Mayari: the One-Eyed Goddess Be My Valentine In Loving Memory of Bella Roux

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# SAVE THE DATE!

Save the date! On Saturday, June 5, 2021, W.O.L.F. Sanctuary will be hosting our annual fundraising Gala at The Hilton Fort Collins, Colorado, featuring this year's theme—Northern Lights & Lobos: A Frosty Affair. Celebrate in style with a visit from our rescued wolf dog ambassadors underneath the glowing aurora borealis for a frosty night to remember.



And that's not all—indulge in a vegetarian or vegan gourmet meal, bid on unique auction items, become an official Guardian Angel for your favorite wolf dog, and more!

VIP guest speaker and legendary wolf biologist Rick McIntyre will once again be joining the event to share stories of wild wolves from his latest book release – *The Reign of Wolf 21: The Saga of Yellow-stone's Legendary Druid Pack*. McIntyre has spent more than fifty years watching wolves in America's national parks, twenty-five of those years in Yellowstone, where he has accumulated over 100,000 wolf sightings and educated the public about the park's most famous wolves. Rick will be signing copies of his book the evening of the gala—truly an event you will not want to miss!

Stay tuned and visit our website at <u>www.wolfsanctuary.net</u> to learn more when tickets will be on sale in March 2021.

If you can't join us in person, you'll have the opportunity to bid on our silent and live auction items the night of the event through our mobile bidding platform. More details to come.

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Send a Valentine

to the Wolves

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Facts & Tracks are back! In this issue we are thrilled to intoduce you to Takoda and Tenali, two of the Sanctuary's ambassador wolf dogs.

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Cover Photo: Mayari

#### 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,

We welcome you to a bright new year and new possibilities for W.O.L.F.!

We weathered the storms of 2020 with your help and generosity. W.O.L.F. endured two evacuations in 2020 due to the Cameron Peak Fire and the Lewstone Fire. Our animals finally came home on November 7, 2020, and they have loved the snow and the nip in the air in their mountain home as winter arrived. Colorado Gives Day in early December 2020 was a great surprise. We set a more modest goal of \$50,000 during this most difficult of years, and our generous supporters doubled that goal. We received donations that totaled nearly \$100,000. We are so thankful for the unprecedented generosity of our donors and forever grateful that so many people hold W.O.L.F. close in their hearts.

As we move forward into 2021, we will continue to follow public health guidelines for COVID-19 to keep our staff and volunteers safe as we look to new ways to accomplish the goals of our mission: rescue, sanctuary and public education.

In January we launched a new educational endeavor on our website to help the public understand the unique needs of captive-born wolves and wolf dogs. Since ownership of exotic animals is so prevalent in our society, we have endeavored to provide much needed fact-based information on what it takes to provide a healthy and safe life for these captive-born animals. Many people impulsively purchase a wolf dog without understanding how to care for them. The result is that hundreds of thousands of captive-born wolves and wolf dogs are surrendered to shelters each year and euthanized by the age of two. There are not nearly enough sanctuary placements available to handle the animals who are in danger of losing their lives. It is our intent to help people understand what it takes to be raise a healthy and happy wolf dog and discourage those who are unwilling or unable to make the commitment for the 12 - 15 year life span of these animals. Our new educational pages can be found at https://wolfsanctuary.co/challenges-of-wolf-dog-ownership/.

In this issue, we also remember the life of one of our most beloved wolf dogs Bella Roux who passed away in November. She was a sweet and gentle being who will always live in our hearts. You can read the moving tribute to Bella by Michele Proulx, our Director of Animal Care.

We also introduce readers to our newest Sanctuary resident, a beautiful petite wolf dog named Mayari who was in desperate need of assistance. Mayari, who embodies beauty and strength, is the one-eyed lunar deity of Tagalog, Sambal and Pampangan mythology. She rules over the night and is the guardian over beauty, strength, war, revolution and the moon. Her story is a sad one, but this partially blind and shy girl is now happily living her best life at the Sanctuary. We welcome her and are delighted to see her begin to blossom with the love and care of our staff and volunteers.

As we move forward into 2021, we are planning our annual Gala for June 5, 2021 at the Hilton in Ft. Collins. We have selected a theme that reflects the beauty of nature and our love of wolves: Northern Lights and Lobos – A Frosty Affair. We hope to see you in person this year. We will provide periodic updates in the coming months.

I want to end this first letter of 2021 with a heartfelt thank you from the W.O.L.F. staff and volunteers to our many friends and generous supporters who helped us weather the storms of 2020. Because of your on-going support and friendship, we have a sense of great optimism for our future in 2021. You helped to shoulder our burdens, support our animals, and give us your strength and light when we needed it most. You are always in our hearts.

As always, gratefully and humbly yours,

# **Mayari: the One-Eyed Goddess**

By Susan Weidel & Michelle Proulx



In mid-November 2020, W.O.L.F. received а call from one of our rescue partners in California – Apex Protection Project. There was a female wolf dog running as a stray in Southern California since Labor Day who was in need of a permanent home. She of-

ten visited a compassionate couple, and they fed her and tried to keep her safe though they were unable to touch her or get a leash on her. She stayed close to their home on a multi-acre property. The couple often saw her jump into their pond, run several laps around their yard, and then curl up under some thick bushes to take a nap. Eventually she began to follow the wife around the yard as she gardened. She would disappear at night and reappear early in the morning.

While caring for her, the couple searched for her owner and discovered that the wolf dog previously had a home, albeit not a good one. She had been kept on a nearby property in a small horse stall for a year. She was never walked and they only visited once a day to feed her. Though other wolf dogs were on the property, the female stray was not allowed any contact with them. Eventually the house was sold and her owners moved away. Shortly afterward she started showing up at her old home and on the couples property. The purchasers of the property called to have the original owners come collect their animal and while they agreed to come back and pick her up, they never did. Eventually they even stopped returning calls or texts. Whether they left her behind intentionally or if she escaped them at the new home and returned, it was clear the wolf dog was on her own.

As the weeks went on, the wolf dog kept coming for feedings and the couple realized her life was not as easy or carefree as she made it seem. Late one evening they heard a ruckus outside their bedroom window, and the husband rushed outside to see what was happening. The wolf dog was cornered by three coyotes who were snapping and lunging at her. A fourth coyote stood to the side and watched. While the husband chased the coyotes away, the wolf dog stood at his side and accepted his protection. When the couple reviewed the film on the trail camera, they saw that the wolf dog had been able to hold her own. She charged and lunged at the coyotes and forced them to back up.

Shortly after that altercation. she came into the yard with a serious eye injury. She was unable to open the eye, and it appeared to be bleeding. The couple could not catch her to get her to a veterinarian, so they decided to put antibiotics in her food to help with



the infection that was apparent. In the coming days, the eye seemed to improve, and the wolf dog was gradually able to open her eye. However, the couple saw that the lens in the eye was completely clouded.

They became increasingly worried that the wolf dog would be hit by a car or shot if left running free. They contacted a local wolf rescue, and Apex was able to organize a catch-up plan. They moved a wire enclosure onto the property and asked the couple to begin feeding the wolf dog inside the enclosure but to leave the door open. At first the wolf dog went into the enclosure but took her bowl

#### WOLF



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of food outside to eat. Eventually she started to eat in the enclosure. On the day of the catch up, the husband fed the wolf dog and started to close the enclosure door. The wolf turned. saw the door closing, and quickly slipped out the door. When the

team from Apex arrived, they began the laborious process of catching her on the multi-acre property. Eventually they were able to lure her into a smaller garden area, she ran into a greenhouse, they closed the door, and she was finally safe.

W.O.L.F. had been looking for a female for Castiel since Bella's passing, and this stray was the perfect candidate. Apex transported the wolf dog to a temporary foster home, and the W.O.L.F. transport team headed to California to bring her home. She was nervous but very good on her transport. They named the wolf dog Mayari after the one-eyed moon goddess of beauty and strength who was a warrior. The first stop in Colorado was to W.O.L.F.'s veterinarian who did a thorough exam and gave her all necessary vaccinations. She determined that Mayari was approximately 1 ½ years old. The next stop was Mayari's visit with a Board-Certified veterinary ophthalmologist who examined her eye. While she did not have any lingering infection, and the damaged eye was not painful, he determined that she was totally blind in that eye.



After an exhausting two days of travel and veterinary examinations, Mayari arrived at W.O.L.F. on November 23, 2020. She was nervous with her new surroundings and overwhelmed with the number of wolf dogs she suddenly found near her, so it was decided that she needed at least a few days to settle into her new home before trying to introduce her to Castiel. They were placed so that they could interact through a fence if they wanted to while she adjusted. Mayari quickly adapted to the new routine with her caretakers and would often curiously watch them preform chores or follow them at a safe distance around her habitat.

# Contract of the second seco

#### WOLF

She also quickly learned that her caretakers often came with food and began racing over to her feeder whenever she would see one walk down the road in hopes of getting a treat.

It took longer for her to become comfortable with the other



wolves around her, but after a week it was decided that it was time to try a face to face introduction with Castiel. They were moved into a new habitat so neither one would feel that their territory was being invaded by the other and set loose. Much to the surprise of staff and volunteers, Mayari was not shy about interacting with Castiel and desperately wanted to play with him. Castiel remained aloof, more interested in exploring his new habitat and avoiding his caretakers than interacting with her. It quickly became apparent that while their relationship might not be one of love at first sight, the two were safe to be left together unsupervised.

Since then, though no playing has been observed yet between the two, it is rare to see one without the other nearby. Mayari, who is still aloof but interested in her caretakers, seems to even have given Castiel a much needed confidence boost and he will often choose to remain close to her when their caretakers go about chores rather than running to the farthest corner of his habitat to anxiously pace or hide away. We are very hopeful that their relationship will continue to strengthen over time and they will become true friends and companions.



# Thanks to <u>YOU</u> Colorado Gives Day was a Howling Success!

On December 8th, 2020, Colorado's Community First Foundation partnered with FirstBank to host their annual Colorado Gives Day \$1 Million Incentive Fund. Each year, this cherished event is one of W.O.L.F. Sanctuary's most significant fundraisers which helps cover the cost of annual operational expenses inclusive of vet care, habitat maintenance, enrichment, infrastructure at the new Red Feather Lakes property, and more.

We are pleased to share that we've not only met our goal for 2020—set at \$50,000—but far surpassed it! Because of your unfailing support and generosity, our goal was exceeded to reflect an incredible donation of almost \$100,000.

The passion of our supporters made this happen through donations and spreading awareness across social media, event attendance, and more. Without each and every one of you, we would not be able to continue our Mission of Rescue, Sanctuary and Education, and help the wolves and wolf dogs we love immensely.

Thank you, from all of us at W.O.L.F. Sanctuary, who wanted to share a loud "AWAOOHOOOOO" with you! We hope to leave a paw print in your heart, and wish you a very happy and healthy New Year.



# Zoey & Loki

# Support W.O.L.F. with ReFUND CO

Do you know Coloradans who receive a state income tax refund will have a chance to donate some or all of it to a local nonprofit they trust like W.O.L.F. Sanctuary? Imagine if all state taxpayers chose to donate just a portion of their refunds; this outpouring of support would re-energize local community causes across Colorado and make a massive positive impact on our state!

The ReFUND CO awareness campaign provides a way for you to directly support a local nonprofit that is doing important work in your community by putting you in control of deciding to donate some or all of your state income tax return to a Colorado-registered charity.

For W.O.L.F., this provides a new way to fund our ongoing Mission of Rescue, Sanctuary and Education to help captive-born wolves and wolf dogs that need a second chance.

#### How to Donate Through ReFUND CO:

- When you are filing your Colorado state tax return, simply look for where you can "Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit Fund" and enter our name as W.O.L.F., our CCSA registration number <u>20033001711</u>, and the amount you wish to donate. It is that easy!
- 2. If you are using a tax preparer, let them know that you would like to contribute to the ReFUND CO program and give them our name, registration number and the amount you wish to donate when you submit your documents.

If you would like more information or more help on how to donate your state tax return you can visit our website at: https://wolfsanctuary.co/other-ways-to-donate/ or the ReFUND CO website at: https://refundwhatmatters.org/. You can also find our registration information by searching for W.O.L.F. Sanctuary using the search bar on the ReFUND CO website.

This is a unique and wonderful opportunity for the Sanctuary and we hope you'll consider continuing your support in this new way!

#### Matchmaker, Matchmaker, Make Me a Match

Now this is pawesome! Did you know many organizations offer a matching gift program to en-

courage philanthropy among their employees? Some companies will even match spouses and retirees!

By completing an easy matching gift form from your organization, you could potentially double, or even triple the impact of your gift benefiting the wolves and wolf dogs in our care!

Your contribution of any amount will help us continue our Mission of Rescue, Sanctuary and Education, rescuing captive-born wolves and wolf dogs in need.

All you have to do is use the search field to see if your employer participates in a matching gift program, and let the magic happen! Visit https://wolfsanctuary.co/matching-gift/ to learn more.





# Legacy Giving A Way to Secure W.O.L.F.'s Future

By Susan Weidel, J.D.

There are many ways you can help ensure the future of W.O.L.F. and the wolves and wolf dogs we all love so much. They include legacy gifts through a bequest in a will or naming W.O.L.F. as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement account, or a financial investment account. There are also several other ways to make a gift through estate planning methods known as charitable trusts.

# Several trust options may be appropriate as a vehicle for a legacy gift. They include:

- <u>Charitable Remainder Trust</u> The donor places assets in the trust and can use the property or income for a set time. The assets of the trust then go to the charity.
- <u>Charitable Lead Trust</u> The donor places assets in the trust and the income is directed to a charity for a set period of time. At the conclusion of the time, the assets are returned to the donor or the donor's heirs.
- <u>Donor Advised Funds</u> The donor makes a charitable contribution to an entity such as a Community Foundation. The foundation disburses the funds over time to a designated charity. The funds grow over time through investment and can provide an enhanced gift to the charity.

These vehicles provide flexibility and tax benefits to donors, but it is important to consult with an attorney, financial planner or estate planner to fully understand the requirements and benefits for each donor's unique need and desires.

It is our passion and our promise to keep W.O.L.F.'s animals safe and provide for the ability to care for many more wolves and wolf dogs as long as there is a need. We hope you will follow your passion and help us protect these animals who are so often abused and tossed aside to die in shelters or at the end of a chain. Helping to save these beautiful animals is a lasting legacy.



Yuki's road to recovery made possible by you



# In Loving Memory of Bella

By Michelle Proulx

Like many wolf dogs, Bella Roux's early life was tragic. Born in Alaska in 2008, her first year and a half of life was spent almost entirely confined in a small kennel, only being let out once a day. Her owners would regularly beat Bella to keep her under control when not confined to her cage. Kind-hearted neighbors were eventually able to rescue her from that environment and turned her over to the local humane society where she was adopted by a new family and moved to Oklahoma. Though the next four years of her life were a vast improvement over her previous one, it was still far from safe. Bella ended up in a home rife with domestic violence, some (though not all) of which was directed at Bella. In June of 2013 her human Mom decided to do something and called the Sanctuary for help.

At the time, W.O.L.F. was looking for a companion for Rajan and decided to rescue Bella. It was love at first sight. Bella and Rajan immediately started to play together and quickly became one of the most entertaining and friendliest packs at the Sanctuary. Despite Bella Roux's rough start in life, she was almost always the first to greet anyone who came to her habitat, wooing and doing a little happy dance at the gate in anticipation of getting some human attention. The two would constantly compete for their caretakers notice, often pushing each other out of the way for pets or start a wrestling match right in their laps. Bella was a consummate cuddle bug and loved to crawl in your lap, give kisses and roll over for belly rubs. She also soon became an educational ambassador and joined Rajan on programs throughout the community for many years.

When Rajan passed away in 2018, Bella was bereft. W.O.L.F. gave her the time she needed to grieve, and then tried to introduced her to a young pup named Zakai. She made it very clear that she did not want to raise the pup. Staff and volunteers were beyond surprised at her choice but honored her wishes. Instead, they tried her with a slightly older male named Castiel. Their relationship was slow to start but over the course of a few weeks, Castiel won over Bella. She remained very social with her human visitors and seemed to enjoy that she could have all the attention to herself, as Castiel was never tempted to interact with their caretakers. She became his protector and with her to guide him, Castiel became more confident. They were often together and were regularly observed sharing a dog house at nap time. They became good companions and enjoyed life together.

Though you wouldn't have known from Bella's exuberant personality, she suffered from serious gastrointestinal issues from many years, even needing extended stays at veterinary hospitals on two separate occasions for flare-ups of pancreatitis. While her caretakers watched her closely, fed her a specialized diet and gave her daily medications to help manage her conditions, there was always the worry that something would flare up again. However, aside from being on the thin side, Bella showed no signs of issues after her last flare-up of pancreatitis in 2018.

On November 9th, when staff went on morning rounds to give Bella her daily medications she didn't come down. Since she had behaved completely normal the day before it was obvious something was seriously wrong, and her caretakers scoured her habitat looking for her. They where heartbroken to discover Bella had passed away in her sleep during the night at almost 13 years of age. Her necropsy results indicated that her passing was a result of her long-term gastrointestinal issues once again suddenly flaring up.

While it leaves a huge hole in our hearts to lose the beautiful and affectionate Bella Roux, we take comfort in knowing that her passing was extremely quick and that she was happy and active right up until that moment. She is once again with Rajan, who was undoubtedly the love of her life. We know that they are together again, getting into playful wrestling matches, and basking in the companionship of one another.

# **Wolf Facts & Tracks**

By Michelle Proulx

### **TENALI - Female**

Birthday: December 25, 2011 Given Sanctuary: September 27, 2014 Companion: Zakai Guardian Angel: Kay Hale

*Likes:* Swimming in her water trough. *Dislikes:* Being on a diet. *Favorite Food:* Bones.

*Fun Fact:* Tenali loves squeaky toys and will become excited if she hears anything like a squeak. *Personality:* Tenali is a sweet, social low-content wolf dog. She loves belly rubs and will usually roll over and wait for her caretakers to give her a good scratch when they enter her habitat. Rub her belly long enough and she will fall asleep. When she is not seeking attention from her caretakers, Tenali loves to run the fence lines with her neighbors or play with her companion, Zakai. The two are often seen wrestling or chasing each other around the mountainside.

## TAKODA - Male

Birthday: March 13, 2017 Given Sanctuary: September 13, 2018 Companion: Kira Guardian Angel: Fred Johnston

*Likes:* Going for walks. *Dislikes:* Being ignored. *Favorite Food:* Any kind of treat.

**Fun Fact:** Takoda enjoys his feet being touched and will fall asleep when given a paw massage. **Personality:** Takoda is an energetic, young wolf dog who loves attention from his caretakers. If he sees his caretakers coming to his habitat he will jump at the gate while he waits for them to enter. He then demands their attention, jumping up to give kisses, diving between or leaning heavily against their legs, or rolling over for a belly rub. If he feels ignored, he will often demand more pets by grabbing their tools, clothing or hair to refocus their attention back to him.



#### W.O.L.F.



Back by popular demand, W.O.L.F. Sanctuary is hosting our annual Valentine's Day Fundraiser where supporters from all over can send a valentine to the wolf dogs! Best of all—these valentines are made with love specifically for the animals within our care.

Our staff and volunteers take great pride in molding fresh meat patties into heart shaped goodies adorned with sweet messages using cream cheese as frosting. On Valentine's Day, Cupid delivers these one-of-a-kind treats to the wolf dogs to celebrate how much they are loved by our supporters.

Funds raised from the valentines benefit the 30 wolf dogs at the Sanctuary, and help us continue our Mission of Rescue, Sanctuary and Education.

So go ahead, play Cupid and register for your valentine by mailing in the form below, calling the Sanctuary at 970-416-9531 or online at https://wolfsanctuary.co/valentines-for-the-wolves/.



#### Order Form

 1/4 lb Valentine: \$15.00
 Qty: \_\_\_\_\_

 1/2 lb Valentine: \$30.00
 Qty: \_\_\_\_\_

 1 lb Valentine: \$50.00
 Qty: \_\_\_\_\_

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Qty: \_\_\_\_ Price: \$\_\_\_\_ Total: \$\_\_\_\_

#### Payment Information

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

Credit Card #:

(American Express, Discover, Visa & MasterCard)
Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV: \_\_\_\_

-	Billing Address (Credit Carc	<u>l Payments)</u>	
-	Name:		
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#### WIOLLE

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#### Winter 2021

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YESI I would like to become a member of W.O.L.F. and help to care for abandoned captive-born wolf dogs. I understand that by becoming a member (which can be renewed yearly), I will receive a quarterly newsletter, window decal, annual calendar and additional gifts (depending on my member level) unless I specify otherwise.						
S50 Member	\$200 Supporter \$500	Advocate				
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