

W.O.L.F.



**Reintroduction 20th Anniversary
Farewell Kasota, Matoskah & Tate
Welcome Denali!**



Winter 2015

Will you be there?



When:

May 30th, 2015
5:00PM to 9:00PM

Where:

The Hilton
425 W. Prospect Rd
Fort Collins, CO

Tickets:

\$55 per Ticket
\$250 5 Tickets
\$500 10 Tickets

This celebration marks our 20th year in operation! Join us for a grrreat evening filled with food, fun and furry friends! Tickets can be purchased online, over the phone (970.416.9531) or by mail. Details at www.wolfsanctuary.net/gala

Coming from out of town and need a place to stay? The Hilton Fort Collins is offering room discounts (\$129 per night) to anyone attending the Mardi Growl Masquerade on May 30th, 2015! Make sure to mention W.O.L.F. when you book your reservation.

Choose Your Entrée

#1: Tri-color Tortellini (vegetarian)*

Fresh Tortellini pasta tossed in Madeira Cream Sauce with sun-dried tomatoes and caramelized onions.

#2: Teriyaki Tofu (vegan)

Blackened Tofu rested atop a bed of bean thread noodles with a Sweet Teriyaki Sauce and fresh vegetables.

*If an entrée is not chosen, guests will receive the Tri-color Tortellini entrée.

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

Tickets also available online at
www.wolfsanctuary.net/gala

name: _____	
address: _____	
city, st, zip: _____	
phone: _____	
email: _____	
credit card: _____ <small>(Visa or MasterCard only)</small>	
exp date: _____	security code: _____
check #: _____	cash: _____
<small>(please make checks payable to W.O.L.F.)</small>	
Number in Party _____	Number of Meals: #1 _____ #2 _____
x \$55 per Ticket \$ _____	Guest 1 _____
\$250 5 Tickets \$ _____	Guest 2 _____
\$500 10 Tickets \$ _____	Guest 3 _____
Total \$ _____	Guest 4 _____

Can't Attend? Make a Tax Deductible Donation!

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Tate (meaning 'wind' in Lakota) arrived at the Sanctuary a 12-week-old terrified bundle of fluff in June 1999 with his siblings Makoce and Peta.



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:

Thank you for your generous support in 2014! The Waltz Gala and Colorado Gives Day were extraordinarily successful! For the Waltz, we netted \$30,000. For Colorado Gives Day, a supporter challenged us pledging to match dollar for dollar up to \$40,000. You did it! We raised approximately \$41,000. This was matched with \$40,000, so we raised \$81,000. Thank you for meeting and exceeding this challenge. All of us at W.O.L.F. are thrilled with your financial support that helps us provide quality care for the wonderful souls at W.O.L.F.

I was blessed to care for Kasota the last two months of her life. At 18 years old, she was becoming increasingly frail. With the freezing temperatures and the snow and ice of winter rapidly approaching, we moved Kasota to Coldiron Acres in early November. She settled into her heated digs just days before a record setting deep-freeze. My family pack adopted her immediately and this shy wolf quickly accepted the loving respite care we were able to provide. Sadly, we helped Kasota pass on December 29th. I miss stroking her head, kissing her and telling her I loved her each evening as we went to sleep and each morning as we awoke to the dawn.

Matoskah, 15 years old and once a companion with Kasota, decided to follow her only 2 days later. He was reunited with his sisters Meeka and Tala who passed last year. And heart breakingly Tate, 15 years old, passed on January 5th. The most difficult part of caring for these majestic and wonderful souls is saying "goodbye for now." You can read our tribute to these special wolves in this newsletter.

On January 24th at 3 a.m., we met Lockwood Animal Rescue's Transporter in Richfield, Utah to bring home our newest resident, Denali. Denali comes from the same Alaskan rescue as Loki, Odin and Thor. He was a sweet, quiet gentleman during the long drive to his new home at W.O.L.F. Denali is now a companion to Cree and they are starting to settle in together as house mates. Read Denali's story and get to know this shy wolf.

This year is the 20th Anniversary Celebration of two historic events in the reintroduction and conservation of wolves in the wild. In 1995, the first eight wolves from Canada were introduced into Yellowstone National Park. They were initially placed inside fenced enclosures in a remote area of the Park prior to release in order to acclimate them to the area. The "soft release" was a success. Twenty years later, about 130 wolves in 11 packs inhabit Yellowstone. The first four wolves introduced in Idaho were released on January 14, 1995 into the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area. They quickly acclimated to the rugged terrain and the first wolf pups in many decades were born that spring. W.O.L.F. was fortunate to interview wolf conservationist Suzanne Asha Stone about her role in the re-introduction program 20 years ago. We hope you will enjoy her story and the historic pictures from that amazing time.

Wolves are critical to the overall ecological health of the Greater Yellowstone area; indeed, without them it is not an intact ecosystem. The wolf-tourism trade also provides an important economic boost to gateway communities. A report from Oregon State University plant researchers William J. Ripple and Bob Beschta reinforces the belief that the wolf has been a primary factor in the improved



health of aspen, willow, and cottonwood trees in Yellowstone National Park's Northern Range. This in turn has benefitted such Yellowstone wildlife as beaver, bison, pronghorn, songbirds, raptors, and trout. The return of the wolf has changed elk behavior and reduced some herds, but overall numbers remain strong in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. According to Yellowstone biologist Doug Smith, the Yellowstone herds remain healthy despite smaller sizes and that numbers are more in line with historic levels. <http://greateryellowstone.org/issues/wildlife/Feature.php?id=38#.VMpc82jF9lw>

Another historic event near and dear to our hearts is the 20 year anniversary of the founding of W.O.L.F. In our Spring Newsletter we will have an extensive article with a retrospective of W.O.L.F. over the past 20 years including pictures of many of our past residents. Authors of the article will come from our supporters and volunteers who have been intimate with W.O.L.F. over the decades. This will be an exciting issue and it is sure to bring tears to our eyes as we remember our beloved wolves who have crossed over the Rainbow Bridge.

With our 20th Anniversary, we are stepping up the excitement for our annual gala and calling it A Truly W.O.L.F. Affair. The theme this year is A Mardi Growl Masquerade. The event will be May 30th from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel in Fort Collins. We will decorate with a Mardi Gras theme, so join us with your best Mardi Gras beads and help celebrate 20 years of providing safe haven to the captive bred wolves and wolf dogs who have blessed our lives.

As Always, Humbly and Gratefully Yours,

Shelley



Colorado Gives Day a Howling Success

For Colorado Gives Day on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 we asked you to help us meet our goal of \$40,000 and you did it!

421 people helped us to raise \$40,062 in only 24 hours. As a result, each of your generous donations was matched dollar for dollar by an anonymous donor. So in reality your contributions earned W.O.L.F. over \$80,000!!

On top of that you helped us win a \$1,000 cash prize for "the most money raised for Larimer County nonprofits (medium nonprofit category)." With FirstBank's incentive fund added in we totalled \$82,143. Way to go team!

A record 107,862 donations were made to 1,677 organizations, raising an overwhelming \$26.2 million for the participating nonprofits in Colorado. It is always humbling to know how many people in the world care and we want to say thank you to each and everyone for helping to not only make W.O.L.F., but the world, a better place.

Remembering Kasota

On December 29, 2014, W.O.L.F. said “goodbye” to our oldest resident, the little grey wolf named Kasota, who was born in January 1997 at a breeding facility in Northern Wisconsin. Kasota lived for nine years with a backyard breeder who kept over 20 animals in deplorable conditions.

In May 2006, the breeder became ill and 22 animals were left chained and without food or water. A rescue organization tried to help the animals but four were too sick to survive. The rescue organization contacted W.O.L.F. and we immediately agreed to take the remaining wolves.

On June 1, 2006, eighteen wolves arrived at the Sanctuary. They were packed so tightly into a horse trailer that the animals were unable to move or drink during the long journey to Colorado. W.O.L.F. was shocked at the transport conditions and moved quickly to unload the animals and place them in newly constructed enclosures.

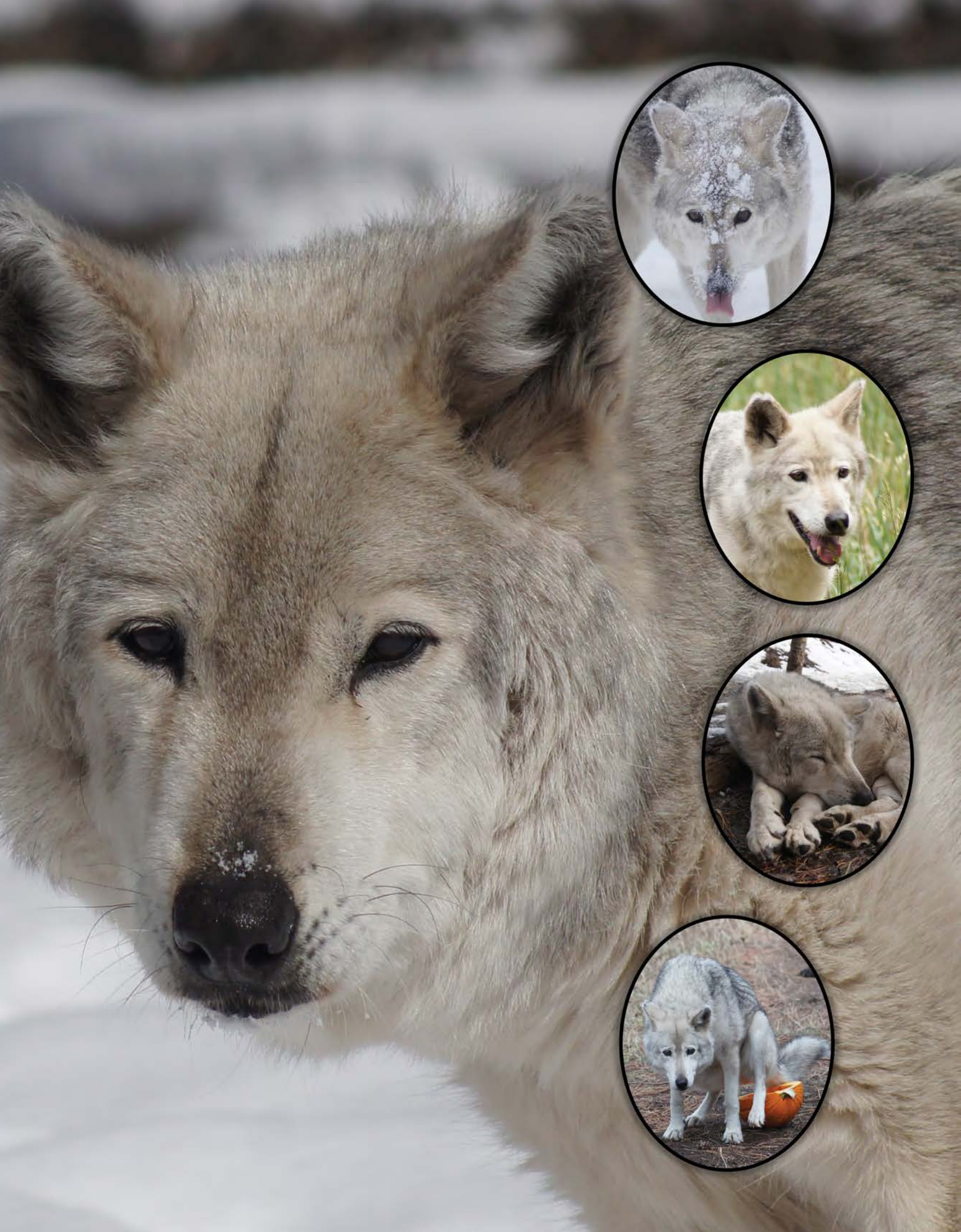
Over time, Kasota and the 17 other animals gradually regained their health. Kasota was placed with one of the Wisconsin animals named Mucqua. He was a small blind wolf, several years older than Kasota. They bonded quickly and Kasota served as Mucqua's guardian and protector for many years. Both were very shy but loved to spend their time basking in the sun – Mucqua in a sunny corner of the enclosure and Kasota on the roof of a large dog house. They were safe and at home in W.O.L.F.'s mountain setting.

When Hammer, another one of the Wisconsin wolves, lost his companion, he joined Kasota and Mucqua and the trio lived happily together. When the boys grew frail and spent time in their dog houses, Kasota paced the enclosure, frequently checking on them. She was constantly alert when volunteers entered the enclosure to do daily chores, and she quietly watched over Hammer and Mucqua.

By the time the boys passed away, Kasota had become frail with age. Her new companion was Drake, W.O.L.F.'s gentle giant. The roles were now reversed and Drake watched over the petite grey wolf. As Kasota became frailer, it was difficult for Drake to protect her and he would often unintentionally knock her off balance with his size. It was decided to move Drake to another enclosure and try to pair Kasota with another elderly male wolf. The pairing was not successful and Kasota was very lonely.

As another winter approached, the decision was made to move Kasota to the Executive Director's property where she would have heated indoor space and the companionship of a pack of four huskies and two golden retrievers. Kasota immediately made friends with the new pack. Several of the dogs enjoyed walking the property with Kasota and the shy wolf began to enjoy the company of the volunteers who helped with her care. She ate well, loved her walks with dogs and humans, and spent her nights sleeping in a large heated building. Kasota was completely at home. Each night she had a bedtime snack and snuggled with Shelley and the dogs during the coldest nights.

In late December, Kasota's health began to fail. She had been fighting cancer for years and had begun having difficulty walking. On the morning of December 29th Kasota was unable to get to her feet and was no longer interested in food. Shelley knew that Kasota was ready to leave. After her pack members had a final visit with Kasota, Shelley took Kasota to the vet. She was helped to pass peacefully and quietly in the arms of her protector and favorite human. Kasota was one month shy of her 18th birthday when she slipped away to rejoin Mucqua and Hammer.





20th Anniversary of Reintroduction

2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone National Park and the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area in Central Idaho. W.O.L.F. was fortunate to interview Suzanne Asha Stone (who supplied the photos for this article) about the role she played in the reintroduction program.

Stone is currently the Northern Rockies Representative for the Defenders of Wildlife, a non-profit organization founded in 1947 dedicated to the protection of all native animals and plants in their

natural communities. Stone is an expert in wolf conservation and in the development of a program to help ranchers successfully raise cattle and sheep on wolf and grizzly ranges without using lethal methods to avoid predation. She holds a Master's degree in Wildlife Conservation and Conflict Management from Prescott College in Arizona.

Stone began her work on wolf conservation in the western U.S. in 1988 when she served as a public outreach intern for the Central Idaho Interagency Wolf Recovery Steering Committee. She then became the Assistant Director of the Wolf Education and Research Center and was Director and Cofounder of Idaho's Wolf Recovery Foundation. In 1995-96, Stone was part of the US/Canadian wolf reintroduction team. She helped with capturing wolves from Canada and releasing them in Yellowstone and Central Idaho.

Stone recalls those days as an incredibly exciting time for the reintroduction team but also as a time of enormous uncertainty and stress for the team. Lawsuits were a constant threat to the project as was the "eleventh hour" withdrawal of funds by the federal government. In addition, groups and individuals who were vehemently opposed to the reintroduction



threatened to derail the program and kill the animals if necessary to stop the reintroduction process.

From 1995 to 1996, the international team captured and released 66 grey wolves from Alberta and British Columbia in Canada. Stone was there for the 1995 release of the first wolves into Central Idaho. In 1996, she was part of the capture team in British Columbia. Using helicopters to follow the wolves through the deep snow, when an appropriate animal was located, it was darted from the air, then scooped up and flown to a nearby field station. While the wolves were anesthetized, the team performed medical exams. They monitored all vital signs while they took blood samples and measured the length and weight of each animal. It was critical to keep the animals warm during the exams since the tranquilizers could make the animals' temperature drop to unsafe levels. Within a few hours, all the wolves were safely awake in their kennels.



The catch up team needed a total of 12 to 15 animals for each reintroduction date. Until that number was obtained, the wolves stayed in a secure holding area. They were placed in individual kennels side by side and covered with tarps and blankets. Though the animals were not able to see one another, they could smell and hear each other. They all reacted calmly and were quite shy. The wolves occasionally howled and when one started, the others joined in. They were provided with wild game meat and water, although most did not eat. Once the required number of wolves were captured, they were flown to Great Falls, Montana where they went through a USDA inspection and separated into two groups, one bound for Idaho, the other Yellowstone. The teams traveled as inconspicuously as possible so as not to draw attention to their precious cargo. The animals going to Yellowstone were members of the same packs and were kept in holding pens prior to release. The animals bound for Idaho were younger and not necessarily from the same packs. They were released directly from their kennels into the wild.



The first four wolves sent to Idaho were released on January 14, 1995 into the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area. The wilderness area was five times the size of Yellowstone and had rugged, mountainous terrain. The night before the release, two elders from the Nez Perce tribe performed a blessing on the Idaho animals to welcome the wolves home while they were in a holding area. The Nez Perce Tribal Resources Council was very involved with the reintroduction team and felt a strong bond with the wolves. In the Nez Perce culture, wolves are sacred animals who were part of the ancient culture and heritage. Wolves were considered family members and kin.

Stone has vivid memories from the morning of the first release. The kennels were loaded into the truck and the convoy of vehicles began the journey into the wilderness area. Stone rode in the first truck along with law enforcement officers. Since the team had received death threats, the officers were prepared to defend the convoy if an ambush occurred. The journey deep into the wilderness area took several hours through the deep snow and icy roads with a snow plow leading the way.

The weather was bitterly cold and overcast. By mid-morning when the team reached the release area the sun was shining and glinting off the new snow and the sky was a brilliant blue. Stone recalls that the morning felt completely surreal, as though she was dreaming. For years she had been focused on the battles to permit the reintroduction. Many times she felt it would not occur in her lifetime, but the day had arrived.

As Stone stood at the site along with the animals, she had the strong feeling that finally the American people were righting a wrong that had been done to an entire species. The team unloaded the kennels on the slippery terrain. The wolves were frightened and cowering inside their kennels.

The first animal released was named Moonstar Shadow. She leapt out of her kennel and turned back to look at the group for a long moment before she disappeared across the snow. Stone says she will never forget





Lance & Pride



that look. The next animal released was Chat Chaht, which means “older brother” in the Nez Perce language. He was a large silver male who was named by children at the Lapwai Nez Perce School. The third animal was Akiata. Stone was selected to open her kennel door. According to Stone, “she was a young, black wolf with green eyes, and very reluctant to leave the safety of her travel kennel. But after a few fleeting moments she descended from her kennel and gracefully sprinted through the snow without once looking back.” The fourth animal released that day was named Kelly after the Kelly Creek area. Once released, all four animals darted out into the wilderness -- free at last to run in the mountains of Idaho. Stone said she was incredibly elated and then she burst into tears. Within ten minutes, the release was complete and the wolves were gone from sight. Stone recalled that the team broke into a spontaneous howl to let the animals know that they were with them. They cried, hugged and toasted the wolves with champagne.

Fourteen animals were released into Idaho that year. Within two years, a total of 35 animals were released. Many of the animals wore radio collars that had been hand painted by school children in Idaho. Once released, the animals quickly scattered throughout the Wilderness Area and the National Forest. By the spring of 1995, only four months after their release, the first litter of pups was born. Three of the four wolves released on January 14 lived to mate and form new packs.

Chat Chaht became the oldest known wolf in Idaho. He was 13 years old and blind but his pack took care of the elderly, alpha male until he died. His body was located when his radio collar gave out a mortality signal (a special beep that occurs when a collared wolf does not move for a certain amount of time). Chat Chaht was found curled up underneath a tree with a bull elk that had also died.

In her interview with W.O.L.F., Stone reflected on her feelings about that day 20 years ago. She is impressed by how well the wolves have done and how few real conflicts they have had. For the last seven years, Stone has been working to develop non-lethal methods for wolves and livestock to co-exist. She feels that headway has been made with some of the sheep ranchers who now practice a different type of herding to protect their flocks. By utilizing packs of four to six Great Pyrenees dogs, removing carcasses of animals who die of natural causes, and employing herders who respond with bright lights to the alerts from the dogs, ranchers have been able to dramatically reduce the loss of their livestock due to wolf predation.



www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/river-of-no-return-gray-wolf-fact-sheet/7659/

And Stone's final thoughts – the reintroduction was a compromise to bring wolves back in a secure way. It is even more critical today to teach people how to co-exist with wolves. Oregon has been very successful in using non-lethal methods to control predation. It takes collaboration between livestock producers, local and state governments and a commitment of resources, time, and goodwill to make the program successful. Stone's goal is to work with livestock producers throughout the Rocky Mountain region. By adopting these methods, wolves will once again be part of the natural order of wildlife – no longer feared or vilified, but respected and allowed to live in harmony with the natural world.

Volunteer Spotlight



This newsletter's volunteer spotlight is on Cassie Welch. We chose her because she is incredibly dedicated to W.O.L.F. Cassie reliably makes her twice monthly commitment - but often does more. She has no issues spending nearly the entire day inside the meat shed chopping up meat and getting covered in meat juice. She is also great with the animals and many have bonded to her. We interviewed Cassie about herself and her time at the sanctuary.

What do you do for a living and what are your hobbies?

For a living, I work and go to school. I recently was accepted into veterinary school, so soon that will be my entire life. But for fun, I enjoy training my pet rabbits and cat to do tricks such as walking on two legs and giving kisses on command.

When did you begin to volunteer for WOLF and why?

I started volunteering for W.O.L.F. about a year ago. I started because I have very little canine experience (fun fact, I've never actually owned a dog) and wanted to learn more. I fell in love with working outside in the mountains (who wouldn't) and getting wolf kisses on a weekly basis! It's my favorite day of the week.

What is your favorite thing to do when you volunteer?

Of course, everyone loves hanging out with the wolves, and that will always be my favorite, but one of my favorite things to do when I volunteer is to work in the meat shed. It's really great practice for anatomy and it helps feed the wolves; their favorite time of day! Anything I can do to help the wolves, such as building evacuation enclosures or clearing wood, is something that I enjoy doing.

Who is your favorite wolf?

My favorite wolf-dog would be Tundra. The very first day I volunteered, she took my brand new hat off the top of my head and then proceeded to urinate on it. Any animal with an attitude, particularly one so pretty and sweet, immediately gets a gold star in my book. Arkte and Thor are also much loved in my book, and Arkte is greatly missed.



2015 W.O.L.F. Calendars on Sale

Order yours while supplies last

\$8 / calendar + Free Shipping

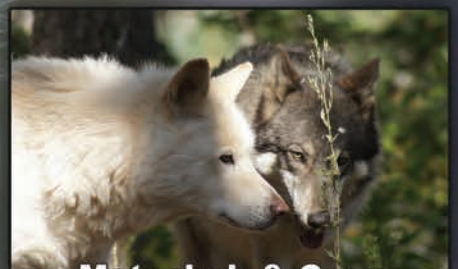
To order go to www.wolfsanctuary.net



Matoskah, Kiki & Bear



Matoskah & Whisper



Matoskah & Cree

Remembering Matoskah

Matoskah came to our attention in July of 2000 when we received a frantic call from his owner, looking for immediate placement for Matoskah and his two sisters. Unfortunately at the time, W.O.L.F. didn't have space, so we gave the gentleman information about other sanctuaries he could contact about placement and wished him luck.

A few weeks later, we were again contacted about Matoskah and his sisters, only this time it wasn't a phone call. Instead all three of them were on our front doorstep. Because our situation had changed since we had last spoken to his owner, we had room for Matoskah but the two girls still needed to be placed at a temporary foster location.

About the time Matoskah showed up we had rescued a young female named Kiki for one of our other animals who had recently lost his companion. Now with Matoskah, we decided to introduce both him and Kiki to Bear and see how it worked. The trio was great together and Bear taught both Matoskah and Kiki a lot about life at the Sanctuary. When Bear died, Matoskah and Kiki were introduced to their neighbors Spirit and Indigo. Unfortunately for Matoskah and Indigo, Kiki decided she wanted to be with Spirit and only Spirit. Matoskah and Indigo found themselves in need of a new companions.

Indigo was paired with a lone male named Sebastian and Matoskah with a female named Whisper had recently been kicked out of her pack. They hit it off instantly. In many ways, Whisper was Matoskah's one true love and they were almost always together. Even though Whisper was social and Matoskah decidedly not, he would brave the company of people to stay close to her. When she passed in 2011 it was a struggle to find a replacement companion to fill the gap in his heart.

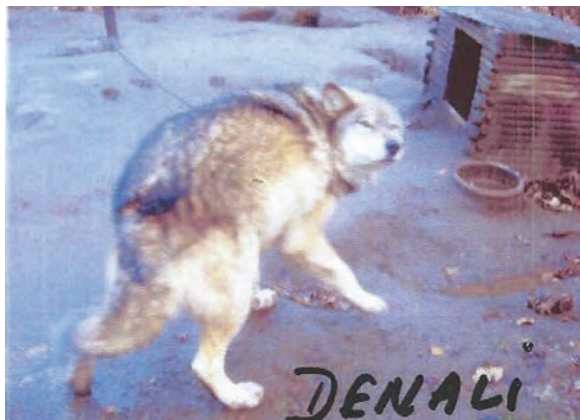
After numerous failed attempts to integrate Matoskah with existing packs at the Sanctuary, we realized we needed to bring in someone new, and Cree, despite her initial protest about being at the Sanctuary, turned out to be the perfect girl. She took one look at Matoskah's grumpy old man persona and saw through to the wonderful animal underneath. She became his constant companion, and in some ways his protector, as Matoskah grew older and more arthritic.

Over the next couple years Matoskah's condition grew worse and he began to spend more time at the top of his enclosure where Cree liked to be. This change in routine didn't stop him from challenging us everyday with the task of trying to figure out how to get him to take his meds. In fact he seemed to take great pleasure in making his caretakers hike up the mountainside every morning to find him and gloried in our frustration as just when we would figure out a strategy for getting him his medications, Matoskah would change his preferences and routine entirely.

In December, we noticed Matoskah losing weight and spending more time in his fire den. We began to bring him his meals twice a day in an attempt to keep his weight up but despite our best efforts Matoskah continued to lose weight and we were forced to consider the possibility of euthanizing him. Matoskah took matters into his own paws, however, and he passed away on his own during the night of December 30, 2014.

Though Matoskah never welcomed his caretakers interference in his life, always keeping his distance when possible and barking obsessively whether they were inside his enclosure or not, Matoskah was a beautiful wolf dog with a vibrant personality. He offered us at the Sanctuary many challenges and lessons but he never failed to entertain and steal our hearts. We love and miss him.

Denali Finds His Forever Home



In January of this year, Denali made his way to W.O.L.F. after a long journey to freedom. His life began born into a barren landscape only to be soon taken from his mother as a means of profit for a roadside attraction in Palmer, Alaska in 2004. Unlike his siblings, however, Denali never left and was forced to live chained in that barren wasteland until his rescue in December of 2011.

Wolf Country USA, where one could pay a small fee to visit the “Kissing Wolves of Alaska,” was under investigation for not only illegally owning and breeding wolves and wolf dogs but using them as a tourist attraction. The owner kept over 30 wolves and wolf dogs on 8 to 10 foot chains for their entire lives while on display for passing tourists. During the summer months after the resident females were bred and forced to give birth in muddy pits while chained to posts in the wolf yard, the pups were sold to visitors as souvenirs.

The conditions at Wolf Country USA were horrific for the animals. They had no shade or enrichment. Many were sick and malnourished and did not receive any medical care. They were “taught” tricks by being hit with sticks and were

often denied food if they did not perform for the tour groups. The owner claimed to be a wolf expert but he used the animals for profit with little regard for their health or well-being.

In November 2011, staff from the Lockwood Animal Rescue Center (LARC) in California flew to Alaska to meet with the Special Prosecutor and other rescue organizations to find a way to keep the animals safe and avoid euthanasia. The Alaskan authorities agreed that Lockwood could take the animals to safety in California. In December 2011, 28 animals were caught up, vetted and prepared for an airlift. On the morning of December 12, 2011, the animals were released at the Lockwood facility. They were finally free from the chains that had bound them for so many years. Videos of the amazing rescue can be seen at: <http://lockwoodarc.org/alaska-rescue-updates/>

Lockwood became the central facility for these animals until they could be placed in other sanctuaries around the country. W.O.L.F. had already received three of these animals – Loki, Thor and Odin.

When, in late December 2014, Cree lost her companion, Matoskah, to old age, we started looking for a new





Denali released at W.O.L.F.

companion for her. We were worried, given her extremely independent nature and history of climbing fences, that if we left Cree alone for too long she would take matters of companionship into her own paws. We were equally concerned about not giving her enough time to properly grieve. As a result we decided to send out a notice to the wolf dog rescue network W.O.L.F. is involved with asking if anyone knew of any high content, older males that would need placement within the next month or so.

Lockwood quickly responded to our request with a few of the animals currently at their facility and we immediately fell in love with Denali. Not only was he beautiful but his personality seemed to be exactly what we were looking for for Cree -- not scared of people but not really social either. After looking over a few other prospects from other rescues, we felt Denali would be the best fit.

On January 21st, we contacted Lockwood stating we would like to take Denali at their earliest convenience, and would it be possible for them to meet us with him half way? By the evening of the 22nd, Lockwood had all the arrangements made to meet us and they were leaving the next day.

Wow! While we had hoped we could get him quickly, we certainly hadn't expected it to be this quick! Loading up the SUV, we left Friday evening to make it to our 3 am rendezvous with Lockwood's transport crew in Richfield, UT.

Arriving shortly after 3 am, Denali was quickly loaded into our SUV and we immediately turned around to begin the 9-hour drive back to the Sanctuary. Denali was perfect the entire ride staying quietly curled up in his kennel. When we got back to Fort Collins we couldn't resist getting him four cheeseburgers as a reward. At first he was a little unsure of the offering but soon became as demanding for the next bite as every other wolf dog we have ever met.

We arrived at W.O.L.F. at noon and released Denali into Cree's catch area so he could stretch his legs and meet her through the fence. After such a long ride Denali was anxious to get away from us and Cree felt the need to defend her territory from the humans so we decided to back off for a bit to let them calm down before we opened the gate. After a half hour, we went back and let them in together.

At first Denali was more interested in the amount of space he was able to roam in and Cree seemed uncertain about him, preferring that he respect her 10-foot personal space bubble. But as each day passes they become more comfortable in each other's company and we are hopeful that they will soon become good friends.



Remembering Tate

Tate (pronounced TAH-tay) arrived at the Sanctuary as a 12-week-old terrified bundle of fluff in June 1999 with his siblings Makoce (Mah-co-chay) and Peta (PAY-tah). They had been saved from a horrible breeding situation by a rescue in New Mexico when they were only four weeks old (earning them the nickname "The New Mex Pups" which in later years resulted in much confusion among new volunteers). Originally part of a litter of five, all of the pups were extremely malnourished and so full of parasites they were close to death. As they were treated and their health began to improve, the rescue contacted W.O.L.F. to see if we had space for Tate and two of his siblings. We said yes.

Tate arrived healthy but extremely scared of people as were his brother and sister. Because of this it was decided to place all of them with an adult female who had recently had a litter of pups shortly before she was surrendered to W.O.L.F. a few months earlier. The pups immediately began soliciting her attention, and Whisper took to them just as quickly, herding them to the safety of her den and regurgitating food for them. Tate lived with Whisper and his siblings until they turned two years old. At this point his sister had decided she was done listening to "Mom" and began fighting with Whisper. Tate, of course, chose to side with his Makoce and Whisper was removed from the group.

Tate remained with Makoce and Peta for the rest of his life. When he was younger, he would join his siblings in pacing and circling the enclosure anytime someone came near but he soon learned that if he stopped pacing and watched where the humans were, treats were often his reward. Though it still took years, Tate was the first of the pack to overcome his fears enough to take treats off the spoon through the fence and eventually even when people were in the enclosure.

Though Tate was very willing to come up to his caretakers for treats it was never a good idea to feed him from your hand. He seemed to think that if he didn't grab the treat quickly enough it would be taken away, so his jaws would snap shut on the spoon like a steel trap. Despite his eagerness for treats, Tate was a good brother and after he had taken a bite he would politely step back to allow Makoce to get a bite before lunging forward to clamp down on the spoon as soon as it was his turn again.

As Tate got older he started to develop problems with his back that made his rear legs weaken. Despite this Tate still got around his enclosure with surprising ease and would often come running down the hill in the afternoons to get meats. Mornings were a different matter, however. It soon became commonplace to have to hike up to the top of the enclosure to check on Tate in his fire den to make sure he was okay.

Tate was also incredibly stubborn about taking pain medications and his old behavior of snapping up any treat turned into one of suspicion and he would make sure to chew what was offered no matter how small. He became quite talented at spitting the pills out of his mouth once he had skillfully cleaned them.

It was on January 5th during our morning check that we discovered Tate had passed away during the night. He had appeared normal the day before so it came as quite a shock. In situations such as his, we always submit the individual for a necropsy before cremation in order to find out what happened. Tate had died during the night of cardiac arrest as a result of a tumor in his heart. We hope that his passing was quick and peaceful with his siblings nearby. Tate had been with us for so many years that it is still hard to believe he's gone, but we are grateful he is once again whole and able to run free.



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