

W.O.L.F.

New Year, New Look
W.O.L.F., A Winter ... Wonder?land
Animal Updates



Winter 2016



Send in your reservation today--limited seating! Reservations can be made online, by phone (970.416.9531) or mail. Go to our website for more details.

name: _____
 address: _____
 city, st, zip: _____
 phone: _____
 email: _____
 credit card: _____
(American Express, Discover, Visa or MasterCard)
 exp date: _____ security code: _____

Please make checks payable to W.O.L.F.

x \$65 per Guest \$ _____

\$650 Table for 10 \$ _____

Silver Table **Online Only**

Gold Table **Online Only**

Total \$ _____

Number of Guests: _____

Number of Meals: #1 _____ #2 _____

Please provide the names for all of your guests with your reservation or e-mail them to gala@wolfsanctuary.net

Choose Your Entrée

#1: Vegetable Wellington* (vegetarian)

Roasted mixed vegetables & provolone cheese in a flaky puff pastry, served with red pepper coulis & Parmesan broccoli

#2: Stuffed Red Bell Pepper (vegan)

Quinoa & harvest rice inside a roasted bell pepper, served with mixed vegetables. This meal is also Gluten Free.

***If an entrée is not chosen, guests will receive the Vegetable Wellington entrée.**

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

Reservations also available online

Coming from out of town and need a place to stay? The Hilton Fort Collins (970.482.2626) is offering discounted rooms (\$119 per night) to anyone attending The Great Growlsby! Make sure to mention W.O.L.F. when you book your reservation.

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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
American Sanctuary Association, Accredited
Community Shares of Colorado, Member

Mission: To improve the quality of life for wolves and wolf dogs through:

- Rescue** - Save captive-born wolves and wolf dogs who need sanctuary in order to survive;
- Sanctuary** - Provide a life-long home at W.O.L.F. in a natural habitat that takes into account each individual's physical, medical & emotional needs;
- Education** - Provide the public with education about the plight of wolves and wolf dogs (both captive-born and wild) to help foster a greater understanding of them and their value.

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Letter from the Director

Dear Supporters:

Happy New Year! I know that by the time you receive this newsletter we will be several months into 2016, but I want to say again, Happy New Year. Your support in 2015 was phenomenal. We challenged you for Colorado Gives Day and you delivered, again. We met our goal of \$50,000! And we were awarded the honor of The Most Money Raised and The Most Unique Donors for a Medium Sized Organization in Larimer County by the Community First Foundation of Northern Colorado.

In 2015 we experienced twice the normal expenses in veterinary procedures. With our aging population come a variety of conditions and illnesses that require care beyond normal health checks. Your support helped to cover these extraordinary veterinary procedures. The staff, volunteers, Sasha, Pride, Orion, Thor, Jake, Rajan, and all of the W.O.L.F. residents cannot thank you enough for your financial assistance in helping to provide high-quality care for the exceptional cases and routine veterinary care.

Winter is upon us and the W.O.L.F. residents are giddy. While we puny humans shiver, the wolves dance, run and play. They relish the colder temperatures and have immense fun in the snow while we enjoy the winter vicariously through lovingly watching them enjoy their Winter Bliss. What a blessing to see life through their eyes.

In the fall of 2015 we were contacted by a University of Colorado Denver Student Design Team consisting of Jill Ayers, Brianna Corn, and Michael Figge under the direction of Associate Professor Michelle Carpenter. They proposed a project to assist us in revamping our website and branding. They did a phenomenal job in designing the template. The new website will be ready for launch at wolfsanctuary.co (www.wolfsanctuary.net will redirect you to our new site), and we would love your feedback on the new website. Our merchandise and media will be updated with our new, exciting logo and branding, so please visit our online store and watch for the arrival of new merchandise.

Our Annual Gala Fundraiser is scheduled for June 11 at the Hilton in Fort Collins. This is our second themed gala, called The Great Growlsby. More details to follow. Come dressed as a flapper, or with your fedora, or come dressed as you like! Whatever you choose to do, come to have a Roaring Good Time while helping with a wonderful cause in caring for our majestic animals!



As Always, Gratefully and Humbly Yours,

Shelley

W.O.L.F. Gets a Facelift

By Susan Weidel



It's a new year, and along with it comes a new look for W.O.L.F. Please check out our new logo and our improved web page launching in late February! You can find both at www.wolfsanctuary.net. It was time for a change, and W.O.L.F. had a mini-face lift in our public imaging. Thanks to the wonderful talents of our University of Colorado Denver's Digital Design Team, the new web page is easier to navigate, has many more cool and interesting photos, and gives readers and viewers a new look at our mission, our animals, and our staff.

The new logo is a silhouette of our beloved Rajan howling in profile and we love the image. "It conveys the sense of love and respect we have for these magnificent animals both in the wild and in the Sanctuary--they are the reason we exist," says Executive Director Shelley Coldiron. We feel a responsibility to help the public understand the plight

of captive-born wolves and wolf dogs, as well as the peril to those wolves who live in the wild.

We hope you will peruse our new website and enjoy the new look. Our mission has not changed, but we want to present a fresh look to our many supporters and friends. We are dedicated to the mission of improving the lives of wolves and wolf dogs through rescue, sanctuary, and education. We hope you will join us in our mission and carry the word about W.O.L.F. forward in your lives.

You Did It!

Thank you to our 500 supporters who helped make Colorado Gives Day 2015 a howling success. We set our fundraising goal at \$50,000, and you helped us reach it. In addition, W.O.L.F. was recognized with two awards for Colorado Gives Day donor participation, earning us an extra \$2,000--we couldn't have done it without you. We cannot say "thank you" enough to our generous and loyal friends for everything they do to help save captive-born wolves and wolf dogs.

These funds will help us rescue the animals who receive a lifetime of care and comfort at W.O.L.F. "Colorado Gives Day is our biggest annual fundraiser, and we look forward to setting our goal even higher next year," says Carol Mahoney, Development Director for W.O.L.F. With your help we will be able to achieve it. We thank you and wish you health, happiness and a very compassionate 2016!





Bob and Josh attempting to defrost the frozen porta-potties

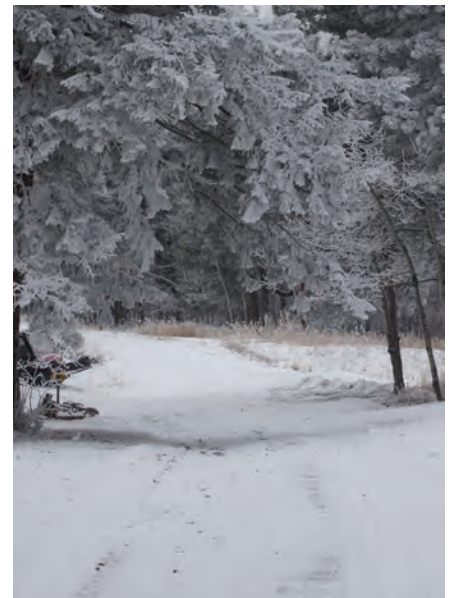
Winter is the season of the wolf. The animals at the Sanctuary love the winter weather and are ecstatic when the snow flies. It is the time of year when they race up and down the mountain, frolic in the snow and enjoy life to the fullest. Even the elderly and infirm thrive in the cold and become as playful and puppyish as their old bodies will allow. They are built for cold weather and they revel in it. Wolves have thick, layered fur coats, furred ears and feet, and they are more alive and active in the winter than any other season.



But what about the people who work at W.O.L.F.? Winter is not nearly such a wonderland

for staff. A blast of cold weather and a heavy snow can send personnel into overdrive, and it is not the frozen paradise that the wolves experience. It is a completely different world where routine chores become far more difficult and infrastructure resources are strained.

W.O.L.F. is nestled deep in Rist Canyon on a private dirt road two miles from the nearest paved road. At winter's deepest, the sun rises (actually, from the perspective of our little valley, it sort of slides in) around 7 a.m. and effectively sets at 1 p.m. when it dips behind the tall trees to the north. The Sanctuary is "off the grid": we generate our own electricity via generator(s), heat the buildings with propane tanks, and pump water from a wellhead. Our



only outside utility is the phone line, and with all due respect, dealing with the phone company is like petitioning the sun to stay up a little longer: it will only happen in its own good time. But that's another story.... These infrastructure challenges are part of the reason why W.O.L.F. is planning to move to a new location.



Daylight is short and the work begins in the dim morning hours when overnight staff starts morning rounds to check on animals and distribute daily medications. Dawn is a beautiful time of day and the wolves know it, howling in welcome like clockwork about two hours before it actually happens. As the day breaks, if there has been recent snow, the plows and shovels come out. The looming north ridge prevents us from utilizing Colorado sunshine as a natural snow remover, thus any accumulation over a few inches must be moved by man or machine. The entrance to each enclosure must be hand shoveled in order to make sure that gates can open and close fully. With more than



15 animal enclosures, all with double gates, hand shoveling is not for the faint of heart or cold of feet. As the snow builds, it becomes more and more challenging to plow the road. When the first storms of late October arrive and the plows come out, we have to be thinking about early May: where do we put all this stuff? Eventually there ends up being nowhere for the new snow to go.



With little direct sunshine reaching the Sanctuary and being at an elevation of 7,200 feet, when the snow comes, it's here to stay for a while—sometimes a long while. Fresh snow that isn't removed promptly from roadways and walkways can turn into ice very quickly, creating a potential slipping hazard. Inside the enclosures the wolves are very efficient at packing down their favorite pathways. Put these on a 45° slope and you have the perfect combination of elements to create a less-than-enjoyable ride down the hillside on the seat of your pants if you've forgotten to put on your micro-spikes. It's a popular winter sport with some of the wolves, who will seize the opportunity (and the pants), should a hapless volunteer go sledding past them, to play



the “injured rabbit” game. They do seem to be entertained by such mishaps, especially when there is a poop bucket involved.

It is on these slippery slopes that W.O.L.F.’s Director of Animal Care Michelle Proulx starts the volunteer crew to work cleaning the enclosures (though finding poop even in light snow can be challenging), checking food and water levels, and making sure

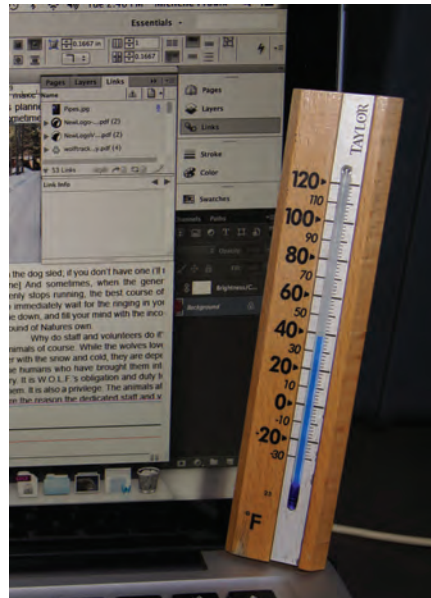


every animal is safe and healthy. Ahhh...anyone visualizing this right now probably has the image of a leisurely and serene summertime activity. Now throw a hillside covered with snow and ice into the picture. Are you reaching for your micro-spikes? Good. Heavy snow and single-digit temperatures have a dramatic impact on the dynamics of routine labors. Each enclosure has a plastic five-gallon water bucket that must be refilled with fresh water every day. This is carted about in a 60-gallon tank in the back of an ATV (thank goodness for modern technology!) and dispensed manually by the “bucket brigade”. Any ice that forms is removed and replaced with hot water to keep the buckets from refreezing for as long as possible.



Breaking ice out of the buckets is almost an art form, and many a volunteer, new and old alike, has smashed a brittle bucket along with the ice in the attempt. On especially cold days, we may be confronted with solid blocks of ice in the buckets, which must be thawed in the water shed to avoid almost certain breakage.

Ah, heat! Such comfort comes at a cost, especially when you’re off the grid. Staff and volunteers need heated space to do routine office work, food and medication preparation, computer and phone work and to take breaks from the severe weather outside. Now, perhaps you’ve heard the saying that there’s no such thing as bad weather, just bad gear. Maybe so, and it’s all well and good to be layered in high-tech gear when you’re out running half pipes on the slopes and you have that extra layer of adrenaline for insulation; but adren-



aline doesn’t flow when you’re sitting in front of a laptop trying to come up with articles for the next newsletter and the thermometer next to your desk says 40°. With limited and costly power-generating capabilities, we have to be selective about where the electricity

goes, and when. We must also be mindful of what we provide heat to, and how, which is to say, bring your own coffee--it doesn’t get served up here till afternoon when we get the generator running. In short, heat and hot water are luxuries here, not to be taken for granted.

Bathroom facilities are primitive porta-potties that give a new meaning to bathroom breaks--especially when the bathroom...well, breaks. (Actually, “bathroom” is a misnomer, since bathing is not an option for the overnight caretakers, who must satisfy their needs for personal hygiene with hand sanitizer and bowl full of warm water.) When

temperatures dip to sub-zero, a trip to the bathroom is an experience few want to, but many must, endure. And pity the poor service people who come up periodically to clean the toilets. They must endure not only the drive up (no guarantees of clear roads), but also



the probability of frozen “product”, which cannot be removed except in a liquefied state. You can only raise the seat so high, they say; you have to get creative to combat such mounting problems (see the title photo for one of our more entertaining attempts). What more fun activities could there possibly be?

On the bright side, every once in a while staff and volunteers take a moment to enjoy the snow and the beautiful surroundings they find themselves in every day. When the cold seems to make every task harder, and things rarely go as planned, a break to recharge the batteries is sometimes necessary. And sometimes, when the

generator suddenly stops running, the best course of action is to immediately wait for the ringing in your ears to die down, and fill your mind with the incomparable sound of Nature’s own.

Why do staff and volunteers do it? For the animals of course. While the wolves love the winter with the snow and cold, they are dependent on the humans who have brought them into the Sanctuary. It is our obligation and duty to care for them. It is also a privilege. The animals are the reason the dedicated staff and volunteers endure the frigid and primitive conditions. It is a rare and wonderful opportunity to share winter with wolves. Their joy is contagious, and often the laughter of humans blends with the howls of the wolves that echo through the Sanctuary. There is no better place to spend a winter day than at W.O.L.F.



The Need for a New Home

After having just read the story above, I’m sure by now you can understand W.O.L.F.’s need for a new home. Between these ongoing challenges and others--such as the property being quite prone to flooding--W.O.L.F. needs to move to a new location with better facilities, infrastructure, and the capacity to be open to the public.

Our current location inhibits our ability to adequately provide two key points of our mission: sanctuary and education. The Sanctuary’s road severely restricts the number of cars that can travel to our location and does not allow for tours or buses that would carry schoolchildren for educational programs. The new location must be one that can be open to the public, and one that allows us to care for more wolves and wolf dogs. Our hope would be for W.O.L.F. to eventually care for up to 60 animals at a time, which would make us the largest wolf sanctuary in Colorado.

The only way we can make this positive move is with help from supporters like you. We’ll keep you informed of progress on this front and will be asking for your help in the near future. Please help us make this dream come true....for us and for the wolves!





Ahote & Kaileah

Save The Date!

Join us at "The Great Growlsby" Gala Fundraiser

By Carol Mahoney

Even though we are in the heart of winter, W.O.L.F. is already planning for our annual gala fundraiser, A Truly WOLF Affair. We hope you will join us for an evening of fine food, frivolity and fun as you help support W.O.L.F. on Saturday, June 11th from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Fort Collins Hilton.

This year we will take you back to the Roaring 20s with the theme "The Great Growlsby." "This will be one of our most entertaining galas yet, all for the good cause of raising money to help the wolves," says Shelley Coldiron, Executive Director. "Our goal for this gala is to raise \$55,000, and we certainly have the dedicated supporters to help us reach this milestone."

Professional auctioneer Shaunda Fry will lead the bidding on many exciting auction items. And, of course, you will have an opportunity to meet an ambassador wolf who will make an appearance.

We have a few ways you can help us raise money for the wolves through this event:

- **New this year**—premier guest tables! A Gold Table reservation will provide premier seating (including wine and champagne) for ten guests, one guest room at the Hilton for the night of the gala with breakfast the next morning, a private visit to the Sanctuary, and other goodies too numerous to mention here...all for a \$5,000 donation for the wolves. Only two Gold Tables are available--one has already been sold--so make your reservation today. We will also have three Silver Tables available for \$2,500 each—check our website (www.wolfsanctuary.net) for details on these premier tables.
- Businesses AND individuals can sponsor the gala—see the benefits of sponsorship on our website. Consider a sponsorship as a birthday or anniversary gift, or in memory or honor of someone special. Sponsorships make a huge impact on our ability to provide top-notch care to the wonderful wolves at our sanctuary.
- If you're unable to attend, please consider a cash donation earmarked for the gala to help us reach our goal. Every donation helps!
- We are always looking for unique and eye-catching items for our live and silent auctions. Do you have a new or antique item (personal or business) valued at \$50 or more that you'd like to donate? Perhaps a second home or time share to offer for a week-long or weekend getaway package? Please contact Carol Mahoney at cmahoney@wolfsanctuary.net for details on donating.



More details about The Great Growlsby will be available online soon and be sure to check our Spring newsletter for some auction item sneak peaks! If you're ready to reserve now, fill out and return the RSVP on the inside cover of this newsletter. So mark your calendar for Saturday June 11th—plan on putting on your flapper skirt and pearls (or any other outfit that tickles your fancy) and join us in celebrating the wolves and wolf dogs we all love so much.

A Tale of Three Trailers

By Bob Proulx

The painful lessons of 2012 and '13 impressed upon us the need to improve our procedures for dealing with emergency responses to natural disasters. Significant to that end was the creation of an off-site evacuation center in Loveland. We could all breathe a little easier knowing that our precious wards could be transferred to a single, safe location and cared for in relative comfort (given that an 8' by 16' dog run is no fair comparison to a half-acre enclosure). But how to get them there? Past experience revealed the holes in the process. With the critical factors of coordination and consolidation foremost in mind, we set ourselves to the task of acquiring enough trailers to move everyone efficiently and all at once.

The effort proved to be more challenging than we first thought. While our fundraising efforts fell short of our goal, we were able to accrue enough to pick up a couple of used trailers. One might think that out here in horse country such a task would

be a slam-dunk, and it would have been, were it not for the fact that the availability of used trailers all but dried up in the aftermath of the devastating fire of 2012. They were not to be found--not easily, and not locally. The search was painfully slow, and eventually took us to Denver, where we picked up two trailers--the first being a modest two-horse affair with some years and even more rust, the second being a larger stock trailer in much better condition. So far so good--but such trailers are designed for horses and cows, not kennels. So our next challenge then became: how many wolves can we comfortably cram into a horse trailer without stuffing them in like jack-in-the-boxes? None of the dimensions added up to easy transport. It

was clear that we needed at least one more trailer, and what we had would need some modification to fit the kennels.

Thus began the extreme makeover of trailer #1. Apart from cleaning (ugh!) and gutting the interior and painting inside and out, some serious metalwork was needed to make the thing road-worthy. As providence would have it, we were blessed to make the acquaintance of a retired welder who took notice of an interview with our director Shelley Coldiron that was published in the Loveland Reporter-Herald just a few days before. Robert ("Bob the Welder") Clark took on the task of shoring up the frame and adding a skeleton of angle iron to the interior to safely support double-stacked kennels. He also made some modifications to the stock trailer, to the same end. (The man rocks, I tell ya!) Our transport trailers were ready to go.

Which brings us back to the Reporter-Herald article. In addition to Clark's extraordinary service (it gets better, but that's another story), a

couple of local folks called in and offered to donate their trailers to W.O.L.F. -- and nothing fits into a non-profit budget like FREE. One of them looked like it would fill the bill: another two-horse trailer, slightly smaller, much older and decidedly "uglier" than the first, but nonetheless capable of carrying eight kennels, and that put us over the top (and under budget!) for our transport needs.

Obtaining evacuation trailers was a major hurdle to overcome; we have many supporters and volunteers to thank for providing the items, money and muscle for this project. Though we are not out of the woods yet, if those woods are threatened again by fire, we will be more ready now than ever to protect the lives entrusted to us.



Animal Updates: How are They Doing Now?

By Susan Weidel

In the Fall edition of this Newsletter, W.O.L.F. told you about several of our animals who needed special medical care. Each of the wolves received the care they needed. W.O.L.F. would like to take this opportunity to give you an update on each animal, thank you for your support, and show you how your donations have helped to provide these wolves with a high quality of life and in some cases, even save their lives.

Thor is one of the animals rescued from a deplorable roadside attraction in Alaska where he was forced to live in chains. He is nearly 8 years old, and during the summer of 2015 he developed a large mass on his neck that was the size of a baseball. Thor's mass was surgically removed and it was a non-malignant thyroid tumor. The operation was very tricky, and Thor's surgeons were extremely careful to avoid any nerve damage.



Today, Thor has made a full recovery and is doing very well. He is very energetic and playful. His fur is growing in well on his neck, and he is more active than ever and loving his life. For now, Thor has normal thyroid levels so he does not need to be on any medications. However, because half of Thor's thyroid was removed, W.O.L.F. will continue to monitor his thyroid function with periodic blood work during his regular, annual examinations. If W.O.L.F. staff notes any



changes, Thor will be tested sooner. According to Michelle Proulx, W.O.L.F.'s Director of Animal Care: "Thor is better than ever and he is having a great winter in the snow. He loves to play and he is always happy to see staff and volunteers who visit with him every day."

Pride is one of the Sanctuary's senior citizens at 15 years of age. She has been a resident since 2006 when she was rescued from a breeder in Wisconsin. During the fall, Staff noticed Pride beginning to limp on one of her back legs. Fearing it was a torn ACL, she was caught up and taken to our vets for an examination. The news was worse than expected. Pride had an aggressive osteosarcoma of the hip joint which was causing her



to limp and be in a significant amount of pain. After reviewing her overall health, Pride's doctors recommended that the leg be amputated. She was not a good candidate for chemo or radiation because of her very shy nature and it was clear that she would never regain the use of her leg, with or without the surgery. After consultation with the surgeons, Executive Director Shelley Coldiron made the decision to amputate. It was a difficult decision, but Pride sailed through the surgery and almost immediately began her recovery by getting to her feet. After a two-week stay at the off-site infirmary (with the company of her companion, Lance) to ensure a safe and healthy recovery, she had already shown remarkable resilience.



Today Pride is doing fantastic. She runs up and down the mountainside, digs holes, and it is almost impossible to tell she is on three legs. Due to Pride's reclusive nature, it was likely that the tumor was affecting her for some time before she showed any outward signs of illness and that in turn affected her interest in eating. With the tumor removed, Pride is now more interested in food than she was before the surgery, and she has an increased activity level and energy.

Though the vets believe they got clean margins around the tumor, the type of cancer Pride has is extremely aggressive and is known to spread. While there was no evidence of that at the time of the surgery, there are no guarantees it will not return and Pride's future may be uncertain at her age. She is on pain medication and joint supplements to help manage any discomfort and hopefully prevent or slow the reoccurrence of any

future tumors. Pride continues to have a very high quality of life and for that, W.O.L.F. is very grateful. The shy wolf has beaten the odds so far, and we continue to marvel at her strength.



Lance is Pride's companion and he is approximately 16 years old. During his annual physical exam in the summer of 2015, a number of concerning lumps were discovered prompting Staff to bring him in to the vet for further diagnostics. A needle biopsy of the masses revealed that it was an anal gland carcinoma, and ultrasounds showed that it had already spread into the lymph nodes. Because Lance is so shy and reclusive, he was not a candidate for chemo or radiation. He would have been so stressed by the catch up process for transports and treatments, that the stress may have killed him. Instead Lance was placed on pain medications to help keep him comfortable and manage his condition as best as possible.



At this date, Lance is still living his life as always. He does not show any signs of pain, or that

the cancer is progressing. He is often seen at the top of the mountain with Pride as they tour their enclosure and enjoy the snow. Though Lance is a bit stiff from his arthritis, he otherwise appears to be completely normal.



Orion came to W.O.L.F. as an elderly wolf in May, 2015. He was running feral on Native American land in Arizona when he was caught up by Animal Control. W.O.L.F. agreed to provide him with sanctuary. Prior to placement in his new home, Orion made a stop at W.O.L.F.'s vet for a physical examination. The news was devastating. Our vet examined Orion and found he had an extreme case of pulmonary hypertension and was in very bad condition. The vet suggested euthanasia was a possible option because it was not clear that Orion would live more than a few days at the Sanctuary, if he even survived the change in elevation to get there. Executive Director Shelley Coldiron and Animal Care Director Michelle Proulx conferred and decided to at least try to give Orion



a chance at a good life, even if only for one week. He was placed on heart medication and brought home to the Sanctuary.

At this writing in January, 2016, Orion is still going strong, to everyone's amazement and relief. He appears to love his sanctuary life (especially the free food) and he is enjoying winter immensely. He does not do a lot of running but he is much more active than in the summer. He enjoys interacting with his neighbors and has become increasingly interested in the humans who now share his world. We have fallen in love with this elderly wolf and cherish the time we have with him. According to Proulx, Orion looks very, very good and she calls each day with him "a blessing." She also says: "We are so thrilled that Orion seems pain free and active. He has far exceeded any time we thought he would have. We are delighted that he has chosen to stay with us, and we know that he has thrived at the Sanctuary where we are able to dote on him."



Rajan is one of the Sanctuary's favorite wolves and was rescued from a home in Illinois in 2008. Though he is nearly 10 years old, Rajan still acts and plays like the puppy he is at heart. His comfort around humans and his love of going for walks has made him an ideal Sanctuary ambassador, and he has been to countless educational programs to help the general public understand the plight of captive-born wolves and wolf dogs. For these reasons, it was very concerning when (in late 2015) staff noticed that Rajan was having trouble eating. The side of his face was swollen, and he appeared to be in some pain. Rajan

was brought into the vet where, after a full set of dental x-rays, it was determined that he had an abscessed tooth. The tooth was extracted, Rajan was placed on a course of antibiotics to deal with the leftover infection and sent back to W.O.L.F.



The x-rays showed that Rajan may have one other tooth that could become an issue in the future, but the vet didn't feel that it was necessary to remove at this time. W.O.L.F. will watch him carefully for any signs of pain or infection. With his mouth feeling better, Rajan has now returned to his happy, playful self. The swelling and infection are gone, he is able to eat normally, and he is playing in the snow with his beloved companion Bella Roux.



Sasha is a 10-year-old wolf who came to the Sanctuary 5 ½ years ago. She is the Queen of her Kingdom and W.O.L.F.'s staff and volunteers adore this regal wolf. During late summer 2015, Sasha tore a tendon in her wrist while in her enclosure. She needed immediate medical care be-

cause the tear was deep and severe. During her treatment and recovery, Sasha took up residence at W.O.L.F.'s off-site infirmary with Executive Director Shelley Coldiron. Because Sasha needed to be in a cast, her mobility was greatly restricted for over a month. She also required vet visits every other day for dressing changes and checks to prevent infection at the surgical site. Sasha was a model patient. Her loyal human subjects visited her nearly every day and Shelley was her constant companion. Sasha became so comfortable with her medical team that they were eventually able to change her bandages without sedation.



Despite all the pampering Sasha received during her recovery, Sasha was more than ready to be out of her cast and return to W.O.L.F. Today Sasha is back at the Sanctuary with her companion Jacob who was overjoyed at her return. They run and play and Sasha has resumed her royal duties. Her tendon has healed but her wrist is now hyper-extended. However, it does not inhibit her ability to walk or run. Though she does not need any pain medication, she has been put on joint supplements to help continue healing in her wrist. Life is very good for this beautiful wolf.

As we previously mentioned, this has been one of the most expensive years for veterinary care for the Sanctuary. Although money never seems to be in excess, animal well-being is one area where we will never cut corners. Fortunately for us and our wolves, we have the support of donors like you who make top-tier animal care possible. Once again we would like to say thank you for helping keep these beautiful wolves healthy!

Volunteer Spotlight

By Abby Matzke



This newsletter's Volunteer Spotlight shines on our wonderful volunteer, Keith Laposh. Keith started volunteering at W.O.L.F. in November of 2014 and has amazed his fellow volunteers and staff with his passion for the animals, and his willingness to do everything in his power to give them the best possible quality of life. He has done everything from completing chores at the Sanctuary, handling animals at education events, and even running all around Northern Colorado to help W.O.L.F. get donations from our dedicated supporters. Keith has also driven for almost 24 hours straight with two staff members to rescue our sweet old boy Orion

last summer, and will continue to take on more responsibilities for W.O.L.F. by leading educational programs on his own. We are all so grateful for everything that Keith does for W.O.L.F., and his continued dedication to the animals.

Why did you choose to volunteer for W.O.L.F.?

I have always loved canids (especially wolves and dogs) and have always wanted to be able to work with them. In 2014, my wife Gabrielle and I were looking for a place to see wolves up close for our anniversary. I called W.O.L.F. and was told that they were not open to the public, but there was a volunteer program. That's all I needed to hear! The following Saturday there was an orientation scheduled, but I was told it was full. I showed up at Overland Foods anyway, in case someone backed out. Sure enough, there was a no-show! I instantly fell in love with the residents and being able to care for them fulfilled my lifelong dream of working with wolves.

What is your favorite activity to do while volunteering?

My favorite normal on-site chore is poop-scooping! Being in the enclosures and having the wolves follow me around is amazing. Off-site, I enjoy veterinary visits and educational programs.

This is always the most difficult question; who is your favorite wolf and why?

That's a tough one! It all depends on what I'm doing with whom on any given day, but if I must choose, I would have to say Orion. Going on his rescue was a physically and emotionally exhausting (and equally enriching) experience that I will never forget. That, accompanied by Orion's age, heart condition and background story is the perfect combination to win my heart! I love that old guy dearly!



The Fire Chief and the Nun

By Mary Lou Knapke SC



Chief Brooks (left); Sister Mary Lou Knapke (right)

There are not many women fire chiefs in United States fire departments. There are even fewer Roman Catholic nuns who are massage therapists providing massage care within U.S. fire departments. Recently deceased Chief Trish Brooks of the Forest Park Fire Department, Forest Park, OH, however, accepted me, Sister of Charity Mary Lou Knapke, into the department and introduced me to fire culture. I had just returned from several deployments to New York City during the 9/11 crisis. I presented myself and my proposal to Chief Trish.

I wanted to provide massage care to firefighters/EMTs/paramedics who suffer from disproportionately high incidence of heart attacks and strokes. Chief Brooks and her leadership team listened and welcomed me and my program into the department and into their lives.

What did I do there? I provided massage care to fire personnel; I ran with the units; I watched, I listened, I accompanied. I learned. I had no authority, but I did have influence within the department. It was a bit of a challenge for these firefighters to accept a Roman Catholic sister into their daily departmental routines! I remember one

firefighter suggesting that I wear a habit. I replied that if I showed up in full habit, posture would immediately straighten up, to say nothing about how language would change! I continued to wear my After-Crisis Care uniform.

One day Chief Brooks presented me with a book listing questions that led to discovering what animal best symbolizes people's personalities. I took the quiz with her and we were amazed and delighted to realize that we both shared the same animal and its instincts, that of a wolf.

When I wanted to send a quick text or e-mail to her, I would frequently sign it "W2", meaning Wolf Two....and she would reply: "W1". It became easily known within the department.

While she was dying, and I was with the family at her bedside, her husband handed me a tiny plastic figure of a white wolf, telling me that Trish wanted me to have it. You can imagine how I treasure this symbol of all that we shared!

I recall telling her one day that she would have made a terrific nun, and her reply was that I would have made a good fire chief!

It is obvious to me that one way that I can honor this wonderful woman is to support your protection of wolves.





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Winter 2016

W.O.L.F.

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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Please make checks payable to W.O.L.F.

☐

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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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