

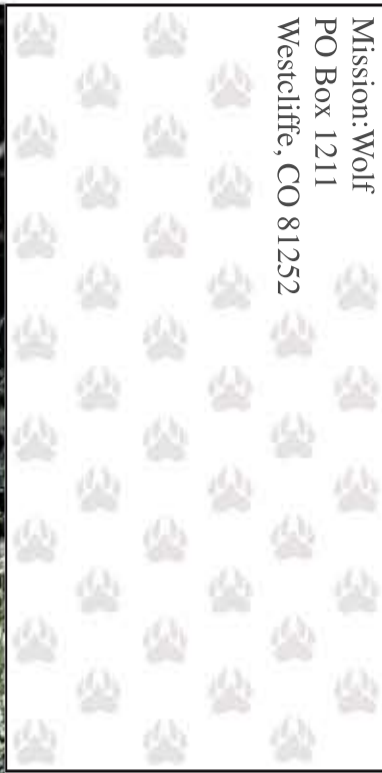
# Wolf Visions

Volume 27

THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER FROM MISSION:WOLF



Zephir (left) and Arrow look on from their wooded hillside home. (John Ramer)



Mission: Wolf  
PO Box 1211  
Westcliffe, CO 81252

## Featured Wolves

Arrow and Zephir (pictured left) were the first to explore our new playpen, finished in the summer of 2016. Read more about their adventures on page 3.

## Mission:Wolf

Mission:Wolf connects people with nature using hands-on experiential education. Through volunteer internships and national traveling education programs, we inspire individuals to become stewards of the earth. While providing a home for rescued wolves and horses, we create opportunities for growth through community service and personal interactions with animals. We value education, sustainability, and improving relationships between people, animals, and the world around them.

- Thank you -  
Howls of gratitude for your continued support!

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**Sanctuary**

*What does "sanctuary" mean to M:W and its residents?*

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**Education**

*Shy wolf-dog comes out of his shell to educate the public*



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**Sustainability**

*Ingenious greenhouses give staff a bountiful harvest all year*

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# Sanctuary

Mission:Wolf has provided a home for captive wolves and wolf-dogs for over 30 years, and has even taken in the occasional horse in need. The refuge has also provided sanctuary to countless humans over the years, from staff to day visitors. Read on to learn more about Mission:Wolf's diverse crew and what "sanctuary" means to us.

## Who Lives Here Now?

Canines	Equines	Humans
31 wolves & wolf-dogs	8 horses	10 full time staff

## What is "Sanctuary?"

At Mission:Wolf, we believe a sanctuary is a place where any creature can live a full, happy life. M:W sits on over 200 acres in the remote mountains of southern Colorado. The refuge is intentionally removed from society so the animals are insulated from things like development and people.

While these wolves sadly must live behind fences, we strive to provide them with the most natural existence possible. They have large enclosures with ample room to run and play, and are fed a raw diet of meat, hide, organs, and bones on a feast and famine cycle, similar to how wild wolf packs eat.

Many of the wolves want nothing to do with humans and choose to hide when visitors show up. We have found that some of them are more social, though, and actually get enrichment from interaction with other species. Like humans, wolves are individuals—they all have unique needs and character traits. Sanctuary means different things for different animals; our volunteer staff works hard to make M:W a happy and healthy environment where each animal can find peace and purpose.

-A. Hoffman



*Silly Farah loves to stop and smell the flowers. (John Rarner)*

## Captive Canines

The 31 resident wolves and wolf-dogs come from various backgrounds. Some were originally bred to be in Hollywood movie productions, while others were found wandering the streets. Despite their different stories and personalities, all of them have one thing in common: they can never be reintroduced to the wild. Because these wolves were born and bred in captivity, they never learned to hunt or fend for themselves. They are imprinted on humans; upon release, a captive-born wolf would approach people for food, and would likely lose its life. Mission:Wolf offers sanctuary to these animals.

## 🐾 Pupdate 🐾



*Siblings Tiger (left) and Rosie are very playful. (K. Weber)*

Fondly referred to as the "puppies" or "kids" by M:W staff, Tiger and Rosie are now anything but. They celebrated their fourth birthday in March of 2017. Now fully grown and looking majestic as ever, these siblings have really come into their own. They still live together in their own enclosure, where they can be seen running, playing, and being downright adorable.

Their individual personalities have blossomed, with Rosie being hyper-aware of the world around her, investigating every noise and movement, while Tiger is more laid-back, content to relax and observe the hustle and bustle of the refuge. His attitude

helps to calm Rosie around people; once she sees Tiger engage, Rosie often becomes more confident and willing to do the same.

Tracy and Mike have been working with the pups to get them comfortable on leash. While Tiger comes bounding across the enclosure when the leash comes out, Rosie is a bit more cautious. With patience and the practice of mirroring and mimicry, Tracy builds Rosie's confidence every work session. This work is important, both as socialization and as a helpful tool for evacuation in an emergency.

In the spring of 2016, Tiger was diagnosed with discoid lupus, an autoimmune disorder that causes his body to attack the skin on his nose. With the help of our vets, we were able to get him the medication he needed, and now have it under control. He will carry discoid lupus with him for the rest of his life, however, and is unlikely to join the traveling educational tour. Fortunately, he will still be able to educate the thousands of people who visit the refuge each year.

Despite Tiger's condition, the siblings are very happy together, often sharing bones and play fighting. Rosie, the more agile of the two, gains enrichment by testing her balance on fallen aspens. Tiger, on the other hand, is endearingly clumsy. Their funny personalities and dynamic make them the favorites of many staff members and visitors.

-Mike Gaarde



**Rosie-Valkyrie**  
This canine diva is a strong-willed sister who shows her love by chewing on her brother's nose.



**Tiger**  
A social wolf and loving brother who is a steady, calming influence on his sister Rosie.

### A Dream Realized

Mission:Wolf has long dreamt of an enclosure large enough to allow the wolves to run and play with no fences in sight. That dream became a reality in the summer of 2016 with the completion of a 20-acre playpen. This ten-year project has served as an excellent fence construction training ground for hundreds of students young and old. The initial structure began as an Eagle Scout Service Project and, thanks to recent help from the Wildheart Foundation and Steelock Fence company, the playpen is finally complete. The enormous enclosure was built entirely with volunteer labor and donated or discounted materials.

The two featured wolves, Arrow and Zephyr, were the first M:W residents brought in to explore the huge space. They were initially too timid to enjoy themselves, as they hadn't been outside of

their enclosure since puppyhood. After three visits to the playpen and hours of investigative sniffing, they were finally ready to let go of their inhibitions and have fun! Arrow and Zephyr grew up in a world of fences, and for the first time in their lives, they felt what it might be like to run in the wild as nature intended.

The playpen will be used on a timeshare basis for the sanctuary residents, providing a new type of enrichment for all. M:W is truly grateful to the hundreds of staff, volunteers, and donors who made this project possible. The addition of the playpen permanently improves the quality of life for the wolves as we look toward the future.

-A. Hoffman



**Right:** After years of hard work, Arrow and Zephyr are finally able to enjoy every acre of their new playpen. Bottom center, you can see them bounding across the snowy hillside. (John Ramer)



**Left:** M:W staff put the finishing touches on the fenceline. With over 20 acres to enclose in chainlink, fencing is no easy task. (E. Behzadi)

### 🐾 The Senior Ladies 🐾

In the wild, wolves are lucky to live 6-8 years. In captivity, they receive consistent food and medical care, and usually live much longer. Currently, we house three wolves that are fifteen years of age: sisters Magpie and Raven, and Daisy.

-P. Cannon



#### Magpie (The Platinum Princess)

Magpie enjoyed a very social summer at the sanctuary. Due to her age, she is unable to travel on any more tours across the country, but is still leading the ambassador pack at the refuge. She likes greeting visitors and sharing her unconditional love during the busy summer season.



**Above:** Raven and Magpie's first day at M:W. They were both jet black as pups, hence their names; some wolves gray with age, like humans do. (Annie White)

#### Raven

Raven retired as an ambassador long ago and now lives with Illiamna, a young arctic wolf. Despite her age, she often romps around with Illiamna and tells him off when need be. Raven enjoys lounging under her piñon tree, splashing in water on hot days, and offering love to staff members.



#### Daisy

Daisy spends most of her time resting in the shade, but don't let that fool you—she springs into action during feeding time, running literal circles around her young pen mate, Fenris, and barking orders at him. In her older age, Daisy has developed a quiet, dignified howl.

Senior photo credits, from top:  
John Ramer, Annie White, and P. Cannon.

Wolves of M:W



#### Zephyr

A beautiful and majestic arctic wolf who loves to play with her partner.



#### Arrow

With his unique pale-green eyes, Arrow is one of the most striking wolves at the refuge.

# Memorials



**KIYA** 2008-2015

Kiya was a very shy, wolfy animal who came to the refuge after a misunderstanding with her owner's neighbor. She proved to be the perfect companion for temperamental wolf-dog brothers, Buku and Oreo. Kiya kept them in line for many years until one morning she didn't appear for breakfast. Staff soon discovered she had suffered a twisted gut, commonly known as "bloat," during the night. Bloat is one of the top causes of mortality in canines and is tragically unpredictable. Our community was hit hard by Kiya's passing; she was a relatively new arrival at Mission:Wolf and was still young. Buku and Oreo now live alone, but we think Kiya's spirit continues to keep them on their best behavior.

**AURORA** 2001-2015

Aurora was a source of joy for many at Mission:Wolf—she was the only wolf who could pronounce her own name. She was often seen happily bouncing around her enclosure, her three legs steady beneath her. Though Aurora never sought human attention, she had boundless, playful energy for her mates. Although her spirit never diminished, her body eventually did, and we retired Aurora to the geriatric care unit at the directors' house. Toward the end of the summer in 2015, we noticed her health was declining. After an examination, we learned she had cancerous tumors throughout her body, and we decided to let her pass on. Her presence has been missed, but we know her years at the sanctuary were happy and fulfilling.

**KONA** 1998-2015

Kona lived at Mission:Wolf for many years. To the staff, she was everything that the wolves were not: an animal that we could take on walks, play with, and cuddle. She was one of the longest-serving members of our community, reaching her time peacefully and with her usual stubborn attitude. Kona no longer trips staff in the middle of chaotic dinner cleanups. Every pile of swept dust is sadly free from her inquisitive nose and disruptive paws. However, Kona's memory will live on in every nook and cranny of the staff kitchen. She lives on in the sunlight shining down on the old dog bed near the window, and the odd puff of her fur that every so often drifts out from a hidden spot.

**NOKONA** 2002-2015

Nokona, dubbed "The Lion King," was an implacable bear-lion creature who resided at Mission:Wolf for over six years. Though we were unsuccessful in finding Nokona a long-term mate, he never seemed bothered by the solitude. He did find companionship for some time with another reclusive old wolf named Mountain Spirit. When she passed on, and as Nokona approached his twilight years, we moved him to the directors' house for a bit of peace and quiet. There, he and Aurora spent their retirement comfortably napping in their enclosures next door to each other, occasionally scowling at Mr. Good, the resident cat. Nokona quietly left us in his sleep on a sunny afternoon in October 2015.

-P. Cannon

In 2002, a tiny puppy came to Mission:Wolf. Luna had been bred in Texas, and sold as a pure Mexican wolf to a truck driver who wanted a wolf as a traveling companion. She was then found in a bathtub by a woman attending a party. The woman, afraid for Luna, offered the driver hundreds of dollars to take her away from the trucking life. She finally contacted us, and tiny Luna was driven to Colorado. She was instantly adopted by ambassador wolf Rami and, within a few months, Magpie and Raven joined to form the ambassador pack.



**LUNA** 2002-2016

Luna, Magpie, and Raven were only weeks apart in age, which made it easy and fun for her to fit in. They went on tour that fall and next spring, and the feisty wolf pups' playfulness stole the show. Rami constantly corrected the three girls, keeping them in line. All the while, little Luna was developing into a husky or malamute-looking pup. She began barking like a dog would, not to alert the pack of

danger, but just to hear herself bark. When her tail curled up like a malamute, we knew she was NOT a Mexican wolf. As time passed, Luna made it clear that she was going to be the boss of Raven and Magpie—until she went into heat out of season. Wolves generally go into heat late winter, with pups born early spring. But Luna's summer heat cycle caused Rami to become jealous, and she began to pick on Luna. Next thing we knew, Rami, Raven, and Magpie ganged up on her, causing serious injuries.

Luna had to be taken to the vet and permanently removed from the ambassador pack. Since little Luna had no place at the sanctuary to fit in, she moved into the directors' house. It did not take long for Luna to make herself right at home as the queen of the house and the animals who lived there. She made many friends, but was always shy and reclusive around new people. She became Kent and Tracy's special little girl, and lived a full life until, at fourteen, she was diagnosed with progressive organ cancer.

Kent and Mike worked with our local vet preparing to put Luna down. Deeply saddened, Tracy walked out and sat on a hill in the horse pasture, waiting for the inevitable. It was a quiet day, but after a few moments, a strong, sudden wind blew past Tracy, pushing her forward. Tracy watched as it moved grass, bushes, and then trees on its path up the mountain behind the house. Luna was set free, and laid to rest March 4, 2016. She is missed every day.

-TAB

<p><b>Wolves of M:W</b></p>		<p><b>Raven</b> A lovable former ambassador wolf who still enjoys seeing visitors.</p>		<p><b>Illiamna</b> A tall arctic wolf with a big appetite and youthful personality.</p>
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### New Arrival: Rain

Rain came to us July 18, 2016. A wild, two year old Spanish Mustang from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) holding facility in Delta, Utah, he was in rough shape. Boney, underweight, and full of worms—Rain appeared to be in trouble. His health was not the only challenge for Rain’s caretakers. He was untouchable and had the worst case of mistrust of any horse we have worked with to date. In the months Rain has been with us, he has recovered his weight and even become curious to the point of following people, though he is still reluctant to be touched or have a halter put on. Rain has a long way to go, but his resistance has taught us some great lessons about wild horses.

-TAB



*Rain had to overcome many obstacles as he adjusted to his new home. As his health improved, so did his trust in his new caretaker, Tracy. (TAB)*



*Rain has gradually overcome his fears and become an excellent teacher for both staff and visiting groups. Above, he displays his confidence and curiosity. (TAB)*

### Wildlife at M:W



*A cottontail finds its home. (M. Tajima)*



*A vibrant Steller's jay. (M. Tajima)*



*A resident ground squirrel. (M. Tajima)*

In addition to wolves, horses, and humans, there is a menagerie of other creatures that have found refuge at Mission:Wolf. The presence of the wolves wards off other predators such as coyotes and bobcats, which creates a haven for rabbits, field mice, squirrels, chipmunks, and many other critters. You can usually see one of our furry friends skittering around in the brush, while walking the sanctuary paths.

most notably the massive, twiggy fortresses of the magpies and ravens. In the wild, these birds of the crow family have a symbiotic relationship with wolves. Flocks of ravens will follow wolf packs on the hunt and scavenge the remains of a kill. Some wildlife biologists have even taken note of wolves and ravens playing together. Ravens will dive-bomb wolves or sneak up on them to peck them from behind—the startled wolf then excitedly gives chase, only to have the raven fly away just in the nick of time. The bond between these two highly social

species extends even to our sanctuary environment. Other avian friends include the beautiful Steller’s jay, as well as many types of finches and swallows that have found comfortable homes in the nooks and crannies of the refuge.

Occasionally, even the adventurous black bear can be spotted on the outskirts of the refuge. Animals of all kinds—big and small, bipeds and quadrupeds, winged and furry—find a way to coexist at Mission:Wolf.

-A. Hoffman



*A magpie scouts for food. (John Ramer)*



*A mule deer observes staff. (John Ramer)*



*The magpie takes flight. (John Ramer)*

Wolves of M:W

**Max**  
The only lone wolf at M:W, Max has quirky, mischievous tendencies. He is one of the most popular wolves at the refuge.

### Animal Emotions

Like humans, many mammals such as wolves possess the amygdala—a complex part of the brain that allows for the recognition and processing of emotional stimuli. Wolves like Max can form extremely close emotional bonds with other canines and even other species like humans.

### Sanctuary for People, Too

Mission:Wolf not only provides enriching experiences for animals, but also for the people who visit and volunteer. Many types of groups and individuals come out to learn about wolves, conservation, and sustainability. Whether it's through working with others on a project, taking a tour of the refuge and observing the behavior of the animals, or simply enjoying the beautiful view of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, people often end up learning about themselves here, too. The wolves have brought together people of all different races, ethnicities, creeds and nationalities. Since our last edition of *Wolf Visions*, we have had staff from all over the world, including Germany, Japan, France, Canada, Spain, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, England, and the Czech Republic. M:W has helped people work as a team, learn about different cultures and lifestyles, and build lifelong friendships. M:W continues to grow, teach, and provide sanctuary to all.

### Winter 2017 Staff



**Shannon Douglas:** Shannon loves learning and talking about the ecology of wolves and other animals in the wild. She is obsessed with Harry Potter (most recently sorted to Hufflepuff) and candy.



**Moritz Schmidt:** Mo comes to us from Germany, shortly after receiving a degree in physics and physical education. He is endlessly enthusiastic; if there is a problem to solve around the refuge, he can do it!



**Rachel Walton:** Rachel is endearingly known as R2 around the sanctuary. Her passions include wolves, environmental law, rapping the Hamilton soundtrack, and making the staff laugh.



**Joshua Cunha:** Josh is our lead meat processor, as well as our go-to electrician, plumber, and science fiction expert. He enjoys cooking, theorizing about black holes, and playing Baldur's Gate.



**Elisa Behzadi:** Elisa comes to us with a background in pre-veterinary science. Her favorite hobbies include tending to our greenhouses, strumming on her ukulele, and looking like a 90s mom.



**Tyler McKee:** Tyler brings a great energy to the sanctuary. You can find him juggling, contemplating all of life's big questions, or watching Scooby Doo. He does his best to make M:W a Hogwarts for wolves.



**Austin Hoffman:** Austin is our Education Caretaker. His love for wolves and helping others is seen in his actions as well as his written works for the sanctuary. He loves to research, read, and jam to 90s hip-hop.



**Carissa Shoemaker:** Carissa is our Refuge Caretaker, always on top of any problem and ready to dive into any mess. Her great knowledge of sustainability and agriculture has helped M:W thrive.



**John Ramer:** John has worked in animal welfare on and off for 20 years and is thrilled to be back at a sanctuary. He is our Operations Caretaker, caring not only for wolves but also staff and visitors.



**Mike Gaarde:** Mike has given his all to M:W for over three years, and is our dedicated Animal Caretaker. Hailing from California, he is fulfilling his dream of providing sanctuary and care for wolves.



**Kent Weber:** As Co-Founder and Executive Director, Kent's vision continues to allow the sanctuary to grow and prosper. He is an amazing educator, and a dear friend to all the staff, past and present.



**Tracy Ane Brooks:** With years of experience working with wolves and horses, Co-Founder Tracy oversees animal care at the sanctuary. Her sense of humor and caring nature are always appreciated by the staff.



**Daisy**  
Although nearly blind, Daisy has no problem showing Fenris who's boss during meals.



**Fenris**  
A timid wolf-dog who likes to watch the world from under his favorite tree.

# Education

Mission:Wolf is open year-round, providing on-site educational tours for visitors as well as off-site programs regionally. We believe that no lecture or amount of research can replace hands-on experience. Our volunteer programs not only teach valuable and practical skills, but also inspire visitors to live sustainably, protect our environment, and improve their relationships with animals and people.

Our ultimate goal is to use education to render places like Mission:Wolf unnecessary. We hope that one day there are no more captive wolves in need of rescue, and we can listen to them howl in the wild once again. We try to dispel the myths and stereotypes of wolves by allowing visitors to observe them firsthand. Through education and interaction, people can begin to see the animal for what it truly is—a misunderstood creature that is meant to be wild and free.

## Summer of Education

The summer of 2016 was our busiest on record. Our traveling ambassador wolf program wasn't on the road this past year due to the advanced age of the animals, but that didn't stop us from educating! We hosted thousands of visitors at the sanctuary, as well as over fifty service-learning groups from universities, high schools, youth programs, and volunteer corps from around the world. Our little 3-acre eco village was bustling with people on feeding days, averaging well over 100 visitors on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Short-term volunteers traveled from Australia, New Zealand, Germany, France, Spain, Switzerland, Finland, Canada, Mexico, and other far-away places to help the wolves. Mission:Wolf also welcomed many local school groups—Custer County Schools, Gardner Elementary, Pueblo High School, Colorado College, and Pikes Peak Community College—and supplemented their curricula with projects at the refuge. We are thrilled that so many people made the trip out to Mission:Wolf to volunteer, learn about wolves, and have fun while doing so. - A. Hoffman



Wolf dog Solcil cautiously greets staff. (Gillespic)



KU students pose with staff. (S. Douglas)



Local artist at M:W. (Gillespic)

## Mission: Wolf



"Magpie" by Donna Wagle

## The Essence of M:W

The Sangre Art Guild (SAG), based out of Westcliffe, CO, helps to promote the visual arts and highlight life in the beautiful Wet Mountain Valley. In September 2016, dozens of artists from SAG came out to Mission:Wolf as part of their 10th annual Alla Prima Westcliffe showcase. They set up their easels all around the sanctuary and tried to capture "the essence" of Mission:Wolf. Each artist had a unique perspective, painting wolves, tipis, mountain vistas, and volunteers hard at work.

The winner of the M:W division of the contest was Donna Wagle with her painting "Magpie" (left), which beautifully captures the lead ambassador wolf. Honorable Mentions were Joan Rauch's "Mission:Wolf" and Rita Cirillo's "Wolf Magic." The art guild printed these paintings on t-shirts and tote bags to be sold in the gift shop at M:W and at the 3rd Street Gallery in Westcliffe. All proceeds go directly to benefit the resident wolves. The sanctuary has grown to become a source of inspiration for artists of all mediums and backgrounds—creativity abounds when you have the majesty of wolves and nature as your muse!

-A. Hoffman



Wolves of M:W



Ambassador Pack



**Magpie**  
Magpie has helped educate thousands of visitors about wolves and conservation.

**Abraham**  
Abe is mostly dog, but has the attitude to be dominant over his adopted son, Zeab.

**Zeab**  
A calm, observant wolf who loves to play with his foster parents.

### Ambassador Update

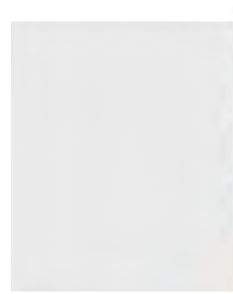
Every year at Mission:Wolf, we learn more about wolf behavior, human behavior, and interspecies communication. With so many visitors making the journey out to the refuge, we have started to place more emphasis on our onsite educational programs. This includes introducing people to the ambassador wolves, if the animals and circumstances permit it. Since we do not try to train wild animals, we train the people instead. Visitors learn how to use their bodies and attitudes to communicate with resident canines, and are often able to apply what they learn to their relationships with pets, family, and friends. Interacting with the wolves is not only a tremendous privilege, but also an incredibly impactful, and sometimes life-changing, educational experience. We believe that people may remember some of what they hear and see, but they only really understand what they touch or experience.

Having such an abundance of visitors at the refuge this past summer has also helped us better understand how to foster positive connections with the ambassadors. Body language, timing, and how we focus our attention are key components of human-wolf interaction, and we have adapted our process for ambassador visits as we learn how to use these tools. With lead ambassador Magpie especially sensitive to the heat in her old age, we know she prefers to stay in the shadiest corner of the enclosure. We've realized that we can use movement as communication, and direct people to walk calmly up to this corner and take a seat. If we get the timing right, Magpie is stimulated, and she will happily offer a greeting from her area of comfort without feeling stressed or crowded. Yet again, we see how offering respect and meeting the wolves on their own terms results in an unforgettable experience for many of our visitors, and an enriching experience for the wolves as well.

-P. Cannon



Magpie leads Director Tracy in greeting the crowd at a Wounded Warrior program in Westcliffe. (TAB & K. Weber)



Zeab lets Director Kent Weber teach about his webbed toes. (Rebecca Rose)

### Minigan The Brave!

This past year, Mission:Wolf held several programs around Colorado. Most recently, we visited Lathrop State Park and Rye Elementary School with one of our rescued wolf-dogs, Minigan. He helped teach the public about differences between wolves and dogs, interspecies communication, and why wolves do not make good pets.

Many who have visited the refuge may have seen Minigan, or heard his boisterous howling. When he is feeling especially frisky, he likes to ambush staff and visitors walking the paths around his enclosure. He is, however, an extremely shy animal by nature and has some wolf-like characteristics. This is why he could not pass behavioral tests at the Denver Dumb Friends League animal shelter and ended up at M:W. He has come a long way in five years, and some who knew him when he first arrived would barely recognize the



courageous animal he has become.

Minigan has recently been diagnosed with Pannus, an eye disease prevalent in German Shepherds and similar breeds. We attribute some of Minigan's skittishness to his poor eyesight, and we hope that this diagnosis and the recommended treatment will allow him to come even further out of his shell.

Minigan continues to progress, and has grown to be an ambassador in his own right. His performance at off-site programs, in front of hundreds of strangers no less, has been truly remarkable. When Minigan arrived at the sanctuary, he would hardly let anyone touch him; now his quirky, flighty nature helps illustrate important concepts of canine behavior and communication. Minigan is proving himself to be a superb ambassador and teacher—and the staff couldn't be more proud of him.

-A. Hoffman

Top: Rye Elementary students get a lesson in canine communication. (A. Hoffman); Bottom: Minigan relaxes in snow. (E. Behzadi)



**Minigan**  
Minigan is the resident staff dog. His antics and warbly howls are beloved by all.



**Zuko**  
Though he's still learning patience, this silly malamute is a joy to be around.

Wolves of M:W



## Horses as Teachers

Mission:Wolf has been striving to provide physical and emotional well-being to captive-bred wolves for over 30 years. Tracy Ane Brooks discovered the technique of “mimicking and mirroring” by working with a stubborn, halter-shy horse named Ikus. By mirroring Ikus’ movements, Tracy resolved his behavioral problems. She then applied the technique to the shy wolves at Mission:Wolf to calm them and better fulfill the role of a sanctuary.

### Mirroring: How it Works

When Tracy mirrors a horse or wolf, she mimics it exactly, connecting with the animal through body language. We believe mimicking and mirroring works by activating “mirror neurons” in the brain. When the animal recognizes a movement similar to its own, mirror neurons are fired, creating a connection across species lines.

In 2005, a feral wolf named Orion arrived at Mission:Wolf. He was terrified of everyone, until Tracy stepped into his enclosure and began to mirror his actions. When Orion stepped forward, Tracy stepped forward; when Orion moved quickly, Tracy quickened her pace; and if Orion was quiet, Tracy would sit down and relax. Orion eventually learned to be at ease when Tracy rewarded his calm moments with her calm body language.

Within the first few moments of synchronized movement between wolf and human, Orion would stop and observe Tracy copying him. This was when Tracy believed Orion’s mirror neurons fired in recognition of a behavior he understood. For Orion to understand Tracy’s actions, and realize he was not in danger, ultimately allowed him to live a calmer and happier life. If left in his original anxious state, it’s likely that Orion would have paced himself to an early death. At the time of this article, Orion is twelve years old and has lived a long, content life with his best wolf-friend Soleil.

Mirror neurons could also lead to increased empathy across species. When Tracy mirrors, she is understanding the animal’s behavior as well as the animal understanding hers. In Tracy’s experience with mimicking, mirror neurons are fired when the animal turns to face her and a point of comprehension is reached. She is then able to allow the animal the chance to mimic her. During the summer months, Tracy teaches groups of students and volunteers these techniques in order to aid their understanding of horses, wolves, and other animals.

Research gives us insight that the brain of the wolf has developed for survival, hunting, and working together in a pack. Survival is a basic need, but wolves also require enrichment and other forms of stimulation. We continually strive to cater to each individual wolf’s personality, emotions, and needs. We have created a captive sanctuary as close as we could get to a natural wilderness habitat. Wolves who are feral and do not do well around people live in the more secluded areas of the sanctuary. The more socialized and outgoing wolves are up front, and those who are unnaturally social meet people as our ambassador wolves.

For more information about mirroring feral wolves and horses, read “A Walk in Connection” by Tracy Ane Brooks. The book is based on true life stories of socializing resistant and wild animal behaviors through the use of intuition, body language, and more.

-TAB & E. Behzadi



*Left: Batal watches Kate’s body language as the two step together. (TAB)*

*Right: To mirror an animal may seem strange to some people. In fact, it’s a very natural way to communicate, even between species. At a distance, Batal watches Kate’s legs and begins to move in unison. (TAB)*



### Julie the Horse



*Julie & Pele bond. (TAB)*

Julie had a beautiful home, was owned by a loving caretaker, and had everything she needed to be happy and healthy. Unfortunately, she suffered severe sunburns in the summer of 2014 and resisted her owners’ treatment. Like many horses, Julie is “head-shy,” meaning she does not like being touched around the head, ears, or nose; this is often demonstrated by dangerous head thrashing behavior and sometimes rearing. Julie’s owners called on Tracy for help. By the end of the summer, Tracy had Julie reacting in a calm manner to the halter, and eventually to the medication. Not only did Tracy have to address the needs of the horse, but also take into consideration the needs of the people, as is often necessary when trying to help an owner work with a pet.

Unfortunately, Julie regressed in the summer of 2016 with a fresh sunburn and more head-shyness issues. Julie’s owners decided they could not care for her in her current state. Mission:Wolf was able to find a new home for Julie with an experienced owner who was prepared to deal with her head-shyness. Every animal is unique, just as every human is, and sometimes a change of scenery is just what is needed. We wish Julie the best of luck with her new herd and home between the Spanish Peaks.

-P. Cannon



**Soleil**  
A strong female wolf-dog who likes showing off for visitors by starting howls.



**Orion**  
Despite an ongoing battle with cancer, Orion continues to be a caring mate to Soleil.



# Wolves vs. Dogs



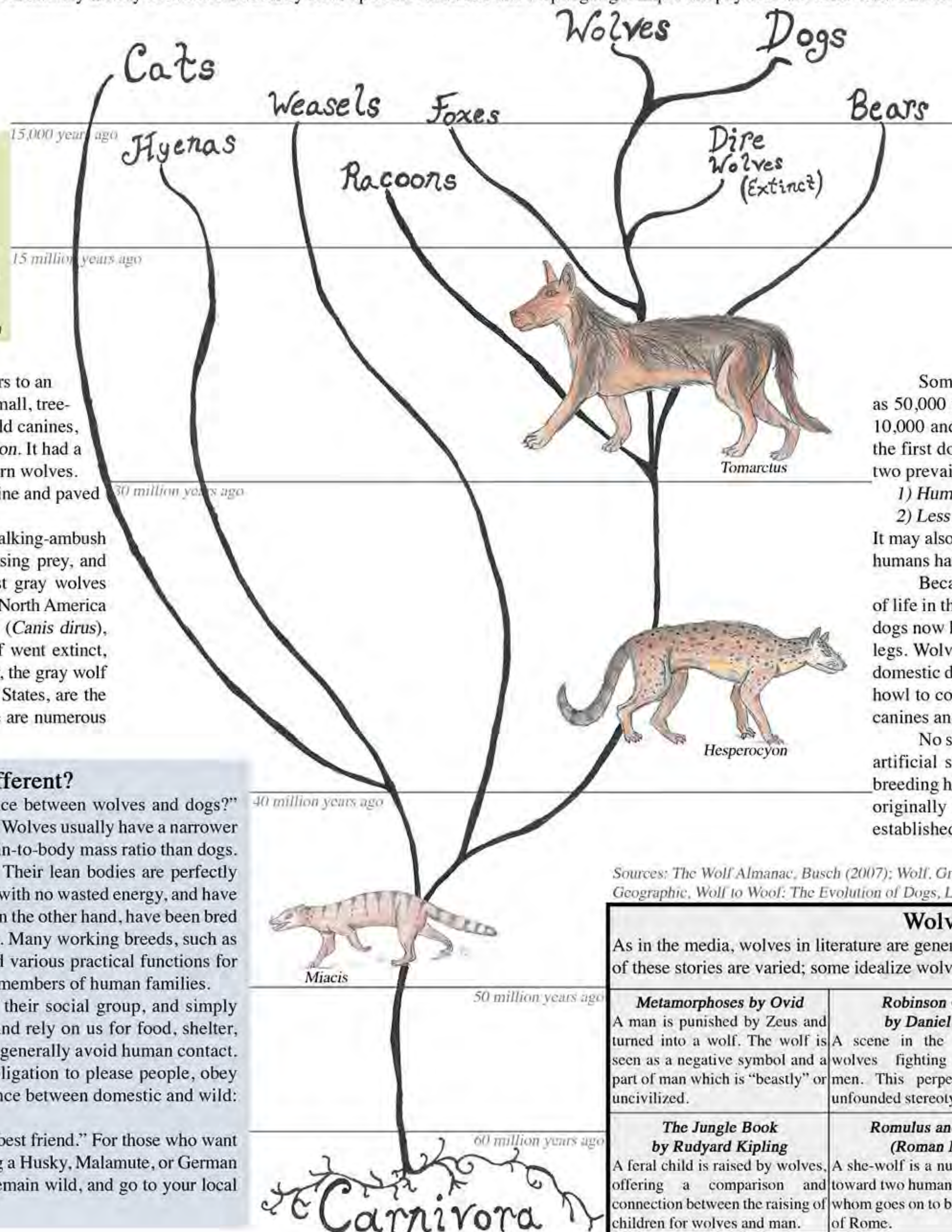
The Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*)



Domestic Dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*)

Humans have always been drawn to wolves. They are undoubtedly one of the most polarizing species in the world; people tend to admire or fear them, or sometimes both. Much of our fascination with wolves comes from our closeness with the dog. All dogs are descended from wolves—from tiny Pomeranians to massive Great Danes—so the two species have some things in common, but their similarities are fewer than you might think.

One reason there are so many wolves living in captivity is that people assume wolves will make just as good of pets as dogs, since they are both in the canine family. But wolves are wild animals; they can be *socialized*, like the residents of M:W, but they are not *domesticated* like dogs. Since there is so much debate and misinformation when comparing wolves and dogs, we thought tracing the evolutionary history of these canines may clear up some confusion and help highlight important physical and behavioral differences.



- Average Lifespan: 6-8 years\*
  - Top Speed: 35mph
  - Average Weight: Males - 110 lbs; females - 90 lbs\*
  - Eye color: Blue at birth, yellow to brown as an adult
  - Diet: Obligate carnivore, occasionally eats small amounts of vegetation (primarily preys on ungulates—elk, bison, deer, moose)
  - Average Pack Size: 9.8 wolves (observed range: 2-36)\*
  - Estimated Bite Pressure: 1200-1500 psi
- \*Data varies by region

- Average Lifespan: 10-15 years; varies by breed
- Top Speed: 45mph (Greyhound)
- Weight Range: Chihuahua 4-6 lbs; English Mastiff 110-340 lbs
- Eye Color: Brown, blue, golden, hazel
- Diet: Carnivore to omnivore; can adapt to a wide ranging diet, including grains and vegetables
- Average Number of Dogs per US Household: 1.43
- Bite Pressure: 500-750 psi (German Shepherd & Kangal)

## Evolution of the Wolf

After the mass extinction event that brought the era of dinosaurs to an end, new predators emerged to take their place. One of them was a small, tree-dwelling creature called *Miacis*, the common ancestor not only of wild canines, but also foxes, raccoons, and bears. From *Miacis* evolved *Hesperocyon*. It had a long tail, walked on its toes, and had similar dental structure to modern wolves. Eventually came *Tomarctus*, which looked more distinctly like a canine and paved the way for the wolf.

While felines retained their retractile claws and developed a stalking-ambush style of hunting, canines moved out onto the plains, adapted to chasing prey, and began using cooperative, pack-oriented hunting techniques. The first gray wolves likely originated in Eurasia about a million years ago, then migrated to North America across the Bering Strait. For a time, they coexisted with dire wolves (*Canis dirus*), a larger species that had evolved slightly earlier. When the dire wolf went extinct, the gray wolf became the dominant canine on the continent. Currently, the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) and red wolf (*Canis rufus*), of the southeastern United States, are the only distinct wolf species consistently recognized by scientists. There are numerous subspecies under them, though the exact number is debated.

## How are Wolves and Dogs Different?

Many people ask us the question, "What is the difference between wolves and dogs?" There are too many to list here, but these are some of the basics. Wolves usually have a narrower frame, longer legs, bigger paws, larger heads, and a greater brain-to-body mass ratio than dogs. While agile, wolves are built more for endurance than speed. Their lean bodies are perfectly balanced over their feet; they can trot at a steady pace for hours with no wasted energy, and have been known to travel well over 50 miles in a single day. Dogs, on the other hand, have been bred for many different purposes and vary in appearance and ability. Many working breeds, such as shepherds, hounds, and schnauzers, among others, have served various practical functions for society. Nowadays, however, dogs are largely seen as beloved members of human families.

Dogs are naturally drawn to humans, see us as part of their social group, and simply want to make us happy. They have been shaped by humans and rely on us for food, shelter, and companionship. Wolves, in contrast, are wild animals and generally avoid human contact. They have evolved to hunt and live in packs; they feel no obligation to please people, obey commands, or socialize with humans. That is the main difference between domestic and wild: one depends on us for survival whereas the other does not.

There's a good reason that dogs are referred to as "man's best friend." For those who want the wolfy look without the wolfy attitude, we recommend getting a Husky, Malamute, or German Shepherd. If you're in need of a canine friend, let the wolves remain wild, and go to your local shelter instead; there are plenty of dogs who need homes!

## Evolution of the Dog

Some anthropologists believe that humans were feeding wolves as far back as 50,000 years. However, most evidence suggests domestication began between 10,000 and 15,000 years ago, prior to the advent of agriculture. This makes dogs the first domesticated animals, even before chickens, horses, and cows. There are two prevailing theories on how dogs diverged from wolves:

- 1) Humans adopted wolf pups and bred together those who were more docile
- 2) Less fearful wolves scavenged the refuse of human settlements

It may also have been a combination of both phenomena. Regardless of their origins, humans have made dogs quite different than wolves over millennia.

Because dogs no longer need to hunt for their food and endure the harshness of life in the wild, they have lost many of the physical traits of their ancestors. Most dogs now have floppy ears, thin or curly tails, wider frames, and shorter snouts and legs. Wolves have coat colors that often function as camouflage, but the coat of a domestic dog can be dozens of different colors. And of course, dogs generally don't howl to communicate with one another anymore, and instead tend to bark at other canines and humans.

No species in the world has as much diversity, or has been subject to as much artificial selection, as domestic dogs. Since the mid 1800s, the practice of dog breeding has exploded, with 340 breeds now recognized worldwide. While humans originally began selectively breeding dogs for hunting and guarding, most breeds established since 1900 have solely been for aesthetics, fashion, and temperament.

-A. Hoffman

Sources: *The Wolf Almanac*, Busch (2007); *Wolf*, Greeley (1997); *Of Wolves and Men*, Lopez (1978); *The Wolf*, Mech (1970); *National Geographic*, *Wolf to Wool: The Evolution of Dogs*, Lange (2002); *Inside of a Dog*, Horowitz (2009) Original artwork by A. Hoffman

## Wolves in Popular Literature

As in the media, wolves in literature are generally depicted in an over-exaggerated and inaccurate fashion. The morals of these stories are varied; some idealize wolves, while others characterize the wolf as a beast to be loathed and feared.

<p><b>Metamorphoses by Ovid</b> A man is punished by Zeus and turned into a wolf. The wolf is seen as a negative symbol and a part of man which is "bestial" or uncivilized.</p>	<p><b>Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe</b> A scene in the novel depicts wolves fighting and killing men. This perpetuates largely unfounded stereotypes.</p>	<p><b>White Fang by Jack London</b> The story of a wolf-dog and his struggle to find his place between man and "the Wild." Wolves are depicted as human hunters in the opening scene.</p>	<p><b>The Call of the Wild by Jack London</b> Juxtaposes relationship between dog and man and relationship between wolf and "the Wild," as a dog integrates into a wolf pack.</p>
<p><b>The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling</b> A feral child is raised by wolves, offering a comparison and connection between the raising of children for wolves and man.</p>	<p><b>Romulus and Remus (Roman Myth)</b> A she-wolf is a nurturing mother toward two human infants, one of whom goes on to become founder of Rome.</p>	<p><b>Twilight by Stephenie Meyer</b> Shapeshifters turn into wolves when a threat is near. Wolves are portrayed in a positive light, embodying courage and loyalty.</p>	<p><b>Game of Thrones by George R.R. Martin</b> Dire wolves are loyal and powerful companions to the Stark family, whose patron animal is the wolf.</p>

-E. Behzadi

# Marine Cascades

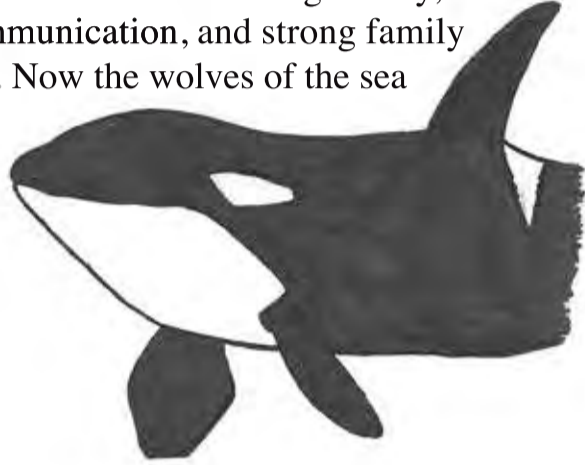
How do ecosystems support themselves? Most likely, you learned that an ecosystem is built from the bottom up: if you want to restore an ecosystem, you bring back decomposers, then plants, then herbivores to eat the plants, and finally, predators. When wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park in 1995, they taught us otherwise—ecosystems are largely shaped from the top down. How does this work? Simply put, the 70 year absence of wolves in the park had allowed elk to overpopulate, destroy vegetation and push out animals who relied on it, and throw the entire ecosystem out of balance. When wolves returned, they made the elk run, letting vegetation grow back and even changing the flow of rivers. This top-down effect is called a “trophic cascade,” a waterfall of influence flowing from the top of a food chain to the bottom, and it doesn't just happen on land.

Who else affects ecosystems like wolves do? Otters! One of the best-documented marine trophic cascades is that of otters: according to some scientists, including James Estes and David Duggins, coastal ecosystems with otters tend to have healthier kelp forests than those without. How do otters affect kelp? Well, similarly to the wolves in Yellowstone, the otters control a voracious grazer—the sea urchin.



If urchins aren't controlled, they multiply rapidly and graze kelp forests to the ground. Many animals rely on kelp forests, from marine animals who feed and take shelter in them (rock greenling fish, mussels, barnacles, sea stars), to predators who feed on those animals (bald eagles, gulls, sea lions). See the illustration below for an example of a healthy kelp forest versus one that has

overrun by urchins—it's like day and night. Unfortunately, otter populations are plummeting, leaving kelp forests vulnerable to hungry urchins. Why are otters disappearing? Estes and many others think orcas, or “killer whales,” are responsible. Orcas are often likened to wolves for their hunting ability, intricate communication, and strong family ties. Now the wolves of the sea



are unwittingly causing a new trophic cascade: by preying on otters, killer whales are impacting kelp forests and all of the animals tied to them. The thing is, orcas don't naturally eat otters, and probably

wouldn't be able to survive on them alone—it would be like wolves trying to survive solely on rabbits. Orcas' natural prey, great whales, were over-hunted by humans and their second choice, pinnipeds (sea lions, seals, etc.), are declining, too. This problem will only get worse. As kelp forests suffer, pinniped populations will further decline, forcing orcas to rely more on otters and other small marine mammals




Whether it be land or sea, predators help maintain healthy ecosystems—if they have the right prey, that is. In Yellowstone, we saw wolves restore a balance in as little as twenty years, something humans had been trying to do for decades. Maybe this time, humans can help. If we work to reestablish great whales, orcas can swim back to the top of the food chain, letting otters be guardians of the kelp once more.

-R. Jacobson & C. Shoemaker

Original artwork by Megan Seidel



Original artwork by Miwa Tajima

<p><b>Wolves of M:W</b></p> 		<p><b>Cephira</b> A very sweet and playful girl, gracious enough to let Ash be the star of the show.</p>		<p><b>Ash</b> A loving and protective mate, yet easily jealous when he is not the center of attention.</p>
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# Sustainability

Mission:Wolf was created as a sustainable facility with the goal to reduce our dependency on money and to conserve as much as possible. As we continue to grow and welcome more and more people to the refuge, we have begun to use our sustainable designs to make a big impact on visitors. While our main goal is to leave people with a better understanding of wolves and the environment, we also work to inspire people to live more sustainably. Read on to learn more about our sustainable systems and our recent advances in food production.

## Growing Year-Round



Mission:Wolf is proud to announce the addition of two geodesic dome greenhouses, courtesy of the Pagosa Springs-based company, Growing Spaces ([geodesic-greenhouse-kits.com](http://geodesic-greenhouse-kits.com)). The volunteers at M:W have been trying to grow food for years now, but have been met with many challenges. Between the high altitude, mountain desert climate, irregular weather patterns (temperature swings, hail, etc.), short growing season, and all the rabbits and mice running around, growing outside is stressful and unreliable. What's more, the quonset hut greenhouse we had been using for years to extend the growing season and protect our vegetables was beginning to show wear; by 2015, it was time to replace it.

That summer, we were able to purchase not one, but two growing domes through a successful crowdfunding campaign. We installed the first with the help of summer volunteers, and staff started the second in late fall. Between the two domes, we

now have 850 square feet available for raised beds and 10-12 feet of vertical space. The greenhouses are incredibly efficient and self-regulating: windows open and close on their own with temperature changes and the 900-1200 gallon ponds provide thermal mass, allowing us to grow our own vegetables year-round. All of our greens—from kale to arugula—come from the domes, as do most of our root veggies and squash. This season, we hope to start strawberries and fruit trees.

The domes are primarily growing spaces, but they have also become great educational tools. Visitors to the sanctuary get the opportunity to tour the domes and observe their clever designs and bountiful production first-hand. Volunteers are able to learn by doing; kids and adults alike walk away with plans to work on their own gardens and hone their green thumbs. The domes inspire people to live more sustainably and become more self-sufficient, no matter where they live.

-C. Shoemaker

## 🐾 Sustainable Designs 🐾

### Veggie Oil Vehicles

The sanctuary uses recycled vegetable oil to fuel two of our diesel vehicles, one truck and one old Mercedes wagon. We pick up the veggie oil from local restaurants and let sunshine, gravity, and a few filters remove excess water and other contaminants in order to use it as fuel. Our resident German Wunderkid, Christian Pietzsch, has put in countless hours under the hood to keep the Mercedes running smoothly.



### Solar Power

Instead of using unsustainable fossil fuels, Mission:Wolf has several solar panels stationed around the sanctuary which generate power for our lights, electronics, and tools. Our two largest panels, pictured below, are rotated periodically throughout the day to track the sun. While we don't have many resources available to us, the sun is an abundant source of energy that we can utilize.



### Observation Dome

Perched high above the sanctuary is our brand new observation dome, courtesy of Pacific Domes ([pacificdomes.com](http://pacificdomes.com)). Not only does the dome provide a space for staff and visitors to look out at the gorgeous scenic view of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, it also allows us to monitor the wolves and any encroaching wildfires.

Photo credits clockwise from top left: S. Lainer, E. Behzadi, E. Behzadi, S. Lainer, John Ramer, L. Jones.

Wolves of M:W



**McKinley**  
A tiny and sweet female wolf who impresses staff with her expert rib eating.



**Texx**  
A large, shy male who likes to sun himself while watching visitors come and go.

# Facilities Update

In addition to the new growing domes and observation dome, we installed a new well water collection tank at the refuge in the summer of 2016, increasing our capacity by 2100 gallons! This is great news for the wolves, staff, and facilities, as it ensures we always have water on hand.

Another exciting upgrade to the refuge is our new battery system for our solar array. The new 24-volt system is able to gain and retain a charge much longer, allowing us more consistent electricity for our lights, power tools, and electronics. In order to optimally use our batteries, however, we will need additional solar panels; our current array is not quite powerful enough to charge them fully. In the meantime, our new propane generator is available for emergency use. Although it is not the most sustainable, it helps keep the bustling sanctuary powered on overcast days.

While we continue to improve many aspects of the sanctuary, our facilities have experienced a lot of wear and tear over the past couple of years due to growing human traffic. Our solar system needed an upgrade due to an increasing draw on our power; the refuge's septic system has finally been overloaded,

and is currently out of commission; and the Dodge truck that runs on veggie oil constantly needs repairs, giving our staff (especially the mechanics) endless headaches. While we struggle to maintain and upgrade our facilities, we dream of ways to continue to accommodate the growing number of visitors reaching the sanctuary year-round.

-A. Hoffman & C. Shoemaker



*Our tiny village is growing to accomodate daily visitors.*

## 🐾 The Future 🐾

We have many visions for the future of Mission:Wolf, as the sanctuary continues to grow and change. From maintenance to development, here are some of our current dreams for the next year, five years, and ten years.



*Above: The new workshop and studio will be down the hill from our main facilities, just behind the horse barn. This will help accomodate visitors and increasing foot traffic, making the refuge more accessible and giving less social wolves more privacy.*



*Left: In addition to the new shop, we plan to upgrade the existing camping facilities for service learning volunteers. We are also expanding the horse pasture along the driveway. This will provide grazing and enrichment, as well as better fire mitigation.*

*(All photos taken from drone footage)*

### 1 Year

- Fix and improve the septic system
- Acquire new solar panels
- Finish the fire barn for emergency animal evacuation and shelter
- Install an industrial composting system
- Expand horse pastures for fire mitigation
- Build a new and improved workshop and art studio at the bottom of the hill

### 5 Year

- Shift day visitor traffic to the new shop
  - Improve the infrastructure down the hill (paths on tour route, housing for staff, vet facilities, etc.)
- Finish construction on the growing domes and maximize production to cover 90% of staff produce consumption
- Build a new Animal Caretaker apartment

### 10 Year

- Replace old fencing as needed
- Complete construction and upgrades on all current buildings

### End Goal

Once wild wolves are reestablished in Colorado and a captive sanctuary is no longer necessary, we hope to become a nature center. We will use our infrastructure to educate about Colorado wilderness and encourage visitors to connect with nature.

Wolves of M:W



**Farah**  
An excitable and lovable drama queen who needs a lot of attention.



**Apollo**  
A stoic, elusive male wolf who easily blends in with the aspens.


# Map of the Refuge

We have a new refuge map, thanks to our German friend, Christian Pietzsch. He used satellite imagery as well as his own observations to make this our most accurate map yet. Below, you can check out our facilities, learn where the wolves live, and admire our newly finished playpen.




Map data copyright OpenStreetMap contributors

Wolves of M:W



**Hailey**  
Almost always camouflaged in the hillside, this shy girl sounds like a tea kettle when she howls.



**Aria**  
A handsome and quirky arctic wolf who enjoys observing the refuge from his rocky perch.

# How to Help Out - The M:W Wish List

In-kind donations are a huge help in keeping our daily operations going. Here is a short list of items we can use. Please call us if you have questions or if you would like to ask about our current needs. Thank you for your help!

## Wolf Care:

- Boxes of latex gloves
- 5 gallon buckets
- Galvanized water tanks—12-15, 30-80, or 100-200 gallon
- Supplements and meds:
  - My Active Dog
  - MSM/Glucosamine
  - Vitamins A, B, C, and E
  - Devil's Claw
  - NexGard Chewable Flea & Tick
  - Vetricyn
  - General antibiotics
  - Rimadyl or Novox
- Needles (20-23G) & syringes (3ml)
- High quality butcher knives (non-serrated)
- Wolf food (raw meat, no pork or spices)

## Horse Care:

- Clean grass hay and supplies (hay trailer, tarps, and shed)
- 15-18 gallon black rubber feeders
- Horse trailer

## Sustainability:

- Potting soil or seed starting mix
- Composting toilets
- Solar panels and batteries (contact us first)
- Solar cooker/oven
- Solar water heating system for new shop/studio
- Veggie oil-converted truck

## Office:

- Postage stamps (old stamps work, too)
- Manila envelopes (9" x 12")
- #10 Mailing envelopes
- Printer ink & toner (contact us for details)

## Volunteers:

- Toiletries (septic safe liquid hand soap, body wash, and shampoo; deodorant; toothbrushes; feminine products, etc.)
- Blue Dawn dish soap
- Cleaning supplies—sponges, scrub brushes, steel wool
- Bulk toilet paper
- Mattresses, futons, & foam pads

## Construction:

- Concrete block
- Flagstone and brick pavers
- Rebar, sheet metal, angle iron, etc.
- 2" diameter steel poles (10')
- Chain link fence (9 ga., 8' tall; 11 ga., 4' tall)
- Lumber, treated or untreated (warped wood is fine)
- Hardwood flooring
- Log poles (especially lodgepole pine)

## Tools:

- Garden hose (¾ inch) and hose repair parts (splitters, couplings, valves, etc.)
- Hand tools (shovels, trowels, rakes, pick axes, etc.)
- Ryobi battery-powered tools—drills, saws, sanders, flashlights, etc.
- Welding rods—all sizes
- Large flatbed trailer
- 4WD truck
- Plasma cutter

## 🐾 2015 Financial Report 🐾

Mission:Wolf is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that has been open to the public free of charge for around three decades. Our goal is to operate our sanctuary and programs in the simplest and most efficient manner and to keep overhead costs to an absolute minimum. Still, it takes money to pay for transportation, supplies, land acquisition, and insurance. All profit goes toward reducing our land debt. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Nancy, our bookkeeper at Sangre Solutions, for helping to prepare these numbers.

### Revenue

Donations & Grants:	\$487,781
Memberships:	\$37,235
Program Fees:	\$900
Net Sales:	\$20,625
Appreciation & Investments:	\$11,957
<b>Subtotal Revenue:</b>	<b>\$558,498</b>
*Donated Materials:	\$81,042
*Volunteer Labor:	\$939,610
*(In-Kind Donations)	
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$1,579,150</b>

### Expenses

Animal Care:	\$93,608
Transportation:	\$21,613
Facilities & Depreciation:	\$50,220
Volunteer Supplies:	\$95,077
Operations:	\$100,553
<b>Subtotal Expenses:</b>	<b>\$361,071</b>
*Donated Materials:	\$81,042
*Volunteer Labor:	\$939,610
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$1,381,723</b>

## A New Era

As far back as 1992, the pioneers of Mission:Wolf hoped that the sanctuary could one day provide for both captive wolves and the people who care for them. For three decades, Mission:Wolf has operated with an entirely volunteer staff who live onsite to provide 24/7 care for the resident animals. Staff are provided food, housing, and several other privileges based on seniority, but no pay. Now, with the sanctuary rapidly growing in so many ways, Mission:Wolf is proud to announce the dawn of a new era. Starting mid-2017, we will be able to offer our

dedicated staff a small compensation package.

While staff income will not be substantial, it will ideally help pay for personal expenses such as health and car insurance, cell phone bills, student loans, etc., which will also increase staff retention. The founding directors, Kent and Tracy, will also be provided extra funds, so one day they may be able to retire. The package is designed to help people so they can help wolves, and continue to give all the animals at the sanctuary the highest quality of care.



Wolves of M:W



### Valley Spirit

Known as "Mama" around the refuge, she is the matriarch of the pitbull-wolf clan and is always VERY excited for feeding days.



### Talon

The stepfather of the pitbull-wolves, Talon is a sociable wolf-dog who literally jumps for joy when food arrives.

The Valley Pack



### Asia

Asia is the only female of the pitbull-wolf litter. She is very intelligent, but not sure about people.

# Coloring Contest



Original artwork by Emma Clark

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

It's the annual M:W coloring contest! This year, we are opening the contest to all ages and choosing a winner in each of these three categories: Most Creative, Most Intricate, and Judges' Favorite. Winners selected by the staff at Mission:Wolf will receive a Caretaker Packet and an authentic wolf fur bracelet! Please submit your best work to:

Mission:Wolf  
PO Box 1211  
Westcliffe, CO 81252

Submission deadline: May 15, 2017  
Winners will be notified by June 1, 2017

## Sponsor a Wolf

Since the founding of the sanctuary, Mission:Wolf has depended on donations from our supporters and members. With 31 hungry canines to feed, we go through nearly 1,000 pounds of raw meat each week. Your contribution goes directly toward the care of the animals, as well as the education of thousands of visitors. Please consider becoming a member of the Mission:Wolf family today, and help keep our wolves happy, healthy, and well fed! Wolf sponsorship packets make great gifts for birthdays, holidays, and memorials. You get a tax-deductible receipt and your friend or loved one receives a wolf membership packet as a gift from you. Visit [shop.missionwolf.org](http://shop.missionwolf.org) to order or use the form on the back of this newsletter.

### What's Included?

- One year membership
- 8 x 10 color photo of your wolf
- Your wolf's biography
- Lock of your wolf's naturally shed fur
- Mission:Wolf window decal
- Subscription to the *Wolf Visions* newsletter
- Personalized membership certificate

## A Walk in Connection

Tracy Anc Brooks' book, *A Walk in Connection*, has walked off the shelves and into many homes, hearts, and minds. Mission:Wolf has heard from many people who read about Tracy's experiences and have stories of their own to share, or who would like to come and learn more. *A Walk in Connection* has also garnered worldwide attention this year, not only from being named a Finalist in the Animal/Pets category of the 2016 International Book Awards, but also being announced a "Readers' Favorite" Finalist in the same competition. The book even went on to become Winner in the Animals/Pets Category of the Best Book Awards. Finally, *A Walk in Connection* has become a permanent addition to the Animal Behavior and Zoology curriculum at Pikes Peak Community College. We are honored and proud that Tracy's work is reaching such a wide audience and touching so many lives.

P. Cannon



<p>Wolves of M:W</p>		<p><b>Amulet</b> A sassy female who likes to hide from or yell at people, depending on her mood.</p>		<p><b>Batman</b> A pitbull-wolf cross with a reserved, stoic nature and a bat emblem on his chest.</p>
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**Assistants and Volunteers:** Builder Bob, Norm & Marlena Hanne, Benjamin Hoffman, Shiloh Mortimer, Aaron Young, Hailey Adams, Dave Phillips, Alan Korth, Mike Lydon, Paul Ross (aka Chainsaw Paul), Kathy Bennett, Jason McMullen, Nate Perkins, Kia Bridges, Will Koh, Cynthia Giard-Guillou, Melanie Roussy, Jeff Wagner, Jenny Wagner, Annie White, Sandrine Grandjean, James Newman, Melanie Joseph, Pietro Castelli, Pat Willis, Nicole Martinez, Brittany Kleinschnitz, Danika Oriol-Morway, Travis Moonschein, Jason Stuart, Moses Cooper, Jemimah Walmsley, Archie Van Beuren, Ezra Schreiber, Cameron & John Palatine, Rachel & Taylor Krauss, Jason Reimer, Sarah Zarr, John Hopkins, Camille Potts, Ella Matsuda, Abby Lupoli, Luke Gibbons, Cat & Levi and their dogs, Matt Plichta, Darby Keeney and Family, David Johnson, Bobby Mathieson, Virginia Finigan-Carter, Devin Mueller, Jade Grigg, Hattie Beal, Madeline Woods, Evia Zack, Chris Russell, Katerina & Gil Ramos, Lizzy Adamson, Emily Pehike, Tom Davis, Larry and Cassidy Maggitti, Heather Propisil, Kelsey Ammondson, Janet McNall, Holly Rochau, Sarah Donaldson, Huston Thorn, Nick Payne, Paul Kim, Kelsie Barbour, Syed Ali, Gabby Behzadi, Signe Norregard, Forrest Ruiz, Sarah Wolf, Michael Walkden, Rachel Fritts, Sarah Putinta, Neal Rice, Stewart Whitsett, Karen Crosskell, Cora Metrick-Chen for her amazing hypnotic cookies, Sarah Inskeep, Katherine Hermilles, Morgan Sanden, Hannah Laher, Katy Collins, Jess Frye, Josh Fobes, Ramey Newell, Pascale Smeesters, Bao Dong Dang Van, Connor O'Sullivan, Sarah Biscoyhe, Nicole Morrish, Anisa Heins, Kelby Maher, Raamael Mahmood, Vincent the French fireman, Erik Kober, Katherine Peterson, Tete Charles, Cristina Somar, Maira Tuominen the Scandinavian Wonderwoman, Ryan Lemmon, Julian Lathrop, The Coskey Family, Evia & Chris, Mark Lamberson, Garwang & Bert, Sean & Kit, Japhie Hope, Caroline Land, Mandy & Tom and their wood cookie, Connor Schmitz, Valerie, and Kara, Hussein & Aiden.

**Volunteer Groups:** Road Less Traveled 5280 and Call of the Wild, Jaywalker Lodge, Cottonwood Institute, Telluride Academy, Wildheart Foundation, Service Civil International, Colorado College, Kansas University Alternative Breaks, Northwestern University, Colorado State University, Rice University, University of Texas at Austin, Pikes Peak Community College, Colorado Mountain College, Pueblo Mountain Environmental Center, 4H of Canon City, Fire Mountain Programs, Daniel C. Oakes High School, Colorado Academy, Craver Middle School, Littleton Academy, Living Well Transitions, Boulder ICO, AIM House, The Temple Grandin School, United World College USA, Geography of Hope, The Challenge School, Western State Colorado University, Equinox Counseling and Wellness Center, Pueblo Centennial High School, Girl Scout Troop 685, Fountain Valley School, Colorado Springs School, Naropa Alternative Breaks, Boy Scout Troop 308, Boy Scout Troop 685, Boy Scout Troop 640, Koru Foundation, The Discover School, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Fountain International Magnet School, and Running River School.

**Generous Local Support:** Elevation Meat Market, First State Bank of Colorado, Challenger Electric, The Sangre Art Guild and the 3rd Street Art Gallery, Oasis Garden Center, Chappy's Restaurant, Sunflower Natural Foods, The Roadhouse, Hunger Busters, Belle's Diner, Silvercliffe Mountain Inn, The Feed Store, Westcliffe Supermarket, Valley Ace Hardware Store, Westcliffe Petroleum, The Courtyard Country Inn, Valley Feeds, Westcliffe NAPA, Oak Disposal, Rye Septic Service, Custer County Schools, Gardner Elementary School, Nancy and Jerry at Sangre Solutions, Crestone Graphics, The Wet Mountain Tribune, High Peaks Animal Hospital, The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation, Ezulwini Foundation, La Plaza Inn, Growing Spaces, Jim Morris Environmental T-Shirt Co., Rye Elementary School, The McClelland School, Lathrop State Park, The Pueblo Raptor Center, Crested Butte Film Festival, The Springs Resort & Spa, The Mountain Mail, Solar Solutions, Dragonfly Coffee Roasters, Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center, Pueblo Animal Emergency Hospital, Nordyke Sanitation, Paint, Stain & Stucco, Clear Glass, Neil and Sustainability Recycling, Fine Line Graphics, Steelock Fence Co., Colorado Gives and Community First Foundation, Outdoor Buddies & Wounded Warrior Project, Stan Stiffler, Richard Miller, Pam & Wolf Edwards, Dr. Bill Hancock & Belcrest Animal Clinic, Paul Biron, Dr. Davis, Dr. Julie Sperry & Cliffler Veterinary Clinic, Ron & Beatknick Auto, Adele Rose, Terra Lyn Joy, Sky Clark, Audrey & Dick Stermer, Paul & Linda Schutt, Alicia & Jake Shy, Joshua & Erika Wofford, Shirley Nickerson, Cathy & Joe Solano, Gilbert Vasquez, Heather Whitlock, John Johnson, Luke George, Bruce Medina, Pat Neverdahl, Wendy Rusk, Bonnie Rose, Nancy Joroff, Kathy Reese, Mike & Lisa Herring, Enos Yoder & Family, Bill Tezak, Mike Shields & Family, Jennifer & Steve Macoskey, David & Amy Shepard, Bob & Carol Allison, Mitch Campbell, Greg Curtis & Family, Kay Ingram, Katie Rogers and eTown Radio, Kris & Michael Gates, and friends & neighbors of Centennial Ranch and Aspen Mountain Ranch.

# Thank You

**Mission:Wolf Staff:**  
 Hilary Hastings, Courtney Hoyt, Miwa Tajima, Ricardo Rodriguez, Alex Liethen, Rachel Milburn, River Dougherty, Marco Valera, Lydia Jones, Guizmo Horvath, Pele Cannon, Christian Pietzsch (aka Robot), Jessica Knight, Rachel Jacobson, Mike Gaarde, Cassandra Stepaniak, Misha Brindlepup, Anne-Claire Sachot, JD Van Campen, Kenneth Wong, Samantha Lainer, Hannah Tennen, Katie Olwin, Anika Westlund, Blaise Yafcak, Chase Zellner, Lorraine Drucker, Paige Funkhouser, Dominique Gaither, Megan Seidel, Joshua Cunha (aka Squashy), John Ramer, Tyler McKee, Rachel Walton (aka R2-D2), Moritz Schmidt, Shannon "Hufflepuff" Douglas, Austin Hoffman, Carissa Shoemaker, and Elisa Behzadi.

**Board of Directors:**  
 Tara Ash, Matt Ash, Tracy Ane Brooks, Kent Weber, Tamas Christman, Julie Kreutzer, David Kreutzer, Jeff Schwartz, Randy Woods, and Sarah Woods.



Thanks, Doggy Doors! Zuko

**Caretakers and Educators:** Jonathan Glaefke, Sander & Deb Orent, Nora Maloney, Donna Nives Foundation, Red Empress Foundation, Gardner Foundation, Alpha Omega Foundation, Sherman Fairchild Foundation, The Bielawski Family Foundation, Brooke Family Foundation, Stephens Foundation, Footbridge Foundation, Gramm Family Foundation, The Synovus Family, DTJ Designs, Anita Keefe, Mo Sparks, David & Jean Farnelo, Marlene Zamites, Ann Collins, Judy Druelinger, Karen & William Snyder, Alan & Sally Bailey, Rhonda Cleland, Peggi Collins, Ralph & Donna Hood, Caleb & Maya Ottem, Ray & Sue Bodis, John & Amy Hoffman, Julie Forbes, Daniel Schieffelin, Dianne Weisselberg, Performance Insurance, Inge Lauwers, Tally Nathan, Erin Sharaf, Bob & Cheryl Dudik, The Johnston Family, Stephen & Lisa Young, Tom & Lisa Davis, Peggy & David Kavookjan, Hannah Snyder, Mariko Shirazi, Chris Ross, Morgan Stanley, The Hughes Family, Marilyn Hall, Debra Rogers, Kay Ledyard, Michael Fredman, Janette Logan, The Flanagans, The Luchkas, Nona Hattan, John Kearns, Shae Maniates, Lorraine Farran, Anne Fottrell, Jim McCotter, Anne-Marie Bennoun, Bonnie Bartel, Lewis Coonley, Patti Freudenburg, Laura Ashton, Linda Davis, Melanie Cypher, Lisa & Phil Peterson, Carolyn Buongiorno, Jim & Mary White, Carolyn Goble, Craig Weaver, Eric Johnson, Stuart Freedman, Alexis Pyatt, Kingsley Weaver, Alice Victor, Karen Byington, Nile & Lois Leach, The Huydic Family, Norman Williams, Ralph Marzulla, William Crockett, Jody Priselac, Steven Sledziona, Bonnie Boex, Ralph Noistering, Anita Littlewolf, Linda Giers, Roberta Rosen, Donna Heyse, Diane & Scott Allensworth, Miroslav Krenek, Charles Palmer, Cliff & Pam Wren, John & Judith Rinas, Quality Pet Foods Warehouse, The Warren Family Roy Gandolfi, Paul Jacob, Blake Facente, Roberta Asher, Colleen Henry, Susan & Leah Meisel, Mary Cleverdon, Brady and Teri Turner, Vivien Ravdin, Jeanette Gregg, Cynthia Wayburn, Peggy Muller, The Szucs Family, Deb Wright, Landy Atkinson, Peggy Cook, Marjorie & James Penrod, Emily Hoch, Catherine Graves, Barbara Grogan, Eliza Farren, Karl Hemmerich, Mary Borchers-Williams, Terry & Becky Escamilla, Sandra Buckner, Jennie Bailey, Mary & Steve Chandler, Jim & Claudia Cole, Mark & Doris Dembosky, Heinz & Julie Gaylord, Jim & Jan Hanner, Ed & Anne Henne, Alan Hirsch, Curt & Linnea Gillespie, Hugh Leney, Joni & Mike Liebman, Sara Mattes, John & Deb Mitchell, Susan Menz, Anna Orgeron, Linda Lau, The Pickoffs, the Pitmans, Elizabeth & Louis Puls, James & Connie Qualey, Dwaine & Ann Robey, Peter & Donna Sharpe, Irene LaRusso, Gayle Spitzfaden, Bill & Sallie Stout, John Stovall, Gail Terry, Dee Thoren, Margie Waters, Dan & Carol Wolf, The Woodburys, Mark & Carol Rickman, Anita Eakins, Joan Silaco, Jane Dejong, Michelle Baxter, Taylor Woodard, Adam Bergamini, Ruth Ann Slayton-King, Wilson Flick, and Kevin Parker.

**Business Friends:** Deb Gaarde & Legacy Custom Embroidery, Doggy Doors, Pacific Domes, SolaRight, Bomb Footbags, Provider's Resource Clearing House, and Droneworld.

**In Memory:** Kevin Johnston, Jason Lawrence, Charles Zamites Sr., George Roosevelt, Vicki Allen, Ted Hubbard, Wolf Angel Jane, and Betty Brooks.

## Caretakers of the Year!

In every issue of *Wolf Visions*, we take time to acknowledge some of the many folks who consistently support our work and improve the lives of the sanctuary residents. This round, we wish to acknowledge two individuals who continue to push themselves and often sacrifice their own needs to address ours: Stan Stiffler and Norm Hanne.



**Stan Stiffler**

Stan became our neighbor in the mid-90s when he purchased land adjacent to the sanctuary. His property, fondly nicknamed "Stan's Corner," is host to a variety of M:W volunteers during the summer. Stan has helped us in countless ways over the years—he has built fences, repaired vehicles, and even set up TV news features to promote our educational message. Most of all, Stan makes sure the wolves are well fed. He has personally delivered over 50,000 pounds of meat for the wolves, all the way from Denver. Stan has served as an advisory member of our Board of Directors for over a decade, and continues to be invaluable to the wolves and staff here, selflessly devoting himself to the refuge. We are lucky to have such an incredible friend. **Thank you, Stan!**



**Norm Hanne**

Norm was a teacher for years and first learned of M:W through a student. He and his daughter ventured to the sanctuary for a weekend adventure, and both fit right in. Since then, Norm has become a summer fixture in the tool shop and has put in countless hours with our trucks, facilities, and staff. He loves to introduce people to the art of metalworking, electrical systems, and the insides of our vehicles. While we like to joke that Norm is a crotchety old man, he is actually an astonishingly patient and fun teacher. Even when his hair catches fire and the Dodge develops yet another problem, Norm takes it all in one giant stride. His resilience and willingness to jump in and get dirty is an inspiration to staff and visitors alike. **Thank you, Norm!**



**Buku**  
 Always alert and vocal, this pitbull-wolf cross keeps a watchful eye over his domain.



**Oreo**  
 An excitable companion to his brother Buku, Oreo is flighty and difficult to photograph.

# Sanctuary Life



Rosie



Hliamna



Cephira



Zeab



Orion





# Mission: Wolf

Education vs. Extinction



## Visit Us

Visitors who survive the dirt roads to M:W are welcome any day from 9am to 4pm. Please call ahead for road conditions, let us know if you have a party of ten or more, and do not bring your dog. Primitive camping is allowed in the adjacent national forest, if you would like to volunteer and stay overnight; visit our website, email, or call for details.

## Driving Directions

**From Westcliffe (coming from the north):** Take Highway 69 south approximately 31 miles and turn left on Gardner Road (County Road 634). Follow this dirt road 13.2 miles, keeping right at two "Y" intersections in the first 5 miles. At the Blue Spring State Land Trust sign and cattle guard, turn right. Follow the Mission: Wolf driveway 1.6 miles along a fenceline and left up the hill to the sanctuary.

**DO NOT USE GPS. Once on the dirt roads, stick to the directions or you will get lost.**



Map courtesy of C. Pierzsch

## Contact Us

Website [www.missionwolf.org](http://www.missionwolf.org)  
 Email [info@missionwolf.org](mailto:info@missionwolf.org)  
 Phone 719-859-2157  
 Mail PO Box 1211  
 Westcliffe, CO 81252

## Follow the Wolves

[facebook.com/missionwolfcolorado](https://facebook.com/missionwolfcolorado)  
[facebook.com/wolvesofmissionwolf](https://facebook.com/wolvesofmissionwolf)  
[youtube.com/missionwolfsanctuary](https://youtube.com/missionwolfsanctuary)

*Below: Arrow puts on his best face for the camera. (John Ramer)*

*Above: The Sangre de Cristo vista (Gillespie)*



## Feed a Wolf! Become a Caretaker at Mission: Wolf

Which wolf would you like to sponsor? (please circle)

Abraham, Amulet, Apollo, Aria, Arrow, Ash, Asia, Batman, Buku, Cephira, Daisy, Farah, Fenris, Illiamna, Lil' Hailey Star, Magpie, Max, McKinley, Minigan, Oreo, Orion, Raven, Rosie Valkyrie, Soleil, Talon, Texx, Tiger, Valley Spirit, Zeab, Zephir, Zuko

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- \$25 Student/Senior
- \$40 Individual
- \$100 Family, Group, or School
- \$250 Contributor
- \$500 Patron
- \$1,000 Feed a Wolf for a Year
- \$3,000 Feed a Pack

Please send cash or check to:  
 Mission: Wolf  
 PO Box 1211  
 Westcliffe, CO 81252

Visit [shop.missionwolf.org](http://shop.missionwolf.org)  
 for credit card orders.