

Letter from the Director

Dear Supporters:

First of all, I want to give a huge thank you and shout out to all of the people who helped to make this year's gala "WOLFstock" such an amazing success. There are so many people and groups to thank, so here goes. We could not have had our most successful gala ever without the help and support of our generous Sponsors, W.O.L.F.'s Board of Directors, W.O.L.F.'s Staff, the Gala Planning Committee, our dedicated Volunteers, and several hundred of our loyal donors and guests. And I would be remiss if I didn't



personally thank our honored guests, the musical artists and Blues stylists Sofie Reed and Lee Oskar. And a special shout out to the amazing Dr. Jeff Young, Rocky Mountain Vet. Thank you one and all, and come join us next year!

Among the articles in this issue, we'll share a medical update on Outlaw, our wolf dog who had two torn ACLs, and his amazing recovery. He is our miracle boy, and we couldn't be happier to report that his second surgery was a great success. He is well on his way back to racing and romping with his long-time companion Reese. He'll be back in his wading pool by summer!

We are also pleased to present a story by one of our interns who has shared part of her experience at W.O.L.F., focusing on the importance of education in changing public perception of wolves. We hope that through this immersion at W.O.L.F. she and other interns will become lifelong supporters and advocates for wolves and wolf dogs.

I'd like to share with you here an update on our new Red Feather Lakes property. We are moving along through the regulatory requirements and Special Use review process with Larimer County. It is a complicated process, and we are working with engineers, consultants, planners and lawyers to design and provide the necessary information to the County. We hope to conclude the Special Use review process sometime this late summer or early fall. Once we have cleared that hurdle, assuming we receive the Special Use Permit from the County, we will begin to implement our plans for the facility



including road work, all new and state-of-theart animal enclosures, a memorial garden, requisite infrastructure upgrades and building modifications. We hope you will continue to follow our progress over the summer and help to make this new and beautiful sanctuary a reality for our animals.

Enjoy your spring, whether you have snow and clouds or rain and sun. We have it all at W.O.L.F.

As always, humbly and gratefully yours,

Shelley

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We make it easy to do good. All of these programs help support the wolf dogs we serve.



IRS Tax Exempt Status Under Section 501(c)(3)
Colorado Nonprofit & Tax Exempt Corporation
United States Department of Agriculture, Licensed
Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 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 lifelong 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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No More Crying Wolf!

By Courtney Broulett



The story of the wolf is one that has been told for centuries. While it is quite popular to hear tales of the big bad wolf often portrayed as the villain, these stories are far from true. The folk tales you've heard since childhood are just that, folk tales—made-up stories portraying a wild animal to be some kind of vicious man-eating creature. Yes, the wolf is a wild animal, and it can be dangerous at times, as all wild animals can be. It's understandable how the public has such a corrupt view on what in reality is a magnificent animal.

With the decreasing population of the wolf species, it is rare for most people to have any interaction with a wolf during their lifetime. So, as a society, people are dependent on the media's portrayal of the wolf rather than on their personal knowledge and experience. Society relies on Little Red Riding Hood, The Three Little Pigs and, of course, all of the Hollywood movies that drastically exaggerate the ferocity and aggressiveness of wolves in the wild, to tell the story of the wolf. Today, it's time you hear the real story of the wolf, the true story.

While W.O.L.F.'s primary goal is to protect and care for captive-born wolves and wolf dogs, the Sanctuary also

strives to educate people on the history and behavior of wolves so that the public might be more welcoming and understanding of the wolves living in the U.S. To do this, the Sanctuary takes ambassador wolf dogs on educational programs on a regular basis throughout the Front Range of Colorado.

In February we took our ambassador wolf dog Spartacus to a small church day care program located in Boulder. When we arrived at the church, the parents and leaders immediately requested that Spartacus be kept at a distance from the children, for safety and liability reasons. Though we know that Spartacus loves children and had been around them for much of his life, we happily obliged and kept

Spartacus at a distance from the children. Despite the fact that the parents expressed concern for their children's safety, the kids themselves seemed more than thrilled to be in the presence of a real live wolf dog.

Once they were all seated, Michelle Proulx, W.O.L.F.'s Director of Education Programs and Animal Care, gave a presentation about the history of wolves. She had the children participate frequently by asking them questions to see what they knew about the wolf's behavior, diet,





and habitat.

It was clear that most of the answers the kids shared had come from the things they'd seen in movies or read in books. Though the children weren't afraid of the wolf dog standing in front of them, the media had ingrained in them that the wolf was an animal to be feared. When one of the children mentioned that wolves attack everything and anything, Michelle came up with a great metaphor to explain why wolf attacks do occasionally happen.

"If you were sitting in your home and someone came inside your house without your permission, started using your things and eating your food, would you be okay with it? Or would you be a little scared and angry at them for being inside your house?" The kids all answered in unison exclaiming just how mad they would be if a stranger were in their house! "Well that's how wolves feel, too, when people invade their territory. They get scared, so they defend themselves."

Wolves are animals of flight, meaning if they get scared they would rather run away than fight. Having to fight means they risk injury, which puts them and their pack at risk for survival. So when they feel as though they can't run away, they fight back to protect themselves and their family.

This seemed to help the children better understand the behavior of a wolf. It seemed as though seeing a wolf dog in front of them that had a calm, docile, behavior helped the kids to overcome their fear. Having Michelle explain why wolves act the way they do also gave them a clearer understanding of the creatures.

When Michelle finished the presentation, one of the parents approached and said, "We've decided that it's all right for the kids to pet the wolf dog. We thought he would be a little more dangerous or aggressive, but he seems very well behaved! It's nice to see that he's as friendly as a dog."

With permission, we walked Spartacus around, allowing the kids to gently pet him. He wagged his tail in agreement with the abundance of attention he was receiving.

It was clear that even a fifteen-minute presentation changed the way both the children and adults understood the wolf as a wild animal. This is why W.O.L.F. strives to go above and beyond in the community, to give people a better understanding of the wolf, in hopes that not only will people understand them but take action to protect the remaining population that is decreasing as we know it. The wolf can

be a dangerous creature at times, as can all animals, yet it is an animal to be respected more than it needs to be feared. This is why, as a sanctuary, we will continue educating the public and being as involved in the community as we can be to make people more aware of the species and more welcoming of it being reintroduced into the wild. The wolves are crucial to our ecosystem, and while W.O.L.F. does everything possible to protect them, it is impossible without the help of the community, state, and country to continue protecting the misunderstood wolves of the wild.



Animal Update: Nysa & Wayaho

By Michelle Proulx



many of vou may know, W.O.L.F.'s newest couple Wayaho and Nysa were rescued during the winter months of December and January. At the time of our last newsletter they had only just been introduced, so we were still unsure of how they would take to one another. Though

their initial meeting did not show many interactions between the two, we were soon pleased to see they were quickly developing a strong bond. Much to everyone's delight, Nysa and Wayaho have become the Sanctuary's newest star couple and are a constant source of amusement for the staff and volunteers.

Though there are some issues with making sure Nysa gets enough food because of Wayaho's food aggression, in all other interactions these two are best friends. Nysa and Wayaho are always hanging around near each other, with Nysa often following and imitating Wayaho's actions, especially his vocalizations. Both of them love to play and are regularly observed racing around their



enclosure chasing, wrestling and playing tug-ofwar with whatever is convenient. They both enjoy playing with (or more accurately, destroying) the toys that are given to them, and their enclosure frequently looks as though it still has snow on the ground because of how much stuffed animal fluff is strewn around it.

Wayaho is the more comfortable of the two when it comes to interacting with the caretakers. He learned soon after his rescue that when his caretakers approach, they often have a treat. He will now wait eagerly at the fence whenever

he sees them walking down the road. Wayaho will even wait at the gate for his caretakers to enter, although he usually is not brave enough to stay in place once the gate has opened. his caretakers crouch down, Wayaho will often come up and give them a sniff or allow for a quick scratch on his chin.



If they do not, Wayaho will usually stand back about 8 feet and bark loudly in protest to whatever activity is being attempted. As the caretakers move about his enclosure doing chores, Wayaho is likely to be following along behind investigating everything that was touched.

Nysa, on the other hand, likes to keep a distance of 15 feet or so between her and her caretakers whenever they are in the enclosure. Despite her nervousness about getting too close, Nysa usually tries to get the humans to play with her, barking, jumping and running around the catch area. Oftentimes she will start a game of keep away and pick up something to carry with her while she maintains her safe minimum distance, barking around whatever she has in her mouth. It

is always entertaining to see which item (a scrap of toy, a feather, a leaf, and once, even an uprooted tree) she will pick to guard from the thieving hands of her caretakers each time she plays the



game. When her caretakers are outside of her enclosure, Nysa will often try to play hide-and-seek with them, jumping out from around trees or behind bushes as they walk along the road or fence line. If they play back, her caretakers may find themselves involved in a game that could easily last five or more minutes!

Wayaho and Nysa are a joy to have around the Sanctuary, and it seems that there is always a new story to tell. We are very thankful that we were able to help save their lives and give them their forever home where their personality quirks are accepted and celebrated. Knowing where they came from and watching them grow and flourish at the Sanctuary is a reward in and of itself. We are hopeful that their relationship will continue to thrive for years to come.

Outlaw Gets His Second Surgery

By Susan Weidel

In December 2016, Outlaw tore both ACLs and needed TPLO surgery on both legs in order to repair the damage so he could walk normally again. Outlaw had the first surgery on his right leg later that month. His recovery was excellent,

and he was able to convalesce at an offsite infirmary for several weeks before heading back to the Sanctuary to stay in specially outfitted quarters at the bunk house where our overnight staff stay. To say that Outlaw was spoiled is truly an understatement.

Outlaw enjoying his "Office Time"

This wolf dog got the royal treatment with daily walks, visits from all of his human friends, lots of treats, and special office days where he supervised staff from his big dog bed in headquarters. While he progressed to a full recovery on the first leg, Outlaw often spent part of the day with his companion Reese in their usual enclosure.

Outlaw had his second surgery in March of this year to repair his left leg. The surgeon discovered Outlaw had a complete ACL tear and that his meniscus was completely shredded. He came through his surgery with flying colors and moved to

W.O.L.F.'s off-site infirmary once again. His recovery has been nothing short of miraculous. Soon Outlaw was back at his plush digs in the bunk house. Though it was obvious that Outlaw was ready to go back to his enclosure within two weeks of surgery,

he still needs to have limited activity until his leg is fully recovered. We are hopeful that he will get the all clear soon and be able to rejoin his companion Reese. He is a very good patient and loves having humans at his beck and call. If you would like to help with the costs of Outlaw's surgery, please donate at www.wolfsanctuary.net/Outlaw.





Meet the W.O.L.F. Board of Directors

W.O.L.F. is a nonprofit organization formed under the laws of the State of Colorado and the U.S. Tax Code. By law, W.O.L.F. is required to have a Board of Directors who have the responsibility to manage the operations of the organization. W.O.L.F. would like to introduce you to this special group of men and women who are dedicated to W.O.L.F., the animals and the mission.



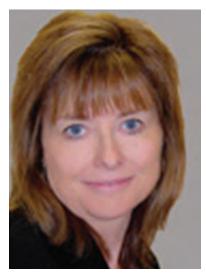
Mike Thompson is the Chairman of the W.O.L.F. Board of Directors. He joined the Board in 2013 and became Chairman in 2014. Mike was an executive with IBM for over 30 years and is an IT expert. Mike also serves Board as President of the Rist Canyon Volunteer

Fire Department, which provides fire, medical and first responder services. He helped lead the fire department during the devastating 2012 High Park Fire and the historic flood of 2013 that had such a significant impact on W.O.L.F.

Mike has served as a W.O.L.F. Board member and a volunteer because of his love for the animals. "Many people misunderstand these majestic and amazing animals when they breed them for pets, and their owners later discover they aren't very suitable as pets." Mike has seen many animals who have been abandoned and abused. "We at W.O.L.F. can offer them a lifetime home in natural conditions where they can thrive and enjoy life, and be cared for by compassionate people

for the rest of their lives. W.O.L.F. is an amazing place, and I am humbled by all the wonderful people who passionately support this cause."

Claudia Whitcomb, C.P.A. has been a member of the W.O.L.F. Board of Directors since 2014 and currently serves as Treasurer. She is a Colorado State University alumna and co-owner of the accounting firm Dye & Whitcomb. Claudia has over 20 years of experience in private



and public accounting, specializing in taxation and financial accounting for nonprofits, including serving a number of animal welfare agencies. Claudia grew up reading stories about wolves and huskies and always loved them. Then came a big change. According to Claudia, "I read the book Never Cry Wolf, and it really opened my eyes to the amazing pack life of wolves. I met W.O.L.F.'s Executive Director Shelley Coldiron, and I was impressed with her knowledge and passion. W.O.L.F. was going through some challenges, and they needed bookkeeping and tax assistance. That's my area of expertise, and I was happy to help. I have learned so much about the sanctuary animals, and I continue to be amazed by them. Working with W.O.L.F. is incredibly rewarding."

Dr. Ron Bright has been a member of the W.O.L.F. Board of Directors since 2014. He has been a veterinary surgeon for many of W.O.L.F.'s



animals since 2004. In 2013 he helped initiate a program for annual field examinations for each animal at the Sanctuary.

Ron graduated from Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and specialized in small animal surgery. He served as a member of the Board of Regents

and President of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. Ron has served as a professor at Purdue, University of Florida and the University of Tennessee. He has published over 150 articles, more than 27 chapters in 10 veterinary textbooks, and has given over 150 lectures nationally and internationally.

Ron recalled how he became involved with W.O.L.F. after performing surgery on wolves: "I witnessed early on how important it was to give wolves a 'second chance', if you will, after spending a number of their earlier years in less than ideal circumstances. If W.O.L.F. wasn't an option, then death was likely to be an unacceptable alternative. Seeing the wolves thrive in a loving and caring environment that W.O.L.F. provides on a daily basis was all I needed to jump in with both feet. I was able to help, not only with the veterinary care, but with the overall function of this wonderful non-profit organization."

Dr. Teva Stone began her service on the W.O.L.F. Board of Directors in 2016. She is a 2009 graduate of Colorado State University School of Veterinary Medicine and has a special interest and love for surgery. She is co-owner of the Wellington Veterinary Hospital in Wellington, Colorado and President of the Larimer County Veterinary Medical Association

Dr. Stone recalled how she was first introduced to W.O.L.F. "The Staff brought a wolf dog to my hospital for care. I was part of the treatment



team and I loved it. I wanted to be a bigger part of this amazing organization, so when I was asked to become a member of the Board, I happily accepted." Teva has treated many of the W.O.L.F. animals.

She has done routine exams at her hospital and at the Sanctuary and has done complex sur-

geries with Board Member Dr. Ron Bright. Teva expressed her feelings about W.O.L.F. this way: "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. My love and passion for these animals grows every day."

Diane Balkin. ioined J.D., the W.O.L.F. Board of Directors in 2016. She is an attorney for the Animal Legal Defense Fund's Criminal Justice Program. Diane was the Chief Deputy District Attorney for the Denver District Attornev's Office and also served as the "animal crimes" prosecu-



tor where she insured effective investigation and an aggressive prosecution of every animal cruelty case within her jurisdiction. She received her J.D. from the University of Denver and is a nationally ranked lecturer on animal cruelty investigations and prosecutions, with emphasis on training veterinarians. Diane recently expressed her feelings about W.O.L.F.: "I am so proud to be a member of the W.O.L.F. Board as I have always had a love

for and felt a kinship with wolves and wolf dogs. Aside from being so majestic, wolves are an extraordinary blend of the spiritual and mortal. History has not diminished their purity, strength, intelligence and ability to bond with other creatures."

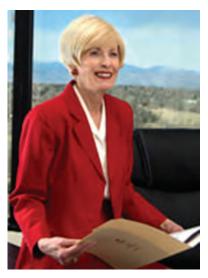
John Nigh joined the W.O.L.F. Board of Directors in 2016. He is the Chairman and CEO of Advantage Bank. John has been the Chairman of Advantage Bank for over 16 years. He was previously the Chairperson of Boundary Waters Bank in Minnesota. His ex-



pertise is in financial analysis, strategic planning and finance. John has an undergraduate degree from Purdue and received his Master's degree in 1971 from The University of Nebraska in Agricultural Economics. John brings a wealth of financial analytical skills and strategic business expertise to W.O.L.F. and is a highly valued member of the Board. John gave his thoughts on what W.O.L.F. means to him: "I sense the passion of the W.O.L.F. Team and the commitment toward the care and well-being for the subject animals. I like the constant enthusiasm of accomplishing the next hurdle, for reaching the next plateau, and the never-ending drive for success. I like being a part of that environment."

Barbara Budny joined the W.O.L.F. Board in 2017. She is a Vice President of Graziano Budny Wealth Management Group, which is a part of UBS Financial Services, Inc. She specializes in financial planning and wealth management. Barbara grew up in rural Wisconsin and earned a B.S. at the University of Wisconsin.

Barbara has had a passion for animals for many years. "Outside of the investment world, I support many national and local animal shelters and animal rights organizations. I volunteered at



animal shelters, adendangered opted animals at wild animal sanctuaries, and participated in the Legislation Day with the Humane Society of the US. Promoting animal welfare and animal rights in Colorado is one of my greatest passions." She also shares her home

with her two cats, Donald and Shayna. Barbara was the Guardian Angel to our wolf Lance in 2015, and until he returned to spirit in May 2016.

Shelley Coldiron, Ph.D., has been the Executive Director of W.O.L.F. Sanctuary since July 2012 and has served on the Board of Directors since late 2011. Shelley has B.S. and Master's degrees from Wright State University and received her Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Iowa



State University. She founded and had been the CEO and CTO of several biotech and device companies.

Shelley has been active in animal welfare and rescue for over 35 years in Ohio, Iowa, Utah, and Colorado. She shares her home with six rescued dogs and one rescued cat. According to Shelley, "There is no place on earth I would rather be. I am so blessed to have an amazing staff and Board, and I get to interact with wolves and wolf dogs as a routine part of my work. The animals are magnificent and so often misunderstood and abused. Every animal we are able to save makes my heart sing."

"WOLFstock" = GROOVY Success!











All we can say is "WOW!" W.O.L.F. had over 300 guests in attendance that April evening, second only to the gala immediately following the 2012 High Park Fire. Folks dressed in some wild '60s garb, and we had attendees from across the country and even Romania and Australia!

We were honored to have Dr. Jeff Young of ANIMAL PLANET'S "Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet" speak about the exotic pet crisis, along with giving W.O.L.F. high compliments on how we use innovative methods to give our wolves the best, least-stressful lives possible. Later in the evening we were treated to the incredible talents of music legend Lee Oskar and international artist Sofie Reed, who blasted out great tunes and got the crowd roaring.

Some stand-out items that evening included the Thor painting by Julie Kramer Cole which sold to its new "caretaker" at \$4,100, along with a new donor contributing \$5,000 during our paddle raiser. The gala was a record breaker, raising over \$86,000 net to help us care for these amazing animals. Thanks to all of the attendees (and those generous donors who couldn't attend but contributed anyway) for making "WOLFstock" such a tremendous success!

Keep an eye out for future information about our 2018 fundraiser gala event.



Thank You Gala Sponsors

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Ways to help W.O.L.F. that also benefit YOU!

We make it easy to do good. All of these programs help support the wolf dogs we serve.

Want to get rid of that old vehicle, even if it's not running? The CARS program has partnered with W.O.L.F. to take nearly any unwanted motorized vehicle: car, truck, trailer, boat, RV, motorcycle, off-road vehicle and even heavy equipment. The process is quick and easy, and CARS even tows away the vehicle for free! To start the donation process or to get more info, call 855-500-RIDE (7433) or go online at www.cardonatingiseasy.org.





Like tasty, organic, fair-trade wine? W.O.L.F. now has its own line from "Mellowulf Vineyards" with labels featuring our very own wolf dogs! The six delicious varieties (all have different labels) are great for special occasions, gift giving and wine tasting parties. About \$6 from each bottle purchase comes to W.O.L.F. Shop now at www.BenefitWines.com and choose W.O.L.F. from the listed charities.

Don't forget to check out our new W.O.L.F.-only clothing and other merchandise, and help promote the Sanctuary! There are also numerous businesses that donate a portion of their sales to our organization so you are sure to find something to love. Find your new wardrobe and other goodies at www.wolfsanctuary.net/store.



A Tribute to Unconditional Love & Second Chances

By Carol Mahoney

Remember Michael Vick and the illegal dog-fighting ring he ran? Many of those horribly treated pit bulls were later adopted, with one having been given a loving home by W.O.L.F.'s Rescue Coordinator Susan Weidel.

Little Red had been used as a breeding machine and bait dog by Michael Vick, but all of that came to an end after her rescue. In 2011 Little Red found her forever home in Wyoming with lots of

canine companions and a doting "mom" who cared for her. She was even featured in the film "The Champions" about these pit bulls who overcame so much. Little Red went from being an abused and feared creature to one who was able to flourish into her true nature of a loving, kind soul who just wanted to run, play and be cuddled. She, like so many wolf dogs, carried the scars of unfounded prejudice we humans so often place upon them.

Little Red passed away in early April and will be sorely missed by the many whose lives she touched and changed for the better. This is in memory of Little Red, a tribute to unconditional love and second chances.





Tube

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W.O.L.H.	Spring 2	2017	
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, annual calendar and additional gifts depending on my member level unless I specify otherwise. (Membership is renewable and is tax deductible.)			
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