



The WolfWood Wayfarer

Winter 2015

WolfWood Refuge

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Welcome to our twenty-first newsletter!

In this season, maybe more than any other time, we often search for a sense of something greater than ourselves, we look for meaning, we look at the world with a little more compassion. When I am caring for the animals at WolfWood, I feel all those things and more. I offer you the words of Gary Kowalski, from his book "The Souls of Animals," as a gift. May they bring you hope, peace and understanding.

Animals are our spiritual colleagues and emotional companions. We know this to be true less through debate than through direct experience. Whatever we may say about it, people have truly mutual relationships with animals and do encounter the sacred in non-human form. Animals like us are microcosms. They too care and have feelings, they too dream and create, they too are adventurous and curious about their world. They too reflect the glory of the whole. They know the peaks and chasms of being. With us, they share the gifts of consciousness and life. And it is through faith, not the faith of creeds or dogmas, but the simple "animal faith" of resting in communion with each other and with the natural world of soil and sunlight that we touch the divine. In recovering the primordial knowledge that all life is sacred, we may not only manage to save our world, we might save our own souls as well. In learning how to peacefully co-exist with the other species, we might also find peace within.

Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year from all of us at WolfWood



MEET OUR WOLVES

In each of our newsletters we feature some of our wolves



TJ and Vesta



Druid

VESTA, TJ and DRUID

Vesta came to us in 2008. We got a call that someone had a wolf that needed saving. Even though we realized she was not a wolf we agreed to take her. Then we got a call that she had 9 puppies and she was going to be killed and the puppies sold. We made a midnight run to get Vesta and all the puppies. She was so weak from trying to keep the puppies alive without being fed that she had to be carried out of the truck. It took almost 2 years to get Vesta healthy again and for her to recover from the effects of malnutrition. Because they are Husky/ Samoyeds, we adopted the puppies to good homes, except for TJ and Druid, who we kept to be Vesta's family. They all live together and have a great time running and playing. Druid is the shyest, Vesta is bossy and TJ is playful and outgoing. They all love their volunteer caretakers.



KIDS AND CANINES

We are proud to announce that WolfWood's outreach program is bigger than ever. 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. We believe we are making a difference by dispelling myth and misinformation about these special animals.



The animals roll in for an event at Hermit Park after a 10 hour drive



Oakley with a kids camp at the refuge



Kodiak with kids at Five Branches Campground



Trinity, the veteran and anchor of the ambassador wolves



Sheba and Jinn are new to educational programs

OUTREACH PROGRAMS IN FALL AND WINTER 2015

Five Branches Campground, Hermit Park, Durango Rotary Club, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Fort Lewis Collage Classes, Mercury Group, Summit Program, Archuleta Gifted Program, home school groups, Columbine Christian School, Park Elementary and our Public Tours are more popular than ever. Schools are raising money for the wolves including Mosaic Academy in Aztec NM. GO KIDS AND CANINES!

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.

VOLUNTEERS



*Ian, our newest volunteer with Stella
Ian will intern this next semester*



*Barb is the volunteer who has been with us the longest,
13 years now. Volunteers are paid in wolf kisses.*



Everyone having fun at the annual volunteer party



Local volunteers: Lynne, Sophia, Tanya, and Keith



Jeanette and Don came from Lyons (Lulu is pampered as you can see) Cristina and Tim surprised us coming from Denver

THANKS

We would like to thank all the people who have been so generous with their giving. WolfWood has had its best year ever. The kindness and support shown to WolfWood has been truly overwhelming, and everyone has stretched their limits for the animals here. We are blessed and so grateful for you all.

Once again the **Four Leaves Winery** supported WolfWood by hosting a preview of the art for the auction and selling their wine with wolf labels. We received over \$700 from this fundraiser. Thanks to Dean for sponsoring it and all of you who attended. **Mercury Payment Systems** also held a fundraiser for us. Kim and Ken and their crew put on a great BBQ. We brought the wolves and they provided the food. It was a great success, raising over \$2,500 for the animals. **StoneAge** employees voted WolfWood as their favorite charity and gave \$1,000 to us through the Colorado Gives program. With incredible generosity, **Lost Dog** donated their space, time, food and drink to the Art Auction. We also had some airtime on **Durango Web TV**. You can see it on the website. Jonathon, the owner of **LandStar Trucking**, picked up our load of donated dog food from Denver and delivered it to us at no charge, saving us money, time and wear and tear on the vehicles and overworked volunteers. Darla, through a lot of time and effort, got us connected to the **Colorado Gives Program**, and on Colorado Gives Day we received \$5,870 in donations.

As you can see, local businesses have really come to the forefront in supporting the animals at the refuge. Please patronize them and thank them for their kindness.

We also want to especially thank our volunteers who travel to us. The Dalzell's, Lampe's, Metzner's and O'Brien's not only are big donors to WolfWood, they also come here and work hard to improve the refuge for the animals. Thanks to everyone who helps WolfWood in the myriad of ways it takes to provide the quality of animal care and outreach programs that we are known for.

YOU ARE ALL WOLF ANGELS

OTHER NEWS

Both the state and the USDA inspected us recently and we got glowing reports from both. This was a Herculean effort by everyone, especially Craig, and we should all be very proud of the progress in this area. It is a real accomplishment. We vaccinated over 30 animals and everyone is current, another big effort by our Vet, Dr. Wagner and our volunteers. Both Ben and Joel have been very busy getting the refuge ready for the winter and taking care of the animals' day to day needs. Our "snowbird" volunteers have all left for warmer climates. We will see them again in the spring. Paula's latest Mayo visit went well and she is clear for another 18 months. Vlad, one of the animals rescued from Texas, found a wonderful home here locally in Durango. Unfortunately his second heartworm test came back positive. He is back at WolfWood to undergo the intense treatment to cure him. This is a two-month long process that requires constant monitoring. He is doing very well and will be returned to his owner after his isolation is over.

Nikki is not as lucky. He will not even be a candidate for treatment until spring. His care continues to be very expensive, but his smile and happy attitude make it worth it. The 2016 calendar is already filling up, with three school events and two tours in January. For the first time ever, on March 6th we will be taking the wolves to Purgatory Ski Resort. This promises to be an exciting event and partnership. After 13 years, Dale, our long time heavy equipment operator, will no longer be able to run the backhoe, doctor's (and wife's) orders. He has always been there for us, whether it was pushing snow or clearing land for a pen. We will miss him and want to thank him for all his hard work and dedication. We wish him good luck with his retirement.

NEEDS

Bonnie and Hal are funding a snowplow blade and used truck for the hill so if anyone knows of a good deal on these items, let us know. We are also in need of a caretaker's cabin. Joel is willing to build it if we can get it funded.

Wolfwood Art Auction

This year was the Fourth Annual WolfWood Art Auction, and we had a few serious setbacks. Stew Mosberg, the creator of the auction was unable to MC due to a family emergency. The originator of all the past art posters, Alwyn Spence, passed away suddenly. There was a miscommunication and we almost didn't have an auctioneer. As always, the WolfWood volunteers pulled together and we had our most successful event ever! The art, food, drinks, and music were amazing. We want to thank everyone who participated to make this a great fundraiser for the animals. We are sad to say this will be Stew's last year to be part of the auction. We appreciate his talent and dedication and his love for WolfWood. We are also sad to announce this was Ann's, the owner of Lost Dog, last event. She is known for her generosity and commitment to the community.



Paula's last minute instructions (notice how many are listening)



Part of the crew



Great art



Great food



Great drinks



Great music by Patrick Crossing



Great Crowd



Ann and her restaurant



IN LOVING MEMORY



Juno



Rufio



Cinder

Juno: Juno came to us in 2008. When Juno arrived it was obvious she just had puppies but they were not with her. She quickly became a foster mom to a group of young puppies we had just rescued also. She was a little shy but fit right in with her pack, Siren and Rowan. Juno was 14 when she passed away of natural causes. Her small family and volunteers miss her.

Rufio: Rufio was the last of the animals that moved here from Pagosa in 2002. He also died of natural causes at the age of 17, and with him a large chapter of WolfWood history is gone. He came from the Jicarilla- Apache reservation, where he was in a small kennel next to a dead dog. It took a bite suit and 5 hours to get him in the truck. It took another 6 months to touch him. After that he was a sweetie, and a confirmed bachelor, refusing a pen-mate or a different enclosure. He was a beautiful, big boy who was a WolfWood favorite.

Cinder: I rescue wolves. Big, burly, often hard to handle, wolves. Cinder was not a wolf. She was one of the “just a dogs” that occasionally find their way to the refuge. But Cinder was special. After her last trip to the vet’s, I was planning on writing her story on the front page of this newsletter. We always knew Cinder was a survivor. She had lived through having her front foot caught in a coyote trap and being at the shelter for over 8 months. What we didn’t know, until she was recently x-rayed at the vets, was she had also survived being shot and having her back leg broken. As I looked at the x-rays with Dr. Wagner, I could see the shrapnel pieces still in her. Dr. Wagner has seen it all and is not easily impressed, but she said she had never seen anything like Cinder. She had never seen such a severe break heal like that. It was amazing, miraculous, incredible and a testament to what a body can do. She was in awe. Those adjectives describe Cinder perfectly. We rescued her, but she helped rescue others, both human and canine. She survived it all with humor, kindness and grace. She was a small animal that made a big impact. John O’Brien wrote a beautiful and fitting piece about her on the website, where you can go and read it in its entirety, but I will close with some excerpts from his well chosen words.

Cinder left the pack on Mon night. She was scheduled to go the vet but when Paula and Joel went to get her she had already passed. They found her in her doghouse with her pen-mate Sammy. She was 12.

Cinder became a “hospice” companion to Mac, one of our older animals with cancer. She brought him presents, he gave her kisses. After 2 years, he finally passed and Cinder got another older animal to take care of. She was his friend to the end. Cinder then moved in with Tacoma. He was a large, shy wolf/dog with a bit of a temper. Cinder became his protector. He calmed down and his fence fighting stopped. The little dog had calmed the big wolf/dog. Her last charge was Sammy, her biggest challenge yet. Cinder made sure Sammy ate and felt safe enough to finally come out of his doghouse, and his shell. Cinder was unique. Those of us at the refuge knew and appreciated the vital role she held.

“Wolf..... teach me to know”