



# The WolfWood Wayfarer

**Summer 2016**

**WolfWood Refuge**

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***Welcome to our twenty-second newsletter!***

## ***A COYOTE IN MY KITCHEN***

I believe in universal balance. I believe that WolfWood is a safe haven where animals and people can heal. I am surrounded by others who share this belief, and through hard work and financial support, turn that belief into reality. And so I ended up with a coyote in my kitchen.

Several weeks ago, while driving down the highway just a mile from the Refuge, we saw a dead coyote that had been hung on a fence, wired there by her back paws. Angered and outraged by this barbaric and archaic practice, there was much discussion about what we could do. In the end we cut her down, brought her to WolfWood and gave her a burial with ceremony and tears, apologizing in eulogy for exactly what humans are capable of.

The very next day a small abandoned baby coyote was brought to me, dropped off by a father whose son had seen us at his school. It was very clear this baby could not be put back into the wild, and the son said the “wolf lady” would know what to do. Just to be sure I checked with our vet and two wildlife rehabilitation places and was advised that returning to the wild was just not an option for this little guy. And so a large crate was put up in my small kitchen.

After a trip to town for milk replacement formula, toys and other coyote essentials, Wile E was safely quarantined in the house. Because of his great susceptibility to disease and viruses this turned out to be a longer process than I thought. We sent away for special vaccines and he had to be carefully monitored. And so began my education on this very different cousin to the wolves that I have worked with for 25 years.

Wile E is very entertaining, engaging and a big challenge. He has already earned the title “trickster” and has us all wrapped around his little paw. Although still in semi-quarantine he has graduated to a temporary outside pen. He is growing every day and is remaining healthy and happy and active. He is very comfortable around people, learning with daily care, love and attention, exactly what humans are capable of.



*Wile E. when he first arrived*



*Wile E. at the end of June*

## MEET OUR WOLVES

In each of our newsletters we feature some of our wolves



### Aspen and Mojo

**Aspen:** Aspen came to us in 2009 when she was only 3 months old. She was released to us by her owner during an outreach program at Hermit Park. She had been rescued from a terrible puppy mill situation, and she was very sick when we got her. She was not allowed next to the other animals, so Ben and Jeanette took care of her all weekend. After getting her home and to our vet, we began the long process of making her well and socialized. Then one day we got a visit from the Sheriff, who had a court order to confiscate her. The puppy mill owner claimed we had stolen her and wanted her returned immediately. Well, Craig and Keith were not going to let that happen. Paula was out of the state and there was “confusion” about exactly which animal they were looking for. Finally they left and Aspen was fostered in New Mexico by Joel’s parents until the whole thing could be straightened out. We ended up going to court in northern Colorado over Aspen. We were told it would be hard for us to win this case, but after a heated battle between the lawyers, after the judge saw the 40 pages of violations the puppy mill had, Paula being on the stand for over 2 hours, and all the paperwork was in order, we finally won the case. Aspen came back with us to her permanent home at WolfWood.

**Mojo:** Mojo is 13 and came to us in 2008. His story is not nearly as dramatic as Aspen’s. He was a runaway and came to us from the Durango shelter. He is a big boy, but a true escape artist and has attempted to climb many fences between the enclosures at WolfWood. He is a little shy, but will love anyone if they are patient. Even though he is almost twice Aspen’s age and much less active, they are great friends and love living together.

## 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. We will see over 50 different organizations this year. 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.

### OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Pine River Library, Cortez Open School, four different Big Brother and Big Sister's After School Programs, Purgatory Resort, Durango Nature Studies Center, Florida Mesa School, Hope Christian School, Farmington High School, Career Day Dolores, San Juan Outdoor Club, Esperanza School, Open Shutter Gallery, Humane Society Camp, Cub Scout Jamboree, Cortez and Pagosa Schools, three Girl Scout Troops, La Plata Family Center, Bayfield After School Program, Wolfe Brewery, Aztec Boys and Girls Club, Just Us Kids, and four interns from Fort Lewis. Many of these programs donated money raised by the kids. We even had two lemonade stands for WolfWood this year. **The support and interaction between kids, local businesses, individuals and the wolves has been amazing and unsurpassed this year. We are truly blessed to be part of the giving community that surrounds WolfWood.**



*The Cub Scout Jamboree*



*As always, Trinity is patient and loving*



*Oakley giving wolf kisses*



*Bruja and our granddaughter Kady*

## VOLUNTEERS

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

**Haley Schanbarger:** Haley is studying biology at FLC and will be graduating in the fall. She loves being around animals and on the river. She wants to continue to volunteer at WolfWood and spend time with the “amazing animals” here.

**Jamie Welbourn:** Jamie graduated this spring with a major in English and a minor in Art. She loves volunteering and wants to continue to work with animals. Her other passions are hiking and watercolor painting.

**Scott Burns:** Scott is an Audio Visual Tech. He lives just a few miles from here and loves to be here with the animals and people of WolfWood.

**Tyler Feldhaus:** Tyler is an FLC student about to graduate. He enjoys being outdoors and loves animals. He wants to base his career around human and animal interaction.

**Emily Rickard:** Emily is a junior at FLC studying English and hopes to be a high school teacher. She spends more time with dogs than people and hopes her experience at WolfWood will help her have a rescue of her own some day.

**Megan Rickey:** Megan is an FLC student who is a huge animal lover with lots of fun energy to spread around. WolfWood is her second home when she is not with her own pups.

**Tom Radcliff:** Tom is also a FLC student. He has done two internships at the refuge and will be graduating soon.



*Jamie and Haley are all smiles*



*Bruja getting pets from Tyler*



*Scott and Justice are best buds*



*LaVonne and Crow, our oldest & youngest volunteer*



*Meg and Siku*

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

*-Margaret Mead*

## THANKS

**The Wolves Say Thank You To Durango Businesses:** We have been very blessed this year and received a variety of donations that have really made a difference to both the care of the animals and to the educational outreach programs WolfWood provides. We want to thank:

**Grassburger, Missing Link & Farmers Fresh Market Ignacio:** For their donation of meat.

**Stone Age:** For their financial contributions and volunteer workday.

**Vantiv employees:** For their matching funds donation and volunteer time.

**Durango Cyclery:** For their financial contribution from the Iron Horse Bicycle Classic.

**La Plata Humane Society:** For their donation of treats.

**Quality Inn:** For their donation of sheets for the animals.

**Ward Electric:** For their respectful treatment of the animals during pole replacement.

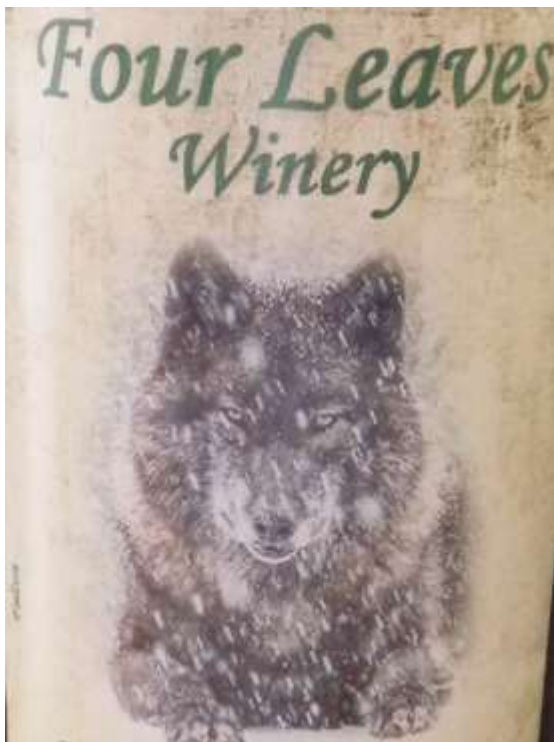
**Wolfe Brewery and Ska Brewery:** For donating their space for fundraising.

**Durango Runner's Club:** For their financial contribution from the Turkey Trot.

***We must protect the forest for those who can't speak for themselves: the birds, animals, fish and trees. Qwatsinas, Nazalk Nation***

*For every single person out there who has helped to support, care for and protect the animals of WolfWood Refuge, we are eternally grateful. You are all wolf angels and we hold you in our hearts.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Once again **Four Leaves Winery** is hosting a preview of our live auction art on **SEPT. 1<sup>st</sup>** from 5-8 pm. Wines will be offered with labels featuring WolfWood wolves. These make great gifts and a large percentage of all sales go to the animals. Last year we sold out so come early for wine, music, art and support the wolves!



Our **Fifth Annual Art Auction** is **SEPT 10<sup>th</sup>** at **DIGS RESTURANT** from 5-9 pm.

This year promises to be bigger and better than ever, with amazing artwork featured in both the silent and live auction. Patrick Crossing will provide the music. Drinks and great food are included in the price of the \$25 ticket, available at the door. Ambassador wolves will be present for petting. Join us in the fun and help make this our most successful year ever!



*THE WOLFWOOD VISITOR CENTER IS FINALLY READY THANKS TO PAULA'S MOM AND DAD'S HARD WORK*



*The first event at Purgatory was a big success*

*Massive work done on the power poles*



*Oakley and Ben "chill" at our first winter event*



*Gravel is always a necessity at the refuge*



*Grassburger loading meat for the wolves*



*Majesty enjoying donated meat*



*Lennette and Darla*



*Workday for local teens*



*New way to push snow*

***Darla is largely responsible for our amazing growth this year. She has worked tirelessly on the administrative aspect of WolfWood.***



*Schools kids love the wolves*



**BILLY**  
Billy is one of the Alaska 9 pack and is a large male wolf in his prime. He was named after one of WolfWood's life long supporters.

**WolfWood Refuge  
2017 Calendar**

**THE NEW 2017 CALENDERS ARE HERE AND AVAILABLE ON LINE! THEY ARE BEAUTIFUL. Supplies limited**

## NEW ARRIVALS



*Nyx*



*Wile E*



*Apollo*

**Nyx:** Nyx is a young wolf, only a year old. She came from Aztec NM. A woman was trying to help her, but Nyx was scared and an escape artist, and after trying to keep Nyx in the house, she realized that was not the life she wanted her to have. She brought Nyx to WolfWood. We kept her in the hospital pen where she became bonded to Paula and got used to her new surroundings. She now lives next to Razi. It is our hope to put them together soon. She is delicately built, but don't let that fool you. She is playful and extremely smart and is quickly becoming a favorite.

**Wile E. Coyote:** This newest member of the family's story is on the first page. We hope he will be able to play with visitors soon. He is going to need a very specialized pen to keep him safe and contained. It is in the design stages now and we hope to have the funding to build it by fall.

**Apollo:** Apollo arrived just as the newsletter was being written. He was mistreated as a puppy and was saved by a young man with whom Craig works. He and his wife provided him with a good home, but a tragic accident in the mine caused massive injuries to Apollo's owner. After multiple surgeries, amputation and fighting for his life, the couple realized that they could no longer keep Apollo. They must move to a city with adequate and close medical care. Everyone was very sad, including Apollo. He misses his family very much. As soon as he is out of isolation, we want to give him an enclosure and a friend. This was an emergency rescue and an escape proof pen will have to be built because one is not available now.





## IN LOVING MEMORY



*Avalanche*



*Sita*



*Mama Kitty*



*Tigger*



*Mama Kitty's legacy*



*Wanda and Lulu*

**Avalanche:** Avalanche came to us as a malamute puppy in 2004. Since she had no wolf in her she was adopted out to a friend. After a divorce and several moves she could not keep Avalanche and she returned her to us. Avalanche lived a long and happy life at WolfWood with Mojo and Aspen. She was a big, friendly girl who loved her food!

**Sita:** Sita was a member of the Alaska Nine Pack and her death was a shock and very devastating to everyone here. After we found her lying in the snow one morning, we had a necropsy performed. Sita died of a massive seizure. She is Torq's half sister, and Torq has seizures also. He is on medication, but this was Sita's first one. It was a major loss and one we are still recovering from.

**Mama Kitty:** For many years WolfWood has had a tribe of feral cats. The matriarch of the tribe was Mama Kitty. She has ruled for 12 years. She was the ultimate mama, taking care of her own daughters, granddaughters and great granddaughters. She was unafraid and loved to lie in the sun and eat. She had a non-operable tumor, and as she got sick her family was always by her side. Her ashes will be scattered with the wolves.

**Tigger:** Anyone who has been to the refuge since 2002 knew Tigger. He was a large and fierce cat that was completely in charge of the house. Tigger came to us as an 8 oz. kitten, clinging to the frame of our mobile home as it was delivered from Grand Junction. When Craig heard the weak mews, he pulled Tigger out. Bottle-feeding wasn't fast enough and Tigger was fed with a syringe. We always told visitors he was the only animal at the refuge that would hurt you on purpose. He was a force to be reckoned with and he left a large empty space in our lives.

**Wanda Carroll:** Wanda was Jeanette's mother, who recently passed away with Jeanette and LuLu by her side. As you can see in one of the last photos of her, Wanda was dearly loved. A donation was made in her honor by Don and Jeanette and will be used to help build Wile E's pen. Her love of animals and life will live on.

*“Wolf..... teach me to know”*