



The WolfWood Wayfarer

July 2014

WolfWood Refuge

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Welcome to our eighteenth newsletter!

This year we have doubled the amount of groups involved with our outreach programs. The kids have been great, and as always, the wolves had a big impact on them. One group was the Wonderings from Aztec NM. They came for a writing project, and I am proud to have permission to share some of their amazing poetry with you. They range in age from 4th grade to 10th grade. Your support allows this type of amazing relationship between wolves and young people. I think you will be as moved as I was.

Running Wild by Brendan

Out in the woods

Together as a family

Out in the wild

Running free

The wind blows through my fur

My friends howl to me

I howl back hearing my many echoes

My coat is hot as I look for shade

The bugs buzz and hum in the day

Caged but free

By Sage

At the first sight of a wolf

I knew visiting WolfWood would be

The highlight of the month

When I first heard the howl of the wolf

Chimes, birds and bees

Nothing could end this journey

Why do people have wolves as pets

If they are just going to throw them out?

By Emma

The wolves are howling sweetly

The crows are speaking pleasantly

The birds are singing sweetly

Why are wolves bad?

Why can't we see what's inside?

I wonder why

The Wolf Behind the Story by Teilani

The wolf-mean vicious life taker

The wolf-gentle, kind, kisses, loving

The wolf cares

Mistreated, trapped in boxes, shot, and beaten

Beautiful

The wolves have feeling

This is the wolf behind the story

By Skyler

Howling to welcome our new found friends

A second chance to live

As free and wild as they were born to do

Their howl comes deep from the soul

That connects them to the world around them

Listen as they tell their story

Look in their eyes

And see the love they want to share

Hear the howl

That allows their soul to soar

Wild and free

Together they are one

And forever they will be one

Let them be as free as their souls

By Nathan

The quietness of the desolate area

Whispers the ancient sounds of people

And wolves more fully there

In the distance is the endless call of a wolf

With a pack of nine, life can be hard

So many wolves wander the area for a pack

Save the wolves

MEET OUR WOLVES

In each of our newsletters we feature some of our wolves



KODIAK AND JILL

Jill and Kodiak came from the Olympic Animal Sanctuary in Washington that was shut down for animal cruelty. The animals were kept in small crates stacked in a warehouse. The owner operated unchecked until pictures were put on the web and a campaign started to shut him down. An organization called The Guardians of Rescue brokered a deal and all the animals were dropped off near Kingman, AZ. A visitor to the refuge recommended us and we were asked to take Jill and Kody, the two wolf/dogs. When we arrived they were still scared and confused. Kody jumped immediately into the truck, but Jill had to be muzzled and carried. It only took a few short weeks for them to totally acclimate to their new environment. They have made a fast physical recovery, but more amazing is the speed that they bounced back to being happy and interactive animals. While still a little cautious around strangers, they are totally in love with the volunteers and will greet visitors who are gentle and patient. We are very happy they are safe and have a permanent home here with us.

SUMMER EVENTS

If you would like to meet some of our animals in person, here is a list of our upcoming events.

July 26th & 27th: Hermit Park. Hermit Park Open Space Pavilion is beautiful once again this year and hosting WolfWood. Education programs will be at 10am and 7pm each day, wolves will be available to visit both days from 9:30-8pm. For information www.laimer.org/naturalresources/hermitpark.cfm

Aug 5th: Five Branches Campground. This is a long-standing event attended by locals and visitors alike. Held at beautiful Vallecito Lake, this is our most intimate setting. We will have a silent auction and Bob puts on a great BBQ lunch with all the proceeds going to WolfWood. An educational talk will be at 1 p.m.

Aug 10th: Lake City. We will be at BackCountry Base camp for our annual visit to Lake City. We hope to see all our friends from the area and meet more new people. All the ambassadors will be there for petting and the educational talk will be at 1 p.m.

Sept. 12th: Third Annual Art Auction. This is our premier local fundraiser. Anyone who went to this gala event last year knows what a great success it was. This year promises to be even better. Don't miss out on the wonderful art, food and wine. It will be at the Durango Discovery Museum from 5:30-9:00pm.

KIDS AND CANINES

I don't know how it is possible, but we are doing more educational programs than ever. WolfWood is growing so fast in this area it is hard to keep up! After rescuing animals in need, education of young people and the public in general, is our main priority, and we are definitely accomplishing that goal. All of these programs are provided free of charge and everyone is welcome. The ambassador wolves and volunteers have been hard at work.



Our Outreach Programs

Mountain Middle School; Life Long Learning; LINK; Big Picture High School; Ignacio After School Program; Fort Lewis RA Program; 2nd grade interview; Sunnyside Elementary; Girl Scout Brownie Troop; FLC Anatomy of Drawing; FLC Independent Newspaper; Mini Mock Trail; FLC Poetry Classes; Esperanza High School; Wonderings; Web TV; Welcome Center; Southern Ute Intermediate Program; Kiwanis Club; Rotary Club Guatemalan Students; Durango Day Camp; Upward Bound; Navajo State Park; Just Us Kids; Aztec Boys and Girls Club; La Plata County Humane Society Camp.

NEEDS

WolfWood's continuing growth has made it imperative to finish our Visitor Center. We need a place for kids to gather and learn and to hold our library and educational materials. \$20,000 would complete this project. It would be a source of information for schools, camps, service organizations and the community.

NEW ARRIVALS



Archie



Piper



Sammy



Aldo



Sheba



Finn

NEEDS

Vet bills: As you can see we have many new animals coming in, and many others have passed on. Almost all of these cases involved extensive medical care for their rehabilitation and care. We started out the year with a zero balance, but even with trying to keep up and the patience of our amazing vet, our bill is currently almost \$3,000.00. Any donation sent especially for this purpose would really help us continue to give our animals the highest quality care possible.

Archie: Archie came from Aztec NM. His owner had rescued him, but Archie could not be contained. He got out and was too smart to be recaptured and ran around Aztec, causing no harm. Tina and the folks at the animal shelter tried to catch him for several weeks, even buying a special net gun. He still evaded all attempts until Craig went down with our new dart gun and sedated him with the first shot. He was taken to the shelter and neutered. He was transported here and lives with Phaedra. He is handsome, sweet and curious. He is under 2 years old and still very shy.

Finn: Finn came from the Aztec Shelter. He was the most starved animal we have seen yet. He was very abused and punished when he tried to eat, so he wouldn't even take hotdogs from us. He also has vision problems and can only see blurs. He is slowly making a physical recovery and now enjoys his food and treats. He is very gentle and sweet and has finally realized he is safe so we can now get him a pen mate. Although not a wolf, he is a favorite already and he travels with us to events

Sammy: Sammy is a very unsocial lab/mix. He also is an escape artist. He was sent to the Adams County Shelter after a hoarding situation was shut down. He was considered unadoptable and was recommended for euthanasia. The shelter kept him for over 4 months looking for a place for him. WolfWood agreed to accept him at the request of our state inspector. He has become a friend to Cinder, who has made him feel safe and wanted among the wolves!

Aldo: Aldo was living in a car with his owner, who contacted us and said he couldn't keep him anymore. He took Aldo to the La Plata Humane Society, where he was neutered and given his shots. Trinity is very excited to have him as her new pen mate and they are completely bonded. We expect him to live a long and happy life at WolfWood. He is still quite shy, but very loving, and we are working on his socialization. He is just a year old.

Sheba: Sheba is an 8 year old female wolf/dog. She came to us from a local woman who got divorced and no longer had a place to keep her. She is a happy and friendly girl who likes everybody.

Piper: Piper was also an extremely starved and abused animal. She was misidentified as a 12 year old wolf/dog, but is really a very small husky mix. She came from the Cortez Animal Shelter where she was going to be put down. After an extensive vet visit, we discovered she is around 8 years old and can be saved with proper care. Dr. Wagner is very happy with her progress and she is ready to move out of the hospital pen.

To learn more about our new animals and see more pictures of them, visit our website.

*The wind is blowing
There is silence
Is anyone there?
The birds fly faithfully
And the trees move side to side
The bees and flies make noise
The sky is blue with a few clouds
The wolves howl in peace*

*The bees rub their bodies on yellow flowers
The love and kindness
Of the wolves was beautiful
They kiss and rub on you
It makes me so proud of WolfWood
Love for the wolves
Is what we need in this world
BY YASMIN*



Smiles all around

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



Chase



Trista



Emily and Pan

Chase Gay: Chase has become one of our most dedicated volunteers. He is originally from Oklahoma and has a degree in political science. He is currently attending Fort Lewis to get a degree in biology. His favorite part of WolfWood is interacting with the animals, and it shows because he has become a favorite of many of our wolves.

Trista Conroy: Trista has been a La Plata resident for 25 years. Her husband and 2 children join her in all the outdoor activities the Four Corners area has to offer. She aspired to be a vet when she was young and has always had a passion for animals, which led her to WolfWood. She prides herself on being a well-rounded woman who can change a tire, fix a fence, run a business, play sports, and when necessary, run in heels. Not around the wolves, of course!

Emily Wieser: Emily came to us as a junior at Animas High School. She chose to intern at WolfWood through the LINK Program, and Paula was her mentor. Emily is an intelligent, passionate, dedicated young woman, who did an excellent job. The future is in good hands if Emily is any indication of the kind of young person the wolves have an impact on.

OTHER NEWS

There have been many changes in our volunteer's lives lately. Serena graduated second in her class at Fort Lewis and will be going to CSU for vet school. Amanda has moved to Arizona to use her biology degree at the wildlife park. Brian moved to Denver and Melinda went to Africa to volunteer and fell from a cliff. She was badly injured and is facing more surgeries to repair her arm. She is recovering in Texas with her family. Ben will be moving to Durango to go to school. Colleen, Tessha, Amanda & Kelly, and Adam all visited us this summer.

We lost a friend and Wolfwood supporter when Pat passed on. She was passionate about animals and a lovely person. Joan's husband, Harry, is recovering from his multiple surgeries and getting stronger every day.

Needs

We have had a record number of visitors this year. The refuge is growing quickly and as we get older WolfWood needs to provide a cabin for a full time caretaker to live in. A pre-built cabin would work well with another one for a bath/kitchen and place for overnight visitors.



Ben and Serena at her graduation



Working on the second evacuation trailer



Moving Billy, Ginger, and Sita to their new pen



Bonnie and Hal



Sita in her new pen

THANKS

As always, there is so much to be grateful for. We are constantly blessed every day with support. We do have a few special thanks to mention. The Mercury Group of Durango gave a large donation to fix Ra's pen, which is in danger due to erosion. It is so wonderful to live in a place where local businesses take such an interest in their community. Hal and Bonnie have provided funds and labor for two new pens. Many animals at the refuge have the space and freedom to have a second chance at life because of them. Bayfield Animal Hospital has been working hard to take care of the many and varied needs of the animals. Keith and Tanya and other volunteers have put in so many hours on the new pen and second evacuation trailer.

YOU ARE ALL WOLF ANGELS!

IN LOVING MEMORY

Tacoma: Tacoma passed away one night last November at the age of 13. He came to us in 2003 from Farmington. Tacoma was shy and let Cinder, his pen-mate, take the lead. She mourned him for a long time. We will too.

Zion: Zion was one of our premier ambassadors. He loved children and went to all of our events until he got too old. After he retired he was still a visitor favorite. His gentle nature and wonderful smile is still missed by everyone he met. He passed away at age 13 last winter. He was a joy to be around and leaves a large empty place filled only by his memory.

Nokomo: Nokomo was 13 when he died last March due to kidney failure. He arrived at WolfWood in 2003 with his father, Shilo. He was a great example of a big male wolf. When his father died Nokomo was put in with Nova. They were very happy for years together. He had been through a lot before WolfWood and was a testament to the resiliency of our animals. We will miss his rough and tumble style.

Little Timber: Little Timber was one of the three remaining wolves we moved from Pagosa and was on the cover of our original brochure. He came to us in 2001 and was almost 15 when he died in April. He had many different pen-mates, most recently Minnie. He lived a long and peaceful life at the refuge.

Lakota: Lakota passed away at the age of 15. In his younger days he was an escape artist. Age and his partner, Tavi, slowed him down a little. He was shy, but got petted by his favorite volunteers. He arrived shortly after we moved to Ignacio in 2002. He was very sweet and has gone on to be with his former pack members.

Nova: Nova was a beautiful, strong and willful wolf/dog. She was one of our best singers. She was lonely after Nokomo died and we were remodeling her pen to accommodate her possible new friend, Finn. Nova was only 8 when she died unexpectedly of a massive brain hemorrhage in May. Paula held her and talked to her until the end. She as well as Dr. Wagner and Craig all put up a valiant fight but it was just too much. Her beautiful voice is missed every sunset. She and Nokomo can join each other once again.

Adamma: Just a few days after we lost Nova, we lost Adamma. While not quite as unexpected, since he was over 15, it was still very hard. Again, Paula held him as he passed, with Ben there to help. He arrived in 2005. He was gentle and sweet to everyone, but did not want to be in with any other animal until the last year of his life when he chose Stella as his friend. He passed in his home surrounded by love.

Syla: Skyla arrived from Best Friends in 2004 with her son Kewa. She was 15, but you would never know it by her puppy face and bouncy step. She lived at the top of the hill in a pen we called "the palace." It had a large rock where Skyla greeted all the school children and visitors who came to the refuge. Everyone got face kisses, and she was often the most visited animal here and definitely had the most "selfies" taken. She went down one feeding day. When we took her to the vet, we discovered she had lung cancer. She was spending the night for more tests the next day, but as usual, Skyla made her own choice and left us the next morning. Her energy was undeniable.

Cloud Dancer: Cloud Dancer came to us as a small puppy. Her people skills and loving ways allowed her to live with longtime volunteer Barb. Cloud was a happy and beautiful animal who loved the water and loved life. She is missed by us, but most of all by her best friend Barb, who gave her a wonderful home.



Tacoma



Zion



Nokomo



Little Timber



Lakota



Nova with Mary



Adamma



Amanda with Skyla



Barb and Cloud Dancer at the lake

Wolf.....Teach Me To Know