



The WolfWood Wayfarer

July 2012

WolfWood Refuge

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Welcome to our fourteenth newsletter!

BONDED

We brought drugs. We had come for Buddy and Tonka, two wolves who were sick and scared, barely surviving between barbwire and 110 degree heat. They banged their heads against the cage, cowered in the corner, and ran from human touch, but we managed to get them into our Jeep. I waited in the front seat while Craig went to sign paperwork. I felt sorry for the skinny animals and decided to give them the hotdogs we hadn't needed for the tranquilizers. I opened the package and was instantly slammed forward as two furry bodies flew over the front seat, yellow eyes blazing, long claws scrabbling. I screamed and threw the package out the partially opened window. Their heads turned in unison to watch the tasty treats disappear and they returned to the back seat, disappointed. Had I been hurt I am sure the headlines would have read, "Woman injured trying to rescue wolves!" instead of, "Stupid woman opens hotdogs in small enclosed vehicle with starving animals she doesn't know."

Not only were Buddy and Tonka our first official rescue, they became our first ambassador animals, happily hugged and petted by thousands of people. Over the next eleven years they grew to be the heart and soul of the Refuge, never apart for a minute, their life together a rich and full saga. When Buddy became ill, I sat down to give him his special food. He walked over and laid his entire 110 pound body across my lap and pushed his majestic head into my breastbone. His golden gaze held mine, full of intelligent understanding. His powerful chest heaved a shuddering breath. Buddy died in my arms. Long afterward I still saw his face at the gate, a phantom memory. Tonka sang her grief from dawn until dusk, howling hour after hour, day after day, week upon week.

I sat down with Tonka in my arms, her lithe body, tooth filled grin, and love of hotdogs stilled after 18 years. I console Kohl, the big dorky puppy that came from the Humane Society six years ago to be Tonka's baby. As he grew, he became the next chapter in the continuing story of Tonka's life. ...and mine. Someday maybe I will be able to really write about her and share her life and legend. For now I miss her too much. I see her face every day, another part of me gone. Kohl and I sing our grief together.



Tonka and Buddy



Kohl

Volunteers

WolfWood currently has a small, but extremely dedicated group of volunteers. Our volunteers are the heart of this organization and help take care of and save lives every day. Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow, nor even MUD keeps them from their duties.



Jason (can carry the most buckets!) Nora (only one bucket but cuter) Ben and Jay with BigO on his first event

NEW VOLUNTEERS

We put several posters around town and have gotten some good volunteers. We also have had some really dedicated community service workers. The “A” team of regulars still comes to feed and we have a great group of support people who help in so many ways. Ben is still living here and works every day. La Vonne takes care of everyone and everything when we are gone. Keith and Tanya have been building puppy panels, fixing trucks, and working hard all winter. To everyone who puts in time, labor and love, we are so grateful. Here are two new regulars of the “wolfgang.”

Nora Dwyer: Nora goes to Ft. Lewis. She is studying art and geology. She enjoys the environment here at WolfWood and looks forward to seeing the wolves. Nora says it is a pleasure to give her time to such a great cause. She is a great addition to the family.

Jason Getter: Jason and his wife Sue moved here in 2011. He earned a degree in Quantitative Bioinformatics and is a math tutor. He loves animals and the outdoors, so the hard work and wolves at WolfWood are a great match for volunteering. We appreciate all his time and hard work.



Keith building the hospital pen



Volunteers making necklaces at Vickie's



Dale breaking ground on puppy enclosure

NEW ARRIVALS



Majesty



Ipo



Odin



Bo



Razi

Thanks to Joan Fassett, Tanya Lawyer, and most of all, Kari of DK Luraas Publication Design and Production. Our new **2013 CALENDAR** is printed and ready to go. If you have seen our calendar in the past you know how gorgeous they are. The new pictures of the wolves are beautiful and Kari did a great job on the design and layout. You can go to the website to order them. We only printed 500 and they are going fast! All proceeds go to help care for all the animals at WolfWood and \$15 is cheap for a special Christmas gift! (I know it is July)

Majesty: Majesty was given up by her owners in Pagosa. She has spent her two year life on a chain, tied to fences, bumpers, whatever was handy. Her owners moved to a house where they could not keep her. They took her to be boarded and then called us. After getting her spayed and paying for all her expenses, we brought her home. She still has the marks around her neck from the chains. Majesty is a real mess and will take a lot of work to ever be even close to a normal animal. Only Craig, Ben or I go in with her and then only in pairs. It is a real shame because she is beautiful and intelligent, and damaged. We will do our best, as always.

Razi: Razi came to us from Northern Colorado. He is two years old. He was taken to a vet to be put down because his owner moved to a place where he couldn't keep him. Rather than kill him, the vet and his staff looked for a place to take Razi. They found us. They transported him to us and even gave us a donation for his care. Razi is a beautiful male wolf who is very shy. He prefers men over woman and likes Joel, Ben and Paula's dad. He will lie next to them and even bump them with his nose, but he does not want to be petted and definitely does not want to be leashed. He will be moved in with another wolf when a large escape-proof pen opens up. For now he lives next to Majesty in a secluded part of the Refuge.

Ipo: Ipo came to us from the Aztec Shelter. She was sick with a respiratory infection and very unsocialized. When she got better she came to live with us. She was only 3 months old and very scared. She has really grown and lives with Inepee, who was excited at first, but soon that puppy energy was more than he bargained for! She is very happy with him and finally runs and plays like a normal puppy. She still is shy with people, but that's ok. We are patient and just glad she is safe.

Odin: Odin came to us from Albuquerque, NM through our volunteer, Tom. He saw Odin's plight and wanted to help. The young couple who had him could not care for him properly and Odin was very emaciated with a terrible coat. In spite of all this he is a young, very friendly guy. Tom convinced the couple to turn him over to WolfWood and brought him here. Dr. Wagner found a mass in his intestine. He was in no shape for surgery. We put a few pounds on him and got him settled in. Then Dr. Wagner removed the mass, neutered him and checked his tear ducts, which are congenitally closed. Odin has put on at least 15 pounds since his surgery and his fur is soft and shiny. He has made a great recovery and is ready to move in with a friend.

Bo: Bo came from Sedona, AZ. His owners loved him, but could not care for him when they had to move due to the current real estate crisis. They could not build a fence that would keep him in, so Bo ran loose and got in trouble. They have been connected to WolfWood for a number of years, so we made a home for Bo here. He is shy and does not like people much, but he is safe and sound.

DO YOU SEE A COMMON THEME HERE? PLEASE, PLEASE TELL EVERYONE YOU KNOW NOT TO GET A WOLF OR WOLF/DOG. THERE ARE SO MANY GOOD INTENTIONS AND SO MUCH TRAGEDY IN THESE ANIMALS LIVES. IF YOU WANT A COMPANION, PLEASE RESCUE AN UNWANTED ANIMAL AND DON'T GO TO A BREEDER. AND THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO GIVE THE ABOVE ANIMALS SOMEWHERE TO GO INSTEAD OF HAVING TO BE DESTROYED. AS WE ADVOCATE IN EVERY EDUCATIONAL TALK WE DO..... LET'S KEEP WOLVES IN THE WILD AND DOGS IN OUR LIVING ROOMS.

Schedule

July 22nd: Lake City Town Park, Lake City, CO

Aug 4th: Five Branches Campground, Vallecito Lake

Sept. 1st & 2nd: Hermit Park. THIS WILL BE OUR ONLY TIME IN ESTES PARK THIS YEAR. WE DO NOT KNOW THE REASON WHY, BUT AFTER YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS THE WOLVES ARE NO LONGER WELCOME AT ELK FEST. WE HOPE TO SEE ALL OUR WONDERFUL SUPPORTERS NEAR ESTES AT HERMIT PARK INSTEAD.

NEW: Stu Mossberg is heading up our Fine Art Auction. It is the first time we have done anything like this and already have commitments for several one-of-a-kind pieces made especially for WolfWood. We will have wine, food and friends. It will be a great experience and fundraiser. Please support us Sept. 28th at the Durango Discovery Museum; 6-9 p.m. Watch the website for more information.

Meet our Wolves

In each newsletter we feature some of our wolves.



Destiny



Dr. Wagner

Destiny: Destiny came to us from the La Plata County Humane Society. We are fortunate to have a good and supportive mutual working relationship with them. Destiny came from an awful breeder where all the animals are sick and chained and treated very badly. They couldn't sell her because of a bad eye and so just dumped her. LPCHS asked us if we would take her, and how could we resist? Our wonderful vet told us she could save her sight and so Destiny has undergone two surgeries. She is doing very well and will soon be able to live in an enclosure with other animals. We got her the day we lost our Tonka, so she has a special place in our hearts.

Dr. Nanette Wagner: Dr. Wagner is not a wolf, but I thought it was important that you meet her anyway. She is our vet. I was going to ask her for a biography of herself. Then I realized that I didn't need to know about her degrees or where she used to live or what her background is. Here is what I need to know about Dr. Wagner: She is an amazingly talented and kind vet. She is respectful of us, our animals and our work. She goes out of her way to give us all the best care possible. She is there for us every time we call, and we call a lot! She can do everything from take a stool sample to microsurgery. She has saved many lives and helped those she cannot save on their journey. She works with a wonderful group of professionals at Bayfield Animal Hospital who are as dedicated and compassionate as she is. She never rolls her eyes or sighs in exasperation, whether I bring in nine scared and sick puppies or call about a swallowed plastic bag. She comes to me; I go to her, day or night. She is quiet and blushes at compliments. She listens. She explains. She knows. She understands. She has saved Destiny's eye. She has saved me.

Needs: Right now our biggest need is to catch up on our vet bill. We were down to \$0 at the first of the year, but due to the many surgeries, emergencies and care of our elder animals, we currently owe \$1800. Any donation earmarked for this purpose will go directly to help pay off Destiny and Odin's operations and the rest of our medical debt. As always, donations are tax deductible and thanks to our computer oriented volunteers, you can use Pay Pal.

THANKS

This is the hardest part of the newsletter for me. I am always worried I will forget to mention someone. And then I remember that those who give to WolfWood don't do it for the recognition. They do it for the animals. They do it because they are kind, generous and good-hearted people. They do it because they can save lives and make a difference. Everyday someone makes a difference, in ways both big and small. And it all matters.

So here are some of the highlights of the wonderful gifts of time, money and love that have come our way.

Evacuation: Most of you know what a terrible and scary fire season it has been. Trying to get 73 wolves out of the path of a forest fire is an incredibly daunting prospect, especially with limited resources. We have been under tremendous stress and came close to panic a few times, with several fires burning all around us and thick smoke in the air for days. To the rescue came Tom and Barbara Dunn, as always. They have provided the funds for Keith to build an evacuation trailer that can safely take out 40 animals at a time, with the promise of another trailer when this one is done. That means we will be able to evacuate all 80 animals, each in an individual pen. Such a weight has been lifted, knowing that we will not ever have to worry about how to transport animals to safety again. Tom says he hopes the trailers sit and rot and we never have to use them! But they will be here at the ready if we do. Thank you to Lou and Sarah at Pet Haus in Durango. Lou offered to get us 80 leashes at cost. After Sarah talked to the sales representative of Animal Supply Company, all 80 leashes were donated and Coastal Pet paid for the expedited shipping to get them here quickly. We are so grateful that businesses are willing to help in times like this. In the meantime, Darla Lange offered her property in Bayfield for an evacuation site, and a group of hearty volunteers went out and put up 10 pens to hold animals off site. We were in Salida at an event when the call came that a fire could be close. Jeanette followed us home instead of heading to Estes in case we needed her. A small army of people had gathered at the refuge to put together crates, offer transport, carry water and in general be there to help LaVonne until we got home, around midnight. We want to thank Roy and Donna Copeland for hosting us at their home in Salida and understanding when we turned around in the parking lot of the restaurant and headed home, leaving a bunch of stuff in their yard. We owe you that dinner, Roy and Donna! Be reassured, that because of the fast action and amazing support of friends of WolfWood, we will be prepared in case of an emergency.

Alaska 9 enclosure: We have finally broken ground on the Alaska pups' new enclosure. It will be our biggest one yet. Keith and Tanya worked on the panels all winter. Thanks to Bonnie and Hal Dalzell, who are the major funders of the enclosure, all the panels are finished and we have enough for Dale to complete the dirt work and put in the culverts. BP donated the pipe that will be used as poles. Don is flying out and staying a week to make sure it is engineered correctly and laid out well. Jared Engelken has gotten approval for the enclosure to be his Boy Scout Eagle Scout project and will be involved in all stages of the development. And of course we are all gearing up for the sheer physical labor of digging and setting poles in concrete, holding up and attaching 10 ft tall panels, laying down and wiring cow panel, site prep and clearing, dog house moving etc. etc. It is coming just in time because the pack of rowdy teenage wolves is definitely outgrowing the size and strength of the pen they are in. We can't wait to see them running in their piece of WolfWood territory.

Other: We would like to thank Bill McCleary who runs Olive U Naturally, a great shop in Prescott, AZ. He has printed all our brochures, in color, and shipped them to us. What a wonderful gift from yet another caring individual business owner. John O'Brien not only is doing a fantastic job on the website, he also flew out from NJ and worked everyday for a week at the Refuge, doing everything from lifting buckets of dirt to downloading files. And he left a donation. Now that's an all around volunteer! Thanks to Ron and Joan, my mom and dad, who still loan me money when I call on the phone. They fronted the funds for our beautiful calendars. Eric from Kansas donated a chain saw. The puppy sponsors continue to support them. Annemarie and Wolfgang Lampe brought clothes, towels, shovels, beer, chocolate and donations. Our state inspector, Cindy Thompson, is an understanding and rational inspector. I found out I don't have a recurrence of my cancer. Craig still has a job. It finally rained. **For these things and more, all things big and small, we are grateful every day.**

YOU ARE ALL WOLF ANGELS!

Kids and Canines



Girl Scouts load up huge trailer of scrap for dump



Girl Scouts washing food buckets



Trinity at Mosaic Academy



Trinity at Mountain Middle School



Tanya and Trin at Children's House



Trinity and some students from Aztec High School



Paula, Ipo, Barb, Tanya, La Vonne, and Lynn educating kids

I am so happy to be able to once again be able to fill this page. WolfWood has been busier then ever going to schools, doing tours, facilitating service learning projects and educating the public with our outreach programs. The wolves make a big impact on young people and WolfWood has worked with the following groups this year: Children's House, Mountain Middle School, Aztec High, St. Columba, Mosaic Academy, Girl Scouts, Canines for the Cure, Aztec Boys and Girls Club, Salida Parks and Rec, Southern Ute Boys and Girls Club, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, and we even went to Pam Uschuk's book signing. We are definitely "on the road again!"

IN LOVING MEMORY

Atlas: Atlas came to us in 2004 from Gunnison, CO. He was running loose with his girl, Phaedra. They have their names because they came to us during the Greek Olympics. Atlas was a beautiful, strong animal who liked everybody. He was 12 this year and developed inoperable cancer. When he lost all his hair and was very uncomfortable we decided he had been strong enough. Phaedra misses his happy personality. She will get a new friend in a few weeks.

Zia: Zia was part of a coordinated rescue between the Ute Tribe, La Plata Humane Society and WolfWood in 1999. She was one of the 30 animals taken over two years from an extremely bad situation here in the Durango area. She had parvo as a puppy, and had some residual damage because of that. She lived to be 14. She was Silver's pen mate who passed late last year. She is the last of the "Shannon" group. While never an animal that would let you close, she had a long life here at WolfWood.

Heidi: Heidi was born at the Refuge when we were in Pagosa. Her mother came in pregnant at a very old age and died before Heidi was a year old. Two of her siblings have already died from complications of dwarfism. She and her brother Casey lived together their whole lives and never really liked to be touched by people. Heidi died on a winter evening. Casey now lives with Kia.

Red Dog: Red Dog was a sweet, goofy guy who always had a big grin on his face. He came from the Ignacio area. Someone bought him on the Internet for \$800 because he was a "red wolf". Red Dog was a big, fat Husky, without an ounce of wolf in him, but we all loved him anyway. He wanted belly rubs and food! He developed severe arthritis. On the night he died there was an amazing red sunset, a final farewell from our friend.

Tonka: What can I say about Tonka? That she was the best of the best? That she literally touched thousands of lives? That she was queen of the Refuge? That she was the strongest, wisest and most beautiful being I have ever had the honor of knowing? All these things are true and yet they are not enough. Most of you knew her. Most of you loved her. She was 18 when she died and her story as our first official rescue is about a life dedicated to saving others, wolves and people alike. For over 16 years hers was the first face I saw whenever I came home. She was always there, always watching for me. I couldn't stand not to see her, so her pen has been torn down. I cannot thank everyone enough for your beautiful and heartfelt e-mails and calls about Tonka. I don't know anyone who was more loved, and she deserved it all. Kohl is missing his adopted mom and throws his head back to try to howl like she taught him.

Elizabeth Morris: WolfWood lost a good friend in Liz Morris this past month. She was an amazing woman in so many ways. She passed at the age of 80 in her home in Bayfield. An early proponent of WolfWood, Liz was there to help us move from our Pagosa location. She helped us buy our first big truck for the Refuge. We use it still to haul our water. She was outspoken in her love of animals and our guys in particular. The world is a lesser place without Liz in it. We honor her passion, intelligence and pioneer spirit.



Atlas



Heidi



Red Dog



Zia (Shy Girl)



Paula and her beloved Tonka

**Poem by Nancy Wood, read every time we scatter the animal's ashes here at WolfWood.
(Please read from left to right)**

*A long time I have lived with you
Separately to be together
To blur your smooth waters
Perhaps I will be the star
So that you have direction in the night.
To separate your thoughts
Perhaps I shall be the rain
So that your seed may fall
To let your blossoms sleep
Perhaps I shall be the stream
So that you are not alone.*

*And now we must be going
Perhaps I shall be the wind
So that you do not see your face to much.
To guide your uncertain wings
Perhaps I shall be the fire
So that you do not give up.
To open up the earth
Perhaps I shall be the snow
So that you may bloom in spring.
To play a song on the rock
Perhaps I shall be a new mountain*

So that you will always have a home.

Thank you for making sure the wolves always have a home.

Wolf.....Teach me to Know