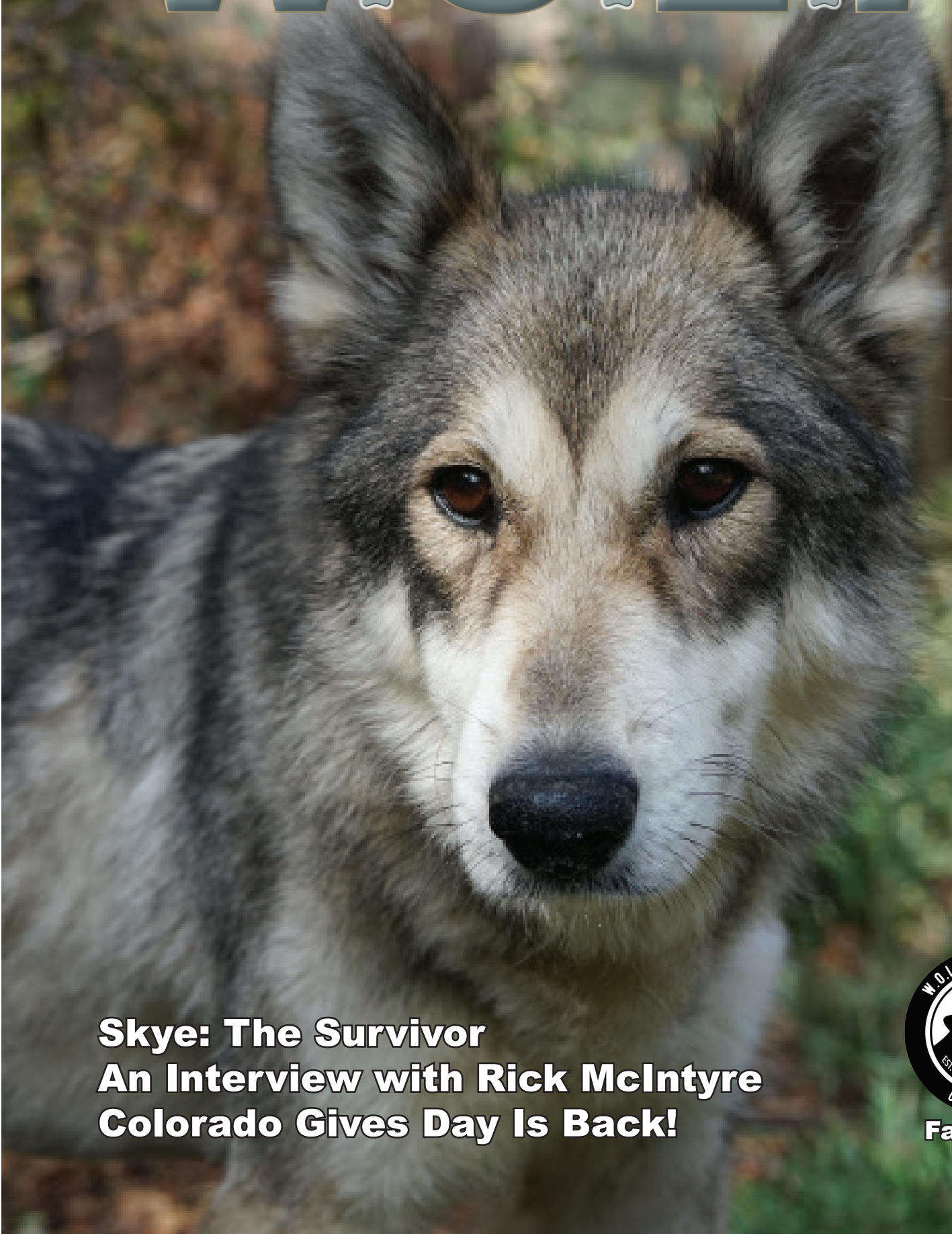


WOLF



**Skye: The Survivor
An Interview with Rick McIntyre
Colorado Gives Day Is Back!**



Fall 2019



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BALL
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**MAY 2, 2020
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
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WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER RICK MCINTYRE!

Reservations go live starting mid-January!

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Cover Photo: Skye



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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

Dear W.O.L.F. Supporters,

Here we go again, rounding the bend toward winter as the final fall leaves flutter to the ground. W.O.L.F. has had an extraordinary fall with so many exciting events. I'd like to share some of our remarkable progress with you.

First, we broke ground in October on our new sanctuary property at our Red Feather Lakes location! After several years of planning and the launch of our major fundraising effort Wild Hearts at Home – we gathered our Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers and put golden shovels in the ground. The construction of the new home for our beloved wolves and wolf dogs is taking shape, and we are striding into the future. We anticipate we will be under construction for most of 2020 as we build our dream home for the 30 animals in our care. This new sanctuary property is the culmination of a dream that began over seven years ago after W.O.L.F. survived the devastating High Park Fire and several years of flash flooding. We are so excited to have the dream become reality. We will be sending periodic updates and pictures to our many loyal supporters as we build our new home.

Now a whirlwind to catch up on all the other exciting news. We rescued the beautiful wolf dog Skye and were able to bring her to the Sanctuary in late August. She was dangerously ill from an old injury – most likely a blunt force trauma to her abdomen, that required immediate, life-saving surgery. With your amazing help and generosity, we have been able to give Skye the medical care she needs and deserves. Skye will require ongoing medical care, medications and veterinary oversight as the injury to her abdomen has created permanent internal damage that we are managing. You can read her full story in this issue, and we know you will fall in love with our little survivor who has an enormous will to live. Skye is an inspiration to us all.

And speaking of inspiration, don't miss the interview with the inspirational Rick McIntyre by our Director of Development Jessica Kole. Rick is one of the world's most renowned wolf biologists having spent over 25 years watching wolves in the wild -- mostly in Yellowstone. His new book *The Rise of Wolf 8 – Witnessing the Triumph of Yellowstone's Underdog* will captivate you. We are thrilled to announce that Rick will be our guest speaker at the annual W.O.L.F. Gala on May 2, 2020 at the Ft. Collins Hilton.

Don't forget that Colorado Gives Day is coming up! This year the opportunity to help W.O.L.F. is Tuesday, December 10 so mark your calendars and help us continue our mission.



I would be remiss if I didn't mention the wonderful collaboration with the new Ft. Collins Winery – Blendings at the Preserve. We did our first joint event in September to kick off our Wild Hearts at Home campaign. We celebrated with a unique blend of wine made especially for W.O.L.F. with our custom label. Our ambassador animals Kira and Takoda attended, and the crowd was serenaded by the musical stylings of international blues artist Sophie Reed who is a huge supporter of W.O.L.F.

And one last note, don't forget our Amazon Winter Wish list. Our wolves and wolf dogs love winter and you can help them by ordering from [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/Smile)

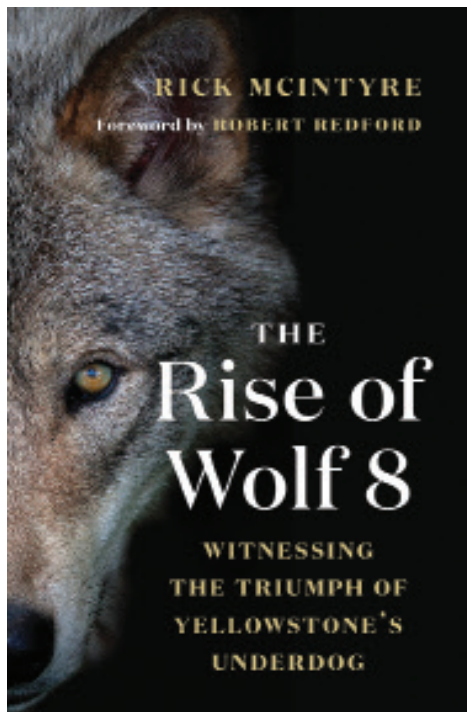
Thank you for your on-going support and encouragement. We could not do this work without you!

As always, humbly and gratefully yours,

Shelley, Executive Director

An Interview with Rick McIntyre

By Jessica Kole



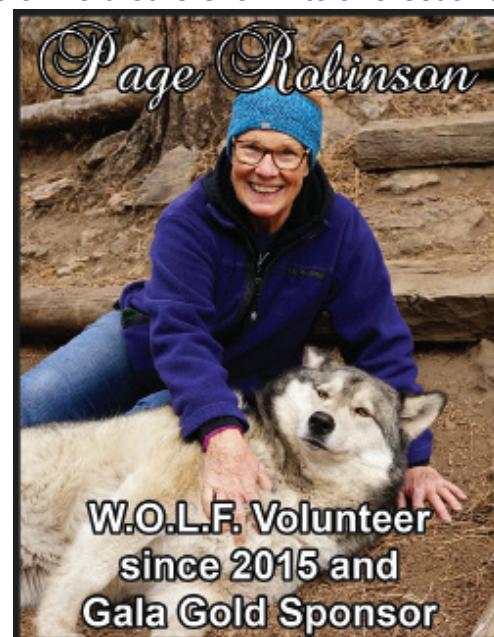
Our Director of Development, Jessica Kole, hosts a phone interview with esteemed wolf expert and aficionado, Rick McIntyre, to learn more about his new book release—*The Rise of Wolf 8*. Rick will be joining W.O.L.F. Sanctuary's annual fundraising gala on May 2nd, 2020, themed Snow Ball Masque-Fur-Aid, and will provide personal accounts of the wild wolves in Yellowstone from his new book release, revealing their greatest accomplishments in the history of the lobo.

Most people argue that legends don't exist. But when it comes to real-life accounts of wild wolf packs roaming across the lands of Yellowstone National Park, there is a voice who can share their stories of triumph, defeat and legacy. Meet Rick McIntyre—renowned researcher and author.

Jessica Kole: As a legendary wolf biologist with over 100,000 wolf sightings across the past 40 years, what motivated you to write a book about one wolf in particular?

Rick McIntyre: In the early years of the Yellowstone wolf introduction, there was a young wolf known as 8 who lived a very heroic life. He was a member of the Crystal Creek Pack, brought down from Alberta, Canada. He was the smallest of four brothers in the family and when spending their first few months in an acclimation pen, his three bigger brothers would gang up on him, bully him and beat him up. His parents and brothers were very distinctive looking, by human standards—beautiful. But 8 was a bit of an ugly duckling in that he was small, and had a drab grey coat that made him look like a coyote—not a good thing for a wolf.

But one day the little wolf changed my perspective of him. 8 and two of his brothers ran into a forest and appeared to be chasing another animal. I saw the three brothers run out of the trees with the lead brother holding a freshly killed elk calf. That was very impressive to me because these young brothers were just beginning to learn how to hunt. But then I saw running out of the trees the animal who actually had killed the calf, a large grizzly bear. The wolves had stolen it from him and he was determined to get it back. As the wolves desperately were trying to outrun the bear, 8 was the slowest. As the bear was about to catch up with him, something totally unexpected happened. He turned around and confronted the grizzly. The bear stopped and seemed confused, not understanding why something so small would stand up to him. By that time, the wolf with the carcass had run out of sight, so the bear decided to give up and turn around and leave the area. No one else witnessed what 8 did that day, not any park visitors, not any members of his family—only me. I remember thinking at the time, there is more to this little wolf than we first thought.



The Rose Creek Pack, one of the other packs brought down from Alberta, had their alpha male illegally shot and killed. The mother wolf had eight pups and desperately needed help as a single mother in raising and protecting them. When 8 was the equivalent of a human teenager, he came across that family, befriended some of the mother wolf's pups, and she accepted him into her family as the new alpha male. He adopted and raised those eight pups, and one of them grew up to be Yellowstone's most famous wolf—21.



Jessica: What message do you hope readers will take away from learning about the triumph and challenges Wolf 8 had faced?

Rick McIntyre: The reason I wrote the book is to share with people what it is like to be a wild wolf living in Yellowstone.

Jessica: How did you partner with actor and environmentalist Robert Redford to develop the forward to your book?

Rick McIntyre: My publishing company Grey Stone Books in Alberta, Canada, knew someone on Robert's staff. They reached out to Redford, and he agreed to write the forward to my book. After that, I was soon contacted by his daughter, and I will be doing a talk on The Rise of Wolf 8 at his Sundance Resort this October.

Jessica: What traits about wolves do you find the most fascinating that our supporters may be surprised to learn?

Rick McIntyre: There are so many! I'm fascinated with the loyalty they have for each other. They share a willingness to put themselves at risk to save a family member, and are highly committed to their mate and their pups. Wolves like to play with young sons and daughters. I've witnessed alpha males, such as 21, pretending to lose to his pups. I think he did that to instill confidence in his sons and daughters and show them how they could defeat a larger opponent.



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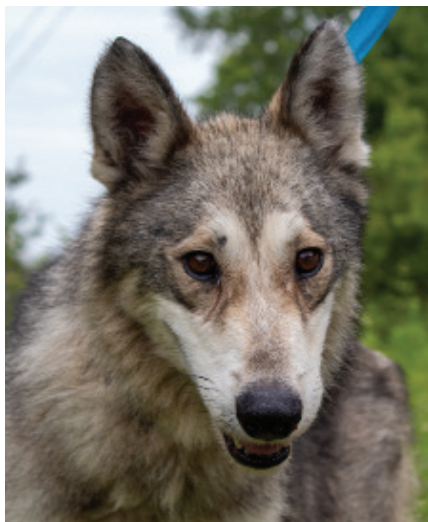
I have a favorite memory of Wolf 21, running around, and suddenly for no reason, fell over like a comedian practicing a prep fall, just for the fun of it!

Jessica: I understand this is the first book of a trilogy you are writing. Where can supporters purchase your book for sale?

Rick McIntyre: The Rise of Wolf 8 has been released on October 15th in bookstores and is listed on Amazon. We are doing the editing on the second book, which is about Wolf 21, and I've already started on the third book on Wolf 302.

Skye: The Survivor

By Susan Weidel & Michelle Proulx



what was happening and took Skye to her home because she had a fenced yard, and she could feed her and offer water. She called animal control who then brought Skye to the Mercer County Shelter as a stray.

This was not Skye's first visit to the Mercer County Shelter. In 2016 she had been picked up as a stray but reclaimed by her owners within the 5-day hold period. Her physical condition however, had drastically deteriorated since 2016. When the animal control officer picked up Skye, she realized how extremely thin she was, and Skye groaned as though in pain. Neighbors in the area told animal control that Skye came from a home where she was chained to a tree and could only walk in circles. She had obviously not been fed on a regular basis. As Skye did not have any ID or a micro-

Skye arrived at the Mercer County Shelter in West Virginia as a stray in early July, 2019. She had been wandering loose around a neighborhood when she tried entering the home of an elderly woman. Another neighbor saw

chip, and she was never reclaimed, the shelter hoped to get her to a rescue. However, the only option was a person in NY where wolf dogs were illegal.

It was then that Michelle Cole became Skye's champion. Mi-

chelle was the former Director of the Mercer Shelter and left in 2016 to become the HSUS regional administrator for W. Virginia. Michelle often continued to visit the shelter and organized a group of volunteers to help walk the dogs. She met Skye on one of those walks and was instantly taken by her plight. Michelle saw immediately that Skye behaved as though she was blind and she was very underweight. Skye was not aggressive or fearful, but she did not have much of a zest for life. She felt that Skye's spirit had been broken by all she had endured. Michelle was determined to find her a safe place in sanctuary where Skye would be able to recover and have a good life.



Skye with her champion, Michelle

Photo Credit: Mercer County Shelter

Michelle reached out to W.O.L.F.'s Rescue Coordinator to see if there was room for Skye. Though there was room to bring in one individual, we were hesitant to rescue Skye at first. She didn't seem like she would be a good fit for Pax, who had lost his companion Ariel a few months before. As more of her condition and story came to light, however, we soon realized that finding sanctuary placement for Skye would be difficult, and W.O.L.F.'s Executive Director and the Director of Animal Care made the decision to rescue her.

Skye's champion in WV arranged to fly her all the way to Colorado. Michelle's husband was a pilot, and on August 13, Michelle and her husband arrived in Colorado with their precious cargo. Knowing that Skye was coming to the Sanctu-







Ashima & Spartacus

ary with medical issues it was decided that prior to taking Skye to the Sanctuary, she needed to see W.O.L.F.'s vet for a physical and a routine exam.



a blunt force trauma to the abdomen that caused a hernia in her diaphragm, allowing most of her intestines to move up into her chest cavity. The trauma had most likely occurred many months before and her lungs were now also compromised. Dr. Johnson felt Skye would die soon without the surgery. She underwent ER surgery the next day.



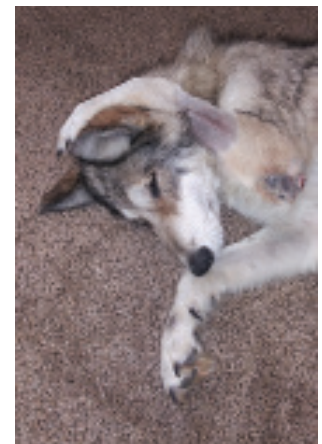
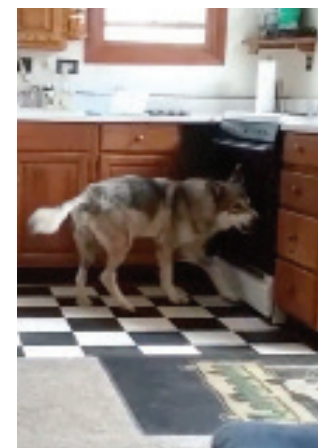
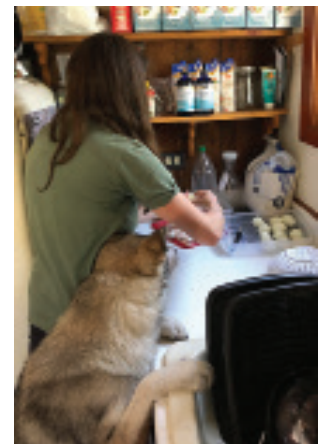
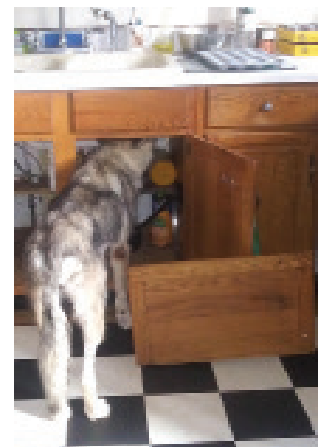
On August 24, only 10 days after her initial surgery, Skye began to have grand mal seizures. Staff rushed her back to Veterinary Teaching Hospital where she spent another several days in the critical care unit. After many additional tests, it was discovered that the trauma had severely compromised her liver function resulting in hepatic encephalopathy, and was the most likely cause of her seizures and her other neurological deficits. She was placed on several medications to help support her liver and control the seizures.

Dr. Valerie Johnson at Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital examined Skye and quickly realized there was a serious problem in her abdomen. X-rays showed Skye would need immediate surgery. It was apparent that she had suffered

After several days in the critical care unit, Skye was finally strong enough to be transported to W.O.L.F. Her condition was still very fragile, and she moved into the office and adjoining habitat under the watchful eyes of W.O.L.F. staff.

Skye came back to the Sanctuary, and still under the constant care of staff, she began improving. She started a specialized diet of potatoes and eggs to help manage her liver condition while helping her put on weight. Skye loves her food. Realistically she loves all food, and can always be found begging from anyone who is eating around her. She also regularly demonstrates why it is challenging to keep a wolf dog in a home. She has pulled cabinet doors off to get to the trash, climbs on the counters while her caretakers are cooking, regularly runs off with the dishes to lick clean, and has chewed on more than one shoe or article of clothing (often attempting to do so while the person is still wearing it!) It can be challenging to find safe activities to keep her occupied.

It also quickly became apparent that, despite previous medical evaluations, Skye is not blind. She successfully navigates the office and yard without difficulty and regularly has arguments with her reflection in any reflective surface she comes across. However, most of the time she likes to argue with "Ovenwulf". She has made it very clear that if given the choice she prefers to stay inside the office and can usually be



found stretched out in the middle of the floor or sleeping awkwardly on one of her many dog beds. She approaches her caretakers for attention and loves to have her belly scratched. As with many other things, Skye has stolen the hearts of everyone who meets her.



After a month of improvement, Skye had another grand mal seizure on September 24th. Her temperature also spiked dangerously high (105°). Worried that the medications were no longer controlling her liver condition, she was rushed back to the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Blood work instantly showed that there was a major problem; her platelet and white blood cell counts were critically low, making her extremely susceptible to infections. They started her on IV antibiotics and set about trying to discover the cause of the sudden change.



During Skye's 4 day stay at the hospital, they did extensive diagnostic testing: bacterial cultures, radiographs, an ultrasound, EKG, and even a MRI with Cerebral Spinal Fluid tap. But everything was coming back normal. There was no sign of infection

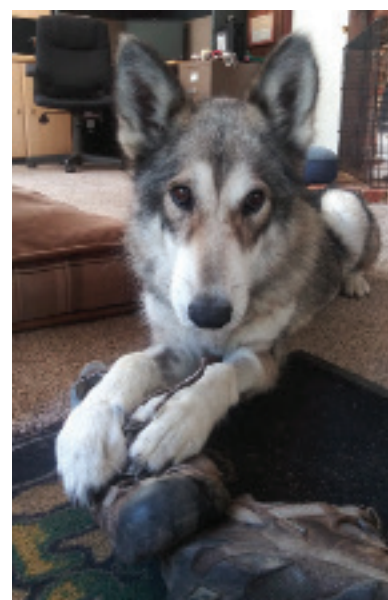
or cancer anywhere, her brain and heart both presented normal and they even discovered that her liver condition was steadily improving! So what was going on?

The last test they had yet to try was an aspirate of the bone marrow (which is responsible for producing platelets and white blood cells). While the results showed that she was likely suffering from Myelodysplastic Syndrome, there were many

possible reasons for this condition, ranging from a reaction to one of her medications, to a genetic condition to an autoimmune disease or cancer.

By the fourth day at the hospital, Skye's white blood cell count spontaneously improved dramatically on its own, surprising and further puzzling the veterinarians. Though there was still no clear explanation as to why Skye's white blood cell count dropped so suddenly and dramatically, both her energy level and physiological condition were rapidly improving and the vets felt that she was ready to go back to the Sanctuary.

Skye was certainly ready to be back home. In fact, she is feeling better than she ever has and the phrase "Skye Watch" has taken on a new meaning. Though Skye is more active and energetic, she still shows no interest in anything that is acceptable for her to play with. Instead she entertains herself by digging up the carpet, playing tug with the phone cable, dragging the PC around the room and chewing up clothing. Her antics have earned her the nickname Kali Ma, after the Hindu goddess of destruction.



Skye is a survivor and everyone is in awe of her strength of spirit. We are optimistic that Skye can recover from everything she has been through. We will continue to closely monitor her health, and provide her with any medical tests and care she may need.

Help Us Reach Our Goal!



Once again W.O.L.F. is participating in Colorado Gives Day and with your help it will be our most successful fundraising event of the year. As always, your contributions through this event are used to better the lives of the wolves in our care and help us continue forward with our move. Last year you and others from around the country helped raise \$177,797 through Colorado Gives Day; this year we've set our goal at \$90,000.

But why donate to the Sanctuary on Colorado Gives Day as opposed to any other day? It is a way to increase the value of your donation! FirstBank has a \$1 million matching incentive fund, and W.O.L.F. will receive a portion of that money based on the percentage of **donations we receive on Tuesday, December 10th.**

Even if you don't live in Colorado, you can still donate! But remember, in order for your contribution to be counted toward the incentive fund **all donations must be given online through the Colorado Gives Day website on the 10th or you can pre-schedule starting now to ensure your donation is secured for the big day.** To pre-schedule, simply click the "CO Gives Day" option under the "Donation Frequency" button to guarantee your contribution gets credited to December 10th. If you choose to wait until the 10th, you will have a full 24 hours, starting at 12 a.m., to make your donation.

Pre-schedule in November or mark your calendars and Donate at www.coloradogives.org/WOLF Tuesday December 10th, 2019 starting at midnight.



Shopping on-line this Howliday Season?

If you plan to do any of your holiday shopping through Amazon this winter remember to log on through Smile.Amazon.com. When you do the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of all your qualifying purchases to the charity of your choice. While this may not seem like much, it does add up. Last year the AmazonSmile Foundation donated over \$1,200 to W.O.L.F. So make sure to select W.O.L.F. Sanctuary as your charity of choice and enjoy shopping this holiday season. You will be giving two gifts for every one you buy!



Ahote Update

By Michelle Proulx



Over the past few months Ahote had been having periodic bouts of oddly colored diarrhea. We had already preformed all of the tests we could on-site and still had no explanation as to the cause so an appointment was made for him to go into a clinic for an

exam with x-rays and abdominal ultrasound.

On Wednesday September 18th, Ahote was brought to Wellington Veterinary Hospital for his exam. Though everything looked okay on the x-rays, the ultrasound found a large mass near his pancreas. Since Ahote is unsocial with his caretakers and difficult to catch up, it was decided that more extensive diagnostics needed to be preformed immediately since he was already in town.



He was transferred over to the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital and hospitalized overnight so they could do a CT scan to determine the exact location and extent of the mass the next day. The CT scan showed that the mass was indeed incorporated into the pancreas but surgical removal might be possible. While it was most likely cancer there was no way to know without getting a sample and since there was not evidence of tumors

elsewhere, removing it could potentially extend his life. After speaking with the surgeons, it was decided to go ahead with the exploratory surgery.

Unfortunately when they got into his abdomen they discovered that the mass was nonresectable and likely compressing both pancreatic ducts creating exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (a likely reason for his diarrhea).

There is only a small amount of normal pancreas left. A biopsy of the mass showed that it is a malignant islet cell tumor.

Though there are no treatments that can cure his condition, his attitude and appetite are still strong so it was decided to bring Ahote back to the Sanctuary and monitor his quality of life. He is getting a specialized diet and supplements to make his food easier to digest, and he is already back to his old self. While we have no guesses at this point as to how long Ahote has left with us, overall he seems to still be comfortable and enjoying life with Ember.



Wolf Facts & Tracks

By Michelle Proulx



OUTLAW - Male

Birthday: April 28, 2012

Given Sanctuary: July 14, 2013

Companion: Reese

Guardian Angel: Jeffery Mullins

Likes: Being the center of attention.

Dislikes: Being ignored.

Favorite Food: Whatever you're having.

Fun Fact: Men with facial hair have to be careful around Outlaw as he enjoys pulling on beards.

Personality: Outlaw is a goofy boy who enjoys being the center of attention with his caretakers. He enjoys it so much that he will often try to chase off any other animal who he thinks wants to share his "human time," even if that animal is on the other side of the fence! If his caretakers ignore him in favor of doing chores, Outlaw will either walk away to lay down and ignore them in turn or he will follow them around trying to get their attention by generally being cute and in the way.

PAX - Male

Birthday: February 14, 2010

Given Sanctuary: September 1, 2010

Companion: None

Guardian Angel: Paul Sutton

Likes: Going for walks.

Dislikes: Watching other animals go for walks.

Favorite Food: Cat Food.

Fun Fact: Pax loves belly rubs and will hide his face and whine dramatically if his caretakers stop.

Personality: Pax is an energetic, social boy who is currently enjoying life as a bachelor. Though we hope to find him a companion, Pax greatly enjoys the companionship of his caretakers and seems content with his neighbors providing canine interactions through the fence. Pax also absolutely loves car rides. When on a walk, he will stop at every car until he finds one with a door open. Once inside, it is impossible to get him out without going for at least a short drive first.



The care we provide for our wolves is only possible because of your support. Thank you for helping us thrive over the years. Your compassion is an inspiration to all of us here at W.O.L.F.

Wishing You Joyous Howlidays and a Peaceful New Year



W.O.L.F. Gifts for the Howlidays

W.O.L.F. is excited to share our new merchandise just in time to make gift giving easy this Howliday season. With new designs and a greater variety, you are sure to find something for everyone on your list! Go to www.wolfsanctuary.net/shop to view all of our wonderful new items.

And for those in your family who don't want material things, consider gifting them an annual membership to W.O.L.F.! It is a great way to help the Sanctuary while also giving a meaningful gift that lasts the entire year.

And don't forget to order a beautiful 2020 calendar for all your friends so no one misses an important event. Calendars are on sale for only \$12. Supply is limited, so make sure to order today!

Orders must be placed by December 10th to assure that they will be received in time for Christmas!





W.O.L.F. Sanctuary

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