



The WolfWood Wayfarer

Winter 2019

WolfWood Refuge

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Welcome to our twenty-seventh newsletter

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

"For the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack"

Rudyard Kipling

I have, of course, heard this quote many times. But its significance has never been more apparent than over the course of this last year. It has been an extremely difficulty year, both emotionally and physically. I lost my beloved father this year and am still devastated on a daily basis. Even writing this is hard, because my dad edited and contributed to every newsletter, in fact, every piece of writing, I have ever done. I am battling what appear to be major health issues that sap my strength and endurance, qualities I have always relied on. Having these two major bed stones of my life torn away has forced me to rely on others, something that is inherently difficult for me, having been the "strong one" all my life. But I have a pack, and that makes all the difference.

The lesson I have learned this past year is that, regardless of anything that happens to the individuals involved, and believe me, I am not the only one that has had a rough year, Wolfwood is on solid ground. The animals are given excellent care. Education and events happen with enthusiasm and vision. When one of us is struggling, others are there to help carry the load in any way they can. This strength and concern for all the members of our WolfWood family, both four and two legged, I believe, stems from a common belief, that the animals come first and that we are responsible for those we have saved.

The human pack at WolfWood is diverse and far-flung. People leave, but are still connected. People come and bring new life and energy. Through it all, and most importantly, the people of WolfWood show up. They are present when there is a need. They pass humor, honor, strength, compassion, hard work, and yes, even pain and sorrow, back and forth, one to the other, as if this were a common thing, the way it is supposed to be. And I believe, that it is supposed to be that way. That people, like wolves, are meant to have a loving pack, even the strongest of us. It is how we can survive. So here is my New Year's wish for all of you. May you find yourself surrounded by a pack that cares, that works hard, that supports you no matter what. May you be an integral part of something larger than yourself. May you learn to trust and draw strength from those around you. May you know you are important and that you matter. May you recognize and be grateful when you have it. I do, and it makes a difference.



***Wishing you love and strength enough to make a difference!
Happy Holidays and a Blessed New Year from the WolfWood Pack***

NEW ARRIVALS: Saving Lives and Making a Difference

MOKI: Moki came to us from the Los Angeles SPCA. He flew into Denver where volunteers picked him up and transported him to his new home at WolfWood. Moki spent time in the hospital pen getting neutered and acclimating to his new life. He had spent his whole life on a chain and does not know how to interact with other canines. He lives at the top of the hill and loves his view. We are hoping to put him and Xena together very soon. He is a handsome 5-year old who loves the volunteers. We are glad we could save him and offer him a better life.

XENA: Xena is a rambunctious 2 yr old female. She came from Tulsa OK where she was running loose. She was in a foster home and then placed with a family, but that did not work out and she was returned to the foster home. But wolf/dogs are illegal in Tulsa so our volunteers drove out to get her. She is a big bouncy girl who is going to make a good ambassador once she matures a little. She loves everyone and we hope her and Moki can become pen friends.

ROXY: Roxy came to us from a private individual in Aspen Co. She was allowed to run loose and got in trouble with other animals. She is a 7-year old female and while she loves all people, finding her a pen friend will be a challenge. For now she enjoys her neighbors, Abra and Apollo, but only through the fence.

AKULA: Of all the animals we have rescued recently, Akula presents the biggest challenge. She came from the Foothills Animals Shelter. We were contacted by another wolf rescue that could not take her even though she was on death row. Unfortunately, Akula has had a very rough life and wants no one to touch her at all. Our volunteers went to get her and it was a challenge to get her safely into the travel pen. She is only 1½ years old so we are holding out hope and working with her everyday. But, there is a long way to go. She will be placed with another animal very soon, and we think she will really respond in a positive way.

VOLUNTEERS: We were very fortunate this year to have added some great and much needed volunteers to our WolfWood Family. Chris and Kyle recently moved close by and have jumped in to help with zest and vigor. They come to feedings, special events and not-so-fun days, like vaccination day. Ashley and Brittany are Fort Lewis students who show up for the animals in spite of a busy school schedule. We are happy to have the young blood and enthusiasm of these students. Not as young, but certainly as enthusiastic, Dave has joined the regular feeding days. No one can lift a panel like Dave and he gave us all a lesson on wiring! The animals love him and the feeling is mutual. Last but not least, Kady, Paula's granddaughter, and Ryan have come to live at the refuge while they go to college. Kady has been coming to the refuge every summer since she was born and knows all the ins and outs of refuge life. They are a great addition and lots of help. WolfWood could never be the special and active place it is without the help of all the volunteers and supporters. We are blessed and grateful for you all!

YOU ARE ALL WOLF ANGELS



Roxy loves people



Akula does not



Moki and Xena - We hope they will become penmates



Chris and Xena, both new abassadors



Dave and Craig taking a rare break

KIDS AND CANINES: Impacting Lives and Making a Difference

Victoria
Dear Paula thank you so
much For Leting us see
the WOLFS, thank you
For leting us pet the wolfs.
thank you for teaching us
about the wolfs, thank
for Being Born!

Dear Paul and Craig I loved
the wolves you guys have
great passion keep following
Your dream you guys
are wonder full people
When I left that place
I wanted to cry when
I saw your place
I wanted to start following
my dream. - Marissa

Dear Mr Craig and Mrs Paula
Thank you so much for
Inviting us to come out
to your sanctuary.
It was an unique experience
and memmorable.
Thank you for the teaching
us all about wolves.
Thanks for your time
Wyatt Keenan

Dear Wolfwood,
thank you so much for this tour, it was
one of the best birthdays ever! You are a great
role model teaching all of us to follow our
dreams. I hope you will be able to do
this as long as you live and that more
children will appreciate what you do as much
as I!
P.S. My favorite is Oakley
- Aaron Varley



I want to say thank you
for this wonderful trip you let
us go on it was a great experience
it was kind of life changing.
thank you for all you do
you are great people love.
Dominic Grady
Ps I Love all the wolf kisses
I got.

IN LOVING MEMORY: Changing Lives and Making a Difference



Sammy when he first came to WolfWood and Sammy after we became his permanent home



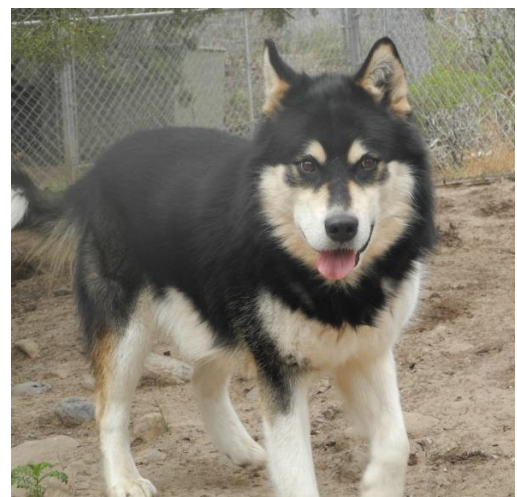
Finn enjoying the view



Aldo on the move



Echo playing with Pan



Justice always had a smile



Nikki on arrival and after time with us

For the full, beautifully written stories on animals that have gone beyond this year, written by our web master, John O'Brien, check our website at: http://www.wolfwoodrefuge.org/index.php?page=passed_on_wolves

SAM: Sam was one of our dog residents. He was part of a hoarding situation and we were asked to take him by our state inspector. He could not find a home anywhere else. He was a good companion animal to several of our wolf/dogs in his lifetime and made amazing progress here at WolfWood. He was happy in his own way and we are glad we gave him a good and better life.

FINN: We took Finn from the Aztec shelter because they couldn't help him. He was emaciated and would not eat. He had been beaten when he ate and associated food with pain. He had vision problems and could only see blurs. All of this led him to shake, bark, and hide. We worked hard at putting weight on him and getting him to trust us. We had Finn for almost 5 years and in that time he made a remarkable recovery. He would travel to schools with us and meet hundreds of students. He was one of our favorite dogs to have called WolfWood home.

ECHO: Echo was a friendly, sweet, little girl who came from the Larimer Shelter with her brother Pan who had already passed in 2017. Echo gave great kisses and was a favorite among the volunteers. She developed very painful arthritis in her spine and we treated her with medication as long as possible. We were discussing if we should let her go, but Echo made the decision for us. It was a joy to have her in our lives.

JUSTICE: Justice was a long time resident at WolfWood. He was a dog that came to us from a private party in Ignacio where he lived in a very small pen. The neighbors complained about him and threatened him because he was a barker. He lived with Ipo and enjoyed a life of being in charge and eating his hotdogs as treats. He was fat, sassy, and full of fun.

NIKKI: Nikki was also one of our dog residents. He came to us from Texas and had very severe heartworm when we got him. It was so bad we could not give him the conventional treatment. He was in terrible shape and so malnourished he could not stand up without wobbling. We put him on a special diet and a strict medical treatment plan. We went about teaching him that people could be kind and compassionate. He had 4 years of a happy life before succumbing to complications of his heartworm. We are proud of the progress Nikki made and how he came to love us.

ALDO: Aldo was living in a car with his owner. When he got to the rescue he moved in with Trinity, who he adored. He was a big, handsome guy, but early on he was bitten by a brown recluse spider and barely survived. We believe he died due to damage done by that spider bite. He had his favorite volunteers, but was very sad when Trinity passed. Even though we had him 6 years, it was too short a time.

EDUCATION AND EVENTS: Linking Lives and Making a Difference

WolfWood added two very successful events to our already very busy schedule of educational outreach programs.

Sorrell Sky Gallery in Durango hosted a benefit art event featuring Ed Aldrich. This was the first of its kind for Sorrell Sky. The space, time, and energy the staff provided to WolfWood made for a beautiful and successful evening. Ed generously donated paintings for sale and as a prize for those who attended. Karen Littfin, Bryce Pettit, Bernd Wolf, and Monique Holiday Art also provided art. Ed and other artists have supported the animals every year and this time they outdid themselves.

Manna Soup Kitchen catered the wonderful food. They have a program that teaches their clients the skills of the food industry, and let me tell you, these folks were at the top of the class. The hard working people at Manna donated delicious food and professional service.

The quality and success of this event was such a testament to what business, the art community, and non-profits can accomplish together for a greater good. We are honored and proud to have been the recipient of such kindness. The money raised helped build new shelters for the wolves this winter and allowed us to build a new pen for our recent rescues.

Silverton: Equally exciting and successful was our first ever event in Silverton. Rarely have we had such a warm and kind welcome by both individuals, and businesses in town. It was well attended and the animals felt safe and comfortable there. The Durango Silverton Train allowed us to have volunteers on the train to tell everyone about the event. You can be sure we will be back next year!



“Ambassador” painting of Oakley donated for the Sorrell Sky event.

Wolf.....Teach me to Know