

# W.O.L.F.

**The "Alo-Howl" Gala a Success!**  
**The Big Bad Wolf - A Myth that Survives**  
**W.O.L.F. Facts & Tracks**



Spring 2018



# Thank You Gala Sponsors!

We would like to take a moment to send out a special thank you to all of the wonderful individuals and businesses who generously sponsored our 2018 "Alo-howl" Gala Fundraiser. With their contributions we were able to put on our biggest and most successful event yet. We had nearly 340 guests and volunteers registered to attend, coming in from all over the country, even the world, to participate and hear Nate Blakeslee and Rick McIntyre speak. This festive, Hawaiian-themed evening helped W.O.L.F. raise over \$200,000 net, a portion of which will go toward developing the new property! Our sponsors helped make an already fantastic event even better, and we encourage you to support the businesses that support W.O.L.F.

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*Page Robinson*

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# In This Issue

Cover Photo: Ariel



## Animal Update - Rajan ..... 4

In the Fall Newsletter we discussed Rajan's seizures and MRI results which indicated a mass in his sinus cavity that was removed for biopsy.



## The Big Bad Wolf - The Myth that Survives ..... 5

The question for the 21st Century is how to form a new paradigm that forges the way for humans and wolves to co-exist.



## Book Review: "Birds of a Feather" by Lorin Lindner .... 9

Lindner's new book (available on June 5, 2018) tells the story of the healing power in positive human/animal relationships.



## Volunteer Spotlight - Jillian Depperman ..... 11

W.O.L.F. has an active volunteer program, and volunteers are indispensable to the Sanctuary. Volunteers provide thousands of hours of service every year.



## The "Alo-Howl" Gala a Success! ..... 12

The generosity and compassion from attendees left everyone at W.O.L.F. speechless and overwhelmed with gratitude. Overall, this year's gala raised over \$200,000!



## Wolf Facts and Tracks ..... 13

With Facts and Tracks you get to learn about the wolves you have come to love and support and get some insight into their unique personalities.



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## 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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# Letter from the Director



**Shelley Coldiron & Rick McIntyre at the 2018 "Alo-Howl" Gala Fundraiser**

Dear Supporters,

Once again, I'm going to thank you, our loyal supporters and followers, for helping to make this year's annual Gala – "Alo-Howl" – the most successful in W.O.L.F.'s history. We raised over \$200,000 that will help our animals live long and healthy lives in sanctuary! We were privileged to have author Nate Blakeslee (*American Wolf*) and Yellowstone Park Biologist Rick McIntyre attend as guest speakers. Their talks were incredibly inspirational, and we hope it will inspire many people to understand and protect wolves in the wild. We thank both Nate and Rick and were honored to have them as our guests. You can read more about the Gala and see pictures from this event in the article contained in this Issue.

Since we received our Special Use Permit from Larimer County in January, we are moving ahead with the plans to move the Sanctuary to our Red Feather Lakes property. I am happy to report that the infrastructure plans are moving ahead and that includes road and property engineering, water/well operations, enclosure planning and a myriad of tasks that are all necessary before we can move the animals. Our time frame for the move is approximately late 2019 or early 2020. W.O.L.F. will be launching a campaign in the next few weeks to help fund the move. We will keep you informed as we take the necessary steps to make our dream a reality.

We hope you enjoy the feature "Wolf Facts and Tracks" where we provide photos and information about some of our animals. You will get to know them up close and personal when Michelle Proulx, Director of Animal Care and Educational Programs, gives you insights into the personalities of these amazing animals and reports on what they like and don't like. Enjoy!

Also in this issue, we'll introduce you to one of our volunteers who is helping to make a difference in the lives of the 30 animals at W.O.L.F. We could not exist without the dedication and support of our volunteer team and we love to introduce them and thank them. You can find out how to volunteer by visiting our website at: [www.wolfsanctuary.net](http://www.wolfsanctuary.net)

And finally, there is much misinformation about "The Big Bad Wolf" from fairy tales and myths. In this issue, we take the opportunity to dispel those myths and help our readers understand these highly intelligent and compelling animals who are an apex species in our natural world.

As always, humbly and gratefully yours,

Shelley



*Page Robinson*

**W.O.L.F. Volunteer  
since 2015 and  
Gala Gold Sponsor**

# Animal Update - Rajan

*By Michelle Proulx*



In W.O.L.F.'s Fall Newsletter we discussed Rajan's seizures and MRI results which indicated a mass in his sinus cavity that was removed for biopsy. The results indicated that it was not cancer, and we hoped that would be the end of his problems.

Unfortunately, Rajan soon developed nasal discharge. At first it was assumed that he had an infection from the surgery, but after multiple courses of antibiotics failed to cure the discharge, we became concerned that the original problem may have been misdiagnosed.

W.O.L.F. decided Rajan needed to see a specialist so we made an appointment for him at the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital. His initial appointment revealed a number of possibilities ranging from an abnormal inflammatory response to the possibility of cancer. The first step was to run lab work looking for signs of infection, then move to more invasive treatments if necessary.

To W.O.L.F.'s relief and dismay the lab work came back positive for a fungal infection. We were relieved to have an answer, but dismayed when we heard about the next steps. Rajan would need a CT scan and rhinoscopy to determine how severe the infection was, and then undergo a surgical procedure to kill and remove the fungus from his nasal passage. Unfortunately, while the surgery is the safest and most effective treatment for fungal infections, its success rate is only around 50% for the first treatment. If the infection did not clear up, Rajan would need to undergo a second surgery.

After looking at the options and knowing that the surgery would make Rajan feel immensely better, we decided to have him undergo the pro-

cedure. But it was still winter, which is no time for Rajan to be outside with a shaved head. He would need to spend several weeks recovering at our heated off-site infirmary with his companion Bella.

The surgery was scheduled for March 14th. While Rajan went to CSU for surgery, Bella went to the off-site infirmary to wait for him. The procedure went very well, and Rajan was able to be reunited with Bella later that evening. Volunteers and staff monitored them around the clock to make sure there were no complications, and they were relaxed and comfortable.

Bella and Rajan are very social individuals and instantly took to having 24/7 care. Bella loved the half dozen fluffy dog beds and blankets spread around their enclosure to sleep on. Rajan enjoyed having a human at his beck and call to help deal with the itchiness of the fur growing back on his head. They both became ridiculously spoiled, preferring to be hand fed their meals rather than eat out of their bowls.



W.O.L.F. planned for Rajan and Bella to spend four weeks at the off-site infirmary. However, Rajan's recovery went so well that he was given the "all clear" to return to the Sanctuary on March 30th. Though Rajan and Bella enjoyed their time being spoiled, they were both excited to return to their mountain home.

We are continuing to monitor Rajan closely for signs of complications or a return infection. So far he is doing well and feeling much better. His activity level and appetite have both increased and we are hopeful that he will continue to improve.



# The Big Bad Wolf - The Myth that Survives

By Susan Weidel

The human hatred and fear of wolves is based in part on economic factors in the modern world. These fears have sparked a new human initiative to remove wolves once again from the landscape so that in the future wolves will exist only in national parks, zoos and sanctuaries. So often the argument against maintaining wolves in the wild is one that revolves around the loss of cattle and sheep in the ranching world, and the loss of big game in the hunting community. But these economic issues do not tell the full story of the on going hatred of wolves. The myth of the Big Bad Wolf is alive and well. It is a cultural stereotype, cultivated over centuries, that adds fuel to the debate about the value of wolves in the wild.

Not all cultures portrayed the wolf as evil. Native American tribes had a strong relationship with wolves. The Algonquin people believed the wolf was a benevolent and fair leader who ruled in the underworld. In Pawnee culture, the wolf was the brightest star in the night sky, and the Milky Way was the wolf road that led to the star. They considered the wolf to be a wise spirit, and when the wolf star appeared at dusk and disappeared at dawn, it symbolized the cycle of life and death for the Pawnee people. Even Rudyard Kipling's classic tale *The Jungle Book* told the story of a young boy who was raised by a benevolent family of wolves.



However, negative cultural stereotypes developed from myths and stories that portrayed a completely different relationship between humans and wolves. The Grimms' fairy tale *Little Red Riding Hood* had its origins in the 10th century in European folklore. (Image of an 1885 painting by Frederick Theodore Lix)



The original story did not have a happy ending. In the earliest versions, the Big Bad Wolf killed Little Red Riding Hood and her grandmother and ate them for dinner. He then fell asleep without any remorse for the killing. More modern versions have the grandmother and the young girl being saved by a woodsman who kills the wolf with his axe. In every version, the wolf is a sly, evil demon who longs to eat human flesh. (Image of an 1867 illustration by Gustav Dore)

*The Three Little Pigs* was a much later fairy tale with origins in the late 1800s. Again, the wolf was portrayed as the evil killer who pursued the pigs. The first two pigs built their houses out of straw and twigs. Who can forget those terrifying words from childhood as the Wolf boasted: "I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down." And he did just that and devoured the two little pigs. The third pig was saved because he built his house with bricks, and the wolf was not able to blow it down. The wolf then tried to catch the pig by coming down the chimney. The little pig caught him in a pot of boiling water and cooked him for dinner. The interesting moral of the story was that the weak and lazy would be punished for their poor work ethic while the



industrious would survive. But make no mistake, the fate that befell the lazy pigs was considered a just one because the pigs deserved to be punished by the ultimate evil enforcer, the wolf. (Image from *"The Story of the Three Little Pigs"* by L. Leslie Brooke, 1904 - Library of Congress)

The wolf of these fairy tales had an even darker history in the Middle Ages. During medieval times, the wolf was seen as a metaphor for vice and evil in Christian literature that carried forward into a hatred of the diabolical creature. Humans and wolves had clashed for centuries, but as long as there was a sufficient food source, the clashes were not fatal. However, as human populations grew, wolf packs became an increasing threat to sheep who grazed, often with only a young boy to protect them. When severe weather affected the ability to grow food, it became increasingly



more important to protect each lamb in the flock. In order to have an adequate food source, wolves moved ever closer to medieval towns and flocks. Depredation was common, and all

across Europe, leaders declared war on wolves. (Image a 15th Century Illustrated Manuscript at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek [KB, KA 16, Folio 62r])

When the Black Plague decimated parts of Europe in 1348-49, the sight of wolves feeding on dead bodies stacked outside the gates of medieval towns stoked fears that wolves were man-eating beasts who feasted on human flesh. When food was scarce, wolves were opportunistic and took food wherever they could find it. They had no choice but to eat the dead bodies to survive. To the survivors of the Black Death, it must have been a terrifying sight to see wolves feast on the flesh of friends and family.

Europe slowly recovered from the ravages of the plague that killed 1/3 of the population in the region. Over the next three hundred years, the population more than doubled. Encounters with wolves became more common. Travelers

were often warned to be extremely careful when crossing through lonely wooded sections of local roads. Stone shelters were built along the roads where travelers could seek shelter from wolf attacks. The shelters had "loup" holes where travelers could peek through a spy hole in the shelter wall to watch for wolves. (Image from the Gallica Digital Library, artist unknown)



By the late 1700s, wolves were systematically hunted to extinction in France, Bavaria, Denmark, England, Scotland and Ireland. During this same time, Europeans turned their eyes toward North America, and the large influx of people into the New World brought the reign of terror to wolves in America. According to historian Jon T. Coleman in his book *Vicious: Wolves and Men in America*, "...EuroAmericans never merely killed wolves.... The citizens of New England towns nailed wolves' heads to the clapboards of their meeting houses.... In Ohio communities organized grand 'circle hunts' in order to rid entire counties of wolves and other wildlife. ... In Utah, Mormon wolf killers divided themselves into teams and staged month-long competitions to see who could gather the most wolf skins." Coleman theorized that wolves served as "folk villains" who "symbolized the frustrations and anxieties of colonization, and the canines paid in blood for their utility as metaphors."

As the new nation grew, people spread across the Great Plains and the forests until they reached the shores of the Pacific. Along the way, settlers began to farm and ranch the land. The new Americans, descendants of the Europeans who had developed a keen hatred of wolves, came to the American wilderness with a hatred of animals that many had never even encountered. Now the threat of predation was (continued on page 10)



# Ashima & Spartacus









# Book Review

By Susan Weidel

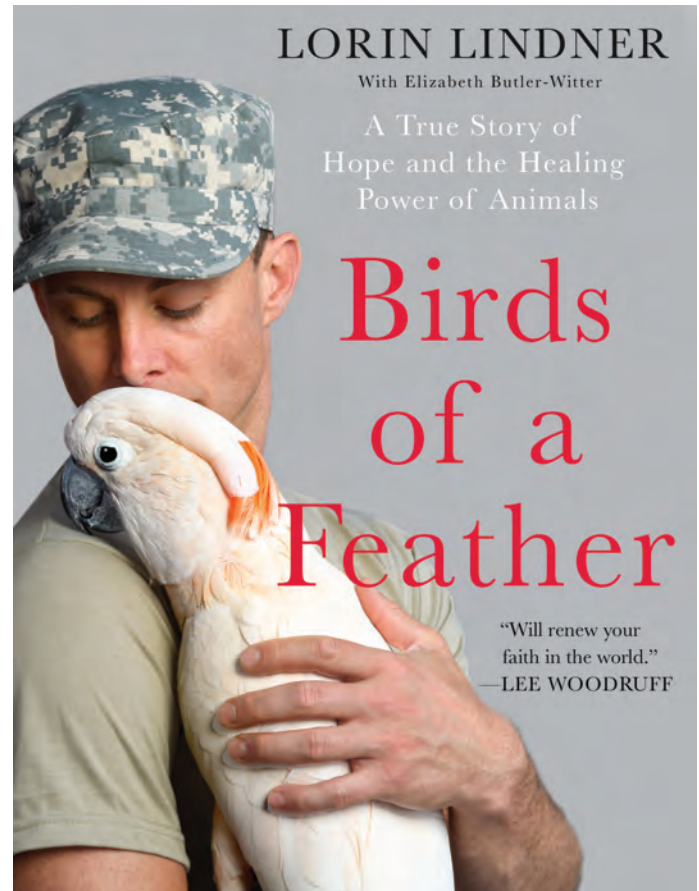
Dr. Lorin Lindner is one of the founders of Lockwood Animal Rescue Center (LARC) in S. California which is a sanctuary for wolves, wolf dogs, horses, and a host of other rescued animals. Dr. Lindner and her husband Matt Simmons were instrumental in rescuing over 30 wolves from a roadside attraction in Alaska. They helped W.O.L.F. adopt four of them -- Loki, Denali, Odin and Thor. Without the rescue efforts of LARC, all of the Alaskan animals would have been euthanized.

Lindner has another passion in her life – her work with exotic birds which began in 1987 when she was a young Ph.D. in psychology studying for her licensing exam. She has written a memoir entitled *Birds of a Feather* that provides an insight into the animals and people who changed the course of her life as a psychologist and an animal advocate. Lindner's new book (available on June 5, 2018) tells the story of the healing power in positive human/animal relationships. In Lindner's case, it was the healing that happened when she introduced abused and neglected parrots to veterans suffering from PTSD. The results were remarkable, and the stories of the birds and vets form the heart of the book.

*Birds of a Feather* introduces the reader to the underbelly of the exotic animal trade where parrots are literally ripped from their nests, natural habitats and family flocks. Lindner tells the story of Sammy, a beautiful pink Moluccan cockatoo who was captured in Indonesia. She was transported to the U.S. where she was sold by an exotic animal trader to an elderly woman for \$5,000. Eventually Sammy made her way to Lindner and her life story unfolds along with Lindner's.

Lindner often brought Sammy and her companion parrot Mango to work at her office in the V.A. Hospital where she helped veterans with PTSD. By happenstance, she noticed that the veterans were able to talk to the parrots in a way that they could not speak with their therapist. The birds often "talked" to the veterans in humorous ways but the "talking" had a deeper meaning and impact when the animals and the humans began to form bonds that transcended the trauma that both had suffered.

Lindner realized the importance of the healing (continued on page 14)





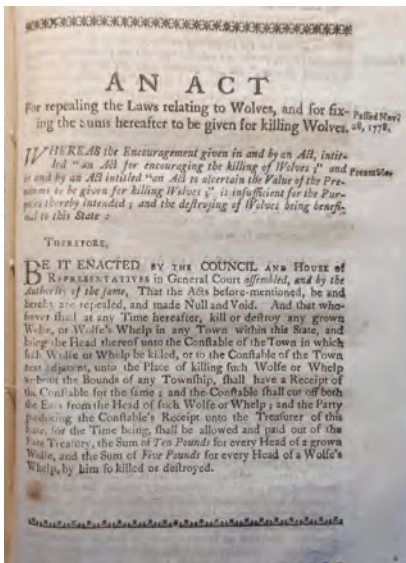
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(continued from page 6) real as they left the safety of cities and towns to populate the American West. New generations learned to hate and fear wolves in the same way their ancestors had in the forests of Europe. Killing wolves became a calling as bounty hunters

roamed the western terrain looking to kill as many wolves as possible and rid the country of the evil menace that preyed on free-range livestock. The cultural stereotypes that were honed over many centuries in Europe were now full blown in America. The wolf was considered a cunning and wily adversary who killed for pleasure and wreaked havoc on the livestock herds. By the 1930s, the systematic extermination of wolves in the American West was complete. (Image from the Rauner Library of an Act in the *Acts and Laws of the State of New-Hampshire* published in 1778 granting a 10 pound bounty for every wolf head)

The great irony in the hatred of wolves as killers of livestock was that wolves killed for food, just like humans. Wolves were vilified for providing meat to their families while humans did the exact same thing when they hunted game meat or built the meat industry to feed the growing nation. The economic imperative for humans was all that set them apart from wolves. The human slaughter of cattle and sheep was not a kind and gentle process. It was and is a dissociated process that removed the consumers of meat from the horrors of the meat packing industry and the stock yards in Chicago. No wolf kill was as massive as the killing floors on the Southside of Chicago. Putting aside the greed that motivated so much of the animal killing, the result was the same: a man needed to feed his family just as a wolf did.

Today the cultural stereotype of the Big Bad Wolf is alive and well. The fear and loathing

of wolves is the remnant of the war against wolves waged in Europe from the Middle Ages to the 19th century when extermination was the desired goal. The apex predators were embodied with the mantle of evil by Christian beliefs. The medieval myths survived the journey across the ocean to America, and the myths continued to portray wolves as flesh eating demons who killed for pleasure. Wolves represented the epitome of untamed wild beings which humans were determined to conquer and dominate.

The question for the 21st Century is how to form a new paradigm that forges the way for humans and wolves to co-exist. The goal of extermination is obsolete in the modern world. A recognition of the importance of wolves to the survival of a healthy ecosystem needs to drive the acceptance and understanding of wolves in the wild. Humans and wolves can successfully coexist. When co-



existence is seen as the goal, the rest will follow. There are currently numerous pilot projects in the West that effectively use packs of herding dogs, lights, fladry (strings of colored flags that surround grazing livestock), and range riders to keep livestock safe. The methods have already provided strong data on the ability to co-exist with wolves and reduce predation to nearly zero. It is time for livestock producers, environmentalists, and nature lovers to agree that co-existence is the goal for wolves, not extermination.



# Volunteer Spotlight

By Mark Speth

W.O.L.F. has an active volunteer program, and volunteers are indispensable to the Sanctuary and the animals. Volunteers provide thousands of hours of service every year to help with animal care, office tasks, educational programs, rescue operations, fundraising and Sanctuary maintenance. They are an integral part of the team, and W.O.L.F. is delighted to introduce one of these special volunteers --- Jillian Depperman. Jillian has been an active volunteer since October 2017.



## ***What attracted you to volunteering with W.O.L.F.?***

I have always wanted to work directly with non-domesticated animals, as the challenge of it appeals to me. While I love working with domestic animals and have done so for several years with different organizations, I enjoy working with the animals with whom it is harder to gain trust and make connections, as it is that much more rewarding when I am able to do so.

## ***What are your favorite things to do at the sanctuary?***

When volunteering, my favorite activity is to clean the habitats, as it often involves some form of socialization with the animals. Whether the animals engage in direct contact, follow me around the habitat, or observe curiously at a distance, any and all interaction with the wolves and wolf dogs brings me an overwhelming sense of joy, as I value the moments of connection.

## ***What are your least favorite things to do at the sanctuary?***

While I always enjoy my time at the Sanctuary, replacing bedding is very physically demanding. Carrying bedding up and down the mountainside on my back gets quite tiring, and while I know it aids in the comfort of the animals and is thus entirely worthwhile, doing it in icy conditions can be challenging.

## ***What is your most memorable animal interaction experience?***



My favorite moment of animal interaction at the Sanctuary was during my first time meeting with Kaileah and Ahote. Another volunteer took me into the enclosure, and after Kaileah welcomed me with some curious sniffs and eventual licks on the face, Ahote approached me. The way he came towards me indicated that he was relaxed, which Ahote doesn't tend to be with human visitors. While we didn't physically touch, the moment touched me very profoundly. I deeply value the connection I have with animals, and that connection with Ahote is something I will not forget.

## ***What is your background?***

My background in animal care started in the summer of 2011 when I was old enough to begin volunteering with both a cat shelter and a veterinary clinic in Fort Collins. Since that time, I have volunteered with several animal organizations, including Best Friends Animal Society in Kanab, Utah. I also worked with feral cats when I helped with both the trapping and the veterinary aspects of a trap-neuter-return (TNR) program. Working with rescued animals is my passion, and I feel blessed to have been able to work with the countless animals that have touched my life so immensely.



# The "Alo-Howl" Gala a Success



All we can say is "thank you!" W.O.L.F. had nearly 340 in attendance at the "Alo-Howl" Gala. A group of beautiful Hula dancers flew in from California to perform and create the feel of a Hawaiian getaway. We had amazing auction items, including a one-of-a-kind Yellowstone experience. The generosity from attendees left everyone at W.O.L.F. speechless and overwhelmed with gratitude. Overall, this year's gala raised over \$200,000!

We were honored to have both Nate Blakeslee and Rick McIntyre attend and speak at the event. Nate talked about the evolution of his book *American Wolf*, the compelling and tragic life story of the Yellowstone wolf known simply as "O-Six". Rick regaled the audience with stories of some of the wolves he has spent years getting to know in Yellowstone, telling a fascinating, edge-of-the-seat tale of teamwork that held everyone's attention to the end. And we had a surprise visit from renowned wildlife photographer Thomas Mangelsen, who was just featured on "60 Minutes" on May 6th.

We are thrilled and humbled by the "Alo-Howl" gala and are already looking forward to next year. Keep an eye out for information about our 2019 fundraiser event.





# Wolf Facts & Tracks

By Michelle Proulx

## AKELA - Male

**Birthday:** February 1, 2016

**Given Sanctuary:** July 16, 2017

**Companion:** Nala

**Guardian Angel:** Savanna Larson

**Likes:** De-stuffing his toys

**Dislikes:** Being watched while eating

**Favorite Food:** All things edible

**Fun Fact:** Akela is extremely food motivated and will give you his undivided attention if he thinks you might have a treat.

**Personality:** Akela is a very playful boy and is often observed roughhousing with his sister, Nala, or running the fence line with his neighbors. Though not yet brave enough to approach his caretakers closely, Akela is curious about them and is slowly gaining confidence. Now he will often follow them around his habitat from a safe distance as they do chores. Akela is also fond of destroying any toy he is given within minutes.



## ASHIMA - Female

**Birthday:** April 11, 2017

**Given Sanctuary:** June 16, 2017

**Companion:** Spartacus

**Guardian Angel:** Jeff Mullins

**Likes:** Jumping, running, chewing, digging

**Dislikes:** Being told "No"

**Favorite Food:** What Spartacus is eating NOW!!

**Fun Fact:** Ashima's favorite toys are feather cat toys, especially the ones with bells on them.

**Personality:** Ashima is a bundle of energy who doesn't seem to have an off switch. She is always running, jumping (she seems to have an aversion to having all four feet on the ground at the same time) and wrestling with her companion, Spartacus. In typical wolf puppy fashion, Ashima constantly tests boundaries, often driving Spartacus crazy when she steals his food, uses his back like a trampoline or follows him around the enclosure like an annoying shadow with his tail in her mouth.





## BELLA - Female

**Birthday:** January 15, 2008

**Given Sanctuary:** June 29, 2013

**Companion:** Rajan

**Guardian Angel:** Lyn Austin

**Likes:** Being scratched

**Dislikes:** Not being scratched

**Favorite Food:** Cooked chicken

**Fun Fact:** Bella is an attention hog and will often force her way between her caretakers and her companion to make sure she gets all the pets.

**Personality:** Bella is a very social wolf dog who absolutely adores human attention. When you enter her habitat she is always at the gate to greet you and demand a pet. If she doesn't feel you are doing a thorough enough job, or are perhaps distracted, Bella will often paw at your leg, jump up to give you kisses or stand on you to make sure you're paying attention. When she isn't interacting with her caretakers, Bella is most often observed sleeping in the shade.



(continued from page 9) relationships and convinced the VA to establish a sanctuary for the birds on the grounds of the hospital where the veterans would be able to volunteer with abused birds. Serenity Park was created as a place that fostered human/animal healing and has existed for over 20 years. The transformations were an inspiration to Lindner and her new husband, a former PTSD veteran who helped in her work with the birds.

After their marriage, the couple expanded their work with other animals and formed LARC where they rescued captive-born wolves, wolf dogs, horses, foxes and coyotes. The healing continued with the formation of Warriors and Wolves which was modeled after the work done at Serenity Park. Like the parrots, wolves needed companionship to remain healthy and balanced. The wolves and former combat veterans were able to connect and form strong bonds. The healing that began with a beautiful pink bird continued with wolves and the veterans who were able to grow, trust and heal.

She and her husband moved to the moun-



tains outside of Los Angeles when they formed LARC. Lindner brought Sammy and her parrot companion from Serenity Park to live in her new home. Lindner and her husband built an elaborate enclosure in the midst of their home where the two birds had a fifteen-foot-high stand with several levels, a playpen

and plenty of natural daylight. Sammy lived the rest of her days as a beloved family member until her passing seven years later. Lindner ends her memoir with a touching tribute to the remarkable bird: "...Sammy had helped heal more souls than most parrots, or even humans, ever could. I'll always be grateful that Sammy entered my life. I loved her for nearly thirty years....I'll always love her. She, I and all those creatures we've touched really are birds of a feather."





W.O.L.F. Sanctuary

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W.O.L.F.

Spring 2018

W.O.L.F.

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