

WOLF



Introducing Ashima, Akela & Nala
Remembering Sigmund, Odin & Makoce
High Park Fire: Five-Year Anniversary



Summer 2017

Letter from the Director

Dear Supporters:

June 9th marked our fifth anniversary of the High Park Fire and subsequent flooding events over the years since (see article inside recapping the fire). It has been a traumatic time dealing with the recovery from these natural disasters, but it has also been educational on preparedness. We now have a permanent evacuation site for our 30 animals. We have three modified trailers to evacuate quickly, efficient and in entirety at one time. Our evacuation manual is a living document that we improve upon and become better skilled at preparing for a disaster. And we have an established phone tree with staff, veterinarians and volunteers for quick response in the event of an evacuation.

The High Park Fire and flooding were startling, revealing that we needed to relocate the Sanctuary. We are located down a 2 ½ mile very rugged, private dirt road traversing through multiple properties. The road is the only passage in or out for the Sanctuary; should the road become blocked, it puts people and animals in harm's way. We are quite hopeful that we will receive the Special Use Permit through our County to relocate our Sanctuary to our new, safer property near Red Feather Lakes. Finding this property with all of its positive attributes has been a long, arduous journey.

The summer has been extremely hot and dry. We have already had two small wildfires within 10 miles of W.O.L.F. We alerted our teams, began the initial stages of preparations and stayed informed until the fires were contained. The animals, along with the humans, are not impressed with the relentless heat. The animals go upslope in their enclosures after early morning and take siestas until late in the day. We often would like to join them as the heat is exhausting.

With our hearts breaking, we said "goodbye for now" to Sigmund, Odin and Makoce. I called Sigmund Fabio as he would regally pose with the wind rippling through his fur; he could have been on the cover of a romance novel. Odin was a steady, goofy boy balancing out his high-spirited companion JJ. He loved crinkly clothing and tried to take possession of whatever he could steal. Makoce was a strong-willed, beautiful spirit, and she was an inspiration of "never give up." But at 18 years old, her body failed her. She is with her brothers now, Peta and Tate. I miss our Siggie, Odie Odie and Makoce Girl. I hope I will be seeing them again when I too pass over the Rainbow Bridge. Please see their memorials within.

When we lose a family member, there are many looking to become part of our family. We now have a puppy named Ashima. She epitomizes the tragedy of people acquiring wolf dogs not knowing how to properly care for them. As such, Ashima suffered a tragic accident, shattering her right femur, which brought her into our lives and our forever care. She brings such joy on the heels of our mourning recent losses. We also had a stunning sister and brother join our family, Nala and Akela. A Good Samaritan ensured that they would have a bright, healthy and happy future. We are grateful to Scott for being the safe, loving haven between the breeder and W.O.L.F.

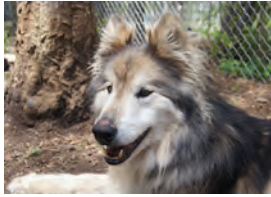
Please follow us on social media as we post updates on the Special Review permitting process. Also, mark your calendars for next year's fundraiser gala on April 21, 2018.



As always, gratefully and humbly yours,
Shelley

In This Issue

Cover Photo: Ashima



In Memory of Sigmund 3

Originally purchased by an individual in San Francisco, Sigmund soon escaped and was picked up by a shelter.



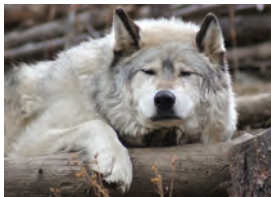
The New Puppy - Ashima 4

Ashima's story starts like many captive-born wolf dogs. Originally named Storm, she was born to a breeder on April 11, 2017 before being sold at 3 weeks of age.



The Five-Year Anniversary of the High Park Fire 7

In its 22-year history, W.O.L.F. has encountered more challenges than we can count, but none have been as life-changing as the High Park Fire in June of 2012.



In Memory of Odin11

Odin's life began at a roadside breeding attraction in Alaska. As one of over 40 animals, Odin lived tied to an eight-foot chain before his rescue in late 2011.



Introducing Akela & Nala 13

Nala and Akela are W.O.L.F.'s newest residents. Born on February 1, 2016, they were part of the last litter of pups from a breeder transitioning to breeding huskies.



In Memory of Makoce 17

Makoce (pronounced Mah-co-chay) arrived at the Sanctuary as a 12-week-old pup in June 1999 with her brothers Tate and Peta.



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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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In Memory of Sigmund

By Michelle Proulx



Sigmund's story is one we have heard many times before. Originally purchased by an individual in San Francisco, Sigmund soon escaped and was picked up by a shelter. Because the owner did not feel he could contain Sigmund, he never came to claim the young wolf dog. Luckily for Sigmund, the shelter chose to adopt him to another family. Unfortun-

nately for Sigmund, his new family was just as unprepared for a wolf dog as his first owner.

Once again, Sigmund proved difficult to contain and was soon running free in the Santa Cruz Mountains, escaping all attempts by Animal Control to recapture him. Eventually a local took Sigmund in, and the cycle repeated itself. We don't know how many homes failed to keep Sigmund before W.O.L.F. was contacted in 2007, but we do know all this happened before he was 2.5 years old.

Originally Sigmund was placed with the older female Tunyan, and the two immediately became best friends, playing and wrestling constantly. Sigmund was also extremely social with people and loved to be petted and go for walks. He disliked being brushed however, so it was a lifelong challenge to try and manage his beautiful fur. He was even given the nickname "Fabio" because of the way the wind ruffled his fur (we always felt he should be the cover model for a romance novel!)

After Tunyan passed away in 2013, Sigmund was placed with a number of other companions, but the only one with whom he formed a bond was Tundra. Starting in 2014 Sigmund began to have mobility problems. Eventually the age and energy difference between Tundra and him proved to be too much for him, and they were separated in mid-2016.

Though he had other companions after Tundra, Sigmund chose to spend most of his time around his caretakers, reveling in the attention lavished on him. He was eventually diagnosed with degenerative myelopathy, a disease of the spinal cord. Sadly there is no way to cure or stop the degeneration, so we helped make him comfortable with appropriate treatment. And although Sigmund's mobility steadily declined, he remained happy and engaged in life until the end.

On May 26, Sigmund suddenly lost his ability to walk without assistance. It was decided to give him intensive pain medication in the hope that he was having a temporary setback, though we knew his disease was progressive. Unfortunately, Sigmund never recovered his ability to walk, and W.O.L.F. made the decision to help him pass on May 29.

Sigmund was a beautiful wolf, and our wish for more time with him was not granted. However, we take heart that Sigmund is able to play with Tunyan once again. Sigmund was 11.5 years old.

The New Puppy - Ashima

By Michelle Proulx



Ashima's story starts like so many captive-born wolf dogs. Originally named Storm, she was born to a backyard breeder on April 11, 2017. As many wolf dog breeders mistakenly believe that wolves, like birds, imprint when their eyes first open, Storm was sold to a young couple at just three weeks

of age. With few instructions on how to appropriately care for a young wolf, the couple was unprepared for dealing with Storm's rapid development. During the next six weeks, Storm grew into an energetic, possessive puppy who would harass the couple's three-year-old German Shepard and guard her toys obsessively. When they tried to contact the breeder for help with the puppy's behavioral issues, the breeder hung up on them and blocked their phone number.

Through a combination of unfortunate circumstances and malnutrition, Storm's right femur was badly broken at just nine weeks of age. The young couple brought her to their vet, but when the extent of the damage was discovered, they knew they would not be able to afford the surgery. Warned by the vet that most wolf dogs surrendered to res-



cues or shelters are killed, they contacted a local no-kill dog rescue to see if they would be willing to take in a "Husky-mix" puppy. The rescue agreed, and Storm was transferred to another veterinary clinic for emergency corrective surgery.

Shortly afterward, the couple contacted W.O.L.F. about Storm. After speaking with her original owners, seeing pictures and hearing her story, W.O.L.F. knew she was a high-content wolf dog. After discussing the situation, it was decided to give one of the two spaces available at the Sanctuary to Storm. W.O.L.F. told the rescue that we were interested in taking her in permanently, and the rescue readily agreed to surrender her into our care. After W.O.L.F. picked up Storm from the vet, there were some concerns with the appearance of the surgery site, and it was decided to get a second opinion from an orthopedic surgeon.

Unfortunately, the X-rays showed that the repair work done on Storm's leg—a metal rod running the length of her femur with a wire wrap around the break site—was not the most effective repair technique for the type of fracture Storm suffered. The orthopedic surgeon thought the procedure could lead to a stunted and deformed leg as Storm grew into adulthood. At the very least, the rod extruding from her upper thigh posed a high probability of bone infection. According to the orthopedic vet, her best chance for having a functional leg would be to have a second surgery to stabilize what had already been done. Even then, there might still be a need for additional surgeries later in life to lengthen the leg so Storm would be able to walk normally.



Because of her physical condition and the potential for complications and infections, Storm was not in a position to go immediately to the Sanctuary. Unfortunately, for these same reasons, Storm was not allowed to be around other wolves or dogs until fully healed. Instead, it was decided that she would be cared for off-site by staff and volunteers until her leg healed completely. Much to staff's delight and frustration, Storm was not at all impeded by having only three good legs and was up and running in what seemed like no time.



Exposed Portion of the Surgical Pin

Despite attempts to follow doctor's orders to keep Storm "calm and contained," she showed just how wolf-y she was, climbing, crawling, running, jumping and CHEWING. In fact, she was so skilled at attempting to climb over her containment gates that W.O.L.F. was inspired to change Storm's name to Ashima, after Ashima Shiraishi who, at 16 years of age, is one of the world's best female rock climbers (go girl!). The name also means "without boundaries," which is fitting for the

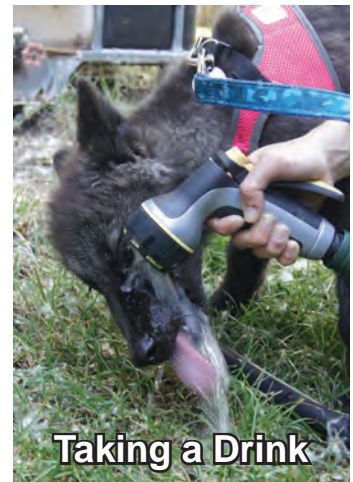


Ashima Finds a Cat

little wolf's personality.

On June 26, Ashima went to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at Colorado State University for her second surgery. Luckily by that point, she had grown enough that the surgeons were able to repair her leg through a process known as internal fixation, using a special plate and pins to hold the break together. With this method, not only were they able to remove the metal rod and wires, but the entire new device is internal and does not need to be removed as she grows. In addition, Ashima was given two stem cells injections to further aid in her recovery. Surgeons informed staff that Ashima needed to be kept quiet and quarantined for a minimum of four weeks to allow for the best chance of recovery.

Though Ashima is adorable, her care is a 24-hour puppy-sitting job to make sure she doesn't further hurt herself. Full of energy that has nowhere to go, Ashima is looking for any and every chance to stretch her legs--literally. Given even an inch of freedom, Ashima will take a mile. Everything



Taking a Drink



can be a toy, from sprinklers, to dog beds, to human feet. She loves to run, wrestle and bite her caretakers, basically being a typical wolf puppy. As she grows, she is exploring her environment and is continuing to improve her technique as a climber and jumper. It is a con-



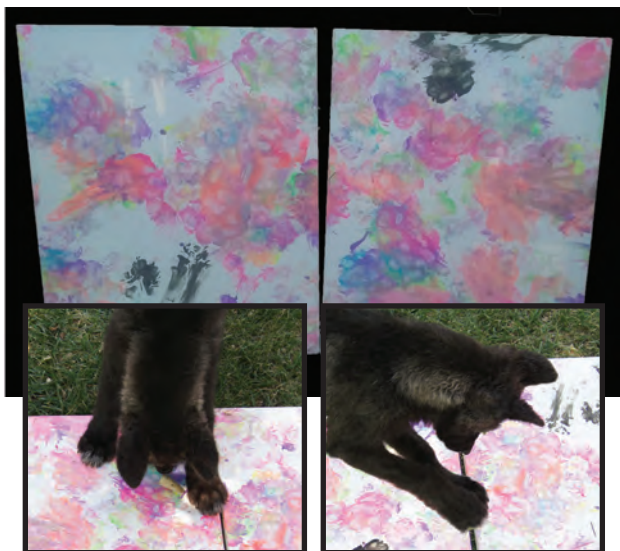
Ashima Imitates a Tasmanian Devil

stant struggle to find outlets for her energy while trying to restrict her use of her injured leg. Her antics have earned her a host of nicknames ranging from Taz (short for Tasmanian Devil) and Tigger (because she bounces everywhere she goes) to Raspberry (her favorite treat).

In typical wolf fashion, Ashima has decided that she is most content outside and will spend most of her days (and nights) in the great outdoors. This means that her puppy-sitters must also spend most of their time outside, which is not necessarily a bad thing. However, since Ashima can rarely be left unsupervised because of her broken leg, her caretakers are getting ample experience with “backyard camping” at night. Thank goodness it is summer!

As the newsletter goes to publication, Ashima has had her four-week post-surgery checkup.

The stitches have been removed and the orthopedic team at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital took x-rays of her leg. So far everyone is thrilled by her progress! Her joints are strong and flexible, and it appears that her legs are growing at the same rate. The veterinarians are still recommending an additional three weeks of restricted activity to insure a full recovery. With that and putting a little bit more weight on her, we are all optimistic that Ashima will soon be joining the rest of the wolves at the Sanctuary.



Ashima the Artist – Buy Her Paintings!

Here's your chance to get an original, unique painting created by “child prodigy” Ashima. Our little girl, who was only three months old at the time, had a blast painting these pieces (yes, safe paints were used) and Ashima wants two lucky people to own her masterpieces. Bid on her artwork at www.biddingowl.com/WOLFSanctuary. Bidding will run through August 31, 2017.

The Five-Year Anniversary of the High Park Fire

By Carol Mahoney

In its 22-year history, W.O.L.F. has encountered more challenges than we can count, but none have been as life-changing as the High Park Fire that hit the Sanctuary in June of 2012. This is a story about resilience, commitment, and W.O.L.F.'s rebirth from the ashes.

June 9th started out as a typical Colorado sunny day. Staff went about their daily chores at the Sanctuary—poop scooping, filling water buckets and preparing meat for mealtime. Nothing seemed out of sorts until smoke was spotted in the distance. Northern Colorado had been in a drought for some time, and one of the biggest fears was fire. Staff kept an eye out as the thin line of smoke



eventually turned into a mushroom cloud. As the day wore on, it was clear that the fire was moving rapidly in the dry timber, traveling too quickly for comfort. Water troughs were filled in the wolves' enclosures, transport crates were assembled, and a mandatory evacuation was enacted. Extra volunteers arrived to help move the wolves, loading them into vehicles and driving them

to a safe location as quickly as possible. Trying to catch up 30 wolves in 15 different enclosures (each enclosure being about a third or more of an acre) was a monumental task, especially when most did not want to be handled. By that evening, as the fire roared across the hillsides, 11 wolves were brought down from the mountain, with the majority going to Board member Dr. Shelley Coldiron's property where temporary enclosures were quickly erected to house the animals.



Two staff members stood guard overnight at the Sanctuary with the 19 remaining animals. Other staff and volunteers were desperate to return to remove these wolves, but sheriff-staffed roadblocks hampered their attempts. Two volunteers somehow managed to sneak in and load up two more wolves, with the overnight staff following them down. Local firefighters took time away from battling the massive inferno to check in on the remaining wolves, making sure that they had water and were safe enough. By day five, as W.O.L.F. was finally allowed access to the property, rescuers from The Wild Animal Sanctuary (TWAS) helped evacuate our remaining animals. Fourteen of these wolves were driven two hours to safe, specially erected enclosures at TWAS, thankfully with no injuries having occurred from the wildfire.

As the blaze raged on, the evacuation re-





mained for nearly a month. Staff and volunteers, now headquartered at Dr. Coldiron's house, worked around the clock to maintain as calm and stress-free an atmosphere as possible for creatures who had been displaced from the homes they knew, not knowing if and when they'd return. By the time

the fire had taken its toll, over 87,000 acres had burned and 259 homes were destroyed—this was one of the most destructive fires in Colorado's recorded history.

During this chaos, the Executive Director abruptly resigned. Dr. Coldiron then stepped in to take over the reins. Once authorities had deemed the area safe for return, all of the animals were driven back to the Sanctuary. The home they remembered had been transformed: about one-third of the property had been severely burned; many of the trees, bushes and ground cover were gone, and the fire had scorched a number of the enclosures. Several structures had burned to the



ground, and some larger equipment vital to our recovery efforts was charred. Staff and volunteers were in shock at the destruction and daunting repair ahead of them, yet they immediately rolled up their sleeves and got to the dirty and exhausting work of rebuilding what had been destroyed.

The sound of chainsaws filled the air as downed trees and those perilously close to falling were removed. Enclosures were made safe again

by repairing fencing, scrubbing the ash from water buckets and troughs, and felling dead and precarious damaged trees. And the marathon began in dealing with the detailed demands of the insurance company.

When a fire has ended, that's not the final story of its destructive nature. In a blaze as huge as this one, the intensity of the heat essentially glazes over the soil like glass, making the soil impermeable. Experts then predict severe flooding for a number of years post-fire. And flood it did. Within a few weeks after returning to the Sanctuary, monsoonal rains, common to Colorado in July, arrived with a vengeance.



W.O.L.F. is located in a steep rocky ravine downslope from a number of ponds on private properties. The geography acts like a funnel for water moving down toward the lower elevation of the Sanctuary. During the heaviest rains over the next year, the dams on some of the private ponds above the Sanctuary broke, emptying and pouring toward W.O.L.F. In one flash flood, the water rose so quickly that we almost lost an intern to waters that raged down onto our property. Heavy damage occurred to the land, equipment and supplies. The rains would wash huge amounts of ash down the hillsides where it would accumulate in the lower areas of enclosures and in our ponds. During the first two flooding events, we experienced ash depths of up to four feet in one enclosure! With the difficulty of the terrain, the only way to remove the ash was by hand shovels and back-breaking bucket brigades.

With each flooding event, W.O.L.F.'s ponds and dams required costly repairs. Our three ponds had to be dredged several (continued on page 12)





Wayaho & Nysa

In Memory of Odin

By Michelle Proulx

Odin's life began at a roadside attraction in Alaska. As one of over 40 animals, Odin lived tied to an eight-foot chain and on display until authorities shut down the operation in December 2011. Odin and all the wolves at the site were sent to Lockwood Animal Rescue Center in California.

In January 2012, W.O.L.F. contacted Lockwood about accepting one of the animals as a companion for Frackette and decided Odin would be the best fit. When staff arrived at Lockwood to pick Odin up, space had opened to res-

cue another animal, this time for JJ. After meeting Odin, it was clear that he was destined to be JJ's companion, and Loki was accepted for Frackette.

Odin's initial meeting with JJ was love at first sight, and the two became almost inseparable from day one. Though initially reserved, Odin quickly began to develop a curious, playful attitude with his caretakers. Often he would approach and scent rub on his caretakers to lull them into a false sense of security before trying to sneak around behind for a quick nip. Odin also loved to be scratched and his favorite place was his inner thigh. He would startle new caretakers into thinking he was going to pee on them when he would walk up and lift one of his rear legs up into their laps.

Over the years, Odin developed numerous lumps and bumps along his body. Most of the masses were benign, fatty tumors. In May 2017 a few masses had become concerning enough that removal was recommended. Odin had surgery on June 6 to have the masses removed and biopsied. Because of unavoidable complications with the anesthesia, vets were concerned about the potential for pneumonia. Odin was given a number of antibiotics before going back to the Sanctuary where staff monitored him closely. He showed no signs of difficulty breathing until the morning of June 8. Fearing pneumonia had developed, Odin was loaded up to go back to the vet hospital. On the road to the emergency clinic, Odin passed away.

Stunned by his unexpected passing, W.O.L.F. ordered a necropsy to find out why Odin died so suddenly. The results showed that Odin had not passed away because of the complications under anesthesia but instead because of a ruptured esophagus. This condition is often the result of chronic GI issues. Since Odin had exhibited no symptoms at all, there was no way to predict that something like this would happen. When the rupture occurs there is very little chance that an animal can survive, even with immediate medical care.

We are all devastated by Odin's passing but we are comforted knowing that Odin was happy and active right until the end. We are honored to have been able to know and love this wonderful wolf.



(continued from page 8) times due to the ash and debris buildup. The road into the Sanctuary and the fire road above the west enclosures were repeatedly eroded and required major work to make them at least marginally passable and safe. There was no flood insurance (flood insurance covers structures, not property), so W.O.L.F. had to painfully self-fund when making necessary repairs after each damaging storm.



Despite these incredible challenges, W.O.L.F. staff and volunteers persevered, knowing that the well-being of the wolves was above and beyond any discomforts or disappointments that they would experience from Mother Nature's wrath. They were also buoyed by the incredible generosity of local residents and people from across the U.S. and other countries who came to the rescue of W.O.L.F. in its time of greatest need—we couldn't have done it without our amazing supporters.



As time went on and life returned to relative normalcy at the Sanctuary, it was imperative to look for another property that was safer and less restrictive for the wolves and humans alike.

W.O.L.F. purchased a new property in April of 2016 north of our current digs, a location that will be better for us and allow supporters to come visit our precious animals.

We are currently going through the arduous Special Review process with the County and hope to have approval for our move before the end of the year. The County-required improvements to the property and the buildings, along with purchasing miles of new fencing (most of the current enclosure fencing cannot be reused) will cost W.O.L.F. about \$500,000. This is another challenge that W.O.L.F. will rise to, but it takes a team of supporters like you who care deeply for these majestic animals. We hope you will help us achieve this goal as W.O.L.F. tenaciously continues to improve the quality of life for wolves and wolf dogs in our care and elsewhere.

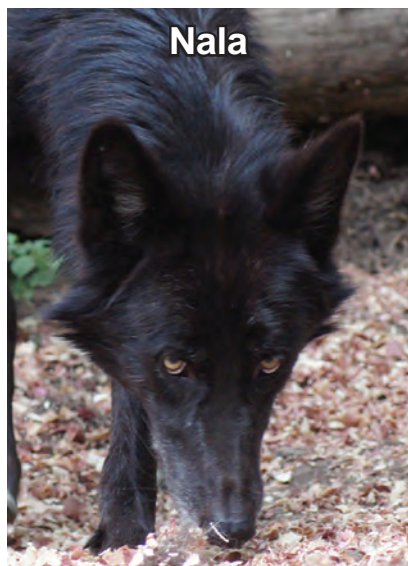
“HOW CAN I HELP?”

Visit our web page at www.wolfsanctuary.net and click on the “DONATE” button to find the various ways to help:

- **Become a monthly donor** to help sustain W.O.L.F. during this transition and throughout the year
- **Consider a higher-level W.O.L.F. membership.** We even have a “Phoenix Rising” level that provides member gifts along with a table for eight guests at our annual gala!
- **In-kind donations** can be very helpful. Consider providing professional services on site (carpentry, electrical, plumbing, fencing, excavation, forestry, sawyers, asphalt paving), getting rid of an old vehicle, RV or trailer through the CARS program, or donating fencing material, a quiet ATV, golf cart, tools, walk-in freezer or road base materials. Contact us at info@wolfsanctuary.net
- **Create your own fundraiser** for W.O.L.F. where you invite family and friends to participate. Contact Carol for ideas at cma-honey@wolfsanctuary.net.
- **Attend one or both of the public County hearings as a show of support** for W.O.L.F. For more information, email us at info@wolfsanctuary.net

Introducing Akela & Nala

By Susan Weidel



N a l a and Akela are W.O.L.F.'s newest residents. They are a sister and brother duo from Oklahoma. Born on February 1, 2016, they were part of the last litter of pups from a breeder who was transitioning to breeding Siberian huskies. A Good Samaritan known

as Scott met the pups when they were 11 weeks old. They were the last remaining pups in the litter still needing placement. Scott realized immediately it would be difficult for the breeder to sell them to a private owner as pets since, in the breeding world, they were considered too old to bond solidly with a human owner. Scott could not get the little black pups out of his mind, wondering what their fate would be. He returned to the breeder and offered to take them both. The breeder, anxious to be done with them, readily agreed, and soon Scott and his family had themselves two very high-content wolf pups who were not well socialized with

humans. Scott's intention was to help them: make sure they were healthy, spayed, neutered, socialized, and then find a sanctuary placement where they would be safe. Thus began a 14-month journey that brought Scott and the pups to W.O.L.F. on July 16.



Scott knew immediately that the pups were not good candidates for household companions. Both were very shy around people and were very reserved when approached. Akela was better socialized than Nala who was distant and frightened. She did consent to take food from a spoon from Scott's wife and daughters, but she would not interact with Scott. Both the pups loved other animals and would often play with the family dogs and cats.

As is common with high-content wolf pups, they were very inquisitive and longed to see what was on the other side of their fence. As they grew, it was a short leap, and they were over the six-foot backyard fence. Scott and his family lived in



a rural area, but it caused a commotion with some neighbors with two young wolf dogs on the prowl. Scott contacted an exotic animal expert and a vet to help him catch the animals. Akela and Nala stayed close but proved to be extremely elusive. After a week, Scott was able to catch Akela and bring him home. Nala was loose for two weeks, and she was finally sedated and brought home. Scott knew he needed to do something to help the pups or the next escape might be their last.

He contacted a trainer who used positive training techniques and placed the pups in socialization training for three months. Akela seemed to respond, but Nala did not. While the pups were learning some basic skills, Scott found a new location for them and built a 20 by 80 foot run with



eight-foot fences and lean-ins. The pups' new home also had an indoor space during bad weather or heat. When the pups returned from their training sojourn, Scott realized it was time to find them a permanent sanctuary home. They enjoyed the new enclosure and the other animals around them, but it was no life for high-content wolf dogs. They needed space to run and play and to be around other animals of their own kind.

Scott researched sanctuaries and placements and contacted W.O.L.F. in the process. It is rare that W.O.L.F. has two placements at the same time or that it would be possible to keep the two siblings together. But the stars must have been aligned perfectly for Akela and Nala, because that is what happened. Because of the recent passing of Sigmund, Odin and Makoce, there was room at the Sanctuary to take both Nala and Akela and keep them together (it also allowed W.O.L.F. to rescue the pup Ashima - see page 4.)



On a beautiful July morning, Executive Director Shelley Coldiron and the Staff met Scott after his overnight drive from Oklahoma. Nala and Akela were settled peacefully in side-by-side crates for the long journey. At the Sanctuary, Scott and the Staff carefully unloaded the crates



and placed them in the enclosure that would become home to the siblings. They simultaneously opened the crate doors and both animals bolted out and immediately ran up the side of the mountain to begin exploring their new digs. They spent the afternoon running, sniffing, and playing in their huge new mountain home. Scott and Staff saw their gorgeous shiny black coats flashing in and out of the greenery as they ventured into their new world. They watched with awe as the young wolf dogs made the space their own. There were a few tears from the humans as these beautiful animals began the transition from Oklahoma to Colorado with seeming ease.

Scott, the Good Samaritan, had accomplished his mission. The two wolf pups that he rescued from an unknown fate were now safe in sanctuary, and they would never be at risk again. W.O.L.F. will help them grow and blossom, and they will be safe and happy for all of their days and years to come.

Want to become Akela's or Nala's Guardian Angel?

Normally we offer our supporters the opportunity to become Guardian Angels during our annual gala fundraiser (our next will be April 21, 2018). But our two new arrivals can't wait to have someone watching over them! Guardian Angels receive a framed photo of their wolf, a photo mug, some of their wolf's naturally shed fur, a Guardian Angel bumper sticker, quarterly email updates, and acknowledgement as this year's Guardian Angel on our website. To bid on Nala or Akela, go to www.biddingowl.com/WOLFSanctuary. Bidding will run through August 31, 2017.

A Call to Action: The Wild Wolf

By Adrienne Bolt



In 1995-96 wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park and the rest is history. But what is that history? There have been notable successes with heartwarming stories of individual wolves, but most tragically end up fatally shot, leaving their families splintered. Collared Yellowstone wolves are killed the minute they step outside the boundaries of the park; out on the range, wolves and collars are “disappeared.” Worst of all, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) typically refuses to perform its mandate under the Endangered Species Act (ESA): “to restore and conserve” these wolves. FWS continues to buckle under special interests and political pressure.

The latest Sportsman’s Act, Senate bill 1514, has an attached rider that would permanently remove Great Lakes and Wyoming wolves from Endangered Species protection. When Rocky Mountain wolves were delisted some years back, the slaughter in Wyoming proved so great that environmental groups sued the government to get wolves relisted. Clearly the war on wolves is alive and well to this day.

The historical wolf range included most of North America. US populations currently consist of a small group of red wolves in North Carolina, the Great Lakes (Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Isle Royale), the Rockies (Montana, Wyoming, Idaho), the Coastal states (Washington, Oregon, and most recently California), and the Southwest

(Arizona, New Mexico). Mexico also has its own Mexican wolf program.

The FWS currently runs two recovery programs: the red wolf and the Mexican wolf. Red wolves were declared extinct in 1980 and reintroduced into North Carolina in 1987, rising to a population of 150 wolves. Two years ago there were around 100 before nighttime coyote hunting became permissible in the red wolf area. They now number less than 45. This past May the FWS posted notice of intent to revise the management rule. The proposed plan would shrink wolf habitat by nearly 90%, accommodating just a few packs. The rest would be “removed” from the wild, allowing resources from the red wolf program to be used elsewhere.



As a longtime New Mexico resident, I have been in the thick of the Mexican wolf program. Mexican wolves were pretty much extinct in the US by the 1970s. Just seven wolves were captured from Mexico and the captive breeding began. Wolves were put on the ground in the Blue Range Recovery Zone of southern Arizona and New Mexico in 1998. Eleven were released; five were shot and the remaining six brought back into captivity. It’s been rough going ever since.

The Mexican wolf (*Canis lupis baileyi*) is the smallest subspecies of gray wolf, weighing in at 50-80 pounds, about 5 ½ feet from nose to tail, and 28-32 inches at the shoulder. Their distinctive



coat is cream, black, rust, and gray and they have distinctive facial patterns. It is also the rarest, most genetically distinct of all wolves and the most endangered mammal in North America. They are also in a genetic crisis brought on by a number of factors, including a small genetic pool, shot and

“disappeared” wolves, indiscriminate FWS removals, and an outdated recovery plan created in 1982, over a decade before the first releases.

The FWS has had meetings of recovery team planners, the last in 2011, made up of wolf biologists and related experts. Their findings, based on the best available science (as required by the ESA), called for three distinct populations of 300-350 wolves each, located in the current Blue Range recovery area, Northern New Mexico, and the north rim of the Grand Canyon. These forested areas provide proper habitat, and wolves moving between areas would disperse their genes, creating a stronger population. A 2015 rule change did expand the territory but to the east and west of Arizona and New Mexico, which is mostly desert. Why? One word: politics.

Just this past July, four meetings were held in Arizona and New Mexico for FWS to present



their long awaited draft of the new recovery plan and get public input. Sadly, all nongovernmental stakeholders were left out of the planning process. Last year meetings were held behind closed doors with Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah state game agencies. The new plan reads more like an extinction plan. It limits the number of wolves to less than the original plan and limits wolves to an unnaturally small area. The plan also puts a lot of the burden on Mexico, which has neither the public land nor the money needed to succeed. But the worst result is the plan turns control of the releases (thus genetic health) over to the state game agencies. These are the same agencies that have been thwarting Mexican wolf recovery at every turn. They have ignored illegal killings, denied permits, and last year New Mexico Game Commission sued the federal government to block badly needed releases. State management was tried once before and the wolf population dropped to just 46 animals.

Yes, wolves were reintroduced in the nineties and it was because the public demanded it. It is time for us to demand again. Demand that our senators oppose anti-wolf legislation. Demand that the FWS perform its mandate to restore and conserve wolves and other species. Demand that wolves and other top predators are allowed to perform their role in keeping our ecosystems healthy. Demand that our leaders stop catering to the minority special interests and listen to us, the majority who want these amazing creatures in our world!



For more info and to act by August 29th:

www.mexicanwolves.org

www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf

www.fws.gov/redwolf

www.rockymountainwolfproject.org

In Memory of Makoce

By Michelle Proulx

Makoce (pronounced Mah-co-chay) arrived at the Sanctuary as a 12-week-old pup in June 1999 with her brothers Tate and Peta. A rescue organization saved them from a horrible breeder when they were only four weeks old. All three were extremely malnourished and close to death. As they were treated and their health began to improve, the rescue contacted W.O.L.F. to see if we had space for Makoce and her two brothers. We said yes.

Makoce arrived healthy but extremely scared of people. Because of this it was decided to place the trio with an adult female who had previously had a litter of pups. Whisper took to them quickly, herding them to the safety of her den and regurgitating food. The three pups lived with Whisper until they turned two years old. As often happens at this age, Makoce decided she was done listening to "Mom" and began fighting with Whisper, ultimately requiring Whisper to be removed from the group.

Because of the early trauma of puppyhood, the trio never became comfortable with their caretakers, though Makoce showed the most confidence. She would always place herself between her caretakers and her brothers as if to protect them. Of course, since she knew the humans often brought food with them, she could have simply been placing herself in the best position to get to the treats first. She eventually got comfortable enough to take food from a spoon from a few of her caretakers.

In early 2015, both Tate and Peta passed away from cancer, leaving Makoce by herself for the first time in her life. Concerned about her mental health, she was soon placed with another older male named Tonka. The two of them were regularly seen sleeping near each other and would often engage in "races" to see who could get to their food bowls first.

As she grew older, she began to develop severe arthritis in her hips and spine. Makoce was a fighter and refused to let it slow her down and she regularly refused her pain medications. In late 2016, Makoce started receiving regular injections of stem cells to help reduce the inflammation caused by her arthritis. To the delight of her caretakers, the old wolf was still one of the most challenging individuals to catch up, and she never failed to awe staff with her fiery spirit.

In early July, Makoce got stuck in a shallow hole in her enclosure. When her caretakers helped her up, she was struggling to walk on her own and showed a reduced interest in food. Staff members

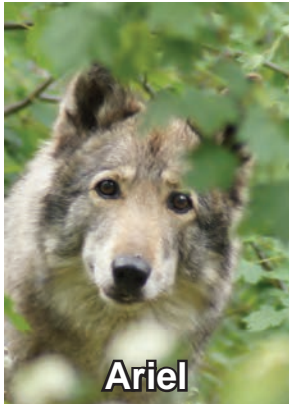
were not ready to have her join her brothers across the Rainbow Bridge, but it was obvious that her body was failing. Her vet decided to give her injectable pain medications in the hope that with several days of pain-free rest, her body would recover. Unfortunately, her body never did, and on July 5, W.O.L.F. made the heartbreaking decision to help her pass.

Though Makoce was a fighter to the end, her passing was peaceful and she is once again with Tate and Peta. We are grateful for 18 wonderful years of loving and caring for this amazing wolf.



Updates: Ariel, JJ, Pax & Tonka

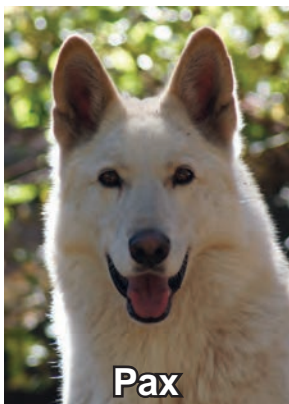
By Michelle Proulx



Ariel

With so many recent losses we were left with three animals needing companionship: Ariel, JJ and Tonka. They needed time to grieve and process their loss, but at the same time we had been contacted in quick succession about three young high-content wolf dogs, all of whom needed sanctuary placement. Unfortunately, none of the three potential rescues would make suitable companions for our lone wolf dogs. It was a dilemma; did we say “no” to the young wolf dogs so we could find appropriate companions for Ariel, JJ and Tonka? Or did we say “yes” and try to find internal solutions to help our grieving wolves find new companions? After reviewing all the possible options, we devised a plan. If we paired up the lone wolves currently at the Sanctuary with each other, we would be able to rescue the other three. It was decided to pair Ariel with the Sanctuary’s resident bachelor, Pax, putting Tonka with JJ.

Originally we hesitated putting Pax in with anyone, as he had not gotten along well with the other companions we have tried in the past. However, there was a major difference with Ariel that made us believe it could work. Unlike the others, who were all young, energetic and constantly in Pax’s space, Ariel is an older female who is quiet and reserved. Though we were still nervous about



Pax

the introduction, we hoped that they would get along.

Things went better than we could have imagined, and Pax and Ariel are both doing well. Pax is very happy to have canine companionship that does not compete with him for his caretakers’ attention, and Ariel feels more comfort-

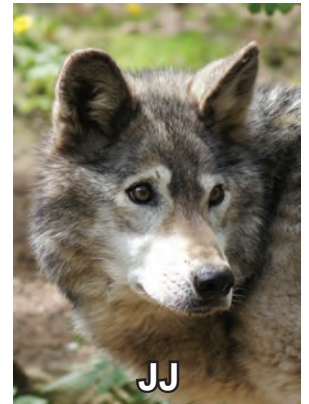
able and relaxed in her enclosure now that there is someone who can draw attention away from her. Pax even seems to have helped with Ariel’s confidence, and we have seen her up and about more than we ever have. Pax is also more relaxed and has been spending his time near Ariel rather than obsessing over where his caretakers are.

With that pair set, it was time to try JJ and Tonka. Because animal introductions work best in a neutral territory, both of them would have to be moved. We decided that since JJ would be the more difficult individual to catch, she would be moved first. In typical JJ fashion, it took four days of attempts before we were able to successfully catch her up and move her into her new home. We gave her a day to recover before moving Tonka.

On the day of Tonka’s move, he decided that he was going to go lay down in his favorite spot, and he stubbornly plowed his way past everyone trying to catch him until he got there. After that he was easily crated and brought to JJ in the new enclosure.

As of this writing, JJ and Tonka are getting along, although their attitude toward each other is one of indifferent roommates rather than friends. We are hopeful that given the time to adjust to their new surroundings, and once Tonka realizes there is more to his enclosure than his beloved fire den, JJ and Tonka will hit it off.

With both groups working and our four lone wolves now paired, we were able to rescue the other three: Ashima, Akela and Nala (read their stories on pages 4 & 13).



JJ



Tonka



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YES!

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