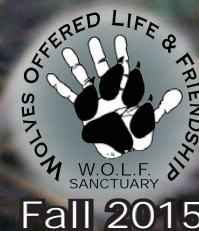


# WOLF

Caring for Our Wolves  
Thank You to Our Veterinarians!  
The Reality of Fur Farming





Your support makes what we do for the wolves in our care possible. Thank you for helping us thrive over the years. Your dedication and compassion are an inspiration to all of us here at W.O.L.F.

*Wishing You Joyous Howlidays and a Prosperous New Year*



**COLORADO COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION**  
**GIVESDAY™**  
12.08.15  
**t-BANK**  
Corporate Partner  
**Give where you live**

**Support us on Colorado Gives Day!**  
**Tuesday, December 8**  
online at [ColoradoGives.org/WOLF](http://ColoradoGives.org/WOLF)  
**\$1 Million Incentive Fund**

Colorado Gives Day is one of our **BIGGEST** fundraisers & we are inviting you to participate. Last year your support raised \$80,000 for the Sanctuary. With your help we can do it again!

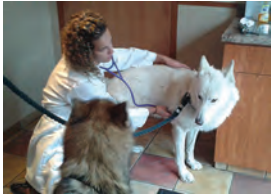
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Over the last three years Colorado Gives Day has become one of W.O.L.F.'s largest fundraising events and we need your help to make it a success.



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  
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:

It is fall in the Rockies and we are surrounded by incredible natural beauty at our mountain sanctuary. Our wolves are beginning to put on their winter coats as the temperatures gradually drop. They love this season and are very frisky and happy as they race up and down the mountain in the cooler air. We made it through the summer and fall fire season without any fire events. We know that our colleagues in California and Oregon were not so lucky and our thoughts and prayers are with them. We were very fortunate this year, and we never forget how terrifying fire and natural disasters can be in a remote, mountain setting. That is why we have spent so many hours completing our off-site evacuation center and finalizing our evacuation plans. The work is now complete and W.O.L.F. has kennels and trailers at the ready so that we can quickly transport all of our animals from the Sanctuary to safety in the event of an emergency evacuation.

We have also been very blessed this fall with the extraordinary support of many work groups from Otter Box/Otter Cares employees and volunteers, Walmart employees, and work groups for "Make a Difference Week." Our Sanctuary maintenance staff is very small, and we have many labor intensive projects to prepare our animal enclosures for the long winter. These projects could not be completed before the snows fly without the help of these dedicated groups.

In this Newsletter, we tackle the difficult issue of commercial fur farms that raise animals for the sole purpose of ending their lives and pelting them for their fur. The barbaric treatment of the animals and the extreme cruelty in their final moments is not often seen by the general public. It is a dark and ugly business, but we believe we should shine a light on the practices in order to educate the public about the plight of these animals who are forced to give their lives for fashion.

We also want to pay tribute to our veterinarians who provide top notch medical care for our animals. We have a remarkable team of Vets who love the work they do and who have gone to great lengths to help us provide the quality medical care that each of our animals deserves. We think you will enjoy meeting them in these pages. We will continue to spotlight our Vets in up-coming issues of the Newsletter. While our Vets have been wonderful about helping us by providing discounts whenever possible, this has been a year of extraordinary medical expenses. We have had multiple surgeries (including an amputation), a very expensive medication regimen to treat a serious heart condition, multiple treatments for parasites, spay/neuter and vaccination expenses and all of our routine medical expenses. Our total for this calendar year is approximately \$40,000.

As we approach the end of the year, we need your help more than ever. We have many ways you can provide gifts to the Sanctuary through planned estate giving, annual giving, automatic monthly donations, and gifts of stocks, bonds and insurance, as well as participating in the annual Colorado Gives Day held on December 8th. It is a unique, one-day opportunity to help spotlight over 1,700 non-profit organizations in Colorado. We hope you will participate and direct your donations to W.O.L.F.

W.O.L.F. has faced many financial storms and our generous donors have always stepped up to help our Sanctuary animals have the happy, healthy and safe lives they so deserve. Without your generosity we would not be able to save these animals. We hope you will continue to provide this support and reach deep this year to help with the medical expenses for our wolves. We cannot do this work without your help.

As always, humbly and gratefully yours,

Shelley

# Estate Planing & Legacy Gifts

By Susan Weidel



There are many ways to donate to W.O.L.F. These include gifts of cash, stocks and bonds, recurring gifts, in-kind gifts of goods or services and estate gifts. Estate gifts are perhaps one of the least understood and the most versatile ways to make a lasting impact on W.O.L.F.

Estate gifts can provide you with tax benefits while simultaneously helping our wolves. Through a planned estate gift, you may be able to increase your current income or provide additional retirement income while reducing your income tax and estate taxes. Some of the most common forms of estate giving include:

**1. Will** – You can provide a gift to W.O.L.F. through your will by making W.O.L.F. a direct beneficiary. This type of giving is simple, easy and allows you to designate a specific dollar or percentage amount, a gift of real estate, stocks, bonds, or a gift of any other property which is part of your estate. If you already have a will, you may be able to add a codicil to your will without the need to re-do the entire document. However, it is always a good idea to review your will and the rest of your estate plan as circumstances change in your life.

**2. IRA** – You can name W.O.L.F. as the beneficiary of an IRA.

**3. Life Insurance Proceeds** – Another simple way to make a legacy gift is to designate W.O.L.F. as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy. This is a simple and effective way to make a gift that will make a difference for the animals.

**4. Charitable Trust** – Another method of making a gift is to create a charitable trust and place assets into the trust. There are many types of charitable trusts, and it is best to consult an estate planning expert to determine which type of trust might be best for your circumstances.

There are many ways to make sure that your loved ones and your favorite charities are remembered in your estate planning. The best way to accomplish your goals is to consult with an attorney who is knowledgeable about estate planning. If you would like more information about W.O.L.F. as you develop your estate planning goals, please contact Susan Weidel, Rescue Coordinator at W.O.L.F. ([sweidel@wolfsanctuary.net](mailto:sweidel@wolfsanctuary.net)). Susan will be happy to provide you or your attorney with information.

***The above information is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, you should consult with an attorney of your choice.***



# Thank You to Our Veterinarians!

Dr. Ron Bright, Dr. Tracey Jensen & Dr. Teva Stone

*By Susan Weidel*

The health and well being of our wolves is extremely important to us here at W.O.L.F. and we are very grateful for all of the wonderful veterinarians who help us out. This year has been one of many unexpected medical issues, and we have been working very closely with the vets throughout the spring and summer to address these issues. In this newsletter we wanted to highlight three of these outstanding professionals for all of their care and kindness.



Dr. Ron Bright is the W.O.L.F. jack-of-all trades. He has been a member of the W.O.L.F. Board of Directors since 2012, a veterinary surgeon for many of W.O.L.F.'s animals since 2004, and in 2013, he helped to initiate an annual field exam program for each animal at the Sanctuary.

Dr. Bright graduated from Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and specialized in small animal surgery. He became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1980 and served as a member of the Board of Regents and President of the College. After spending over 25 years as an Assistant Professor at several prestigious universities including Purdue, the University of Florida and the University of Tennessee, Dr. Bright joined the Veterinary Specialists of Northern Colorado in 1999. He has published over 150 articles, over 27 chapters in 10 veterinary textbooks, and has given over 150

lectures both nationally and internationally.

Dr. Bright says that it is difficult to separate his love for domestic animals and for wild animals. He loves the wild nature of wolves and he cherishes his relationship with them. But, his relationship with wolves is not the same as the one he forms with domestic animals where he is part of a triangle between pet, owner, and doctor. In his practice, that triangle was often sustained over a long period of time and he was able to develop a strong rapport with both pets and their humans.

Treating wolves is different. The relationship is more direct: one-on-one with the wolf rather than the more traditional triangle. He does not get the same type of feedback from wolves and the depth of the relationship is unique. Often the wolf is already sedated and ready for surgery when Dr. Bright begins his work. His goal is to successfully complete the surgery and help the animal have as long a life as possible in a sanctuary. The relationship is not diminished, but it is different.

Dr. Bright has a special relationship with Pax, one of the residents who came to the Sanctuary as a youngster. Dr. Bright has treated Pax since he first met the wolf pup in 2010. Their relationship has grown and strengthened over the years as they have interacted many times at the Sanctuary. Dr. Bright says "Pax is a lovable goof



and I feel very close to him. I have known him for almost his entire life and our relationship continues to grow as Pax has matured, although he is still a goof."

In the past several years, Dr. Bright helped initiate an annual field examination program at W.O.L.F. Every ani-



mal at the Sanctuary now gets an annual field check-up that includes a routine physical examination with blood work, fecal, heart and lung checks. When animals are comfortable (like Pax), Dr. Bright is able to perform the exam with only a light eye cover and the assistance of W.O.L.F.'s animal

care staff and volunteers. Animals who are very shy and reclusive may require light sedation. These annual exams have helped to identify serious medical conditions and allowed animals to have treatment, including medications and surgery that has extended or saved their lives.

One such case happened earlier this fall. Thor, one of the wolves rescued from an Alaskan roadside petting attraction, had a large lump on his neck. He needed an ultrasound to determine what the mass was. The ultrasound showed a large tumor that appeared to be infiltrating a muscle. Dr. Teva Stone at the Wellington Veterinary Hospital decided that additional surgical expertise was needed when it was determined that the tumor was very close to a nerve in Thor's neck. Dr. Bright was consulted and he quickly scrubbed in and performed the delicate surgery. According to Dr. Bright: "My biggest concern was that the tumor was very close to a nerve along the trachea that

feeds the larynx. That could have been a disaster if the nerve was cut." But it was all good news for Thor. His tumor was encapsulated and thanks to Dr. Bright and Dr. Stone, Thor was able to return to the Sanctuary shortly after the surgery where he has made a complete recovery.

These are the kinds of expert skills and compassion that Dr. Bright brings to W.O.L.F. every day. We are so thankful for his expertise and devotion to the wolves. He has saved their lives, educated our staff, and formed lasting relationships with the animals and people of W.O.L.F.



Dr. Tracey Jensen is one of the founders of the Wellington Veterinary Hospital, which is a state-of-the-art facility located in Wellington, Colorado. Dr. Jensen graduated from Colorado State University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1996. She is also a Diplomate in the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners and is certified in veterinary acupuncture.

Dr. Jensen began treating animals from W.O.L.F. in 2000. She has continued to provide excellent medical care to wolves and wolf dogs for 15 years. Dr. Jensen's approach to her clients is to try to develop a rapport and level of trust. She looks into the eyes of her patients and communicates to them that her job is to help them. Most of her patients seem to understand, and they let her do what she needs to do in order to make them well again. Dr. Jensen says that "even the animals from W.O.L.F. -- some of them are afraid and unable to trust me, but it usually requires only a little sedation, a calm approach and you can feel their trust."



The Wellington Veterinary Hospital makes special accommodations for its wolf patients. According to Dr. Jensen, “we often close down what we call Room 5 and dedicate this room to the wolf for the day. This room has easy access to the parking lot, big windows to help our wolf patients feel less claustrophobic, dimming lights and a large floor area on which to work.” Most of the medical procedures are the same as on other animals, but the approach to the patient is different. It can be a challenge in several ways. First, wolves can only be handled periodically. “That means we must get lab, X-ray, and ultrasound information quickly, many times the same day we see the patient for the first time. We can’t often send a wolf home to come back the next day for more testing. We have to do what we need to do within a very short period of time.”

Dr. Jensen has a team of specialists who also understand the uniqueness of treating wolves, and they work with her to help provide the most comprehensive veterinary care possible. They recognize that it is almost always an ordeal for a wolf to receive veterinary treatment at the hospital. The wolf must be caught up and kennelled at the Sanctuary, driven to Wellington, and then transferred to the exam room and treated. Many of the animals are quite shy with people, and do not like to be confined in any way. Dr. Jensen always works with W.O.L.F.’s animal care staff and



volunteers to minimize the number of trips the wolf must make to the hospital.

Additionally, once they return to the Sanctuary, it may be more difficult to handle the same wolf again. Any decisions about surgery, sutures and medications must carefully consider the type of aftercare that a wolf will accept once back in an open mountain setting, and must be carefully coordinated with the animal caretakers.

Dr. Jensen treated W.O.L.F.’s recently rescued Orion, who came from New Mexico where he was running feral on an Indian reservation. Staff transported him from New Mexico directly to Dr. Jensen so she would be able to examine him before he went to the Sanctuary. It is always critical to have new animals examined before introducing them to the population at the Sanctuary in order to avoid introducing any parasites or diseases to the existing population. Dr. Jensen remembers receiving a call from W.O.L.F.’s Director of Animal Care, Michelle Proulx, who was driving all night to bring Orion to the Sanctuary. Dr. Jensen met Michelle and the transport team at the hospital early



on a Saturday and recalls: “What we thought was a relatively young animal turned out to be aged and with a serious heart condition. Luckily, we were able to have his heart diagnosed using ultrasound. That diagnosis allowed us to prescribe treatment that I have zero doubt is the reason he is still alive today.” Dr. Jensen credits W.O.L.F. staff with helping to save lives. “Without Michelle and her team of skilled, knowledgeable, and passionate volunteers, I am positive Orion would not have survived the summer. By capturing him and

bringing him straight to us before heading up the mountain to the Sanctuary, they saved his life. It is an example of why I love practicing veterinary medicine: I get to work with amazing animals and the extraordinary people who care for them.”

Dr. Jensen loves the work she does with W.O.L.F. and she completely understands the mission of the Sanctuary. She says: “I do not support the breeding of captive wolves. Wolves are still wild, and it doesn’t matter if you raise them from a pup. They are still wild. They need more than a backyard and I have yet to meet a high percentage wolf who was comfortable being inside.” She recognizes that people who breed wolves are trying to make them into something the animals are not meant to be. “Thank goodness for W.O.L.F. Sanctuary, where the wolves can be mostly free to be who they are.”



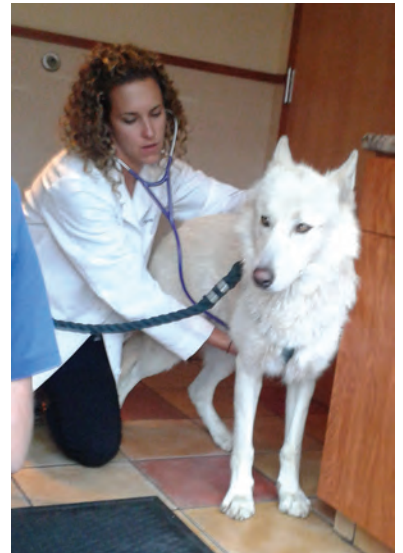
Dr. Teva Stone is a 2009 graduate of Colorado State University School of Veterinary Medicine. She has been practicing for six years and has a special interest in and love for surgery. She is employed by the Wellington Veterinary Hospital in Wellington, Colorado.

Dr. Stone’s first encounter with wolves was when W.O.L.F. brought Kaileah to the hospital for treatment. She says: “I was hooked. Each wolf has such a unique, moving and inspiring story and I am beyond blessed to get to be a part of the team that cares for them. I feel like a kid in a candy store each time I see one of the wolves on the schedule, it truly makes my day. Every wolf I treat makes me more and more passionate about them.” Dr. Stone still has great fondness for her

first wolf patient, Kaileah. “I have a picture of her on my desk. She is sniffing my face and I absolutely love it. She was so curious and I was as well. It was a good first experience.”

Dr. Stone says that the medical treatment of a wolf is not really different from the rest of her practice. The difference is that wolves may need a little more patience and/or sedation in order to treat them, because they are wild animals and are often fearful. “We provide them with the highest level of care, just like any other domestic animal, but at times we have to get creative in their medication and take into consideration that they may not be handled on a daily basis.”

Another memorable case for Dr. Stone occurred when W.O.L.F.’s Director of Animal Care, Michelle Proulx, brought a very shy and frightened animal named Ahote to the hospital. Ahote had just spent over 12 hours with Michelle on the drive from Idaho to Colorado. He was having his first medical examination prior to going to his new home at the Sanctuary. Dr. Stone was waiting at the Wellington Hospital when Michelle and her team arrived with Ahote. “It was heartbreaking,” she recalls; “he was so afraid and nervous. He didn’t trust anyone.” Ahote was placed in the







**Trigger & Spartacus**

special exam room 5 that Wellington reserves for wolves. He was so frightened that it was a challenge to find the best combination of medication to allow Dr. Stone to examine him. The process took all day. Dr. Stone says, "we finally got to examine him and he got a clean bill of health." Once Ahote reached the Sanctuary, it only took him a few days to adjust to his new surroundings and Dr. Stone says, "it warms my heart to know he is doing fine."

Dr. Stone also worked with Dr. Bright on Thor's surgery. She says: "It was the most re-



warding case for me. To get him in with a mass that we found was his thyroid, get all the diagnostics done, the mass removed (by Dr. Bright), and get him back home and doing great that evening – it was a good day."

What Dr. Stone enjoys most about her work with W.O.L.F. is being part of the survival story. "Knowing that I'm helping animals who haven't been given the best start in life, and being able to help make the rest of their lives as comfortable and as healthy as possible -- it is such an honor. I also love to see the handlers in action. They know these animals so well and there is an obvious bond that is there – I admire their dedication."

Dr. Stone is an extraordinary young doctor and it is W.O.L.F.'s good fortune to have such a talented and dedicated member of our medical team. We have a mutual admiration society. Here is how Dr. Stone feels about W.O.L.F.: "I think W.O.L.F. is extraordinary. The things they do for these animals, the sacrifices they make – I admire each and every one of the people involved. Their dedication to this cause is inspiring and it makes me even more excited to be a part of this team."

We are thankful for all the expertise the vets have given to the Sanctuary this summer and over the years. They help us give these beautiful animals the quality of life they all deserve.

## Mark Your Calendars!

### Event Info:

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

### **The Hilton**

425 Prospect Rd.  
Fort Collins, CO

**Be sure  
to come  
ready for  
a grrreat  
time!**



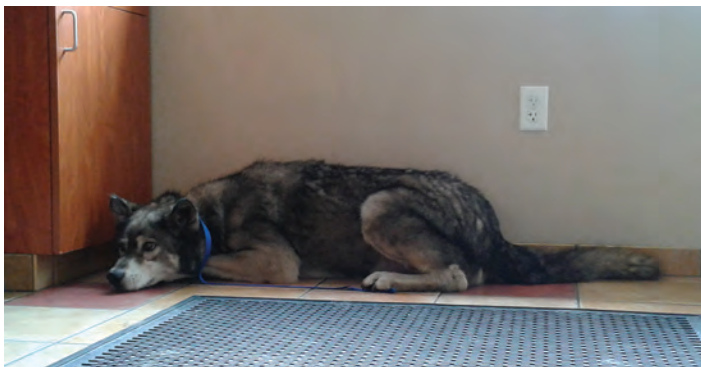
THE  
**GRIEAT GIROWILSBY**  
GALA

# Caring for Our Wolves

*By Michelle Proulx*

The past few months have felt like one vet visit after another. Between bringing in new wolves, annual check-ups and unexpected emergencies, we have certainly been kept on our toes. Some events have been peaceful, some surprising, and others heart-breaking. Because so much has happened since our last newsletter we will provide a short summary of the goings on of the last few months.

Our first surprise came during a routine check up at the Sanctuary in July for one of our unsocial wolves, Lance. As the exam progressed, Dr. Dean from Laporte Animal Clinic found numerous growths that were concerning and recommended having them looked at more closely at a clinic. Expecting nothing out of the ordinary for his exam, we did not have a clinic on standby for a visit that day but as Lance is difficult and unsocial to work with, we didn't want to make an appointment for him on a later date and have to stress him out with another catch up.



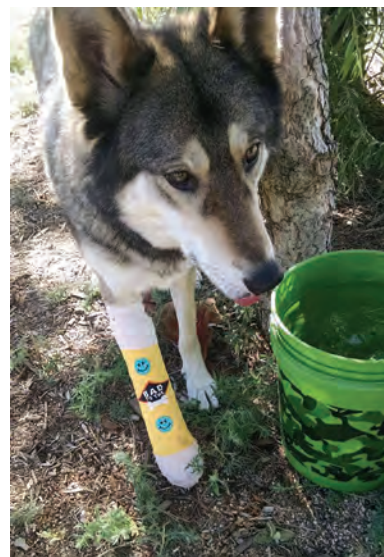
Luckily, Wellington Veterinary Hospital was able to get Lance in for further testing and a possible surgery if necessary. After some needle aspirates of the masses and an abdominal ultrasound, the news we received was shocking. The mass was an anal gland carcinoma and while the tumor would be easy to remove, there was evidence that the cancer had already spread into the lymph.

Since the cancer had spread and removing the tumor would not cure his condition, we decided not to do the surgery. Lance is old, (about 16 years) and an unsocial individual, so we opted to manage his condition as best we could with medi-

cation. So far, Lance is showing no signs of being ill or in pain, and is as active and energetic as he has ever been.



Our next surprise came later that month, late one evening as we were going around on our evening animal check. We noticed Sasha somehow injured her front foot on the fence. Once again this became an emergency visit to Four Seasons Veterinary Specialists. As the veterinarians were cleaning up Sasha's wound they discovered she had caused more serious damage to herself than originally thought by also tearing a tendon. This was going to require much more extensive after-care. They recommended four to six weeks in a splint to immobilize the foot and allow the tendon to heal.



There was no way we could keep a cast on Sasha up at the Sanctuary, not with Jacob in the mix, so it was decided to house Sasha at the Executive Director's house until she got the all clear from the vets. Being extremely social, Sasha was happy for all of the extra (and necessary) attention

she received; but was less than thrilled with her every-other-day bandage changes at the vet and, of course, being told "No!" whenever she tried to

remove the splint herself. After almost five weeks of 24/7 care, Sasha got the okay to come back to the Sanctuary, where she shows no signs of ever being injured.



After Sasha's return to W.O.L.F. in August, it was time to consider getting Trigger neutered. It was a tough catch up on the day he was scheduled to go in. In fact, Trigger was being so difficult that we missed our appointment with Laporte Animal Clinic! Once again, Wellington Veterinary Hospital came through for us and was able to get Trigger in that day for a neuter.



Spartacus, Trigger's companion and one of our ambassador wolves who enjoys car rides, came along as Trigger's "security blanket," and the two spent most of the day at the clinic. Since Spartacus was there too, we decided to have him get a general checkup. Aside from a few broken teeth that may need to be addressed in the future, Spartacus got a clean bill of health. Trigger also did fantastic during the surgery, and was able to come back immediately to the Sanctuary.

During this time we noticed Pride beginning to limp on her rear left leg. At first it was a minor limp, but as it got progressively worse we began to fear that she might have torn a cruciate ligament in her knee. If that was the case, we would need to do some major surgery to correct the issue.

At 15 years old Pride is not a good candidate to undergo such corrective surgery, especially with the intensive aftercare for an unsocial wolf dog, but we needed to find out what was wrong before we could make any decisions. An appointment was made in early September with an osteopathic surgeon at Four Seasons Veterinary Specialists and Pride was brought in for an exam and x-rays.



When we got the results it once again felt as though the ground had dropped out from beneath our feet. Although they couldn't know for certain without a biopsy, Pride most likely had cancer in the hip joint. Whether or not it was cancer, the veterinarian believed that Pride would never be able to regain the use of her leg.

It was a tough decision, but with Pride's blood work looking excellent and the thought of her dragging a painful, useless limb around all winter, it was decided to amputate the leg. Pride did amazingly well during the surgery. She stayed overnight at the vet hospital before going to the Executive Director's house for the recommended two week recovery.



The veterinarians told us to expect Pride to have difficulty adjusting to life with three legs for the first week or so, and even warned us that she might need help getting up and moving around.

Pride would have none of that. Within two hours of arriving at Shelley's house, she had not only figured out how to get up unassisted, but was motor-ing around as if she had been using three legs her entire life. Though it turned out the issue was osteosarcoma and is likely to have already spread, we were all amazed by her tremendous recovery powers, and Pride is once again happily running around her enclosure with no problems at all.



About the time of Trigger's neuter, we had also noticed a large lump on Thor's neck. With Pride's mobility issues and no signs that Thor was having any problems, we decided to wait until we knew what was going on with Pride before working with Thor.

We made an appointment in mid-September at Wellington Veterinary Hospital with Dr. Stone to bring Thor in for x-rays and an ultrasound, again with the possibility of surgery if it turned out the mass needed to be removed.



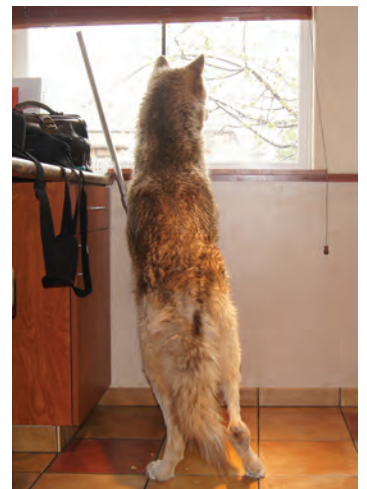
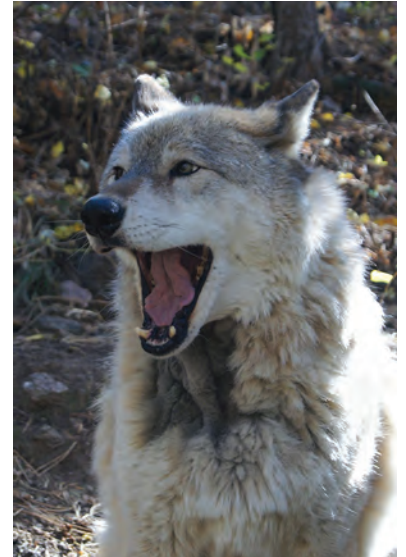
As the images of the ultrasounds came into view, Dr. Stone became concerned that the mass was likely a thyroid tumor and indicated that due to its size and location it needed to be removed soon. Once again, we were in a state of shock. Thor is only seven years old; how can he have cancer so young? The good news was that the mass looked

highly encapsulated and had minimal blood flow, so it would likely be easy to remove the whole thing with clean margins. While the mass looked easy to remove, Dr. Stone did not feel comfortable performing the surgery, as the tumor was located in a very difficult spot to operate on. Luckily, Dr. Bright was available to do the surgery, and the mass was successfully removed with no issues or side effects.

Though there is a high probability that the cancer has spread, Thor is more active and energetic than he was before the surgery and surprisingly his other thyroid gland seems to have already been compensating for the cancerous one, which is excellent news. We are choosing to remain optimistic since no other masses were detected and believe he will be with us for a long time to come.

We will certainly never skimp on any vet care our wolves require; consequently this year's medical budget has been stretched to its limits. Our veterinary visits alone have cost \$27,000. With the medications included, we predict we will spend in the neighborhood of \$40,000 on medical care this year! This is double our average yearly veterinary expenses.

If you would like to help out with our medical expenses and animal care, we encourage you to set up a recurring monthly donation through our website: [WolfSanctuary.net](http://WolfSanctuary.net). Any and every donation, no matter the size, will make a difference and help to improve the lives of our wolves.



# The Reality of Fur Farming

*By Susan Wiedel*



Fur farms are places of immense barbarity and inhumanity. In the “factory” harvesting of fur, the animals are commodities and are treated in ways that are inconceivable to people who understand that animals are sentient beings. The most common animals found in these places of horror are mink and fox. However many other species are also “pelted” for their fur including raccoons, rabbits, and chinchillas. These animals deserve so much more than we as a species give them. To understand how fur farms operate is to take a walk on the very dark side of human nature.

Recently W.O.L.F. had an encounter with a fox fur farm in Illinois. W.O.L.F. received a call from Illinois officials requesting help to rescue a family of wolves who were confined at a fox fur farm which had lost its U.S.D.A. license, and was no longer permitted to operate. W.O.L.F. was able to take one wolf (our young female named Zoey) and we worked with several other sanctuaries to get the others to safety.



On the day the final wolves were rescued, W.O.L.F. collaborated with The Grey Wolf Sanctuary of Wisconsin and Wolf Connection in California to remove the last four wolves from the facility. The wolves, a group of four yearling females, were confined in a small, filthy pen with the fox sheds looming in the distance. It was not difficult to imagine what the fate of the wolves might have been if the farm had not been closed. There were 15 wolves living at the fur farm, and they were being bred. Since it is illegal to privately own wolves or wolf dogs in Illinois, it seems that a more sinister purpose may have been contemplated.

This experience brought the issue of fur farms in the United States close to home. There have also been several recent cases that have made news as several states attempted to close down fur farms that were raising wolves. Eighty-five percent of the fur industry’s skins come from animals



on fur factory farms. Often, there are thousands of animals kept in small wire cages for their entire lives. Generally the places are filthy and the animals are crammed into very small spaces – often without room to take more than a few steps. According to some observers, the animals frequently go “insane” under these conditions, and may self-mutilate by biting their skin, tails and feet. They may also turn on other animals and cannibalize them. These are gruesome places, and the animals are treated as commodities for profit. There is no kindness, humane treatment, or concern for these animals, other than to assure that they have good quality fur at the time they are killed.

Often, these farms keep animals in open sheds that are left exposed to extreme weather conditions. Many of the animals suffer from diseases and parasites. No medical treatment is provided, and often the food and water are totally inadequate or non-existent. Money and profits are the driving force behind these places of inhumanity for the animals who live and die there.



The killing of the animals is perhaps the most gruesome procedure of all. Suffice it to say that it is horrible and they suffer in ways that are unimaginable. While the United States is still heavily involved in factory fur farming, China is rapidly growing as a major fur producer, and their methods for raising and killing these animals make the U.S. fur farms look like models of decency. Readers who may want to know more about this topic can find abundant information on the Internet.

Concerned individuals often want to know why these places exist, and why no governmental entity shuts them down. The answer is sickeningly simple, money. There is still a huge market for fur products world wide. People who buy these fur products rarely understand the methods that produce these items. It is totally appalling that the fur industry has been able to keep its dirty secrets hidden so that consumers never know the devastation and torture that animals endure.

The laws in the United States are beginning to change, but not nearly fast enough or with enough oversight to take the horror out of the fur business. The federal Animal Welfare Act works to ensure humane treatment of animals, but it specifically excludes fur farm animals who are raised

for their pelts. The federal laws do protect certain species in the wild like seals, marine mammals, and animals such as wolves that have been on the endangered species list. However, they do not protect animals raised on fur farms. State laws in the U.S. are not much better. Most states where fur farming is popular have exemptions for these facilities from the state's anti-cruelty laws.

International law in some countries has become very strict. While China has almost no laws, other countries such as New Zealand, Israel, and parts of the European Union, have totally banned factory fur farming or have prohibited the sale of fur within the country. The United States lags behind these countries in regulating the treatment of animals slaughtered for their fur.

Like the factory farming of animals used as a food source, fur farming is callous, inhumane, and too often overlooked by ignorance, if not overshadowed by demand. Unless consumers put an end to the cruel practices on fur farms, nothing is likely to change. As long as there is a market for the fur of animals, there will be factory fur farms to produce it.



***\*Mid-West Fox Fur Farm photos courtesy of a anonymous private source.***

#### **Sources used for this article:**

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# Volunteer Spotlight

*By Amelia Wieber*

Holly Ashby started volunteering at W.O.L.F. over eight years ago and has been one of our most reliable volunteers ever since. She very rarely misses a week at the Sanctuary! Because of her wonderful dedication to the Sanctuary, Holly is one of only three Level 4 volunteers, the highest volunteer level you can achieve at W.O.L.F.

While working at the Sanctuary with the animals is clearly one of her favorite things to do, Holly has helped with numerous educational programs over the years as a handler, and is one of W.O.L.F.'s go-to people when it comes to public events. She is happy to take the time to educate and raise awareness about W.O.L.F. and the captive wildlife crisis at our many off site tabling events throughout the Front Range. We are so grateful for the time and hard work Holly continues to dedicate to W.O.L.F.

## **What is your job? What do you do for fun?**

My first career was as a diplomat in Ecuador, Denmark, Sweden, Sri Lanka, and Switzerland. After twenty years with the Foreign Service, my family moved to Fort Collins, and I began a second career with Poudre School District. A few years ago, I retired from PSD so that I could spend more time volunteering for W.O.L.F. Several times a week, I also volunteer at Riffenburgh Elementary. When not working with animals and young children, I love spending time in the mountains hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing.

## **How and why did you start volunteering at W.O.L.F.?**

I have always loved being with animals. Before volunteering at the sanctuary, my wildest animal adventures were in Sri Lanka where I hung out with monkeys, leopards, water buffalo and elephants. I found out about W.O.L.F. from my daughter's viola teacher a little over eight years ago, and immediately started volunteering. At this point, I have spent more than 500 days volunteering for W.O.L.F. I am at the sanctuary at least one day a week, and am busy with tabling events from May through October. I have also taken on writing assignments from time to time, such as re-writing the bios for all of the animals that have passed away at the Sanctuary.

## **What is your favorite part of volunteering?**

My favorite part of volunteering is interacting with the animals at the sanctuary while poop scooping, changing out waters, passing out meat, brushing coats, and taking animals for walks. I also enjoy talking to people at tabling and educational events, increasing their awareness and knowledge of wolves and the captive animal crisis.

## **Who is your favorite animal at the Sanctuary?**

The animal at the Sanctuary that touched me most deeply was Renata. She came to the Sanctuary from a terrible place where she witnessed her brother and many other companions shot by their supposed protector. Her eyes told the story of where she had been and what she had experienced. Renata was so appreciative of the peace that she had finally found, and I was profoundly moved in her presence. The day before she passed away, Renata, cold and in pain, curled up next to me and we spent some final moments together. I will always feel privileged to have known her.





# Colorado Gives Day is Back!

Over the last three years Colorado Gives Day has become one of W.O.L.F.'s largest and most successful fundraising events. With all of our unexpected veterinary bills this year we need your help now more than ever to make it a success. Last year your support earned W.O.L.F. \$80,000, and we are asking you to help us reach that goal again.

Why is it important to donate to the Sanctuary on Colorado Gives Day as opposed to any other day? It is a way to increase the value of your donation! FirstBank has a **one million dollar** matching incentive fund, and W.O.L.F. will receive a portion of that money based on the percentage of donations we receive on **Tuesday December 8th, 2015**.

Even if you don't live in Colorado, you can still donate on December 8<sup>th</sup> through the Colorado Gives Day website and make the value of your donation go further. But remember you have to donate on December 8<sup>th</sup>. You have a full 24 hours, starting at midnight on the 8<sup>th</sup>, to make your donation. Remember to mark your calendars and help make this our most successful Colorado Gives Day ever!

Help us reach our goal! Visit [www.coloradogives.org/WOLF](http://www.coloradogives.org/WOLF) on **Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015** starting at 12AM

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## Just in Time for the Holidays

If you are looking for a gift that will be more than just another 'thing' this holiday season, consider giving a gift that will be cherished while supporting a great cause! Go to [www.wolfsanctuary.net/store.html](http://www.wolfsanctuary.net/store.html) to view all of our wonderful gift ideas. Orders must be placed by December 10<sup>th</sup> to be received in time for Christmas!

And for those friends who don't want material things, consider getting them a gift membership to W.O.L.F.! It is a great way to help the Sanctuary, and give a loved one a meaningful gift that will last the entire year.

Not a member yourself? There is still time! Purchase or renew your membership today and your 2016 calendar is free! See the back cover for membership details.





W.O.L.F. Sanctuary

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Laporte, CO 80535-1544

970-416-9531 wolfsanctuary.net

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YES!

I would like to become a member of W.O.L.F. and help to care for abandoned captive-born wolves and wolf dogs. I understand that by becoming a member, I will receive a quarterly newsletter, window decal and annual calendar unless I specify otherwise. (Membership is renewable and is tax deductible.)

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(Make checks payable to W.O.L.F.)

☐ I **do not** want to receive member gifts

☐ Please send me an e-receipt for my donation

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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