



The WolfWood Wayfarer

December 2012

WolfWood Refuge

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Welcome to our fifteenth newsletter!

As some of you may have noticed, the newsletter is very late. I apologize for this, but I have a good excuse: I broke both my computer and my wrist. So thank you for your patience and please enjoy what I could pull together. I want to share with all of you words from one of my mentors, Jane Goodall.

THE TEN TRUSTS

What We Must Do To Care For The Animals We Love

The First Trust:	Rejoice that we are part of the animal kingdom
The Second Trust:	Respect all life
The Third Trust:	Open our minds, in humility, to animals and learn from them
The Fourth Trust:	Teach our children to love and respect nature
The Fifth Trust:	Be wise stewards of life on earth
The Sixth Trust:	Value and help preserve the sounds of nature
The Seventh Trust:	Refrain from harming life in order to learn about it
The Eighth Trust:	Have the courage of our convictions
The Ninth Trust:	Praise and help those who work for animals and the natural world
The Tenth Trust:	Act knowing we are not alone and live with hope

WISHING YOU THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR

May you find joy in unexpected places May you feel at peace in your corner of the world

May you find comfort in little things May you feel loved



KIDS AND CANINES

We have had an amazingly full and successful outreach season. The wolves and the volunteers have been very busy educating the public. Here is a partial list of the places where we have given presentations or groups that have come to the Refuge.

Aztec Boys & Girls Club; Five Branches Campground; Hermit Park; Durango Nature Studies; Durango Christian School; Bayfield Family Center; Summit Program; Zukes; Mercury Payment Systems; Salida Parks & Rec.; Lake City Parks & Rec.; Southern Ute Boys & Girls Club; Make A Difference Club; Ft. Lewis students; Animas High School; Durango High School; Boy Scouts of America; Esperanza Elementary; American Cancer Society Bark & Walk; Columbine Christian School; tours with many home school groups; and family tours several times a week.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in these many events, especially our wonderful ambassador animals!



Lake City



Sylvia, Keith and Willow at 5 Branches, Willow's last program before retiring.



Esperanza Elementary School



Nature Camp



Hermit Park



NEW ARRIVALS



Chica: Chica is our newest member and came to us from the La Plata Humane Society. She is another animal from the same horrible breeders as Destiny. We now have at least three of these animals with more waiting to come in. She is under a year old and lives with Stormy and Topaz. We are very upset about this local breeding problem. The state is trying to regulate them, but in an attempt to beat the system, the breeders have dumped animals all over the county. We are helping when and where we can, but the situation is almost impossible. At least Chica has made it to a safe and loving place here at WolfWood.

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.

New Volunteers

Jasmine Park: “I came to WolfWood because I wanted to explore the connection between the suppression of women and the suppression of nature for a class I was taking at Ft. Lewis. However, I have continued to come for the satisfying feeling I get working with the animals and the volunteers”.

Lynne Matievich: “I am a retired schoolteacher that has lived in La Plata County since 1981. My husband Scott and I now live in Bayfield. I like hiking, sailing, cooking, golf, volleyball and wolves!”

Linda Garcia: “I am new to Durango and I looked on Google to find a wildlife place to volunteer and I found this great place.....WolfWood!”



JASMINE



LINDA



LYNNE AND KOHL

WOLFWOOD'S FIRST ANNUAL ART AUCTION



A good crowd



Tasty donated food



Head Honcho Stew



Volunteers putting up the art wall and lighting



Bidding at the Silent Auction



Enjoying the wonderful donated wine

The Art Auction was the first time we attempted this kind of fundraiser. It was a huge success, thanks to the donors, sponsors, artists and over 30 volunteers who participated. A very special thanks to Tanya and Stew who worked countless hours and who made it all happen. Please go to the website for a complete list of the wonderful people involved and more pictures. People are still talking about it!

Meet our Wolves

In each newsletter we feature some of our wolves.



TACOMA



CINDER

CINDER: Cinder is not a wolf/dog. She is at WolfWood through one of the many ways we network with the La Plata County Humane Society. Cinder got her foot crushed in a coyote trap. The shelter kept her for almost a year trying to find her a good home, but no one wanted her. Not wanting to put her down, the shelter called and asked if she could come here. Because she had the right type of fur to live outside, we said yes. That was back in 2008, and Cinder has been part of the “pack” ever since. She became a “hospice” companion to one of our older animals with cancer. She brought him presents and he gave her kisses. After 2 years, he finally passed and Cinder got another older animal to take care of. After being his friend to the end, she now lives with Tacoma. Cinder is almost 9, and as you can tell, a sweet and loving animal who takes good care of her wolf/dog friends

TACOMA: Tacoma is a 13 year old, low percentage wolf/dog that came here in 2003 from a private party in Bloomfield. He is shy but sweet and is scared of strangers. In his younger days he liked to fence fight, but is much calmer with his friend Cinder

THANKS

We have so much to be thankful for. WolfWood has gone to a whole new level with the help and support of people like you. Everyday good things happen and we hope you are all proud to be part of such a special place. We certainly are. Everyone has made such a difference. I want to share the excitement of the completion of our biggest project ever, the Alaska Nine Pack’s pen. It is done and they are all in! I think every person involved with WolfWood in any capacity has had a part in this project and if you ask the wolves, it was worth it. There will be a web page with lots of photos after the New Year, but for now, here is a small sampling of this project that has taken over a year. A special thank you to Keith, who welded and built the whole thing and the Dalzell’s, whose time, energy and funding got it finished before the snow came.

YOU ARE ALL WOLF ANGELS!



Ben taking care of the kitty



Destiny and volunteer Kadyn



Craig needs help from Jessie to blow out his candles

THE PROGRESS OF THE AMAZING, SPECTACULAR ALASKA NINE ENCLOSURE
(otherwise known as the eighth wonder of the world)

We have literally hundreds of pictures; I wish I could show them all



Don begins the planning



Joan cooks the crew lunch on work days



Jared lines out his Eagle Scout Project



Boy Scouts digging out the holes after a killer rain storm filled them all with mud





Work crew hauling concrete and setting the poles



Hal gets the ground wire right



Moving the panels and getting the clamps ready



Greg (Keith's dad) helped him daily



Keith breaks champagne



Torq runs in after Dr. Wagner vaccinates him



Running and enjoying all the open space

Other News

We do have other news. Trinity has had her surgery and is doing well in what will be a long recovery.

Destiny's eye is also doing very well and she has full sight. Craig turned 50 and we had a fun party.

Congratulations to Don and Jeanette along with Keith and Tanya. Both couples recently rescued dogs to become lucky members of their family. We all have lots of winter and work clothes thanks to AnnaMarie and Wolfgang. John has been doing an incredible job on the website. It is a work of art and a labor of love. He and Mary have been out several times from New Jersey to work on the puppy pen, leave a donation and take us to dinner. We are sad to say goodbye to Ben, who after living here as our caretaker for over 1 1/2 years, moved back to Denver to look for a real, paying job. He made a big difference at WolfWood and will be truly missed, especially by the puppies, who consider him a brother. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Ateria: Ateria was a shy female that came to WolfWood in 2002. She was 16 and went very peacefully. She used to live with Saber and then with Johnny. She loved to dig dens and be in charge. We will miss her sweet face.

Bruno: Bruno was a gentle giant and a favorite here at the refuge. He was a big, strong affectionate animal. He loved everybody and looked forward to children coming to visit him even at the end when he was hurting. Bruno was 13 and already had one operation to help his cancer. He had lived with many different animals and most recently, Trucker. His smile and heart will be missed.

Nomad: Nomad was 13. He had been catch-poled on two sides and dragged until he bled. He had been on a chain his whole life and was in shock when he came to us in 2004. Nomad finally warmed up to people, but he would not let anyone touch his neck. He had a bad heart condition and Dr. Wagner said it would be a kindness to let him go. He was a rough and tumble guy, and enjoyed a big juicy bone until the very end.

Isis: Isis was our oldest animal at almost 17. She came to us in 2005 and was the last of her original pack to be still with us. She was a very shy animal but still the boss of 3 other animals even at her advanced age. She died in her sleep one night. Her family will miss her.

Simmone: Simmone was 16 and had cancer. She lived with Zion and Athena. We have many old animals that have difficulty getting up or moving much. This causes them to literally freeze to the ground in winter. Simmone was one of these animals and she was ready for her passing, even if we weren't.

Domino: Domino was the last of our original 9 pack. He was born at the Refuge in 1995. He has lived the last 2 years with Trinity. Domino was a shy animal, but lived a long and happy life. We mourn his loss and also the loss of the last animal from our beginnings.



Domino



Nomad



Bruno



Simone



Isis



Ateria

Wolf.....Teach Me to Know