



# The WolfWood Wayfarer

**Winter 2016**

**WolfWood Refuge**

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

## ***State of Grace***

There are many definitions to the word “ Grace.” It can mean elegance or beauty of form or action. It can mean a manifestation of favor or goodwill. Grace can mean mercy, moral strength, or a short prayer. It’s a word that evokes a sense of being somehow connected to the divine. To me, the word Grace has been defined by one very small, very broken puppy. WolfWood is very full. We used our last piece of fencing to house all the new animals that have been rescued recently. I firmly told the volunteers that we could not take in another single wolf until after winter. And then Tina from the Aztec Shelter sent me the picture of an animal she had just received. The little pup had most likely been thrown from a car. She had no front teeth. Her leg was hurt and deformed; she had mange and was badly malnourished. They just did not have the resources to help her. After seeing that little face, what else could we do? We brought her home and named her Grace. Gracie needs strength, both hers and ours. We are in for a long road to recovery. Her cast has to be changed every week. She may be in it for 6 months and there is no guarantee her leg will heal properly. She is on medications for mange and parasites. Her adult teeth will come in eventually, but in the meantime she can’t chew her food well, and that coupled with the fact she is so malnourished makes her throw up a lot. We have to wear special clothes and gloves to be in with her and her blankets must be sanitized every other day. She cannot have a regular doghouse and we wrap her crate in a warm quilt every night. And yet, against all odds, Gracie is growing happier and more beautiful every day. She does a bouncing dance, cast and all, when she sees us coming. She crawls in our lap and snuggles. She is putting on weight and playing with her toys. Gracie may never be defined as elegant, but she is proof of a fundamental belief here at WolfWood: through mercy, goodwill and action we are somehow connected to the divine. That is what allows all of us to live in a state of grace.



*Gracie when she was first found*



*Her first day at WolfWood*



*2 weeks later enjoying a treat*

***“No matter who you are, or where you are, or how tough your situation may seem, I believe you can illuminate your world. In fact, I believe this is the only way the world will ever be illuminated, one bright act of grace at a time.”***  
*Elizabeth Gilbert*

**From all of us at WolfWood: We wish you a Holiday Season and a New Year filled with Light and moments of Grace!**

## MEET OUR WOLVES

In each of our newsletters we feature some of our wolves



*Chai and Wile E.*



*Volunteers from El Moro working on the pen*

### Wile E. and Chai

Last newsletter I introduced you to Wile E., the coyote that lived in my kitchen. I am happy to report that he is out of quarantine (and my kitchen) and is a very happy and healthy little guy. His fur is thick and he is very social. He has been neutered and the only things missing from his life were a friend and a big enclosure. Both of those things have recently become a reality. I got Chai from the Flagstaff Humane Society. She is a beautiful, small, feisty little girl that ended up to be the perfect companion for Wile E. They are close in size, age and energy level. She is definitely the dominant of the two, and that is just fine by Wile E. It looks like they will be friends for life.

Their large enclosure is also almost done. (Check the website and our Facebook page for a “behind the scenes” look at construction.) Keith, Joel and Symone were instrumental in getting this project completed. They did all the designing and fabricating and lots of the construction. A coyote pen has to be even more escape-proof than a wolf pen. It has been challenging. But our super team has done it. A volunteer group from the El Moro Tavern came out for a work day with a great crew that helped get it finished before the snow. Wile E. and Chai moved into their new pen this week. It was a joy to watch them run and play (video on Facebook)



## 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 have seen over 60 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

Hermit Park, Five Branches Campground, Heartwood, Ignacio Library, Cortez schools, SUCAP, Needham Elementary. The Public tours are so popular we have to put a size limit on them. We have done special birthday tours and even had a Burlesque troop come to visit between their shows. **The number and diversity of the people whose lives the wolves touch is ever growing. Thanks to the support of our donors and volunteers, and the patience and love of the animals, we continue to educate and enlighten, connecting people and animals at WolfWood.**



*Trinity and our 2 yr old grandson, Bodhi*



*Trinity remains calm, surrounded by admirers at Five Branches*



*Oakley lowers his head for a pet*



*Dante does well in his first year as an ambassador*

**WolfWood will be closed to the public for the holidays. Paula will be having foot surgery in Jan. so there will be no public tours until March 1<sup>st</sup>. The wolves will be at Durango Ski Resort March 15<sup>th</sup>. We are already scheduling programs and events for 2017. Check our website and Facebook for all the news about where and when to see the WolfWood animals and volunteers!**

## VOLUNTEERS

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



*Tanya and Dr. Lockhart*



*Our Annual Volunteer Party*



*Brian John and Keith waiting out the downpour at Hermit Park*



*Oakley and his favorite person, Ben*



*It is fun to wear a red shirt!*



## THANKS

We are so grateful to everyone who has made this past year our most successful ever. Our fundraisers raised more funds, our events reached more people, the local businesses gave more of their time and donations, our volunteers put in even more effort, our donors have been there for us no matter what, and more faces than ever have been kissed by a wolf! Most importantly we were able to rescue 6 new animals since the last newsletter came out. Most of these animals arrived with intensive medical and social problems. We face a big challenge in 2017, trying to give the best possible care to all the animals, both new and old, here at the refuge. We are so grateful for all of you who make it possible. **YOU ARE ALL WOLF ANGELS!**



*Rolling into Hermit Park with the whole crew*



*Setting up in the dark*



*Build it and they will come, a record-breaking crowd at Hermit*



*Hannah working on painting for Art Auction*



*We also had a record-breaking crowd at the Art Auction enjoying great wine, food and music by Patrick Crossing*



*Bidding on great art donated by generous artists*



*Our friendly and helpful security team*

## NEW ARRIVALS



*Abra*



*Henna*



*Goblin*



*Sienna*

**Abra:** Abra is a very shy and skittish young female. She is from Montana. A woman owned a grooming shop there and kept Abra in a small kennel and Abra was never allowed out. The woman would not give her adequate water because Abra would have to pee too much. Another couple in Utah had Abra's sister, who was loved and well cared for. When they learned that Abra's owner was going to put her down, they went to Montana to get her, hoping she could be re-homed with her sister. It took weeks for Abra to even try to come out of her kennel because it was all she ever knew. After 6 months, and after Abra had jumped off the 10 foot deck, they realized that she was not going to settle into city life. Abra is now at WolfWood and living with Apollo. She is coming out of her shell and finally feels safe enough to run and play.

**Henna:** Henna was a court ordered rescue from the Canon City CO area. She ran loose and killed neighbor's chickens. Her owner said it was ok to shoot her. The District Attorney got involved and ordered Henna to be sent to a refuge. The DA had heard of WolfWood through Brian, one of our volunteers. It took months and the threat of prosecution before Henna was brought to WolfWood by Brian. When she arrived she was in heat. She is a very sweet girl, who loves everyone here. She is now safe and secure and has been spayed. We are hoping to put her in with Archie soon.

**Goblin:** Goblin came to WolfWood from the La Plata County Humane Society. He and Sienna were running loose and Goblin had serious dental issues. He was very thin from not eating. The Humane Society gave him dental surgery and he is quickly gaining weight.

**Sienna:** Sienna had the possibility of being adopted, but Goblin is very attached to her. She may be his mother. The Humane Society did not want to split them up and Goblin was much harder to adopt. They asked if we could help give them a good home and keep them together. They are both happy here and getting healthier every day.

## IN LOVING MEMORY



*Piper*



*Phaedra*



*Kewa*

**Piper:** Piper came to us from the Cortez Shelter. She was elderly, starved and very sick when we got her in 2014. She made a dramatic recovery while living with Trucker. She was our smallest animal but also one of our loudest. Our joke was to say “Piper, pipe down!” She passed away from old age and we were honored to provide her with a great life for her final few years.

**Phaedra:** Phaedra was a beautiful female Artic wolf. She came to us in 2004 with Atlas. She arrived during the Greek Olympics, which is how she got her name. She was shy with some people, but loved others, especially La Vonne. She lived a long and strong life. Phaedra spent her last years with Archie, a much younger male who was devoted to her. She died from complications of aging at 16. We will miss her beauty and her deep baritone howl that could be heard drifting down from the top of the hill.

**Kewa:** Kewa arrived at WolfWood in 2004, with his mother and brother. They were at Best Friends in Kanab Utah. Their owner had committed suicide and left them with nothing. Best Friends brought them to us and helped pay for their enclosure at the very top of our hill. For years they were one of the pens visitors loved to go in. He was always one of our most handsome boys and very dedicated to his mom. After she died he went to live in the enclosure with Sammy. Kewa was very happy here, but at 16 his health was rapidly deteriorating, with blindness and lameness causing him to have great difficulty getting around. He also seemed to be in pain, despite his daily medication. In an act of love and respect for Kewa, we decided to let him go before Christmas.

**“When a dog loves you,  
you feel flattered.  
When a wolf befriends you,  
you will be moved close to tears.”  
Anonymous**

*“Wolf..... teach me to know*