



The WolfWood Wayfarer

Winter 2018
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Welcome to our twenty-sixth newsletter

SAYING YES

I don't know about you, but WolfWood has had a very rough year. Animals had major surgeries and difficult recoveries. Our educational program had to be entirely redone. Volunteers have lost spouses and loved ones. Members have had traumatic accidents and illnesses. Fires have affected us all, but especially one volunteer whose house burned to the ground. Relationships have come apart and reformed. But through it all, no matter what, the most outstanding thing I realized is, in a world that is constantly saying No.... WolfWood is a place that says YES!

We say Yes to each other, to our community, and to the animals that need our help. Let me give you an example of things that came up in one week, besides our usual busy schedule. Durango School District got a grant to do a film about how math applies in the real world and they chose to do it at WolfWood. A woman had stage four brain cancer and her biggest wish was to see the wolves. The Southern Ute Tribe asked us to bring the wolves to an opening reception at their cultural museum which turned out to be the most well attended opening in the museum's history. Which of those things could we say no to? How can we? So the volunteers and the animals rise to the occasion and we say YES.

Our biggest Yes happened at the worst possible time. There had been a problem in Pagosa for quite a while with an animal hoarder. We had been aware of the situation and had been asked to help. There were legal issues that made the situation tricky, but the woman's claim was that all the animals were a "pure strain of wolfdog." She was evicted from the house she was in and the animals had been left behind. We got the call. We had a very small window to get the animals to safety. As I rushed home from Salida, I called my crew at the refuge. They got all the trailers, trucks and equipment, and we rushed to save them. We had to have a sheriff standby. We got all the animals out in less than 2 hours. We got them out of basement closets, stairwells; we crawled under chicken coops, dealing with feces and other disgusting things everywhere. And we quickly realized not one of them had an ounce of wolf in them. But what could we do, leave them? So we said YES.

I have never been prouder of my volunteers. Even though they are hurting, recovering, working full time jobs, exhausted and overwhelmed: they say Yes and Yes and Yes. We saved 17 animals, our biggest rescue ever! We are not alone in this. If it were not for your constant and generous support we would not have the resources we need so that when we are asked, "Will you save these hurt and abused animals," we can say YES.



Five of the Nine Puppies Rescued From Pagosa

NEW ARRIVALS



Chaco



Liri



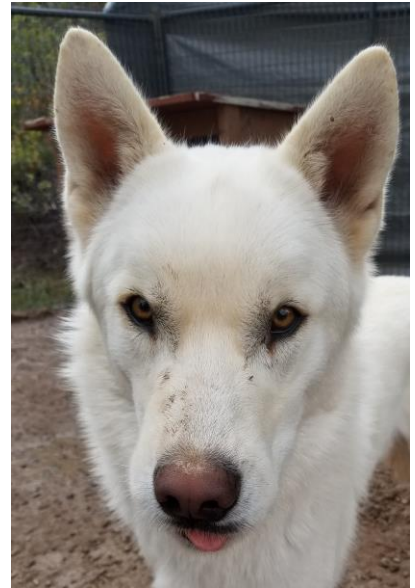
Danu



Zora



Wookie



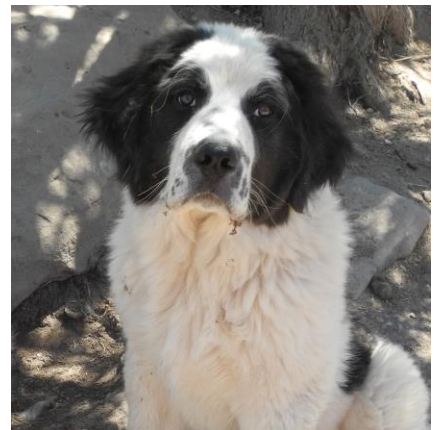
Yuma



Aretha



Rudy



Gideon

Chaco and Liri: Chaco and Liri came from Ohio. They were kept in a residential area. They had to be crated at night and Liri had to be on a chain during the day. They were brought here by their owner because she wanted a better situation for them. Chaco is 5 and Liri is 2. They love living in the pen by the house. Liri is an excellent singer and often gets the whole hill howling. Chaco has become a great ambassador and did a good job this year.

Danu: Danu is our most recent addition. She is not quite 3. She is beautiful, sweet and brilliant. She is an amazing escape artist and keeps us on our toes. She is also an excellent singer and she and Liri often have duets. Her owners had to move and couldn't handle her. She will live with Archie as soon as she is recovered from being spayed. She is an engaging and challenging addition to our family.

Zara and Wookie: These two are part of the Pagosa 17, our biggest rescue ever. (see first page) They are a year old and very shy and unsocialized. Because they cannot be pets, we are keeping them here at WolfWood. They will soon move to a large pen.. They are very attached to each other. Zora had parvo and we are pleased to announce she has made a full recovery. Wookie got his name because he sounds exactly like Chewbacca.

Yuma and Rudy: These guys are also part of the Pagosa 17 and not socialized. They are best friends. Yuma is 3 and Rudy is 1. After neutering we hope to put them with Zara and Wookie in a large pen together. They are starting to play with us and like hotdogs.

Aretha: Aretha got her name because she is a big girl. We decided to keep her to put in with Aldo, who is very lonely. She loves Paula and has a funny and outgoing personality. She is a good big sister to Bandit, adopted by Elizabeth, who comes to visit when "mom" is working at the refuge. She is a cutie who loves attention. We think she will make a good companion. She is 12 weeks old.

Gideon: The loss of Kohl, the refuge's guard dog, left a big hole in our hearts and in the security of WolfWood. The wolves, volunteers, and especially Paula, depended on him for peace of mind and the announcing of any strangers.

This is where Gideon's story starts, with the need for a new guardian and with the generous offer from Jennifer and Billy Richardson of Cane Creek Run in Kentucky, who donated the 8 week old Anatolian/ Pyrenees puppy to Wolfwood. Gideon is now 8 months old and weighs 115 lbs. He lives with Jinn, who is crazy in love with him.

This is only the beginning of Gideon's story. He has some really big pawprints to fill, but he has made a good start. He is a great ambassador. The wolves like his calming influence and the public likes his big, goofy personality. He is a regular on the tours.

We are not sure he will make a good guard dog, but one thing we know for sure: the size of his heart, his gentle nature and sweet spirit are all in keeping with Kohl's legacy. Gideon the Guardian is now permanently part of the pack and part of the continuing story of WolfWood.



***HAVE THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS
AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!
FROM ALL OF US AT WOLFWOOD***

Kids and Canines

With Oakley out all summer and the loss of Trinity, we were very concerned about the impact on our educational outreach programs. But with the amazing dedication and stamina of the WolfWood volunteers, and the patience and love of the animals that went out as ambassadors, we were able to do more events and tours than ever before. Our growing popularity and reputation have allowed us to reach more people in our work to educate and dispel myth and misinformation about these special animals.



Chaco says Hi to children at events



Brian comes from Denver to help



Our amazing merchandising team



Local business volunteers from El Moro & Stone Age



Our annual fundraiser at Four Leaves Winery, another generous Durango business supporter





Our program at Five Branches Campground



Ra getting belly rubs at Hermit Park



Elizabeth showing art and a smile



The live auction crowd at our Annual Art Fundraiser



Ben consoling O for staying home



“Wolfie” with friends at Purgatory

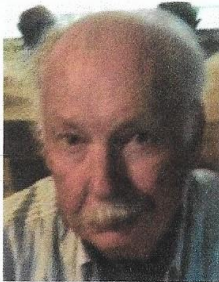


Trinity working her last public tour



It was a very scary summer at WolfWood with the constant threat of fire. We want to thank everyone who worked so hard on our fire plan. Many improvements were made and we had lots of help from experts. This is a picture of us moving one of the evacuation trailers to the top of the property for easier loading. We cut a fire line all the way around the property, made tags for the pens, had practice with equipment and feel much more prepared. We will continue to refine and revise the plan as needed.

Dennis F. Dittman



Dennis F Dittman passed away January 3, 2018 at age 72. He was an artist, musician, historian and owner of Antique Restoration Studio in both Denver and Bayfield Colorado. Previously, in Wisconsin he was the owner of Golden Eagle in Dousman and Tru Grain in Genesee. Dennis was a craftsman with some of his restored pieces going to museums or sold by major auction houses. As a historian, he'd talk to customers for hours about the items they brought him, or details about where they were born. Sadly, it seems the exposure to all the chemicals used refinishing furniture contributed to his struggles with bladder cancer, dementia and untimely passing. He will be missed by his mother Anna Mae Quesnell Schwister, sister Darla Lange along with niece Naomi Lange and nephew Ryan Lange.

Our hearts go out to Darla. She had a tough year, losing her brother, and caring for her son who had a major injury. Yet she continued to help the animals here at WolfWood by tirelessly working on PR and promotion. She gives so much and we appreciate all her time and effort.



Rodger at an event



Rodger and La Vonne

Rodger De Forest was a volunteer here at WolfWood for several years. He passed away due to mesothelioma. He cared about the animals and did a lot to maintain the four-wheelers we use every day. He came for feeding days and events and loved to spend time with his favorite wolves. His memorial service was held at the refuge and attended by friends and family. We will miss his humor and his presence.

Lennette is another volunteer who had a particularly rough year. She lost her husband. Her brother Tim, who also volunteered, had a stroke. And she lost her house and everything she owned in a terrible fire. As always, the WolfWood family was there to help and support her and her family during this tragic time. And as always, Lennette continued to work with the animals and to be part of all the events. Her courage and resilience have been an example to us all. Both she and Darla exemplify the quote by Gibran, "Work is love made visible."

VOLUNTEERS

WolfWood has an 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.



Morgan and Stella



Camera hog and Sabrina



Kody and his famous smile with Shawnee

Morgan Henderson: Morgan is a sociology intern and a Colorado native. She has loved all animals her whole life. She has made such a positive impact here at WolfWood with her hard work and dedication.

Sabrina Quazza: Sabrina is also enrolled at Ft. Lewis for Sociology and Native American Indigenous Studies. She loves animals and children and WolfWood is the perfect place to interact with both. She has jumped right in and made a difference with her positive attitude and work ethic.

Shawnara Troup: Shawnara grew up in Ignacio. She started volunteering just a few months ago. She has been involved in a variety of tasks that have made her realize how much she loves WolfWood and interacting with the animals. She is creative, talented and a real asset to us.

Wolf Cure

*Twice a week I throw myself to the wolves
They surround me and go for my face
Put my hair in their mouths
Look at me with their slanted eyes
Wet pointed noses exploring me*

*They howl in my ear, a clear thin tune
Like some ghosts mourning times long gone by
It rises and falls crescendos into deafening discord
Until all there is in the world is the wolf howl
It stills my rapid-fire heart*

by Emily Rickard (WolfWood Volunteer)

*When they rub their bodies against mine
It mends the fraying of my nerves
I become them
They become me
When they smother me
In their musky coarse fur*

IN LOVING MEMORY



Ruki



Orley



Sheba with baby Gideon



Tavi



Kohl



Trinity with Paula's grandson Bodhi

RUKI: Ruki came to us in 2007. He was a young, energetic animal. He became a companion to Ghost. “The Boys” as they were known, became best friends and volunteer favorites. But Ruki’s favorite volunteer was Keith, and the only one he let take care of him when he was in public. Ghost and Ruki always lived in an enclosure next to the house. We miss watching their antics out of the window and most of all Ruki’s great smile.

ORLEY: Orley came to WolfWood in 2009 when he was 2. He came from the Ute Reservation. He was always a shy animal, not wanting any petting. He would take hotdogs from us and he lived with Siku his entire life at the refuge. He was happy with her and she misses him.

SHEBA: We called Sheba “Saint Sheba” because of her unending patience with the young animals we always put her in with. She was a foster mom to Jinn, and in her final days, to Gideon. She came from a private party in Ignacio in 2014. She became an ambassador animal and loved everybody. She was always happy, even at the end of her amazing life, when she succumbed to thyroid cancer.

TAVI: Tavi came to us in 2007 from Delta, CO. Starved and abused, it took us over a month to get her here. She needed physical rehabilitation and socialization. She remained shy her whole life, only letting Elizabeth pet her. She was 14 when she passed away.

KOHL: Kohl has literally been front and center since the day he arrived in 2006 as an 8 week old puppy. He originally came from the LPCHS to be a companion for Tonka. What happened was unexpected. Not only was he a perfect pen mate, he also was in charge of protecting WolfWood. He did an excellent job of taking care of both the people and animals here. We miss not only his sweet face, but the amazing job he took very seriously his whole life. There is not enough room here to sing his praises or tell his whole story, but it is on our website and Facebook page. He cannot be replaced.

TRINITY: Trinity was known by everyone who has had anything to do with WolfWood. She was the core of our educational program and the best ambassador animal we ever had. She has influenced thousands of lives, and was the heart of the refuge for the past 10 years. It is still very difficult to write about her. For one thing it is impossible to say enough about what she did for WolfWood. She was loving and generous with her attention and patience. Jeannette wrote a beautiful tribute to her, again on the website. We knew we were going to lose her to sinus cancer. All of us fought hard, including Trinity herself, to have as much time possible. Every moment was cherished.

Wolf.....Teach me to Know