitation of wild animals. Tim would soon become known as one of the best in the country, prompting zoos and wildlife facilities to hire him to raise and rehabilitate exotic animals.

Passing at the top of his class in one of the most demanding and rigorous qualification courses in the country, Tim became a combination police officer, firefighter and paramedic for the city of Oakwood, Ohio. Due to his background in law enforcement and extensive knowledge of exotic wildlife, law enforcement agencies and animal control officers have called upon Tim to rescue wild and exotic animals in suburban settings. Tim has been consulted on national and state levels regarding his captures of and handling of wolves, cougars, exotic big cats and venomous snakes. Many of his exploits have been covered in local and national media, two books and an award-winning documentary based on his work *The Elephant in the Room*.







**In Loving Memory Of  
Arkte & Cowboy**



It was with tears and heavy hearts that we said goodbye to two more of our beloved friends, enclosure mates Arkte and Cowboy. Though one was elderly and the other young, it was equally unexpected and difficult to lose these bright yet polar opposite personalities.

Arkte was a high-content, tough, energetic, aggressive 14-year-old alpha whose dominant unsocial attitude made her one of the most dangerous and challenging animals to handle at the Sanctuary. In contrast, Cowboy was a low-content, shy, quiet and submissive 6-year-old who preferred to lie around his enclosure, making him a very easy and safe individual to interact with (so long as Arkte wasn't nearby). But, as the saying goes, "opposites attract" and Arkte and Cowboy developed a very strong relationship with one another.

When Cowboy became suddenly ill from pancreatitis on April 14, we spent days at the emergency vet trying to help him before deciding to let him pass. We brought him back to give Arkte a chance to say goodbye but it seems that his loss was too much for her. Almost immediately we noticed her slowing down and showing her age. By April 20, it was clear that she no longer desired to continue on without Cowboy, having also lost her first companion, Rachane, little over a year before. She was quietly helped to



pass in the comfort of her enclosure so she could join them.

Though we are shocked and saddened by these events, we are comforted knowing they are all together once again. Arkte and Cowboy both had something to teach us and instead of grieving their loss we choose to honor their memories and celebrate their lives. What follows are Arkte and Cowboy's stories.

Like many of the animals we rescue, Arkte's life before W.O.L.F. was one of suffering and fear. This high-content wolf dog was purchased as a pet by an individual in Minnesota who believed that, as a human, he had the 'right' to do whatever he wanted to her. When she didn't behave like a



good little submissive house pet, her freedoms were increasingly restricted until her entire existence became a tiny travel kennel tucked away in an apartment bedroom. For six years Arkte was forced to live in these conditions, though her owner claimed to 'take her on walks'.

Thankfully, her situation eventually came to the attention of animal control and she was confiscated for abuse and neglect. Unfortunately, animal control planned to euthanize her so W.O.L.F. helped a Wisconsin rescue get her away from them. But years of mistreatment had taken its toll and her aggressiveness made it dangerous for her new caretakers to interact with her. They could not risk placing her in a home, leaving Arkte with only two options: either she could go to a qualified sanctuary or face euthanasia.

Having already helped Arkte once, there was no way we could abandon her, and we arranged for her to stay in a foster situation until space opened up at W.O.L.F. On December 16, 2006 she finally arrived.



**Arkte & Rachane Meet**

It was obvious that she was thrilled with the amount of space she was given and soon made it clear that this was her territory, everyone STAY OUT! Shortly thereafter we found her a companion, Rachane. It was such a special moment to watch these two meet for the first time. Arkte, who had never before had any canine companionship, and Rachane, who had recently been abandoned by his owner, began to race each other around the snow-covered mountainside with reckless abandon, leaping over and tackling one another. It was definitely love at first sight.

Arkte became as possessive of Rachane as she was of her territory, and adamantly defended him from the humans. She would throw herself snarling against the fence lines and try to bite her caretakers whenever they came near. At this staff and volunteers would often smile and sit patiently out of reach until she would begin to settle and then reward her with treats. If we ever had to work with Rachane or her neighbors she would wail loudly until they were returned to her.

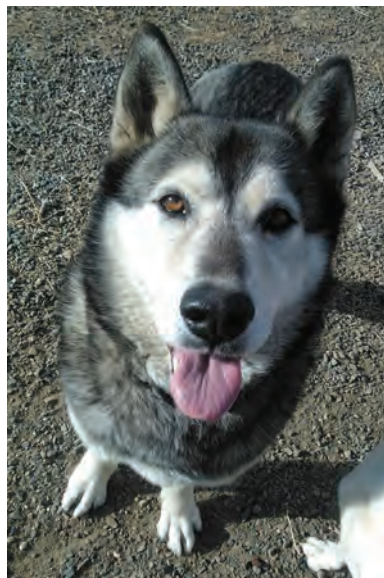
As the years passed Arkte's tendency to launch sneak attacks on her caretakers became less frequent, although she was never one to miss an opportunity when it was presented to her. She eventually got to the point where she would calmly watch us from her perch on top of the fire den or follow us around the enclosure at a somewhat safe

distance while we worked, making sure to re-mark her territory thoroughly. If she threw herself at you through the fence it was usually an expression of frustration for not getting fed quickly enough rather than one of fear or anger.

After Rachane passed, Arkte was introduced to Cowboy. Her grief over Rachane's loss left Arkte reluctant to interact with Cowboy at first, but slowly his shy personality began to win over her protective nature and their relationship grew. They would race down the hill together for treats, watch eagerly as meats would be prepared or play with their neighbors through the fence when they weren't lounging around their enclosure following the sunbeams.

Looking back at Arkte's grief over Rachane's death, it comes as no surprise that her will to live vanished after Cowboy's unexpected passing. When her normally active nature became one of extreme inactivity and she calmly allowed her caretakers to sit with her and pet her (something she had never tolerated in all her time at W.O.L.F.) it was obvious that she had made her decision to join her boys and was at peace. When we helped her to pass she was surrounded by love and we know both Cowboy and Rachane were waiting.

Cowboy's start in life was a difficult one. We don't know how he came to be homeless but in 2010, a Good Samaritan found him curled under her truck after a storm, dehydrated and starving. She soon became his champion. She took him to



the Humane Society and after three days, when no one claimed him, she adopted him and nursed him back to health. For three years, she loved and cared for the stray wolf dog. Their bond was incredibly strong and loving.

In 2013, his champion had a dramatic change in her circumstances and



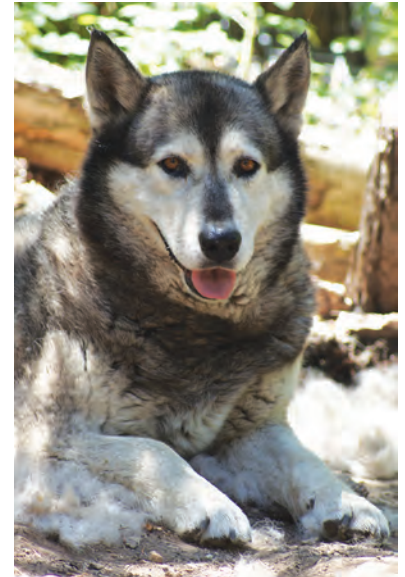


was no longer able to keep Cowboy. She made the heartbreaking decision to re-home him and contacted W.O.L.F. for help. Cowboy came to us on Feb. 17, 2013 as a companion for Arkte, who had recently lost her long-time enclosure mate, Rachane. After an emotional parting with his champion, Cowboy seemed lost and very alone. After watching him pace in the catch-up area of his enclosure for several days, W.O.L.F.'s Executive Director Shelley Coldiron and Lead Caregiver Michelle Proulx decided to take a novel approach to helping Cowboy adjust to Sanctuary life. While Shelley and her therapy dog, Bailey, sat in the enclosure to provide calm support, Michelle approached Cowboy with a gentle touch and soothing words. She was able to relieve some of his anxiety and he was finally able to relax. This was the turning point for Cowboy.



Cowboy soon began to spend time with Arkte and their relationship slowly blossomed. Michelle has fond memories of Cowboy prancing and dancing in his enclosure while he waited for his treats. He would toss his head with joy and jump in the air for his treats. He and Arkte often vied for attention and treats as the staff and volunteers quickly fell in love with this young wolf who helped Arkte overcome her grief.

As spring turned to summer, Cowboy began to shed his winter coat in enormous clumps. On a warm summer day, Michelle decided it was time for a spa day for Cowboy. With Arkte anxiously looking on, Michelle groomed Cowboy from stem to stern. He loved the attention and quickly relaxed into the session that ended with a full body massage. When his grooming was complete, Cowboy looked like a new, sleek version of himself. His gorgeous brown eyes sparkled and he was completely at home at the Sanctuary. His bond with Arkte continued to deepen and the two were often seen side-by-side at the top of their enclosure, napping in the sun or watching the Sanctuary activities, always ready to race down the hillside for treats and attention.



On April 14, 2014 Sanctuary staff noticed Cowboy was weak and vomiting. The onset of his symptoms was sudden and acute. Staff moved quickly to take Cowboy for emergency veterinary care. After several days of tests, consultations with numerous veterinary specialists and a host of medications to keep him comfortable, Cowboy's condition continued to worsen. Eventually, he was diagnosed with acute pancreatitis. His decline was rapid and totally unexpected. Within two days, he was unable to walk or support himself. On a beautiful spring day, in a shady area outside the hospital, Cowboy was helped to pass. He was six years old.

His time with us was far too short and his many human friends grieve for the loss of this gentle wolf dog.





# Volunteers Spotlight

Every year it takes hundreds of hours of labor to put together and pull off the successful event that the Waltz for the Wolves has become. This event would be impossible without the help and support of our dedicated volunteers. This year, three volunteers in particular have gone above and beyond our expectations in helping with this event, so much so that we couldn't decide who to spotlight in this issue! In the end we decided to highlight all three: Judy Collins, Sharon Sharp, and Becky Robertson.



**Judy Collins** started volunteering at W.O.L.F. just over a year ago. Originally from Virginia, she says that back on the east coast wolves and animal sanctuaries are not as available as the 'cement zoos'. Judy is an avid wolf lover and felt that her desk job career would never have given her

a chance to experience working with wild animals. She wanted to learn and have that experience in life, so when Judy relocated to Colorado and found W.O.L.F. along with The Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg, she decided to volunteer to help in any way she could. Judy helps W.O.L.F. not only with physical labor and animal care but also with many administrative duties, making her a true asset to the Sanctuary.

Judy feels she could not possibly enjoy the company of the animals without helping with other tasks like fund raising and helping with the Waltz for the Wolves. She says "After all, if we all don't help bring in money then we won't have any animals to visit with. I volunteer to do whatever helps the animals and that even includes the laundry." We couldn't be more grateful!

When it comes to volunteering she primarily enjoys taking care of the animals and getting to know them doing chores in their enclosures. "Being up there and experiencing all of the animals while they chat just makes me happy. While I do not specifically enjoy asking every business in Northern Colorado for donations for our Waltz, I know the end result is worth the work. It is great to work with a group of volunteers who are willing to do what it takes to make the sanctuary successful," explains Judy.

When asked to name her favorite wolf she responded, "I must say that Thor is my favorite. Granted every time he sees me he wants to eat me or whatever I'm wearing but we have an understanding. I give him a treat and he does not eat the arm of my sweatshirt or my coat. And if I have any funds available at the Waltz I would love to be Hachi's Guardian Angel!! He is such a sweet boy with his scraggly tail. All of the animals at the sanctuary are wonderful."

Judy is a processor for a real estate title company and has been doing this for over 14 years. In her free time Judy loves to volunteer and spend time with her own dogs. She said that coming home after a day at W.O.L.F. makes life interesting. Her husky will literally ignore her after he realizes where she has been but when she comes home covered in the smell of meat it's a different story!







**Sharon Sharp** began volunteering for W.O.L.F. in 1998. She met W.O.L.F. at a meet and greet event at a gallery in Estes Park. She was hooked! Sharon has had a life-long attraction to the wolf and felt her dream had been realized. She began handling ambassadors and working the retail table

about 2 weeks later. We are so fortunate that Sharon has been around ever since.

Sharon's favorite thing to do as a volunteer is animal socialization. We are pretty certain the wolves love hanging out with her just as much as she does them. She also enjoys working with the ambassadors at programs explaining their stories, how to approach them, who we are and what we do as an organization.

When asked the difficult question of which was her favorite wolf, she replied "I love all our wolves...those with us now and those that have returned to Spirit. If I were to pick a favorite it would be Shaman and Nanook."

Sharon is a retired mortgage loan underwriter. She spends her time with her husband and 4 dogs, attempting to make flowers grow in her flower beds, taking short motorcycle trips, and, volunteering at W.O.L.F. She also travels whenever she can.



**Becky Robertson** began volunteering in 2009. She had spent time in Yellowstone for a few summers, reading about the reintroduced wolves



and the good and bad that came along with it. Becky decided to become involved with W.O.L.F. to learn more about wolves and be able to give back at the same time.

While Becky enjoys helping out at the sanctuary and caring for the animals, she also likes to assist with educa-

tional programs and share what she has learned while volunteering at W.O.L.F. Whether she is signed up to come to the Sanctuary, or help out at an event, staff are always thankful for her help because we know the job will get done right.

Becky's answer to who her favorite wolf is "While I adore all of the wolves, I think my favorite has to be Lakota Boy. He had such spirit. When I first started volunteering, his jaw cancer had just returned, he took it in stride and it never seemed to bring him down. He always seemed so happy. And he loved attention from volunteers. My favorite memory was in the fall of 2010 when he found a steak that one of the other wolves had buried in the driveway. He took it into his enclosure and ate the entire thing (his food was usually cut into little pieces so it was easier to eat with the tumor on his jaw). He sure did enjoy that steak!! I will always be glad I got to spend the time I did with him, even if it was such a short time."



Becky works at Xcel Energy as a meter reader. She enjoys many outdoor activities including hiking, biking, and camping.





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**W.O.L.F.**

**Winter 2014**

**W.O.L.F.**

## 2014 Waltz for the Wolves Hurry! Send In Your RSVP ASAP!

**Saturday, June 14th, 2014 from 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm**  
**The Ranch Events Complex - 1st National Bank Building N. - Loveland, CO**

### Choose Your Entrée

#### **#1: Stuffed Cabbage Romesco\***

A mixture of seasoned rice and vegetables rolled in a cabbage leaf and smothered in a Spanish style nut-roasted red pepper and garlic sauce.

#### **#2: Curried Seitan & Veggie Stir-Fry**

Yellow curry spice rubbed seitan strips, with traditional Asian style stir fry vegetables with a light soy ginger garlic sauce, presented with basmati rice and grilled flat bread.

\*If an entrée is not chosen, guests will receive the Cabbage Romesco entrée.

**Send your reservation to W.O.L.F.  
PO Box 1544 - La Porte, CO 80535**

Tickets also available online at  
[www.wolfsanctuary.net](http://www.wolfsanctuary.net)

name: \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

city, st, zip: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

credit card: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Visa or MasterCard only)

exp date: \_\_\_\_\_ security code: \_\_\_\_\_

check #: \_\_\_\_\_ cash: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please make checks payable to W.O.L.F.)

**Number in Party** \_\_\_\_\_

x \$50 / person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$450 Table \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Meals:** 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Guest 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Guest 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Guest 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Guest 4 \_\_\_\_\_

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.



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