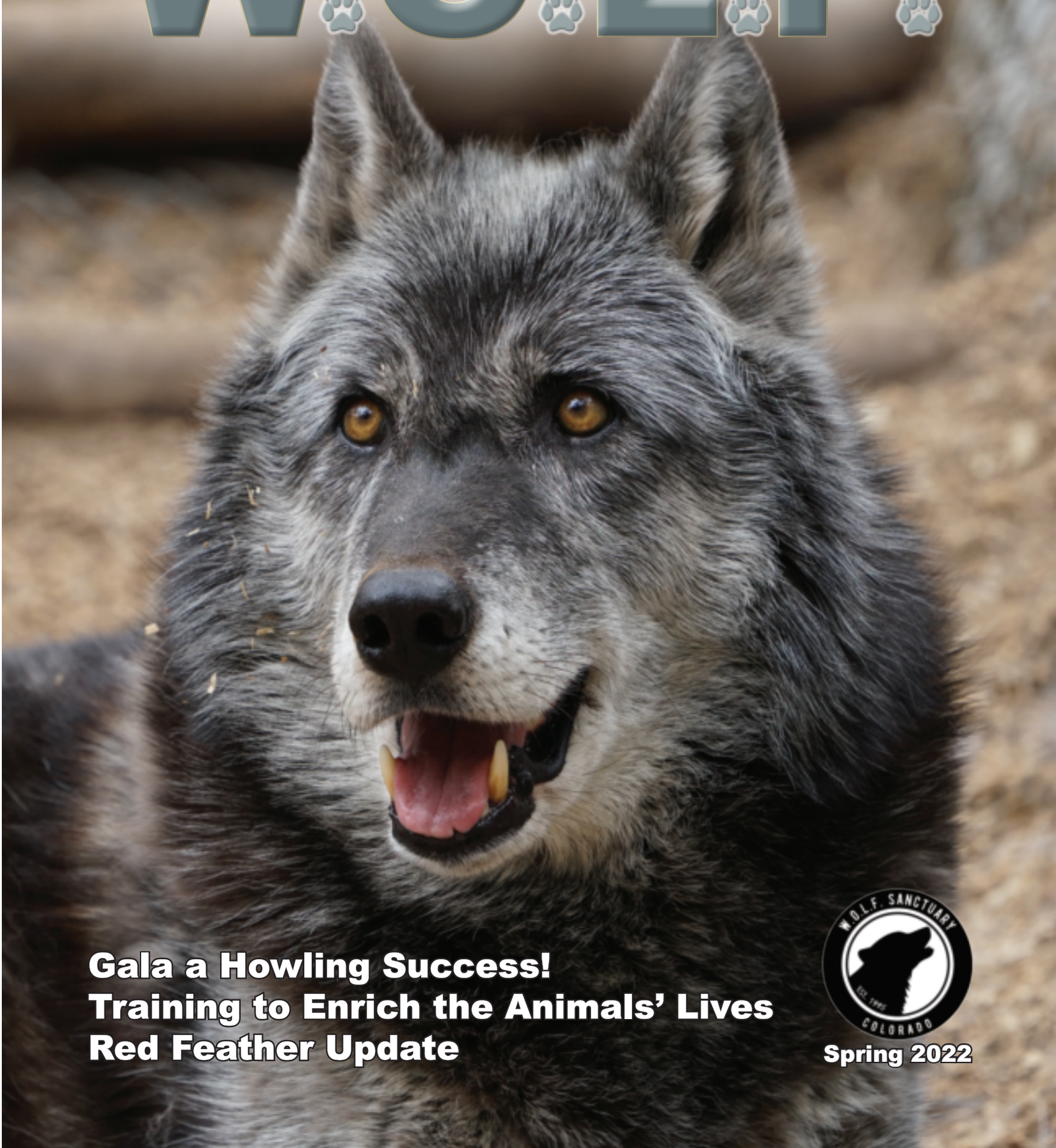




# WOLF



**Gala a Howling Success!  
Training to Enrich the Animals' Lives  
Red Feather Update**



**Spring 2022**



**GARAGE SALE**  
**BENEFITING**  
**W.O.L.F. SANCTUARY**  
**JUNE 3RD & 4TH**

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Time for more fun Facts & Tracks! In this issue we are thrilled to introduce you to Kieran and Kira.



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Cover Photo: Ember



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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 in need and find them appropriate placement at a sanctuary or other qualified site;
- 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. Friends and Supporters

We are excited to welcome Spring to the residents at the Sanctuary! A glorious time of the year, the wolf dogs enjoy the cool breeze in the air and the abundant amount of sunshine.

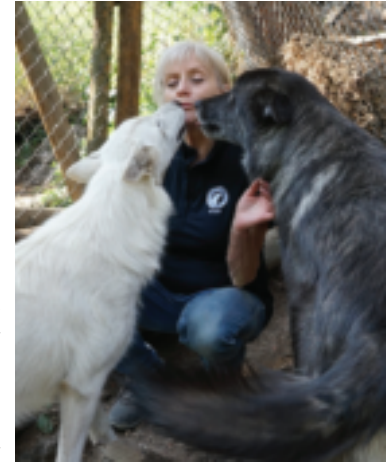
This past April, we hosted our annual fundraising gala featuring the theme—"A Furry Tail." Held at The Hilton, Fort Collins, we gathered with our supporters from Colorado and some who joined us as far as California! With a special appearance and opening remarks from Colorado's First Gentleman Reis, the evening was truly one that will never be forgotten. Our supporters had the opportunity to meet Outlaw, one of our wolf dog ambassadors, as well as bid on unique silent and live auction items throughout the evening. Our VIP guest speaker, Suzanne Asha Stone, Executive Director of the International Wildlife Coexistence Network dispelled the myth of the big, bad wolf with a modified rendition of Little Red Riding Hood portraying the wolf as a friend and connected with attendees on the plight of wolves in the Northern Rockies region. Read on to learn more about the details of our event.

We've been busy focused on the preparation of the wolf dogs' future home in Red Feather Lakes, Colorado. But it has not been an easy endeavor—with costs on the rise due to COVID and enormous increases in costs for building materials, we are continuing to raise funds to build the necessary infrastructure on the property for the Sanctuary residents' arrival. If you'd like to get involved and help support our future home, read the article within on the updates of our progress and on how you can help us. Every dollar makes a difference.

The Sanctuary residents have been busy practicing training techniques with dog behavior specialist Rachel Harris, owner of A Good Feeling Dog Training. With in-person training sessions, Rachel has been working with W.O.L.F.'s four-legged rescues to help acclimate them in preparation for our upcoming move to our new sanctuary in Red Feather Lakes. Learn more about Rachel's success stories within the newsletter and how "pawesome" it's been partnering with her expertise.

We look forward to connecting with you this Spring and continuing to educate you on our progress as we work diligently to bring the Sanctuary residents to their future soon-to-be home.

As always, gratefully and humbly yours,  
Shelley





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# W.O.L.F. Sanctuary Gala A Howling Success!

On Saturday, April 9th, W.O.L.F. hosted their annual gala fundraiser, themed this year “A Furry Tail.” The event raises funds for the four-legged animals at the Sanctuary and their future home.

Over 200 attendees joined the event for an evening of fun and philanthropy in an enchanted forest at the Hilton, Fort Collins. Colorado’s First Gentleman Reis opened the event with remarks on protecting wolves in the state and his dedication towards wildlife. The evening continued with a statement from Sally Boccella, representative for Senator Hickenlooper, on their support for W.O.L.F. Sanctuary and Mission of Rescue, Sanctuary, and Education. Additionally, Larimer County Commissioner Jody Shaddock-McNally joined the event in support of W.O.L.F.

The night continued with W.O.L.F. Ambassador Outlaw, who made certain to visit supporters wagging his tail and giving out kisses to those graced by his spirited presence. Staff and supporters dressed to the theme wearing fairy tale inspired costumes as Little Red Riding Hood, wizards, fairies, princesses, and wolves—just to name a few!

Attendees had the opportunity to bid on unique silent and live auction items inclusive of local art, jewelry, excursions, and so much more. From ice climbing, an original painting by talented artist Julie Kramer Cole, to a wolf trekking excursion in Yellowstone, there was something for everyone that evening! Additionally, we had eight guardian angels purchased at full price during the event, where supporters could represent a specific wolf dog for the year. This was a groundbreaking record! The excitement during the event continued as a handspun shawl created by local artist Kris Paige with beloved past resident Isabeau’s fur was sold for \$100,000 through an estate pledge by a dedicated supporter.

The event closed with a presentation by VIP guest speaker Suzanne Asha Stone, Executive Director of the International Wildlife Coexistence Network. Dressed to the theme in a “grandma” inspired costume, she shared an adaptation of Little Red



Riding Hood, where the wolf is perceived as a friend, not a villain, and educated attendees on the plight of wolves in the Northern Rockies Region. Stone worked for Defenders of Wildlife as their Idaho based wolf conservationist covering wolf conservation across much of the West from the Rockies to the Pacific Northwest and California. In 2008, she founded the Wood River Wolf Project in Idaho to demonstrate that wolves can coexist with sheep operations on national forests when adequate nonlethal deterrents are consistently applied. Attendees had an opportunity to participate in a Q&A session with Suzanne and learned more about the importance of co-existence tools. They also learned how they could be a voice to help support an emergency relisting necessary to protect Northern Rocky wolves.

Thanks to the generosity of you, our supporters, W.O.L.F. has raised over \$91,000 net and a generous estate gift of \$100K to secure the future of the wolf dogs within our care.

Stay tuned for more details as we begin preparation for the festivities in 2023!



## Training to Enrich the Animals' Lives

*By Rachel Laurie Harris CPDT-KA, Owner of A Good Feeling Dog Training*



I have been training pets, dogs, and their people professionally for the last 10 years. As a new trainer I came to realize that most humans mean well but were failing to understand their dogs and meet their needs in a species appropriate way. As a society I think we all must unlearn some of the unrealistic expectations we put on dogs to always behave just because we say so. The dog training industry has long been unregulated and filled with "trainers" who are happy to compromise animal welfare, so dogs are "obedient" no matter the

cost. As a professional trainer I guide my clients to understand their dogs as individuals -- to understand how breed, environment and learning history all play a significant role in their dogs' behavior. I teach my clients to meet their dog where they are at, to understand what motivates them, what makes them feel uncomfortable and how their dog shows those emotions through their body language. As a professional trainer, I am committed to teaching all humans and their dogs following LIMA training principles. Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive training techniques are proven to be the most humane for the animal and in turn yield the longest lasting and reliable response from dogs.





Over the last 10 years I have found my calling in the pet dog world taking on aggression and reactivity cases. There are a lot of reasons why dogs will escalate to reactive and aggressive behavior but the overarching reason is lack of perceived safety for the dog. Once we can understand what is triggering the dog to escalate there is so much we put into place to keep humans and dogs safe and allow the dogs to live a long healthy life.

### ***How does working with pet dogs translate to training wolf hybrids?***

The learning principles are the same for dogs and wolf hybrids alike. Surprisingly training wolf hybrids is not much different than training pet dogs, with the exception of some of the intense fear responses to new people in the animals at the Sanctuary.



When I was asked to come in and work with a young male hybrid who was displaying some overly excited behavior towards humans I knew I could put training in place to decrease the overall behavior and train much more desirable behaviors.

Topaz was really behaving like a 1-year-old wolf hybrid should -- overly excited, jumping, mouthing and having a hard time doing anything else. It's important to realize that neither dogs nor wolf hybrids have malicious intentions when behaving in an overly excited manner. Topaz was really just displaying behaviors that came and felt natural to him. There was no sense in punishing behaviors that came natural to him. The goal was to teach him other behaviors that could get him the attention he so desperately wanted in a safer manner for staff.

We started by teaching Topaz a foundation behavior called targeting. We use a stick with a ball on the end and the objective was for Topaz to touch the target with his nose and earn reinforce-



ment along the way. In addition to targeting, we taught him that a clicking noise from our handheld clickers meant that a tasty food reinforcement was on its way. Clicker training has long been an effective way to teach animals of all kinds the skills we need from them. Topaz learned targeting the first day I met him. All animals are capable of learning as long as we humans put the right reinforcements in place to motivate the animals to participate. In addition to targeting, we also taught Topaz a stationing behavior. He has a wooden spool in his habitat that was perfect for the training. We taught Topaz to jump up on the spool when staff were in the habitat so he could get the attention he wanted but also prevent him from jumping and mouthing at staff. Topaz is a very motivated learner, and his stationing behavior is working so nicely today. He is able to jump up on his spool, get some pets and then participate in more training.



### ***Wolf hybrid relationships, the good and bad.***

While the majority of the animals at the sanctuary are very happy to be paired and share their lives with one companion, it's not always as easy as that. Social (continued on page 9)









**Zakai & Tenali**



(continued from page 6) dynamics are very similar in pet dogs as they are in wolf hybrids and in both cases tensions can arise. Another aspect of the work I do is helping the animals coexist as best as they can and prevent conflicts from arising. Just like the work I do with pet dogs, I meet the animals where they are at. Yuki and Kieran while they enjoyed each other's company sometimes,



were also having a hard time getting along. It is very normal in the dog world to mature from young animal 6 months - 18 months and then have different preferences as an adult at 2ish years old. Something we did was give both Yuki and Kieran a nice break from each other. Sometimes space and some time can go a long way for tensions between animals. After a break from each other we were able to allow play dates with Yuki and Kieran with great success. I really appreciate how the sanctuary staff were open and understanding of my suggestion to let Yuki and Kieran live mostly separate lives with play dates to satisfy their play needs. All animals are different and the Sanctuary does such a nice job of allowing all of their animals to live how they most prefer.



### ***Preparations for the move.***

After several weeks of getting to know a majority of the animals and teaching foundational skills like targeting and stationing I was ready to put more training plans into place to prepare all of the residents for the move to Red Feather. The nice thing about time is that it allows me to put a training plan into place for every animal and then pivot the plan depending on the animal's needs. Crate training is in motion for every single animal at the sanctuary. By slowly teaching the animals to be comfortable in their crates we are able to prevent at least one stressor from the move. We can



only hope that there won't have to be any emergency evacuations in the future but the more comfortable the animals are going into their crates, the easier moving them to safety becomes. Many of the animals that got foundational training are already going into their crates on cue and getting more comfortable hanging out inside with the door closed. Yuki, Kieran, Outlaw, Topaz, Tenali, Spartacus and Ashima are well on their way in crate training. Some of the more fearful animals are also making progress but in a way that they feel comfortable. Crate training is a simple skill that is going to greatly benefit all of the animals at the Sanctuary.



### *Long term goals.*

While the focus right now is preparations for the move, we also have many ambitious long term training goals. A common practice in many zoo's and other wolf sanctuaries is teaching the animals to more actively participate in their care. Consent in care is a special passion of mine and I have seen it work with my own pet dog. By teaching my dog the framework for opting in and opting out, he has voluntarily stood still for vaccinations, blood draws, nail trims and other exams. The crate training is the priority for now but once the animals are comfortable at Red Feather we will be teaching them all the framework for participating in the care they need. This not only decreases stress for the animals, but this also allows us to provide the best care we possibly can, so that each animal can live out their days as the happiest, healthiest version of themselves.

As an added bonus to all of the training we have been doing, the animals are not only learning valuable skills, but it is also a great outlet for their minds. The animals are already receiving excellent care and enrichment. The training just accents their already existing care and leads to a more satisfied mind and as you can imagine a lot of well-deserved naps after training sessions. I am so looking forward to seeing the animals progress and enjoy the process of training well into the future.



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## Red Feather Update

Since we last updated our newsletter readers about the Red Feather Lakes project in the summer of 2021, significant progress has been made on the project. W.O.L.F. is now very close to completing the components of the project needed to relocate the wolves to their new home. While there is still a lot that needs to be done, we are really excited about the progress that has been made and appreciative of the excellent team that has been assembled to work up at Red Feather Lakes.

Several key project components have been completed, including:

- Completion of the habitat enclosures and perimeter vertical fencing, including the final inspection and closure of the Building Permit with Larimer County;
- Completion of the main road, including testing the road, submittal of the as built drawings to Larimer County, final inspection and closures of the Development Construction Permit, Right of Way Access Permit and the associated Stormwater Permit with the State of Colorado;
- Installation of the water well;
- The design for the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS), better known as the septic system, is complete;

There are several other project components that are currently in progress, including:

- Joe Walton, Walton Construction LLC will begin installing dig guard in all of the habitat enclosures on April 21st, 2022. The expected completion is in August of this year.
- SA Miro has completed the engineering design for the meat processing building. W.O.L.F. staff have requested bids and these are under review.

Thank you to all of our supporters, contractors and everyone else that are helping us make this new site a reality!



# New Board Member Interview

## Audrey Nelson PhD



### What inspired you to become involved with W.O.L.F. Sanctuary?

About ten years ago, I read Thomas McNamee's *The Killing of Wolf Number 10*. It was a disturbing account of the killing of a wolf. I promised myself that I would get involved with a sanctuary for wolves when I was in retirement and had more time.

As a species, wolves play a unique role in the ecosystem of the western United States. When I learned about the mindless approach to wolves in the environment practiced by ranching and farming communities, I was motivated to learn more and try and do something about the problem.

### Can you share your background with us and how you became an animal advocate?

I have spent my career advising corporate clients about gender relations. I have a master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Colorado In Communications and specialize in gender studies. For over 35 years, I have been an adviser to hundreds of corporate and government entities as businesses have tried to level the playing field concerning management issues dealing with the treatment of women and minority employees.

As a longtime dog, horse, cat and burro owner, I have been fascinated by the lives and actions of my pets. Being cognizant of our relationship to our closest companion has led me to believe that modern man has failed to live a life respectful of nature and the many other species on this planet.

### Do you have a favorite four-legged resident, and if so, who?

At home, I have the pleasure of sharing my life with Auggie and Caesar, my two Irish Jack Russells. There is no doubt that we are a "pack," and I am the pack leader. Watching these two has given me many insights into how canines think and react to their environment. At the sanctuary, I have come to know and have a special place in my heart for Kovu. His black coat and reclusive nature intrigue me.

### What excites you the most about W.O.L.F. Sanctuary?

I look forward to the opportunity to help the Sanctuary expand its influence in Colorado and realize its potential in the new facility at Red Feather Lakes. It is admirable what has been accomplished over the past 27 years. I hope that as an organization, W.O.L.F. can realize its potential as the premier facility for the rescue of wolves and wolf dogs in the U.S.

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I look forward to helping our facility thrive by expanding its donor base, implementing educational programs and initiatives that will improve the lives and welfare of our animals, and promoting the cause of saving wolves in the wild.

**What is your vision for the future of W.O.L.F.?**

I look forward to seeing the new sanctuary at Red Feather become a leading facility for the care of captive born wolves and wolf dogs and a center for education about the wolf in the wild. As Colorado continues to grow, it is of paramount importance that the population understands that we are but a part of this magnificent place and have a duty to appreciate the diversity of our environment, inclusive of all wild species.

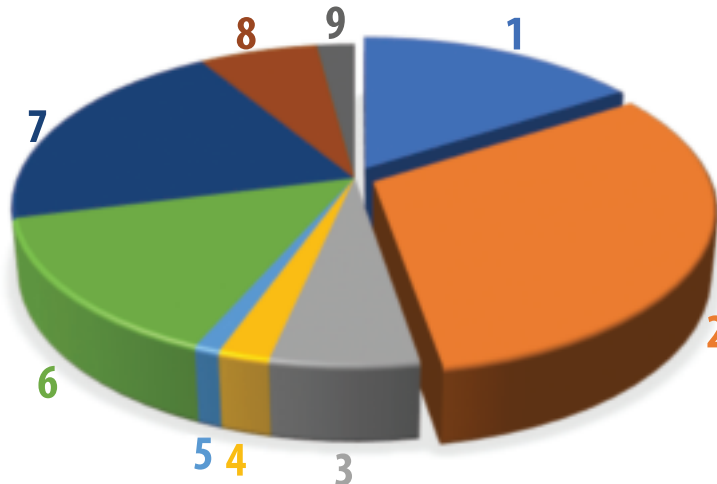


# Red Feather: What's Left To Do?

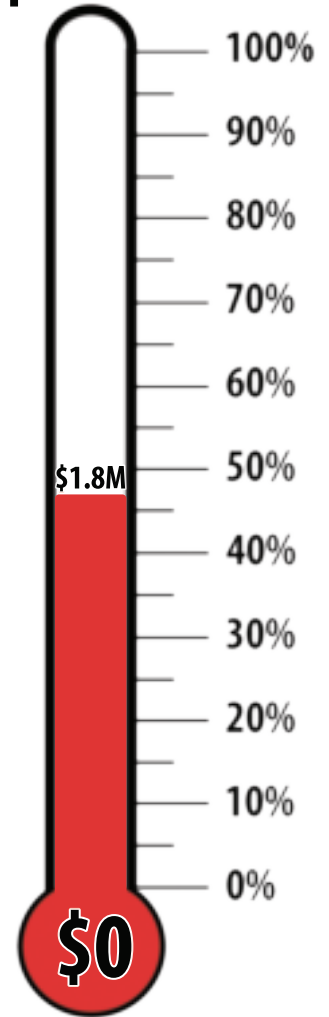
The habitat fencing is up but there is still more that needs to be done before W.O.L.F. can move in and open it's doors to you, our wonderful supporters, to visit the furry friends we all love.

We wanted to give you a picture of what is left to do to get us to that point. If you are interested in helping out or making a contribution toward this project contact our Executive Director at [scoldiron@wolfsanctuary.net](mailto:scoldiron@wolfsanctuary.net).

**\$3.8M**

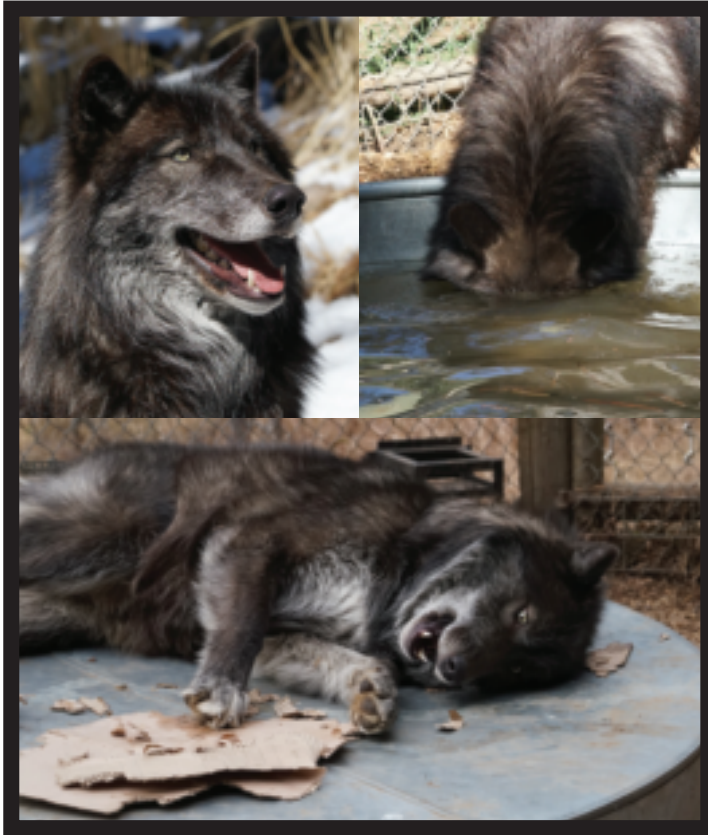


- 1. Road build and property improvements - **COMPLETE!**
- 2. Habitat and perimeter fencing - **COMPLETE!**
- 3. Habitat dig guard and prep for deck pens - **In Progress**
- 4. Deck Pens
- 5. Mods for water buckets, food bowls, solar for heating water
- 6. Meat processing facility, walk-in freezer, refrigerators, dishwasher, scale, well and OWTS
- 7. Headquarters with offices for staff, volunteers and small vet room
- 8. Education Pavilion
- 9. Public Toilet System



# Wolf Facts & Tracks

By Michelle Proulx



## Kieran - Male

**Birthday:** March 17, 2020

**Given Sanctuary:** May 29, 2020

**Companion:** TBD

**Guardian Angel:** Fran Eicher

**Likes:** Destroying cardboard boxes.

**Dislikes:** Strangers.

**Favorite Food:** Cooked chicken.

**Fun Fact:** Kieran will stand in any body of water (puddle, bucket, pool, etc.) he comes across.

**Personality:** Kieran is a young, high-content wolf dog who is an energetic goofball. Currently alone after having a disagreement with his companion Yuki, Kieran is enjoying all the extra treats and attention he is receiving. He is also obsessive about water and will go "swimming" in any body of water that he can, no matter what season it is. He is especially fond of chasing the little streams of water that run across the ground after splashing the water out of whatever container it was held in.

## Kira - Female

**Birthday:** September 23, 2017

**Given Sanctuary:** February 23, 2019

**Companion:** Takoda

**Guardian Angel:** Fred Johnson

**Likes:** Chewing on ice.

**Dislikes:** Being brushed.

**Favorite Food:** Wet dog food.

**Fun Fact:** Kira is very protective over her bones and is always looking for the perfect hiding spot.

**Personality:** Kira is an energetic, low-content wolf dog who enjoys human attention. Whenever her caretakers enter her habitat, she will approach and sit at their feet to ask for pets. Kira is also easily distracted and will often dart away to see what her companion, Takoda, or fence neighbors, Jacob and Ember, are up to. When not rough housing with Takoda, or running the fence Kira can usually be found diligently guarding her bones from any (and every) perceived threat.





## Upcoming W.O.L.F. Events

W.O.L.F. Sanctuary has been busy preparing for upcoming events where you can join us to support the four-legged residents within our care. Wag your way down to learn more!

### **ANNUAL GARAGE SALE**

On the weekend of June 3rd and 4th, W.O.L.F. will be hosting our annual garage sale to raise funds for the wolf dogs! Get ready to shop until you drop! For every purchase, proceeds go directly towards the sanctuary.

Time: 9 AM – 2 PM MT

Where: Country Farms Windsor, CO | Follow the Signs

***A message from the Fur Crew:*** Please note, respectfully at this time, W.O.L.F. is not accepting donated goods for the garage sale. Shoppers and supporters are invited to attend, but please leave your home items in your den.

For any questions, please reach out to [kkellogg@wolfsanctuary.net](mailto:kkellogg@wolfsanctuary.net).



### **WINE, WOLVES AND ART EVENT**

W.O.L.F. will be hosting a very special exclusive event on September 13, 2022 to support the wolf dogs at the Sanctuary. You'll have the opportunity to bid on unique art, sip a glass of wine, and mingle with fellow animal enthusiasts—all for a great cause! Get ready to “Cheers” with us.

Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM MT

Where: The OBC Wine Project | 824 E. Lincoln Ave, Fort Collins, CO





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**YES!**

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.

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