

Wolf Print

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Issue 45 Spring 2012

Song of the South

Cornelia Hutt on restoring and protecting America's 'other wolf'

- A wolf called Hilda — Josip Kusak writes about 'his' wolf
- The Wolves of Yellowstone - Kirsty Peake reports

■ NEWS ■ EVENTS ■ MEDIA AND ARTS ■ REVIEWS



Editor's Letter

A happy New Year and welcome to the spring 2012 issue of Wolf Print. It's going to be a busy year for us at the Trust – with 12 wolves we have our hands full! I know I'm looking forward to seeing our rapidly growing cubs graduating and starting their ambassadorial roles. They are going to love meeting all of you! The Arctic trio are now out of quarantine and are getting used to the sights outside of their enclosure. They have started meeting the rest of our volunteer team and will, when ready, start taking part in members' walks and other events at the Trust. The Beenham Pack have, as we go to print, starting taking part in members' walks and seem to be loving every minute. Full updates as to just what all of our wolves have been up to over the winter can be found on pages 4 to 7.

We had some fascinating speakers visit us at the Trust from all over the world at the Annual Seminar during Wolf Awareness Week and a huge thank you goes out to them all. We all very much enjoyed listening to them and learning from their experiences. A full round-up of what happened during Wolf Awareness Week can be found on pages 6 and 7. We hope to have more of you getting involved later this year as we celebrate this special week for the third year - more details next time.

Our photographic days are back on our event list this year and are already filling up quickly. There are also plenty of children's activities planned for the school holidays, so why not get involved with your children and join us for a bit of fun over the coming months? We are holding three open days again this year and dates of these can be found in the events section on the back cover. These are suitable for the whole family with something to interest everyone from snakes to birds of prey and, of course, our lovely wolves. We are planning some new events for 2012 and I look forward to giving you more information as plans progress..

We welcome a new director, Linda Malliff, (see page 4) and also our new Assistant Education Officer, Danny Kidby-Hunter (more next issue). We have continued supporting many different wolf-related projects in 2011 with a total of just over £25,000 donated during the year; more details on page 5.

I really hope you enjoy this edition of Wolf Print and will continue to follow us and the wolves over the coming years. If you have any comments or suggestions for articles you would like to see included, or projects you think we should support please let us know.

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Wolf Print



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Aims of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

- To increase public awareness and knowledge of wild wolves and their place in the ecosystem.
- To provide opportunities for ethological and other research that may improve the lives of wolves both in captivity and in the wild.
- To provide wolf-related education programmes for young people and adults.
- To raise money to help fund wolf-related conservation projects around the world.

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Director's Letter

Massak and Linda Malliff by Tom Lord



helping out at the various events. This allows the wolves time to get used to a new person on site and become comfortable seeing them around. They will then progress through various stages of

responsibility before becoming a wolf handler. At this stage they will have responsibility for a wolf on a lead in public. Many of you will have met these handlers when attending the Wolf Trust for a Members' Walk.

Sadly, not all of our volunteers or staff may reach handler status and this is largely determined by the animals themselves. If a wolf shows a continued lack of respect, avoidance or complete disinterest towards someone in training then this person will be unable to handle an animal at a public event.

Once volunteers or staff reach the grade of handler they are continually assessed as the wolves can change as they mature. Some wolves who were accepting of certain people when they were two or three years of age may react entirely differently when they reach five or six. Hormones may also play a part in how a wolf reacts to its handler; additional care is taken as the wolves move into breeding season due to aggression levels increasing.

Staff and volunteers are expected to attend regular training sessions. These sessions are designed to educate in wolf behaviour and provide an understanding of the wolves' facial expressions and body language. Understanding the animal ensures a greater respect between human and wolf and allows the two to work in harmony.

Although many people who visit us think the wolves look like some breeds of dog, wolves are completely different. One of

our key training messages is how to manage the animal's behaviour in a non-confrontational manner. Wolves learn both good and bad habits very quickly and can learn from just one experience so it is essential we aim to keep our handling as uniform as possible to ensure a safe and continued relationship between handler and wolf.

When working with dangerous animals safety is paramount and handlers of every grade are constantly supervised and supported in the carrying out of their duties by a team of 15 senior grades. Between us we probably have an average of more than 10 years' experience with the wolves. We have also had the experience of hand-rearing most of the animals and looking after them right through until old age, which in itself is hugely beneficial in understanding the psyche of a wolf.

We have five packs of wolves on site:

Duma and Lunca

Both seasoned professionals but now heading towards 14 and 13 respectively. With associated aging issues such as failing eyesight and hearing particular care is taken to ensure both animals are aware of everything going on around them.

Torak and Mosi

Although both of these wolves enjoy walking with us they prefer not to be stroked by anyone other than their handlers. Torak in particular is a very wary wolf.

Pukak, Sikko and Massak

These animals have wonderful temperaments and are sometimes just way too friendly! Being young animals means care must be taken to encourage good behaviour and avoid negative experiences that can have an impact for many years to come.

Tala, Tundra and Nuka

This is our youngest pack on site and the young wolves have been responding extremely well to all their socialisation and walk training. They're each a bundle of joy and being so young the handlers have their work cut out keeping them calm and focussed!

As I write in the last quarter of 2011 we've had an exceptionally busy year at the Wolf Trust. By the end of 2011 we will have held in excess of 300 events on site – our busiest year ever. These events vary from members' walks, wolf keeper days and children's fun events to visits from schools and colleges, and not forgetting our wonderful Howl Nights! The Trust also held three Open Days in 2011 which were incredibly well attended.

Staff and Volunteer Training

With all these different events going on and the enchanting animals we have at the Trust it's sometimes easy to forget the people who help to make these events happen – the staff and volunteers of the UKWCT. We currently have five members of staff and just over 50 volunteers who assist with all of the events held at the Trust.

As you can imagine with such varying types of events, and with some having wolf interaction, training is an important part of everyone's life at the UKWCT. In addition, having wolves of various ages and temperaments means different techniques have to be applied.

Volunteers must commit to a minimum of two days attendance per month which we believe is the minimum time required to form any relationship with the wolves.

When volunteers and staff start with us they have no wolf contact for some time and will gradually be assessed for their suitability to work with the wolves. Their time will be spent cleaning kennels and

Donations update

In December 2011 the UK Wolf Conservation Trust made the following donations :

£1,281 – USA: Living With Wolves Foundation

£500 – USA: Wolf Park, in memory of Erich Klinghammer

£1,000 – Croatia: Zagreb Veterinary Institute

£2,500 – Armenia: ICA Livestock Guardian Dog project

That brings the total donated this year to a little over £25,000. Two of these projects are new to the Trust and there will be further information about both in the summer edition of Wolf Print.

◀ Motomo and Mai

These are the parents of Tala, Tundra and Nuka. Although Mai is a very people-friendly wolf Motomo is unsocialised which means great care must be taken when entering or working around their enclosure.

As you can see we have to adopt a different strategy with each pack which keeps all of us on our toes! There are now five of us on the training team: Angela Barrow, Alex Paul, Clive Longbottom, Sean Kavanagh and me. We each enjoy participating in these training days and passing on information, whether through our own personal experiences or general observations that have occurred during our many years with the wolves.

We look forward to meeting many of you at one of our events throughout 2012.

*Linda Malliff – Senior Handler.
Director, UK Wolf Conservation Trust.*

Linda started volunteering at the trust in 2000, and has developed a positive relationship with wolves, volunteers and staff in this time. Her breadth of experience and commitment is widely acknowledged and led to Linda's appointment in 2011 as a Director of the Trust along with her existing position as a Senior Handler. Further information can be found at www.ukwolf.org

Erich Klinghammer 1930-2011

It was with great sadness that I heard of the recent death of Dr Erich Klinghammer of Wolf Park, USA. He was undoubtedly one of the wolf's greatest advocates and contributed a vast amount of knowledge on the behaviour of wolves in captivity. It is easy to forget how hard it was to study the details of wolf behaviour in the wild until the work on the Ellesmere Island Arctic wolves and the Yellowstone reintroduction, both of which have allowed close up research in the field. At one time places such as Wolf Park were the only chance to get up close and personal with the animals, and the Park's system for hand-raising wolf pups enabled observation, environmental enrichment and veterinary intervention whilst still allowing the wolves to express their natural social behaviour. In addition, Erich developed techniques for studying wolf predator prey dynamics using captive bison. Over thirty-odd years this has never led to injury for either wolves or bison but has certainly led to some exciting moments.

Erich was in every way a larger-than-life character. At well over six foot tall, a pronounced German accent and a very forthright personality he exuded charisma which seemed to have a similar effect on both humans and wolves! I got to know him back in 1986 just after the launch of the Wolf Society of Great Britain. One of the founder members of the Society, Colin Elford, had somehow managed to come across Wolf Park, not an easy task in pre-Internet days, and in fact I never did discover where he came across the information. Initial contact led quickly to a visit to the UK in order for us to run a small seminar. I can still vividly remember getting a phone call at 4.00am from Erich the day he was to arrive. Erich always steadfastly ignored time differentials between the US and Europe. To make matters worse my enquiry as to whether there was anything he could not eat led to the revelation that he was on a Macrobiotic diet. As a host, not a good piece of information to receive at 4 o'clock in the morning!

The seminar, a great success, was combined with other dubious delights such as Erich opening our front door and allowing one of our Siberian Huskies to escape resulting in a high speed chase across the nearby housing estate. Erich appeared surprised by this behaviour



Erich and Venus © Wolf Park, USA

and was equally surprised that his standing on a mound and howling loudly failed to cause our Huskies to return when we later went for a walk on the local common! We also had quite an interesting time as he proceeded to accost bemused walkers to explain the behaviours of their dogs to them in a loud German/American accent. Remember, this was in the days of Barbara Woodhouse, before the average member of the public had ever given a thought to wolves or their relationship to domestic dogs. Erich was also extremely interested in food and at his insistence we visited Harrods Food Hall in London. Well, I won't even begin to relate the embarrassment involved in that visit!

After Erich's first visit I went to Indiana to participate in one of Wolf Park's one week behavioural seminars where I met Pat Goodmann, Monty Sloan and many other wolfy folk. It was all a great revelation to me in the days when accurate information was so hard to get. It was to have a profound influence on me and formed the basis of a lasting friendship. A few years later the Wolf Society ran a much more ambitious two-day event with Erich at Surrey University. On that occasion, one of the UK's greatest wolf enthusiasts, Roger Palmer, attended, and the rest, as they say, is history. The UK Wolf Conservation Trust was born as a direct result of this meeting.

Erich had unending enthusiasm for wolves and indeed for people and he will be most sorely missed. Fortunately for the wolfy community, Wolf Park, has been left in secure hands and continues Erich's legacy of caring for the needs of all wolves in captivity and supporting their conservation in the wild through education.

Sue Hull, Director

Wolf Awareness Week: The UKWCT Annual Seminar



The 2011 speakers, left to right: Carter Niemeyer, Prof Garry Marvin, Vladimir Bologov, Dr Claudio Sillero, Troy Bennett

Five fascinating speakers at the Trust's seminar gave us much to consider, namely: what is the wolf's place in the world? Speakers were Carter Niemeyer, author of *Wolfer* and ex federal trapper, Vladimir Bologov – top Russian biologist, Professor Claudio Sillero – Ethiopian Wolf Conservationist, Professor Garry Marvin – Professor of Human-Animal Studies at Roehampton University and Troy Bennett – professional shepherd and survival expert.

Carter's *Wolf Recovery in America's Northern Rockies: Where Do We Go From Here?* established that 'people are the problem' and that it is increasingly important to learn from the past and move forward, rather than stagnating in prejudice. 'Ranchers want to be in charge of self-destiny. Wolves are seen as thieves and ranchers feel they have no control.' Clearly, hysteria and sensationalist talk will always surround the wolf. To some, it will forever be a big, mean diseased killer. Posters designed to incite fear and loathing, with incendiary slogans like 'Wolf is the Saddam Hussein of The Animal World', mean that conversion of the die-hard haters is not realistic.

Carter also opened some lines of discussion that many of us may not have considered: Hunters complain of a lack of prey. They claim this prey is repeatedly 'snatched' by wolves. But why then do they use noisy and intrusive all-terrain vehicles, rather than quieter and ultimately more productive methods?

Wolf management needs 'science-based state management.' Carter also

advocated non-lethal methods of control, such as fladry or guard-box alarms that trigger noises to frighten predators. There is clearly a need to challenge 'convenient myths' – like wolves being infested with tapeworms.

Vladimir gave us a glimpse into life as a biologist and researcher at Chisty

Les Biological Station, approximately 450km northwest from Moscow. His photographs were astonishing, showing the variety of animals rescued and raised by the centre – a testament to patience, hard work and passion for his work. They also gave a sense of the wild terrain, dotted with tiny villages. There are approximately 40-50,000 wolves in Russia. Wolf cubs are often sold to the station by hunters who have killed the adults. 71 wolves have already been released.

He charmed the audience with his passion for all creatures, including an ethereally beautiful owl with huge orange eyes. Birds, bears and hedgehogs, to name but a few – the biological station is a magnet for all vulnerable wildlife. The fieldwork carried out there gives important data. Listening to locals' grievances seriously helps the wolf's cause. Refreshingly, when asked questions about the government and whether they ever interfered, Vladimir shrugged his shoulders and said 'Russian government doesn't matter at all.'

Claudio is always a passionate and informative speaker. His determination to help the Ethiopian wolf, rarer than the panda at a ratio of 1:4, was conveyed well, with a lot of relevant data. There are only 450 of these relatively small and elegant wolves left in the world. In 1988, studies in the Bale Mountains revealed problems with disease, habitat

constraints and limited breeding. The ideal habitat was above 3,000 metres, with a temperature of around 15'. Conflicts with agriculture-led populations in lower regions made the wolves' existence there more problematic.

The priority is to maintain these habitats, reduce mortality from disease and also protect dens. Rabies and distemper are always threats – both rife in dense areas. The answer is vaccination – preferably oral vaccines. Even dogs should be vaccinated. It is an ambitious but necessary programme, that also includes reintroducing wolves to areas where they have become extinct, such as Choke.

In one fine moment during Claudio's talk, the Arctic wolves outside set up a symphony of howls. Claudio stopped proceedings. 'Now those are the voices we should all be listening to,' he said, in a moment of gracious humility.

Garry stirred up much discussion taking about the wolf as a symbolic and cultural creature, irrevocably entwined with folk tales and myth. How are animals' identities shaped by its interaction with man? Why does the wolf wait for Red Riding Hood in bed? The wolf is not only hated, but has become a symbol of resentment. *Canis lupus* has to some extent even become a symbol of federal government. Often small communities unite in their fear and loathing of the creature. A detailed

review of his most recent book 'Wolf' is also in this edition of *Wolf Print*.

Troy's account of living as goatherd-turned-shepherd in a remote area of France was impassioned. Photographs showed a beautiful but deeply isolated one; a landscape that houses roe deer, long-horned sheep, foxes, mustalids and lynx. In the Autumn of 1998, wolves began to mysteriously appear, possibly related to the six who disappeared from Mercaster National Park in 1992. Troy – who is still moved by the horrific event – lost 280 sheep that were herded over a cliff. ▶



Prof Garry Marvin

Open Day

As part of Wolf Awareness Week, the Open Day was an enormous success. The Trust was at its best in the sunshine, as diverse clusters of people drifted in to share biscuits, be given informative talks about the animals and have their first look at the stunning Arctic wolves. There were scientists, veterinary students, couples and even a mother with her baby in a pram. Volunteers were on hand to answer questions and facilitate numerous tours.

One participant stated dreamily: 'I could stay here forever.' There was a lovely retired zoologist, impressed that he could talk in academic terms to Vicky, our Education Officer. All three Arctics, as if on cue, gathered together for a cuddle in front of one delighted group.

People sat outside picnicking in front of the wolves, some took photographs or wandered to look at the art workshops being run. I even had a peek in somewhere else to see the dissection of a deer – not on general display but fascinating to me, demonstrating the visceral reality of feeding the wolves.



In the Pole Barn, there was a pastel workshop with Jane Pascoe-Absolom and a willow sculpture workshop with Caroline Gregson. The fact that both events could be held in the newly decorated barn was a great testament to

it as a warm, roomy and appropriate venue. It was fascinating to watch all the participants' progress during the day. The very talented wildlife artist Jane was an unerringly calm presence: patient, helpful and good-natured throughout. Her students worked from a photograph of Nuka as a cub, with Nuka's tongue slightly protruding. There were also interesting tips, such as using cheap maximum hold hairspray instead of expensive fixing spray. There were many techniques and interesting facets to how everyone worked, including using tissues or fingers to blend their masterpieces.

Trying not to distract Jane too much, I did have a quick chat with her about her inspirations, in particular in relation to the wolf. Her face lit up when she talked about a Canadian wolf-hybrid called Rama she had adored, who had lived with her brother. Then, after her first cuddle with a young Torak, she explained how he 'mesmerised me.' It was interesting to see how different each person's artwork emerged. Clearly she was not the only one entranced by wolves.

Coffee and tea flowed, as well as good humour and chat. Caroline Gregson, the willow sculptress who produced the wolf that stands outdoors at the Trust, showed her students how to craft a pheasant, a chicken, a duck and even a goose. Unwrapped, the willow has a damp earthy smell and is in fact pre-soaked for several days or steamed in a blocked drainpipe to make it suitably malleable. It can be wound, twisted and curled to form very natural-looking sculptures. In time the willow darkens and ultimately of course will rot – but that is part of its beauty and charm.



Caroline has worked with the material for 13 years. She feels

that in a successfully completed sculpture, you should be able to see its silhouette or shadow and recognise what it is immediately. She talked about the hazard of sculpting, such as sore thumbs and calloused fingers. I admired her incredible portfolio of animals, including a magical several-tiered creation with a cat on top that she produced for a university ball.

I also asked if there is any animal that has ever defeated her. 'I have refused a Yorkshire Terrier,' she smiled. 'It would end up looking like Doctor Who's K9.'

Julia Bohanna
Open Day photos: Pat Melton

See back cover for dates of this year's open days.

◀ The details of the sheep's fate were hard to hear and you would probably think that a shepherd, in these circumstances, might develop an understandable hatred for wolves. But when out with his goats, Troy spotted a wolf among the trees. The wolf stared back and he described how 'Something holds you there...a wild feeling.' From then on, he was able to look at aspects with a predator's eye and therefore adapt the maintenance of his flock, as well as advising other local farmers. Protection areas and guard

dogs, instead of exhausting 24-hour shifts, proved to be extremely effective.

Five perspectives and a fascinating day. If you were unlucky enough to miss this seminar, then I would heartily recommend catching the next one. These seminars are important for the valuable insights they give. Also, the speakers are always phenomenal.

Julia Bohanna
Seminar photos: Tristan Findley

Wanted

4-DRAWER

WOODEN FILING CABINET

to house research papers donated to the Trust to enhance our reference library.

If you have one to spare, and can deliver it to the Trust, please contact us on 0118 971 3330 or email info@ukwolf.org with the details.

Thank you.

Wolf News

Update on the Trust Wolves

The earth turns, the seasons change and once again we are into the short days and the long darkness. The cold, calm, quiet nights at the Trust are broken only by the howls of our wolves as their song carries across the village and beyond, perhaps stirring ancient memories in the subconscious of all who hear it. The humans return during the day and break the spell of those mystical hours.



The Beenham Pack – **Tala**, **Tundra** and **Nuka** – are as big as, if not bigger, than their mother, Mai! They are all exceptionally good-looking as should be expected from their handsome parents. Tundra and Nuka have their father's striking markings and Tala is black like her mother was as a cub.

Tala was a bit accident-prone in her first few months and we are hoping that she has finished getting into scrapes. Her first injury probably happened during rough play and she had a large, gaping wound on her chest. Tala had to be separated from her siblings until this healed. A few days before she was due to go back with Tundra and Nuka, she



The Beenham Pack

injured one of the toes on her back foot. It was very badly damaged and the vet had to amputate it. During all this, Tala coped with all this admirably, enjoying the special attention she was getting.

Tundra was also enjoying being on her own with Nuka and snarled experimentally at Tala through the fence a few times. When wolves are separated for more than a couple of days, there is the worry that they will not be able to go back into the same pack together as the animal that was separated may not be accepted. However, after a few growls and a bit of posing, all was agreeable and Tala was accepted as part of the gang once more. She has no wariness of humans and is very friendly, just like her mother.

Tundra, in contrast, is quite a wary young wolf, interacting with humans on her own terms. After a little while she will go and lie down a short distance away, just keeping an eye on what is happening. Affectionate and playful when she chooses, she is very often the first to try out a new experience, such as jumping on the picnic tables or plunging into the deepest part of the stream, closely followed by her siblings.

Nuka is a great big ball of naughty furriness. It is sometimes difficult to comprehend just how much he has grown when handlers remember bottle-feeding him! He is a powerful animal and must be treated with respect, although he still wants to play as if he



were a cub. Nuka seems to be a bit of a late developer; he cannot yet jump onto the greeting platform in his enclosure and sits underneath it, whining, while his sisters lie above him looking down

disdainfully. Nuka makes sure he gets his fair share of attention by lying on his back, hoping that someone will scratch his stomach, which of course they do.

The Beenhams are playful, mischievous and very charming. They are quickly growing into impressive wolves and are enjoying their training to become our newest ambassadors.

Photos of Tala, Tundra and Nuka by Danny Kidby-Hunter

Mai and Motomo

Mai and **Motomo** are healthy, happy and very much a pair.

Mai recovered well from her operation in October and made it very clear afterwards that she wanted to be back with her mate when we tried to keep them separate for a couple of days. The operation is most easily described as a 'female version of a vasectomy' whereby Mai will not be able to conceive but will be able to mate with Motomo during the breeding season; this is important to reinforce the bond between them. Mai is still very fond of her human friends and loves to come to the fence for a scratch and lots of fuss. After a while, she will go over to Motomo who is standing nearby

Mai and Motomo



Mai by Tom Lord

wolf, maybe we will have a completely white mature wolf in time!

Motomo has matured into an even more handsome male wolf, if that is possible. He is very protective of Mai and will howl mournfully if she goes out for a walk. He doesn't really approve of Mai's friendship with humans and has been

getting ever nearer the fence when handlers are talking to her. We have to keep a sharp eye on him when he does this, he could easily rush up and, if he wanted to, try and nip someone. On the other hand, maybe he is plucking up the courage to come to the fence to be stroked – although this is unlikely.

When the cubs were walked past Mai and Motomo's fence, Motomo would rush up to try and make contact with them. His motives remain questionable!

Happy, healthy and loving each other's company, Mai and Motomo are a wonderful sight.



Motomo by Tom Lord

to allow him to sniff her all over, getting the scent of the humans. Mai will then come back to the fence for more fuss and repeat the procedure, as if showing her mate that there is nothing to be worried about. Mai's coat gets whiter seemingly every year and she now looks wonderful, with the white contrasting beautifully against the darker colours in the thick pelt. Her mother was pure white so, from having a pure black young

Mosi and Torak

Mosi and **Torak** have been enjoying themselves throughout the year, socialising with their handlers and going on walks with the public. While hormones are high during the breeding season, Torak and Mosi are temporarily retired so that they can concentrate on each other. It is unfair to ask them to perform their ambassadorial duties during this fraught time and could even be dangerous, so they will be left to act as wolves should.

Even when not on walks, the interaction between these two wolves is interesting for all to see. In 2010, Mosi was pestering Torak for quite a while before he decided he was ready to mate with her. She would grovel round him,

squeaking and whining while Torak was his aloof self, ignoring her or snapping when her obsequious attention became too overwhelming. Mosi is a determined creature and has always liked to get her own way, be it with her handlers, the public or other wolves. She succeeded in ousting her sister Mai from the pack and now thinks she is the most important wolf in her own world.

Torak still loves to come out on walks when he is able to, but only if he has his favourite handlers around. If someone is there who he doesn't like, he will

disappear to the back of his enclosure and no amount of coaxing and calling will persuade him to come out.

Like all our wolves, Torak and Mosi are looking magnificent in their thick winter coats and are beautiful and healthy creatures in the prime of their life.



Torak by Vicky Hughes



Mosi by Barry Welch

Duma and Lunca

Duma and **Lunca** continue to live companionably together and they have been enjoying lots of interaction with the public on walks.

Duma, of course, is the Queen of the Wolf Trust and takes her position very seriously. Although she is our oldest wolf at 13 years of age, she is healthy, strong and very energetic. It is Duma who will meet the children on a school visit, standing patiently while they complete their special meet and greets. However, this same, outwardly placid wolf can change in an instant if she takes a fancy to a male visitor on a walk! She will rub

Duma and Lunca

Duma by Lee Piper



herself all round his legs and gaze adoringly into his eyes. These special men usually get a lick on the hand during their meet and greet and it is wonderful to see the involuntary smiles of the public when observing one of Duma's little rituals.

Lunca is 12 years old and compared to Duma is quite slow. This is possibly due

to her deteriorating eyesight and she just likes to take her time, slowly sniffing things out. Lunca still loves to come out on walks with her adopted sister but she has now stopped doing meet and greets. Lunca is happy to be petted by her handlers and pose for photographers while Duma does all the work and she always has a crowd of happy

people around her, snapping away with their cameras. This laid-back approach suits Lunca just fine.

Lunca is a different wolf when it comes to feeding time and has to be fed separately from Duma otherwise Duma would not get any food at all. This is

the only time that Lunca will stand up to her companion – and just about the only time that Duma will let her get away with it.

These two elder stateswomen of the Trust are great favourites with the handlers and public alike; we hope they have lots more time together to enjoy life.



Lunca sleeping by Simon Davies

The Arctic Pack

The Arctics – **Massak**, **Pukkak** and **Sikko** – are a lot bigger than when they arrived in this country. How time flies – it seems only yesterday that the doors of their travelling crates were lifted and out came the first Arctic wolves in the UK.

Sikko is still a very pretty wolf with a delicate, fine-boned face which always seems to be wearing a cheeky grin. She is full of mischief and will try and get the better of her handlers but always in a playful way. Sikko may be the smallest of the three Arctics but she can hold her own with her two big brothers and chases them off the tastiest bits of food so that she can have them for herself.



Massak is the biggest Arctic and is probably challenging Torak for the title of Biggest Wolf at the Trust! Massak likes to do things on his own terms and is wary of some people, but when he likes and trusts you he is very affectionate and playful. He is a big wolf to be playing puppy games but is not above trying to nibble his handlers' ears under

the pretence of giving them a lick. Massak will sometimes take it into his head to have a mad five minutes, prancing and play-bowing, turning round in tight circles and then haring off round the enclosure at speed, closely chased

by his siblings. When he is not playing he sometimes lies on the mound or platform, looking every inch the majestic Arctic wolf.

Pukkak is the joker and would like the world to be his friend. He has always been very affectionate and submissive in his greetings to humans; however, we

are still seeing the affection but not quite so much submission! He loves attention and to be up close and personal with his handlers. On a cold day it is pretty wonderful to be kept warm by Pukkak.

Both Pukkak and Massak have had a contraceptive injection which will render them temporarily infertile. The vet was able to do this in their enclosure while they were still in quarantine and the wolves were as good as gold, hardly noticing anything out of the ordinary

The Arctics are amazingly interactive with their handlers and seem to actively enjoy their company. They hardly ever squabble amongst

themselves and would rather play chasing and wrestling games. The Trust is so lucky to have these beautiful animals, unique to the UK, courtesy of Parc Safari in Canada and we are sure that our visitors will be equally impressed to see them.

Angela Barrow

One life fulfilled... the story of

a Wolf called Hilda

Hilda stopped being one of wolves that happened to wear a collar. She became my wolf...

A young, non-reproducing female wolf received this name in the summer of 2002, while she was being fitted with a simple VHF collar. At that time I was accompanied by four Norwegians, one of whom was a student called Hilde. We named the wolf after the only female person present in the crew. Most people would consider that giving the object of our study a name, rather than just a number, demonstrates a claim for ownership. A personal relationship is assumed. However, I have tried to avoid developing connections and emotional bonds toward any wolves tracked during the last thirteen years. In most cases I succeeded. But not all.

A total of 27 wolves from seven different packs were radio-tracked in Croatia between 1998 and 2010. The average tracking time was 442 days (Standard Deviation = 591.5 days). Tracking time varied between three days (a pup that

died of disease) and 3269 days (8.95 years.) Hilda was the second wolf radio-collared in the Gorski kotar study area.

In spite of becoming part of the sample pool at the very beginning of our work, Hilda outlived all other wolves tracked after her. Her collar even outpaced all other, newer and more sophisticated GPS collars. Because of this, I had the opportunity to witness and document many aspects of her life. During the last nine years, every time I visited the study area, the first thing on my mind was to find Hilda and monitor what she was doing. I first got to know her when she was a year-and-a-half-old female from the Risnjak pack. I watched her mature and leave the pack, the most dangerous time in the life of any wolf. Later, I snow-tracked her, discovering her in the company of a large wolf in the area adjacent to her natal pack. There, the pair then established their territory.

Somehow over time, Hilda stopped being one of wolves that happened to wear a collar. She became my wolf. In

the period from 2004 to 2009, Hilda gave birth to six litters. I got to know some of her offspring. She and her pack mates killed numerous deer, some of which I found. They took some dogs from villages along the forest edge and I received angry complains from villagers. I listened to many beeps from her collar, got her pack howling several times but never saw her again.

During 2010 and 2011 something unusual was happening. Hilda was staying away from the pack and keeping to the edge of her territory all the time. I could still pick up a signal, but I could not get her to respond to my howling. I guess she knew me too well. We usually want to know what happened with a tracked animal at the end. For me, Hilda will always remain around.

I will feel her presence whenever I will return to these forests.

Josip Kusak
Biology Department
University of Zagreb Veterinary Facility

Beaudinard 2010

Wolf-tracking in the French Alps



In the late summer of 2010, Troy Bennett took two of the Trust's student members – Rachel and Katie – wolf-tracking in the French Alps.

Upon our late arrival, we were rewarded with a spectacular sky. The Milky Way cut a star-spangled swathe across the mountains, backlit by a million other stars, lighting the night as if it were day. As we settled in for that first night, scops owls serenaded us.

DAY ONE started well when we found lynx tracks and fresh urine just outside the village. Clearly the lynx was not far away, probably watching us. It was a sobering yet exciting thought to begin our trail. Not much further on, we found four wolf scats. They were not fresh but contained mouflon, sheep and roe deer – showing that the wolves were feeding well and on a variety of prey species.

*within minutes we found
our first wolf prints*

We watched three chamois traversing a cliff face and then a large male mouflon standing proud at the peak of a hill. Suddenly, what appeared to be a rock beside him opened its wings and became a juvenile golden eagle. It stood just staring at the mouflon, hunching its shoulders like an adolescent teenager, looking mean.

After a few more minutes it took off and we watched it circling up. Deftly it swooped

down and grabbed the mouflon's horns, trying to lift a beast that weighed at least ten times its own weight! What was the eagle up to? Was he young and possibly stupid? He could never bring down a fully grown mouflon!

When he lifted off and tried again we were all amazed! But then the mouflon gave a warning sneeze and took off at a run down the skree. Below him four females appeared abruptly from the scrub, drawing four lambs from where they were hiding. As they all disappeared over the crest the eagle swooped. We didn't see him hit one but it was suddenly obvious what he was up to – by spooking the male who guarded the flock, he



had forced him to panic them, thus exposing the lambs so he could take one. Not so young or stupid after all.

We spent the rest of the day finding ammonites and other fossils on the scree slopes.

DAY TWO was hot and sunny, so we walked down the mountain to the waterfall. The girls were clearly on holiday, dressed in bright sun hats, laughing and chirping as Dave (friend, driver, fellow wolf-tracker) and I searched for tracks. Two sparrowhawks flitted in front of us as we left the village and within minutes we found our first wolf prints. The prints were fresh from the previous night – one scat was full of mouflon hair. Further down the mountain we stopped for a while and watched the juvenile golden eagle harassing its mother.

On the steep track down to the waterfall we found another fresh print, so we decided to do a plaster cast of it. While it was setting, we went down to the pools for a swim and a picnic.



After lunch we aimed to follow the river through its rugged gorges back up to the village. We had walked less than a hundred metres before we found another scat full of mouflon hair. While we circled around it for more signs, a short-toed eagle circled above us, perhaps intrigued by a group crawling around on all fours. Or, more likely, just searching for the reptiles we were disturbing.

Finally, we found a length of neck from an undulate. As we circled ever outwards Dave came across the skeleton of a chamois. Closer examination pointed toward a lynx kill. The rib cage was still intact and the neck cleanly broken at the first vertebra. Wolves usually leave just the skull and backbone, chewing the ribs clean off. I also found a single lynx print under the rib cage when I finally flipped it over to check for teeth marks.

An hour up river, after playing in all the natural water slides and cooling off in the fresh pools, we came across what was definitely a wolf kill. It was a large mouflon male that had been stripped completely, leaving just the skull and backbone. Hair cropped in a circle like a halo surrounded it.



Rachel decided she would like the skull as a memento – so she valiantly carried it all the way back to the village, where I hung it in a tree away from scavengers. It stank.

The lake, which stands at 1800 metres above sea level, was a beautiful and welcome sight after the long three-hour walk. Despite stumbling onto a large flock of twitchers, we also found wolf tracks almost immediately and managed

to follow them for about two miles. Even after all these years, I still feel amazed that I am walking in the tracks of wolves. The tracks were from a large male accompanying either a female or a juvenile. They meandered serenely down into the forest.

Once we were a distance away from the tourists, we cast four of the prints so the students would have little keepsakes to take home with them. As evening closed in around us we howled from the cliff top, facing down the valley into the beautiful sunset. Two minutes later a lone wolf howled back, sending shivers down our spines.

As night fell, we ate dinner and listened to the sounds of the forest and the hooting of the eagle owls. We howled a few more times but with no response and finally the girls collapsed exhausted into their tent.

An hour later the resident fox 'Goupil' came to visit, a character well known for robbing campers of their picnics. I fed him saucisson (a variety of thick, dry-cured sausage) and led him to the tent so the girls could feed and photograph

him. He stayed for ages, so I asked Dave to go and get more food. He set off down the dark lane in the Landrover. Halfway back he was halted in his tracks by the single gruff growl of a wolf. He had chanced upon a single wolf with two cubs, probably drawn in by our howling. Later, he described how the hair stood on end over his entire body. He was

frozen to the spot whilst the wolves slipped silently into the night. His hair will stand on end every time he relays his story, probably for the rest of his life. Such is the power of these large and beautiful predators.

We fed the fox the whole of our saucisson. As we bedded down for the night, he curled up outside the tent like a puppy, while we all fell asleep to the songs of the Eagle Owls.



DAY THREE dawned crisp and fresh, unlike the students who were somewhat broken from the hard day before. We decided to give them an easy day with only a three-hour walk. Whilst packing our tent we saw a black woodpecker and two ravens. We breakfasted watching an eagle being mobbed by a peregrine, and a nutcracker flitting through the pines.

In the valley below, the roe deer were barking warnings – probably encountering the smells of the wolves from the night before. As we walked up to the old shepherd's hut we almost missed the wolf scats and prints, so engrossed were we in feasting on wild strawberries and raspberries. The scat was very fresh and full of mouflon hair.

We found a perfectly formed dormouse nest and sat in the sun eating our bread and various cheeses. The walk back through the beech woods betrayed nothing but the beauty of the sunlight filtering through the trees. At the end of the day we showered and relaxed, then watched yet another glorious sunset through the huge glass window of the gîte. We were exhausted, but content that we had gathered a great deal of data that would all go towards helping build a better relationship between local wolves and humans.

Troy Bennett

Troy is a former shepherd who had a very dramatic encounter with wolves (see Wolf Print Edition 39) and now works with shepherds for livestock protection in France. He is the International Society for Animal Professionals' Ambassador for France, has written a number of wolf articles, given lectures and teaches survival school techniques. Troy is a Member of the Institute of Animal Care Education and also lectures for Hearing Dogs.

Life and behaviour of wolves: Co-existence in the Northern Rockies

During the summer of 2011 Pete Haswell ventured stateside to work as a wolf field technician for Defenders of Wildlife on the Wood River Valley Co-existence Project in Idaho.

This project was unlike any other I have worked on before. It's the largest co-existence project in the US and began in 2007 when wolves moved into Blaine County. This area is known as a sheep super-highway and has some 10,000 sheep grazing on the public forests every summer. It also has plenty of private ranches and cattle producers. It was clear this area was to become a high conflict zone once wolves continued to disperse and settle in their former historic range after their re-introduction to the North West in 1995.

The project concentrates its efforts on working with the number one cause for wolf decline and extirpation – people! It is important to understand the ecology of an animal and its requirements for survival.

However, the most pressing threat for the survival of a stable wolf population in the Rockies, as in many areas, is the acceptance of local people. The wolf is particularly vulnerable after its delisting from the Endangered Species Act earlier this year. Hunting seasons, loopholes permitting inadvertent baiting of wolves by black bear hunters, federal lethal control orders, competition with game hunters and retaliation killings for livestock predation are just some of the problems faced by wolves and conservationists.

It is well known that education and outreach pave the way for understanding, compromise and change in attitude towards a tolerance of predators. Wolves were extirpated from the North West by the 1930s and ranchers have not had long to adjust to their reintroduction. It's important to remember that livestock farmers' livelihoods can come under threat and the loss of just a few animals can have high impact. Although compensation is available, tensions still run high. Now the state has taken over the operation of the compensation scheme that Defenders began, there are problems with a lack of proper documentation and inaccurate kill assessments. Unfortunately this leaves the

wolf as a scapegoat for scavenging animals lost from natural causes or kills

The life of a rancher out in the west is tough.

by other predators such as coyotes. This seemingly aids political agendas regarding wolves in the state and results in strong lethal control response. Due to the work of Defenders and other similar groups, the tides are, however, gradually turning.

The life of a rancher out in the west is tough. The terrain is rugged, winters cold and summers arid and scorching. Add to this the weight loss and stress placed upon livestock by the presence of predators and the risk of loss through depredation, it's easy to understand why ranchers struggle to tolerate wolves in their landscape, with husbandry practices adapted to generations without their presence. This is where the Wood River Co-existence Project is leading the way, setting an example of how co-existence is possible.

As well as educational and outreach work with both the ranching community and public, the project's main focus is taking the costs and stresses of livestock loss

away from ranchers, by helping provide for and inform them about livestock protection.

One of the main tools in preventing predation is simply to keep the wolves and sheep separate. Don't put the livestock in high risk zones and don't attract wolves by leaving carcasses near the herds (you might be surprised that this still happens). We looked at previous pre-dation events and tracked

wolves where possible to figure out numbers, locations, habitat use and activity. This could pre-empt any possible conflicts, keep the sheep away from the wolves and know when herds were at risk and apply protection. To keep track of unfolding events I created an interactive map containing all of the livestock grazing-routes on public lands and information we had on local wolf populations. It's so useful to know where your wolves are and keep tabs on which livestock are likely to run into trouble and how it can potentially be avoided. Local tip-offs and telemetry are useful tools and it's important to try and have a collar on at least one pack member.

I was lucky enough this summer to lock gazes from only 20 metres away with one of the

famed phantom hill wolves one night. We also discovered a new pack complete with pups at the start of the summer which caused a big hubbub. Having howling bouts with these wolves throughout the summer was a special thing. It was great to know they were out there. I tried my utmost to keep them out of trouble and work with the ranchers they might affect. Many of the ranchers are coming around to the idea that wolves are better to have in the area than coyotes as they are easier to work with and predate sheep a lot less.

As well as keeping wolves and sheep apart, our intentions are to prevent livestock becoming viewed as a profitable food source. Without protection sheep are very vulnerable. The application of scare devices, guard dogs, fladry, human presence and overnight guards make livestock a difficult

prey to obtain. Removing or fencing off livestock carcasses with fladry results in little or no energetic gain for predators. These factors condition the wolves to the fact that livestock are an unprofitable prey source, they are difficult to obtain and food gain is minimal.

This summer was another successful run with only five sheep lost to wolves from the total 10,000. The area where these animals were lost had pretty severe terrain and no radio-collared wolves, so it was tough to know what was going on. The attack came completely out of the blue as wolf activity had not been noted in the area prior to the attack. The reaction of

the producer was exactly the kind for which we aim. He didn't call for lethal control but instead called us for advice and

to assess what non-lethal tools could be applied. He brought in an overnight guard and added extra guard dogs. We developed a plan for him to incorporate turbo-fladry when his lambs had been weaned and moved on.

Turbo-fladry is just one of the advancements in livestock protection that has come about from combining new technology to an old issue. By electrifying a fladry fence with the use of a portable solar charger, overnight penning has become possible to keep animals safe without the need to bring them back to farmsteads every evening. This portable system fits nicely with the shepherds and guard dogs, who also travel through the rugged terrain with the grazing bands.

We don't have all the answers to livestock protection yet and we

still struggle with protecting cattle; we lost three yearlings from a local wolf pack due to their claimed predation of a young calf. It's hard to protect unattended animals that graze over huge distances. The introduction of longhorn cattle better adapted to protecting young, and the implementation of programmes using range riders to check on stock and add human presence to herds, are having some success for Defenders in Oregon.

It's hard to get people to work with you sometimes, especially those who hold extreme views. Even against such odds co-existence programmes offer an opportunity for assistance and collaboration with those who suffer from the presence of predators. By providing services, equipment and knowledge, the project takes the pressure off livestock producers and helps to reduce conflict. People need time to adjust to the presence of wolves on the landscape again but with programmes such as this one, compensation schemes and educational outreach, the process is being helped on its way. The situation is tough out in the North West with a great deal of opposition and legislation changes potentially hampering one of the world's greatest reintroduction success stories. Wolves in the Northern Rockies are, however, here to stay – they have a foothold and with the fantastic work of projects such as this one I have no doubt of their continued survival.

Pete Haswell
BSc Hons Environmental Science
(Biodiversity and Conservation)

Pete is collaborating with Josip Kusak on a project the UKWCT supports in Croatia.

To find out more about the work of Defenders of Wildlife, visit their website www.defenders.org

We don't have all the answers to livestock protection yet.



*Main picture: Pete howls to the wolves
Left: Sheep in a fladry night corral
Below: A wolf-tracker's kit*



Photo: Dr Brad



Song of the South

Restoring and Protecting America's 'Other Wolf'

Cornelia Hutt

Ask wolf fans or foes what they know about wolves, and you'll get no shortage of facts, misinformation and opinions – almost invariably about gray wolves.

Ask those same folks about red wolves, and most likely the response will be blank stares and silence.

Cornelia Hutt, UKWCT patron and chair of the board of directors of the Red Wolf Coalition reports.

Wolf calendars don't feature glossy red wolf photos, and television doesn't devote prime time to documentaries about the gray wolf's southern cousin. However, *Canis rufus* is North America's 'other wolf,' but like a sibling standing in the shadow of a famous brother or sister, the red wolf yields the spotlight.

That's understandable in some ways. For one thing, there aren't many red wolves, and the only population in the world lives on a remote thumb of land on the mid-Atlantic seaboard in the United States. And as a gray wolf fan observed recently, 'Well, red wolves are pretty, but to me, they don't look as 'wolfy' as gray wolves.' But pretty is as pretty does, and red wolves, with their cliffhanger history and tenacious refusal to be added to the growing list of animal extinctions, have earned some impressive bragging rights.

With their unprecedented 1987 return to the wild, they set the stage for the reintroduction and restoration of gray wolves to Yellowstone National Park and Central Idaho in the western US. Thirty-one years ago, just as the last red wolves were about to fall off the edge to

extinction, a bold but perilous plan was implemented to remove the remnants of the southeast's top predators from a sliver of marginal habitat along the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana. There, in shadow of oil refineries and petrochemical plants, the last red wolves were eking out a miserable existence in the mosquito-infested marshes and wetlands of this hot, humid region.

"Actually, red wolves and gray wolves are more similar to one another than they are different."

After years of selective breeding at Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium in the state of Washington, the first red wolves were released into the Alligator National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern North Carolina. There was little public fanfare, and serious speculation arose among doubters and pessimists. Never, they predicted, would the captive-bred wolves make it on their own in the wild.

But they did. And what's more, in addition to that first-ever event, red wolves have spearheaded a bold restoration technique called 'pup

fostering' where captive-born pups are placed into the dens of wild red wolf mothers and raised by a wild pack. Who knew that would work when it was first done? But once again, the red wolves made history, and fostering is regularly done to increase the genetic diversity in the wild population.

So what is the real story on the gray wolf's enigmatic and courageous cousin? Actually, red wolves and gray wolves are more similar to one another than they are different. Like gray wolves, red wolves live in families called packs with Mom and Dad in charge. They howl to communicate with one another, perhaps for reasons we will never know. They are top predators, hunting and killing other animals to survive. Like gray wolves, red wolves enthrall and terrify humans with their impenetrable, golden-eyed stare. Like gray wolves, humans regard them with devotion and reverence as well as hatred and fear.

But some things do distinguish red wolves from gray wolves. For one thing, red wolves are smaller. Adults weigh in at about 80 pounds for a big male and 60 pounds for a robust female. Despite arguments to the contrary, they are

“Despite tough challenges, red wolves are hanging on, doing the job for which nature designed them”

red – not a flaming auburn like an Irish setter, but a dark autumn red, a rich russet that is splashed behind their long ears and on the backs of their legs and streaked through the gray and black mantles on their shoulders. Tall and lean as marathon runners, their avoidance of contact with people means they remain,



despite recent intensive research, something of a mystery. Their diet includes eastern white-tail deer, but a large portion of their menu consists of raccoons and nutria. The nutria, a huge rodent brought to the US from South America, is an invasive species that wreaks havoc on aquatic plants in the eastern wetlands. Red wolves love nutria for lunch and dinner. Some local residents claim wild turkey and quail numbers have increased since red wolves are keeping the nest-raiding raccoon population in check.

Before ferocious persecution by humans and habitat-loss drove red wolves to functional extinction in the wild, few people had studied them and very little was known about them. Now the only place in the world where they live in the wild is just west of North Carolina's Outer Banks, a region of haunting beauty with its impenetrable marshes, mixed forests, vast corporate agriculture spreads, communities tucked far off the main highway and four national wildlife refuges.

Despite tough challenges, red wolves are hanging on, doing the job for which nature designed them – finding food, raising pups, sending their haunting choruses floating out on star-studded nights over the bogs, estuaries and lush fields of cotton and soybeans. Wolf educators like to say red wolves are the tenors and sopranos in the wolf choir. Gray wolves are the altos and the baritones. The wild population remains stable at 100 to 130 animals, approximately 76 of which wear tracking collars. Intensive management and monitoring are critical to the species' long-term survival because the threats are serious and ongoing. Like eastern wolves, red wolves are related to

coyotes, and being on that branch of the evolutionary tree means they can and will sometimes breed with coyotes to produce hybrid offspring. That probably doesn't matter in the light of eternity, but to red wolf managers who are tasked with preserving an endangered species, it matters greatly.

Two other serious threats cause sleepless nights for the US Fish and Wildlife



Service Red Wolf Recovery Team and for the educators and advocates of the Red Wolf Coalition. Young red wolves are about the same size as the big eastern coyotes, and some of them get shot during hunting season every year in the late fall and winter. Some are killed

“The red wolves and the other critters just hunker down and wait it out”

during other times of the year, too. It's open season on coyotes all year round in North Carolina, so gunshot mortality is a major impediment to red wolf restoration, despite the hefty reward offered for information leading to the successful prosecution of anyone killing an endangered red wolf. And because coastal North Carolina is the only region in their historical range where red wolves now live, the threat of sea level rise looms in the perhaps not-too-distant future. The recovery plan for red wolves mandates that two other areas be designated in the southeast for red wolves. This is a critical need. If we pay attention to a lot of the best science, the red wolf's home could be under water several generations from now.

Flooding in red wolf country happens on a fairly regular basis anyway because of severe storms including hurricanes like Isabel (2003) and Irene (2011) that rake the inland coastal areas where the red wolves live. Fire, too, can pose problems both for people and wildlife. The compacted soil of the region, called pocosin, burns like peat or like coal deep in a mine. Once a fire starts, it's hard to put out. But, as Dr. David Rabon, US Fish and Wildlife Service Red Wolf Recovery

“every red wolf death is a blow to the fragile population”

Team coordinator says, 'The red wolves and the other critters just hunker down and wait it out,' when natural disasters occur. That's pretty much true with wildlife everywhere. The problem for the red wolves is that if a catastrophic event were to wipe them out or seriously reduce their numbers, the song of the South could become a memory. The same can't be said for gray wolves because their numbers are stable and high in the Upper Midwest, the Northern Rocky Mountains and in Alaska and Canada.

The triumph of red wolf restoration stands as a monument to the success of recovering a species on the brink of disappearing forever. But it's not realistic to predict a time in the near future where the people working to help red wolves survive in the wild can relax and say, "We did it! They're on their own!" Coyotes live everywhere in the East now, and there is virtually no way to keep red wolf country free of the wolf's smaller and highly resilient cousin. Hunting is part of North Carolina's 'way of life,' and while many sportsmen and women have no interest in killing a canid out on the edge of soybean field, some of them do. There is no shortage of coyotes, but every red wolf death is a blow to the fragile population.

The Red Wolf Coalition, the only citizen group teaching about and advocating for red wolves, works on a shoestring budget and sheer determination to get more people invested in saving this rare and imperiled predator. The Coalition's

target audiences are teachers, hunters, local residents and the thousands of tourists on their way through red wolf country to the beaches of the Outer Banks. The organization's mission is to educate, but the Coalition unapologetically promotes red wolf restoration, including active support of the efforts to prosecute lawbreakers who kill red wolves.

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust is one of the Red Wolf Coalition's strongest and most loyal supporters. Much of what the Coalition has accomplished in the past four years is directly attributable to the UKWCT's generous gifts of critical funds and the willingness to showcase the red wolf in Wolf Print. If red wolves could send out a howl of gratitude, one of the longest and loudest would go out across the Atlantic from North Carolina to England – hands and paws across the sea.

Information about the Red Wolf Coalition can be found on www.redwolves.com. The red wolf has friends all over America and Europe, and this community of supporters is helping to ensure that the song of the South is never silenced. That almost happened fifty years ago. Red wolf advocates, including the UKWCT, won't let history be repeated.

Cornelia Hutt is the chair of the board of directors of the Red Wolf Coalition. She is a member of the work team for 'International Wolf' magazine, the International Wolf Center's quarterly publication. She is a patron and a member of the UKWCT.

All images © Evelyn Mercer



Photo: Alan Oliver

Kirsty Peake
UKWCT Specialist advisor

You would think that the arrival of summer would make things easier for the wolves of Yellowstone.

After all, the winter of 2010/11 was severe, with record snowfall. Summer should bring 'easier' hunting with elk calves, deer fawns, bison calves and the occasional death of a prey species. Not so this year – first came the floods after the snow melted. Roads were swept away, rivers flooded, trees uprooted and carried downstream. Numerous bears came out of hibernation and were very hungry. Then there are those pesky pups that keep the pack grounded to a specific area. As spring progressed, the elk and deer followed the spring growth of grass up into the mountains and suddenly prey for wolves and bears was in short supply. The summer was proving to be as hard as the previous winter.

The lead into this spring/summer was a tough one for all the animals in Yellowstone. The snow was so deep that the bison, even with their huge heads, could not shift it to find grass below. The weather had at one point gone through a process of 'thaw/freeze/thaw/freeze' and the bison could not break through the layers of frozen snow. Elk were belly deep in the stuff. I watched four cow elk in the middle of the Lamar Valley, each one looking in a different direction as if to say 'how do we get out of this?' At times we would stand there with great





The Wolves of Yellowstone

sadness looking at an animal starving to death. One particular bison appeared to be keeping herself alive purely to get her calf through the winter. We wondered why the wolves were not killing them. It might have been a mercy for the animal. Perhaps there was simply just not enough meat on the animal to expend the energy to kill it.

We watched the alpha female of the Lamar Canyon Pack come up on a cow elk. The assumption was that the elk was lost. This particular wolf can (and does) bring down fully fit adult elk on her own. This elk had other ideas. She stood her ground and stamped her feet. In fact she stamped her feet so much that she 'built' a semi circular rampart in front of her. The wolf would charge, the elk would stamp and in some instances charge the wolf for a few strides. The wolf became so frustrated that she went off and had a roll around in the snow and then came back and did a 'play bow' in front of the elk. No way did she want to play with this elk! This demonstrated, as I had always suspected, that the 'play bow' is not that simple. It can be a precursor of aggression and in this case it was clearly an expression of frustration.

Eventually the wolf gave up and moved on down the valley. She came across another elk that made the big mistake of trying to run away – uphill. It was all over within minutes and the wolf had a meal for her pack... once they caught up with her.

The worst month in Yellowstone is March, known locally as the 'month of

death'. If animals can get through March then it is almost a done deal that they will make it through the winter. For many animals though, it is just one step too far. The purpose of having such large prey animals is that it takes them longer to starve to death through the winter and hopefully they can make it to the start of the new vegetation. March 2011 was a bad month this year. Prey animals were so weakened that they could do nothing to defend themselves. They were living on air. George Bumann always likens it to rather than eating the cereal they are eating the cereal box throughout the winter.

We were searching for wolves in a particular area one day. This had become a good area to check as on occasions there had been two or three packs seen, almost together as their territories converged. We walked out on a track and stopped to set up scopes. Some members of a pack were seen way off to the left. Scanning right, some of us picked up two elk in our scopes. They were looking very alert so we looked in their area and soon found three wolves – other members of this pack. The wolves passed below the rocky outcrop where the elk was standing. They appeared to be just travelling through. One wolf turned back and attacked one of the elk, bringing her down, another wolf joined in and the elk was dispatched. The rest of the pack travelled up along the same route, below the remaining elk still standing on the outcrop. As they approached the three wolves turned towards them and then to our

amazement one of them made a huge upward leap and caught the remaining elk on the throat and brought it down, suffocating it. Both elk had been brought down in about five minutes. What made that wolf turn back? Did they pick up some kind of signal that these elk were in a poor condition? A few days later we watched the same pack try for another two cow elk with no luck at all.

Seasons move on and pups have been born. As I write this in September, they are now about five months old. They are moving with the pack but life is a challenge. Scary bears are just one of the things that these pups have to learn to live with in their environment. Soon winter will be back in Yellowstone. Doug Smith says that he feels the wolves love winter as the 'kids have grown up enough' to not be a burden. Everyone can relax and enjoy themselves. Certainly watching wolf behaviour in the winter is fascinating. But then watching wolves at any time is a great honour. We are very lucky that we can watch wolves, whether in the wild or within the excellent environment at the UKWCT.

Kirsty Peake

Kirsty Peake is qualified companion animal behaviourist and trainer and has a particular interest in studying wolf behaviour in relation to domestic dog behaviour. Kirsty and her husband Alan now have a house near the Park and spend approximately six months of the year out there following their passion for wolf watching.

wolves of the world

news from
around the
world

Mexican Gray Wolf – Tony Shelfo, California Wolf Center



Wolves waiting to be free:

New Mexico refuge a holding cell in feds' re-introduction scheme

Miles from the nearest rural outpost and far beyond the smatterings of broken-down cars that have been left to rust into the central New Mexico prairie is a narrow canyon at the edge of the Los Pinos Mountains. This rugged stretch is ground zero for the federal government's effort to return the endangered Mexican gray wolf to the wild in the Southwest. Here, behind an elaborate maze of fencing and locked gates are nearly two dozen wolves, many of them waiting for a chance to be released. However, the odds are stacked against them. First there's politics. Then comes a strict set of requirements for the right genetics and the right location.

"Every Mexican wolf has a chance to go into the wild. That's the purpose of all the captive animals," Susan Dicks, a biologist and veterinarian with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, said as she negotiated the rough two-track road leading up to the wolf pens. "Sometimes, we're all lined up for a release, and then politically, the stars don't align," she said. "That can be years of work."

Dicks, along with a team of other biologists, volunteers and students, spent a day last week at the wolf management center at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. Their mission was to capture four female wolves, vaccinate them and do a quick checkup. The work is all in preparation for the day when

more captive-bred animals can be released into the wild to bolster a population that has stumbled over the last decade because of court battles, illegal shootings, management hurdles and feuds between ranchers and environmentalists.

In the last five years, there have been more than a dozen transfers of wolves around the reintroduction area, which spans millions of forested acres in Arizona and New Mexico. But only once during that time have wildlife managers released a new wolf as part of the program. That was in 2008. The lack of fresh genetics in the wild is what has supporters of the program worried. A subspecies of the gray wolf, Mexican wolves were added to the federal endangered species list in 1976 after they were all but wiped out because of hunting and government-sponsored extermination campaigns. The federal government started its reintroduction effort along the New Mexico-Arizona border in 1998 with the release of 11 wolves. Biologists had hoped to have more than 100 wolves in the wild by 2006, but the numbers continue to hover around 50.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is ready to start its annual count next month. There's some hope for improvement given the number of pups that were spotted with some of the packs earlier this year. The latest blow to the

program was a vote earlier this month by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to not support the release of any new wolves until the federal government revamps its decades-old recovery plan for the species. It could be another year before a draft of the new plan is released, and the prospect of no new releases has supporters like Eva Sargent with the group Defenders of Wildlife worried.

"The population just can't make it without releases. It's so small at this point, and it's already suffering from inbreeding because of the low number of founders," she said. "I think it's pretty much without doubt that without new releases, the population will start on a downward trend again, and you can't afford that when you've only got 50 animals."

Tom Buckley, a spokesman with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, said the federal government has the authority to continue with releases but would prefer to have the support of Arizona. Buckley and other federal officials acknowledged the emotion that has long fueled the debate about the wolf reintroduction. Environmentalists have pushed for more, while ranchers have felt their livelihoods threatened by the loss of cattle and some community leaders have voiced concerns about wolves getting too close to people. "There's a balance that has to be struck and it's not easy," ►

Grey wolves return to Europe

After being hunted nearly to extinction, grey wolves are staging a remarkable comeback in Germany and across Europe.

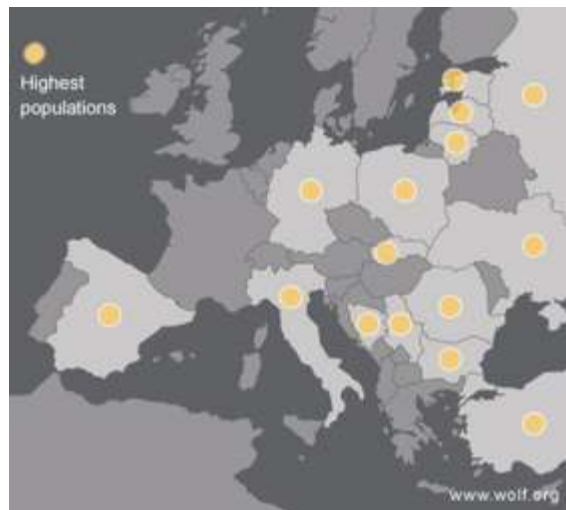
A recent study found 12 packs roaming the country, up from just one a decade ago, leading scientists to conclude that the wolf's return was "unstoppable".

Two packs, thought to include a total of 18 animals all together, now live just 65 kilometres from Berlin. Scientists estimate that there are over 100 wolves across Germany.

Wolf numbers have fluctuated across Europe and there are currently none in Britain, although private organisations have discussed reintroducing them to the forests of Scotland.

While Russia is thought have around 50,000 wolves, many will be in its eastern wilderness. Ukraine is thought to have the highest European wolf population with around 2,000.

Spain has the largest number of wolves in Western Europe with around 1,500, according to the international Wolf Centre. Turkey also has a large wolf population, with around 5,000 living there.



<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/interactive-graphics/graphic-of-the-day/8856387/Graphic-grey-wolves-return-to-Europe.html> or tiny.cc/7lkxe

◀ Mexican Gray Wolf re-introduction

Buckley said, noting that the middle road often leaves both sides angry.

Sargent said she believes the recovery plan, once finished, will be the key to helping the program find its way. "You've got to know what the goal is," she said. "And the ranchers will be happy to see that, too. Everybody wants to know: When do we get to the end game where there are plenty of wolves and we can treat them like other wildlife?"

Far from the offices in Washington, DC, and the courtrooms where some of the decisions about the wolves' fate have been made, Dicks and her crew are

advanced, trying to force her into one of the wooden den boxes inside the acre-sized pen. She checked out both ends of the line. No way out. She made a half-hearted leap at the towering fence to her right. Digging her way out wasn't an option either. Another six feet of fence is buried to prevent that. With a narrow gap on the right side, she tried to break for it. Not a chance. The biologists have done this too many times. Their nets had her on the ground within a second. After untangling No. 1034, the crew slipped on a muzzle and blinders.

They worked fast to check her temperature, take a blood sample and vaccinate her for parvovirus, distemper and other diseases. They also weighed her and inspected her eyes, teeth and paws. Dicks called out for the bottle of rubbing alcohol and poured it on the wolf's paws to keep

"It is hard," she said. "I find myself every now and then wanting to say, 'OK buddy, it's OK,' because it's in our nature to try and comfort. But we're not at all comforting to them, so the kindest and most humane thing we can do is do our work quickly and quietly and let them go."

The wolf bolted after the team was done. After making it halfway up the hill, it looked back twice. "If that wolf had a middle finger, we'd probably be seeing it right now," Buckley said, getting the group to laugh.

Fostering the wolves' fear of people and maintaining their wildness is actually a serious matter for the recovery team. So is trying to unlock the scientific mysteries that might help the wolf toward recovery, such as why the pup survival rate isn't higher and how packs choose which wolves to accept and which to shun. "It doesn't come with a handbook," Buckley said. "We can rely on things that have been done with other populations and research on other species, but these wolves have their own unique qualities and this area has its own unique characteristics. There have been things that we have had to learn as we go. Sometimes there are hard lessons and sometimes there are 'ah-ha' moments."

<http://durangoherald.com/article/20111215/NEWS06/712159987/-1/s> or tiny.cc/5o20s



playing out a complicated dance of sorts around rocky outcroppings and juniper trees in order to corner female No. 1034. The wolf wanted no part of it. She ran back and forth as the line of people

her cool. The biologists handle the wolves only once a year, if that – the less contact, the better – and the ordeal can be stressful for the animals, causing them to overheat.

Wolves of the World: Strange Animal Models of Human Evolution



Vladimir Bologov

Fossils are the clues researchers study to better understand the history of life on earth. But to interpret those clues, scientists need to consider living animals. By looking at how the bones and physiology of modern creatures correlate with walking, eating, socializing and other habits, we can make inferences about what extinct animals with similar features might have been like.

In human evolution, hominids are most often compared to their living descendants – us. They are also compared to our closest living relative, the chimpanzee. This makes a lot of sense. We diverged from the chimpanzee lineage roughly seven million years ago; we share a lot of traits because we share a long evolutionary history. But sometimes it's more informative to compare hominids with

more distantly related species that share traits due to convergent evolution – when two species evolve analogous characteristics, not because of common ancestry, but because of similar evolutionary pressures. The wings of bats and birds are one example; the fins of dolphins and sharks are another. Here is an example of an unexpected species that have played a role in the study of human evolution.

Wolves: Wolves often come up in studies of human evolution, usually in discussions of dog domestication. But the social carnivore is useful in other ways. Adam Clark Arcadi, an anthropologist at Cornell University, used wolves to examine how many species of *Homo* might have had existed at one time. The question arises in relation to modern humans and Neanderthals: Were Neanderthals a

separate species or just a subspecies of *Homo sapiens*? According to Arcadi, it's likely there was only one human species. Even though regional populations might have developed different physical traits, a united species would have been maintained as long as there was some migration and mating between populations, what scientists call gene flow. Because humans are wide ranging and can live in a variety of habitats, he says, it's likely gene flow was sustained.

As a way to think about the problem, Arcadi looked for another type of animal that is also wide-ranging and tolerant of numerous habitats – the wolf. Wolf packs can travel more than 100 miles per day; they can survive in deserts, forests, tundra and even urban areas; and they eat animals as big as caribou and as small as rodents, even munching on fruits or grass if they have to. The wolf analogy supports Arcadi's case: The grey wolf, for example, traditionally lived throughout all of North America, Europe and Asia (before humans got in the way), yet it remained one species, *Canis lupus*. If the grey wolf can stay just one species, with about ten regional subspecies, Arcadi argues, then it's also possible that there was just one species of *Homo* during the days of Neanderthals and modern humans.

For the full article please see:
<http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/hominids/2011/11/strange-animal-models-of-human-evolution/>
or tiny.cc/fxh67

Wolves will help scientists predict climate effects on all endangered species.

Research published in December 2011 shows that scientists who study Yellowstone National Park's wolf population have developed a way to predict how changes in the environment will affect these animals, including how many can survive, their size and genetics. This information can be used to predict how wolves of the future will respond to climate change and help conservationists respond.

Scientists have shown before that persistent changes caused by climate change such as coat colour and lifespan can have a profound effect on future populations. But they have not had the tools to predict the effect of these changes. This study uses a powerful

mathematical model to provide predictions for future populations.

"We know that climate change is having an impact on the lives of animal species around the world. This is clear through the changes we've seen in their population sizes, as well as their body sizes, but what has not been so clear is what underlies these changes," said primary investigator, Professor Tim Coulson, Department of Life Sciences at Imperial College London.



Vladimir Bologov

"This work provides a relatively easy way for biologists to investigate how, and why, environmental change impacts both the ecology and near term evolutionary future of species."

A lone wolf wanders toward California

A lone grey wolf in the prime of his life roams 730 miles to seek a mate and a new home, crossing nearly the entire state of Oregon in two months. He skirts small towns, crosses numerous highways, surmounts the Cascade mountain range and pauses just 30 miles from California. It sounds like the stuff of legend. But this journey is very real, and it holds huge implications for California. If the wolf, known to Oregon officials as OR7, resumes its southbound trek it will make history as the first wild wolf confirmed in California in nearly 90 years.

The wanderings of OR7 are already stirring excitement, not to mention controversy. "It's actually a reason to celebrate," said Suzanne Asha Stone, Northern Rockies representative for the group Defenders of Wildlife, which led the effort to reintroduce wolves to the West. "I didn't think I'd see it in my lifetime." Cattle and sheep ranchers in the state's northern counties are not among the celebrants. Some are watching OR7's travels with dread. "We definitely have concerns," said Jack Hanson, a cattle rancher near Susanville and treasurer of the California Cattlemen's Association. "I'm hesitant to say I see a clear road and things will go well."

The California Department of Fish and Game has worked on a plan for more than a year to prepare for the eventual return of wolves. It expects to release the plan in January. "There's a very high probability, in the next few years, that a wolf will enter California," said Mark Stopher, who oversees the plan as a special assistant to the Fish and Game director. "The wanderings of OR7 bring the urgency to a higher level," Stopher said. "He could be in Yreka in two days if he wanted to be." Perhaps no other wild animal carries as much baggage as the wolf. Centuries of human storytelling have portrayed the wolf as a conniving predator that targets people, from "Little Red Riding Hood" to a new movie coming in January, "The Grey," in which wolves hunt plane crash survivors. Biologists say such stories are a gross

distortion. There are only two cases in the past century of wolves killing people in North America, and even those are disputed. Death by grizzly bear, mountain lion even deer, elk and moose is far more common. "Unfortunately, with wolves it seems many people can't distinguish between mythology and fact," Stone said.

Wolves were eradicated across the West in the early 1900s by hunters and trappers who saw them as a threat to livestock. The last wild wolf documented in California was killed by a trapper in 1924 in Trinity County. It had only three legs, having escaped a previous trapping attempt. More recent thinking has revealed the important place of the wolf in Western ecosystems. For example, because they tend to prey on the weakest member of a deer or elk herd, wolves help keep those species stronger. OR7 is a direct descendant of the reintroduction effort, and his origins hold both promise and peril to people watching his movements. He was born two years ago in the Imnaha pack, which lives in Oregon's northeast corner. His mother is B-300, the first wolf to return to Oregon when she migrated from Idaho in 2008. His father is OR4, a wolf the state planned to kill this year because it was preying on livestock. That action has been stayed after a lawsuit by environmental groups. OR7 is believed to have participated in livestock killings but was not considered an instigator, said Michelle Dennehy, a spokeswoman for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, which manages a wolf population in the state that now stands at 24. OR7 wears a GPS collar that records his location daily. After his long

journey, he has lingered for the past three weeks in the Siskiyou National Forest east of Medford. "This is the farthest a wolf has ever dispersed in Oregon," Dennehy said. "Like everyone, we're watching and interested to see what this wolf does, because there's just no telling what could happen."

Even if this wolf does cross into California, it would likely be more a media event than an ecological shift. OR7 will still need to find a mate. To settle down, he'll want to know there is enough food around. Deer are ample, but California's northern counties have fewer elk than Oregon. And he will want to avoid people and roads, which is tougher in California. Any wolves that enter California would be considered federally endangered, Stopher said. The forthcoming planning document, he said, aims to collect information about wolves, habitat, prey and other issues unique to California. It is not a species management plan. That will come later, he said, if there is a species to manage. In reality, it could be years until California has its own wolf pack. Stopher hunts deer in Idaho every year, which started him thinking that California needs to get ready for wolves of its own. "It's pretty cool to come across wolf tracks in the snow," he said. "It adds an element of wildness that I didn't know was missing before. But it changes everything."

Read more here:

<http://www.kansascity.com/2011/12/11/3314732/a-wolf-wanders-toward-california.html#storylink=cpy> or tiny.cc/okhvd



Vladimir Bologov

Only two countries in the Middle East protect wolves



OUR FEAR OF THE WOLF is historically as deep-seated as our survival instinct, which may explain why only two countries in the Middle East have established official bans against hunting them. Two subspecies of the Gray Wolf occur in this region. The Iranian wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*), which is the only wolf species in the world that is not in danger of extinction, can be found in dwindling numbers throughout Iran, Israel, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia, whereas the Arabian wolf (*Canis lupus arabs*) can be found in Israel, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen, and possibly some parts of Egypt's increasingly degraded Sinai Peninsula as well. But only Oman and Israel subscribe to the notion that wolves have the right to coexist with man as part of natural ecosystems by giving them legal protection.

It emerged in 2010 that all dogs originated from wolves in the Middle East, whereas previously it was thought

they came from Asia. 15,000 years ago, according to The New York Times, the first non-nomadic hunter gatherer communities began to "intervene in the breeding patterns" of wolves, turning them into the first domesticated dogs.

Dr. Robert K. Wayne of the University of California, who led the study that changed our beliefs about the origin of man's best friend, told the paper, "I think a long history such as that would explain how a large carnivore, which can eat you, eventually, became stably incorporated in human society." But not all wolves became dogs, and those that remain still have to share space and resources with humans – often with fatal consequences. The World Wildlife Fund reported in 2005 that wolves in Turkey not only have to contend with loss of prey and habitat destruction as a result of human 'success,' but it is also considered a pest that is actively persecuted.

Although this doesn't bode well for that country's 1500 or so *Canis lupus pallipes*, work has started to monitor two wolves in order to better understand their habitat and in turn minimize human and wolf conflicts. Saudi's *Canis lupus arabs* are even more endangered. Muhammad Al-Shawi, a desert enthusiast, recently told Arab News that he often sees wolves while traveling through the desert but has never had reason to harm them. "Most of the wolves in the Kingdom live in mountainous regions of Najd and Tabuk," he said, adding that he often sees bodies of wolves hanging off signboards. The paper claims that many Saudis kill wolves for trophies.

Luckily in Oman, which has a relatively strong conservation record compared to many of its Gulf neighbours, the wolf population is on the rise. The UK Wolf Conservation Trust attributes this to a hunting ban that was finally put in place. And in Israel, although wolves prey on livestock – particularly near the Golan Heights – extraordinary measures are taken to protect them. In addition to paying for electric fencing and various species of guard dogs to deter wolves, the government offers partial compensation for predatory damages when they can't be avoided. Much less is known about wolves in Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Syria or elsewhere, except that they are not protected, and they are not doing well.

<http://www.greenprophet.com/2011/12/wolves-middle-east/>

(Picture: Vladimir Bologov)

◀ Wolves assist climate change predictions

Grey wolves (*Canis lupus*) were reintroduced to Yellowstone in 1995, having been driven away by settlers earlier in the century. Currently, just close to 150 remain. The scientists examined 15 years of data about Yellowstone grey wolves' biological traits and demographics across a range of 'good' years, when wolves thrived, and 'poorer' years when they did not. They were then able to investigate how the changing frequency of good and bad years influenced population size, genetics, body size and the life history of Yellowstone wolves. Their results showed that the wolf population was

more greatly affected by consistent overall changes in the environment than it was by changes in the magnitude of year-to-year fluctuations. They also foresee that the future consequences of environmental change on wolf characteristics will depend upon which parts of the wolf's life cycle are most strongly impacted. The next steps are to apply the methods to species ranging from mosquitoes to crocodiles, and to test model predictions in the laboratory and the field. The results of this work will show how such models can be used to establish conservation policy.

This research gives us a way to predict with "unprecedented detail how populations of many different animals will respond to environmental change, including those animals threatened with extinction."

<http://www.examiner.com/animal-advocacy-in-national/wolves-will-help-scientists-predict-climate-effects-on-endangered-species> or tiny.cc/6y2zy

Paper originally published in <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/334/6060/1214.citation> or tiny.cc/gi0hnp

Making Tracks

wolves in the media and the arts

WOLVES IN IRELAND

a natural and cultural history

By Kieran Hickey

Hardback, 180pp, illustrated, 23.6 x 16cm.
RRP £24.95 ISBN 978-1846823060

I am ashamed to say that before reading this book, I knew very little about the history of wolves in Ireland, so a whole new and fascinating world opened up in Hickey's account, which is fat with facts. For example, I learnt that an early seventeenth century farmer constructed a version of a barbed wire fence to keep sheep away from areas populated by wild wolves.

The Irish language, known for its Celtic lyricism, does not disappoint when it comes to the word 'wolf'. There are many versions and variations but one of my favourites was a glorious Irish word 'faelchu' – quite literally meaning wild hound. There is also a great section on place names that

*the country was
nicknamed Wolfland*

the child snatched by a wolf, of impossibility. The child does not scream but instead sings

'I'm a-going' as its horrified parents attempt to halt the abduction.



incorporate the animal. Feltrim Hill in Co. Down means wolf-ridge. It would be a fascinating exercise to take this book and tour all these places, in the footsteps of the wolf, but also marking those names on a map that have a lupine connection.

Even some Irish surnames carry some traces of canis lupus. I have entered the Sean O Faolain Literary Prize a few times, without ever realising that Faolain does indeed mean wolf. For a nerdy person

like myself who adores lists and all things etymological, this was heaven.

The section on Irish myths and also how the saints involved wolves was a revelation. Most of us would be unsurprised that wolves and foxes were considered harmful beasts but the third on that list made me smile – it is the most innocuous of beasts, which I will not reveal here. Good to see some positive wolfy myth too – one involved St Mo Lua, who actually fed wolves and was rewarded for it.

For a nation of storytellers, the richness of the Irish myths noted by Hickey do not disappoint in their unique Celtic identity. Some are finely embellished with whimsy and charm or, in the case of

It is interesting to note that the wolf did survive in Ireland after it had already been exterminated in England and Wales – so much so that the country was nicknamed Wolfland.

Wolves in literature could be a whole book in their own right but Hickey tackles the subject with great aplomb. The Irish wolf in Shakespeare has a

special place, particularly in As You Like It: 'Tis like the howling of the Irish wolves against the moon.' It is clear that Shakespeare was well aware of Celtic folklore. But one of the most resonant and recent wolfy literary quotes is from Seamus Heaney, who described wolves as 'panting, lolling, vapouring', in his poem Midnight. In three words he captures not only the essence of a visceral hunting beasts but also the supernatural nature of it, seen

*the werewolf legend
raises its furry head*



flickering through woods like ghosts. Seeing this reference made me want to seek out Midnight. This is the type of book Hickey has produced; one to fire the imagination and send you on exploratory avenues to ask more questions about origins and, also, about wolf conservation in general.

Less pleasant to some may be the medicinal use of wolf parts – but still of interest for historical reasons. Unsurprisingly, the werewolf legend raises its furry head: 'the priest saw a she-wolf groaning like a human being, even though her appearance was that of a beast.' But unlike Eastern Europe, where the werewolf is predominantly evil, there seems to be more of a mystical element to the Irish werewolf – a sense of animal transformation that is mysterious and awe-inspiring.

When wolves were plentiful and often considered a danger, hunting them for skins was commonplace. Our author takes us right back to the seventh century – a time once described as 'full of druids, monks and wolves.'

It is interesting to see that as late as 1652 wolf-dog hybrids, or wolfe dogges, were considered presents fit for kings. It is lovely to have sections of old Irish records that show canis lupus as 'swarming' – which gives a great indication of how plentiful our loping

lupines were at one time.

That soon changed with the arrival of Cromwell's wolf-hunters. The claim to have destroyed the last wolf was held by many in Ireland. When that event happened is also still contentious.

WOLF

By Garry Marvin

Paperback, 224pp, illustrated.
RRP £9.99 ISBN 978-1861898791

18th century French naturalist Georges-Louis Leclerc (also rather comically known as Comte de Buffon) called the wolf 'an enemy of all society.' It may sound dramatic but it is clear from this exquisitely researched and carefully structured book that our perception of *canis lupus* is a complex one. Layer upon

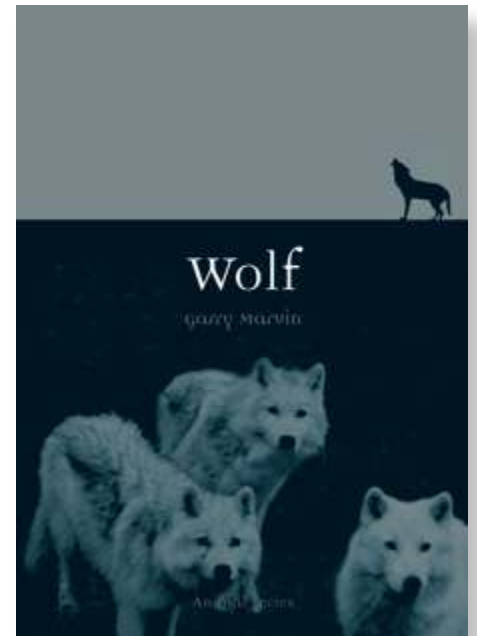


Alexander Bell, 'Canis', from *Encyclopædia Britannica* (c. 1750-80), wood engraving depicting domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) and their wolf (*Canis lupus*) ancestor.

layer of history and myth has formed a deeply emotive relationship. The wolf will be forever connected with the wild and that can work in its favour but also create fear and suspicion. This book shows us what is known versus what is imagined. Opinion is strong and not always rational. After all, Leclerc concludes the wolf to be 'odious and destructive when living, and, when dead, he is perfectly useless.'

Initially, *Wolf* introduces us to the solid facts: family life in a wolf pack, hunting methods, communication by howling. It even discusses David Mech's challenging of the term 'alpha.' But then it probes much deeper and into a fascinating well of ideas, namely how cultural beliefs shape our opinions and emotions when it comes to this particular carnivore.

Society has long been conditioned to fear the wolf as a scavenging, ravaging monster. As early as the 5th to 6th centuries, Aesop was pedaling his particular brand of bad wolf PR. Most of us know *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*. That tale is one of many. As soon as man began to 'farm' animals like sheep and goats, the wolf became a rival, an enemy. This conditioning also had a very powerful religious context – a false prophet for example is a 'wolf in sheep's clothing.' In contrast, a Utopian society might be one where 'the wolf shall dwell with the lamb.' There are endless examples.



Available from the shop at www.ukwolf.org

Some truly beautiful illustrations in *Wolf* give a pictorial insight into how the wolf has been maligned. One old religious lithograph shows a radiant Jesus cradling a lamb, while a 'wicked' wolf hides and looks on. Garry Marvin makes a strong point in this intriguing book, that the wolf is not simply seen as a large predator attempting to survive. Many more insidious elements are attributed to the creature's nature: he has an 'excessive, unnatural, unacceptable and immoral behaviour and appetite.' There is a particularly compelling section on werewolves – why perhaps the myth began and how a werewolf, like a witch, ►

WOLVES IN IRELAND



Even then, there were reports of later sightings – a farmer claimed to have killed one as late as 1829. 'Beast' stories have and always will proliferate in all communities, especially those with strong oral storytelling tradition.

There are a number of sections in the book that would interest biologists as

well as story hounds like me. Rather than take recorded incidents at face value, our author dissects those documentary records to reveal dispersal areas in Ireland. If anyone is interested in the taxonomy of dogs and wolves there is an excellent section including interesting facts on the Irish wolfhound.

If you want to know why the wolf declined in Ireland – as in so many other countries – you really will have to refer to chapter 7 of this well-researched book. Most of us know that wolf conservation and the perception of the species are complex issues – Ireland was no exception.

In conclusion, our author very humbly admits that 'there is easily a lifetime of work that could still be done on the topic.' Anyone who loves the wolf and wants to be constantly discovering more, will nod sagely at this point.

If you love all things wild and wolfish, coupled with the musicality of Irish language and its history, then this beautiful book about Wolfland is definitely for you.

Julia Bohanna

Kieran Hickey is a lecturer in the Department of Geography, NUI Galway.

All pictures taken from the book, which is available from the UKWCT shop.

◀ is truly a symbol of our fears placed into a supernatural form. It analyses the myth in art, literature and cinema. One theory (and there are many) is that the werewolf mythology was created to explain the 'unnatural predation' of wolves on human bodies in battlefields. But what is not in dispute is that time and time again, wolves were considered to be 'in league with Satan.' Ultimately they were considered duplicitous beasts. After all, the 'Latin term for werewolf – versipellis – to change skin, captures this sense of different surfaces relating to, or revealing and obscuring, different identities.'

At the UKWCT seminar recently, I was intrigued when Professor Marvin talked about the significance of Red Riding Hood. Why do you think the cross-dressing wolf lures fiction's most famous hoodie to the bedroom, to his bed? Of course, according to another myth, he is not simply a predator but also sexually predatory. He is presented as a potential rapist, a lustful creature with an unnatural sexual appetite.

But the wolf has not purely been abused for its negative connotations. Anglo-Saxon warriors would adopt wolf nicknames to sound more ferocious. Many alighted upon what they considered the more superior elements of the creature. In the twentieth century Adolf Hitler called his SS a 'pack of wolves' and used much more wolf-

related language as endearment as well as in fighting talk. He was not a great ambassador for the species and negative links like this one further enforce the wolf's ferocious reputation. It feeds hatred. But the connections with notorious groups do make fascinating reading.

The chapter on Lupicide is exactly that – a detailed account of how and why mankind hunts the wolf. It is apparent that the 'crimes' of the few are then transferred to the many – or as historian Edward Curnow states: the wolf became 'an object of pathological hatred and in their individual and collective fury the ranchers launched a formidable attack against the entire species.'

Later, the chapter on Lupophilia examines the flipside – how wolves are revered and eulogised in cultures such as the Native American Indians, how stories in many countries evolved about children being raised by wolves.

There is also a very pertinent final chapter on rewilding. Reintroductions, such as the one in Yellowstone, elicit debate and controversy. Why is there so much passion on both sides of the conservation argument? How did we get to this point?



Artist unknown, 'Wolves', 1813
engraving published by John Wheble, London

I have given a taster but there is simply too much to discuss or indeed give away in a short book review about Wolf. It is a wonderful tome of answers to those two major questions: Why do we hate the wolf? Why do we love the wolf? It is rich on fact and research, analysing those answers with intelligence and great insight. It is beautiful to look at, academic but also extremely accessible. Most of all, it will give you a QI-style ability to quote elegant or shocking lupine facts, fables and myth – to anyone who is wise enough to begin such a discussion.

Julia Bohanna

Garry Marvin is Professor of Human-Animal Studies at Roehampton University. He has previously written on bullfighting, cockfighting and zoos.

Guided Walking and Research Tours in Albania

Spend eight days in one of Europe's most mysterious and unexplored countries. Walk through wild terrain, tracking bears and wolves and looking out for wild boar, deer, pine marten, otter and chamois. David James, the principal guide, is an expert on Albania and has spearheaded pioneering humanitarian work through the British charity ICA for the past 15 years. The base of the tour will be the village of Voskopoja, once an ancient city rich in history, with interesting Romanesque architecture and Orthodox churches with some of the best 18th-century frescoes in southern Europe.

- Walk through beautiful scenery spotting signs of wolves and bears with a local guide and Albanian expert from the UK
- Dawn and dusk 'wolf watching'
- Stay in a family-run B&B and eat delicious home-cooked food
- Very friendly and hospitable locals
- Meet local farmers & beekeepers to understand their way of life
- Visit churches with spectacular 18th century frescoes

By coming on the trip you will be contributing to ICA's work in the area including providing fencing for beekeepers and livestock guarding dogs to farmers, and our conservation, education and research programme.

Price £525 – based on sharing a twin room, includes all in country transport and accommodation on a half board basis, guide. Excludes international flights.

January snow wolf-tracking trips assisting with wolf research projects – follow the wolves in their natural habitat! No expertise needed; just enthusiasm and to enjoy walking in snow! If you are interested please let ICA know by 1 July 2012.



Full details and dates for all tours can be found on the ICA website: www.ica-uk.co.uk

Tel: 01380-840990

E Mail: icauk@btopenworld.com

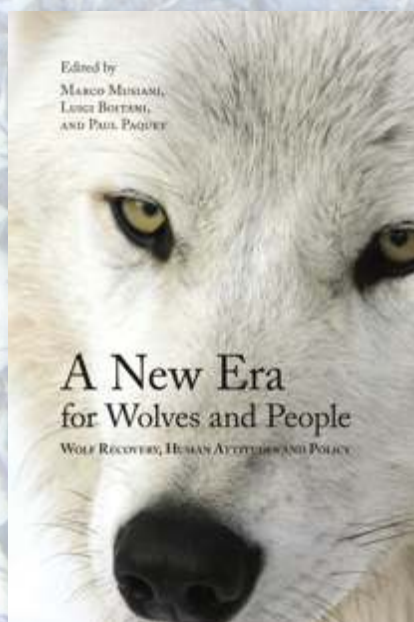
Charity Reg No: 1062426

WINTER SALE

Dreamcatchers

were £4.00 each
NOW £2.00

16cm diameter painted fabric dreamcatchers with bead and feather decoration. Includes hanging loop. Assorted designs.



A New Era for Wolves and People: Wolf Recovery, Human Attitudes and Policy

was £9.99 – **NOW £5.00**

Wolves hold an almost mythical status in the cultural history of Europe and North America. For hundreds of years, they have been the subject of fairy tales and other lore, embodying mystery, cunning, and sometimes threat. People are drawn to their beauty, intrigued by their behaviours. Yet for those who live in close proximity to wolves, coexistence is fraught with many serious issues. Wolf management is an excellent model of human-nature interaction and the challenges that come along with it. This book analyses the crucial relationship between human ethics, attitudes, and policy, and the management of wolf populations in Europe and North America. The contributors to this volume assert that these human dimensions affect wolf survival just as much, if not more, than the physical environment. Contributors include recognised scientists and other wolf experts who introduce new and sometimes controversial findings. The book includes colour photographs by David C Olson and drawings by wildlife artist Susan Shimeld. Paperback, 224 pages.

Wolf Slippers were £11.99 – **NOW £5.99**

Designed and produced exclusively for the Trust by Monster Slippers these snugly slippers have a hard-wearing, non-slip sole. Washable at 30°C. Available in children's sizes:

XS: shoe size 10 – 1

S: shoe size 1½ – 4



Kissane Card was 50p – **NOW 25p**

Designed by Julie Kissane and featuring our wolves Kodiak and Kenai. The card is blank inside for your own message and is supplied with an envelope. Size 20.5 cm x 15 cm

Set of 3 UKWCT Postcards

was £1.20 – NOW 60p

These three postcards feature Duma and Dakota resting (right), Duma in a meadow, and sleeping cubs.

Size 15cm x 9.7cm.



Dakota Christmas Card - pack of 5

was £2.50 – NOW £1.00

or 25p per card

Pack of 5 cards featuring Dakota sitting on a snowy mound.

Greeting:

"A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

Size: 12.7cm x 17.8cm



Savage Freedom

was £3.00

NOW £1.00

Savage Freedom is an account of Ian Redman's involvement in wolf conservation and the biology of this magnificent wild canid. In the early days of the UKWCT Ian was a speaker at the Trust's seminars. Paperback, 96 pages.

Size 21cm x 14.8cm.



Wolf Badges **were £1.50 – NOW 50p each**

Printed metal on a plastic backing with safety pin.

Size 5.8cm diameter.



Pack of 10

Party Invitations

was £2.50 –

NOW 50p

10 wolf-themed invites

with reply section.

Supplied with envelopes.

Size: 21cm x 14.5cm



NEW! ARCTIC WOLF-EYES BEANIE

£12.99

Cosy polar-white knitted beanie with embroidered wolf's eyes. The reverse has the Trust's website in small lettering at the bottom. One size. 100% acrylic. Machine washable at 40°C. Please note: this is not a sale item.

EXCLUSIVE!



To view and order these and our other stationery, clothing, gifts and souvenirs, visit our online shop at www.ukwolf.org or call 0118 971 3330.

Please note: all UK orders are subject to a minimum P&P charge of £4.50. For overseas orders, please contact us.



The Innocent Outcast

Beyond the town that whispers lies about demonised creatures,
Beyond the valley of prejudice where the uneducated hunter clings to his gun,
Beyond the roads that rip the landscape in two,
Beyond and above society stood the magnificent creature on a mountain made by nature.

Amber eyes stared at the world that had eliminated its place.
They felt betrayal as the humans turned their back and watched the wolf fall from grace.
A single sound echoed around the forest

A howl...

And the pack was together, united, loyal.
Miles away the foot of a heartless hunter stepped into the forest.
The wind ripped through the pack's armour of fur as they descended into the shadows.

If you see a wolf in the wild it's seen you a thousand times –
Watching you from the shadows,
resenting you for your crimes.
The wolf was once our teacher; taught us all we know
Until we lined our pockets with cold gold in exchange for their coats as white as snow.

'Stay away from the woods now Son, the wolves won't be so kind'
How can the human race be so cruel and blind?
To the mighty wolf, the ultimate canine,
Who doesn't growl and snarl but makes a sound so fine
that it melts the heart of all who hear the affectionate squeak of love
That this magnificent creature makes from its mountains high above.

Amy Gannon (First Year Creative Writing Single Honours)

"Every year the University of Winchester Creative Writing students visit the Wolf Trust at Beenham where they discuss the plight of the wolf and explore the usage of the 'bad press' the wolf has received in literature across the centuries. This is followed by a hugely popular wolf 'meet and greet'. During their day at the sanctuary, students are asked to make notes and jot down ideas for anything – a phrase, an image, even a sound – that inspires them and to then take this away to rework into a piece of creative writing or poetry.

"The students then enter this in a first year creative writing competition, which is judged by other students in the first year of their degree."

*Judy Waite, Lecturer
University of Winchester*

This year's winner, Amy Gannon, says:

"I was inspired to write this poem when I first came face-to-face with a wolf. The creature made an unexpected sound: a high-pitched squeak. It was at that moment that I felt pity that such a beautiful and loving creature had been portrayed to society as a vicious demon through literature and film."

Forthcoming events at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Pastel Workshop with Vic Bearcroft Monday, 16th April

Join award-winning British wildlife artist Vic Bearcroft on this special pastel workshop, where you will learn how to paint wolves in pastel on velour paper. You will be painting one of the UKWCT's own wolves from a selected reference photograph, in sight of the wolves themselves. The workshop is suitable for artists of all abilities. You will also have the chance to meet a wolf at very close quarters, feel the fur and take some fantastic reference photos.

For further information and booking, email Vic Bearcroft at vicbearcroft@tiscali.co.uk or telephone 01636 651699 www.vicbearcroft.co.uk

Friday Night is Howl Night!

10th February, 9th March at 6.30pm
20th April, 25th May, 15th June at 7.00pm

If you've ever dreamed of standing near a wolf and hearing it howl, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to feel your backbone tingle and your ears vibrate with the sound. The evening will start with a presentation on wolf communication; you will then go on a tour of the centre and have the opportunity to let out a howl and see if the wolves respond!

Night is the best time to see the wolves as they are at their most active.

(Don't forget to dress up warmly for an evening under the stars).

Cost £10 per person – Booking required



Valentine Walks

Sunday, 12th February, 10am and 2.00pm

What could be a more romantic gift for an animal lover than to walk with wolves? Spend your special day at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust in the company of one of the world's most family-oriented species. It's breeding season for the wolves as well and they are very loyal and attentive to their mates at this special time of the year for lovers. **£75 for two people.**



Mobility Walks

Wednesdays 9th May and 5th September, 2pm

For those unable to come on our full two-hour walks due to mobility issues, we offer special mobility walks at the Trust. The event starts with a PowerPoint presentation in the Education Centre and then a short walk around the site, with the chance to meet wolves up close. There is a large area of graveled path around the enclosures which allows good viewing of all the wolves. The wolves are happy around wheelchairs. **£75 for two people.**

Mothering Sunday Walk

Sunday, 18th March, 10am

Looking for an extra-special gift for an extra-special mum? How about a wolf walk? The event includes a photo opportunity with the wolves and a gift for Mum. **£75 for two people.** Open to children age 12 years plus; £10 extra per additional child, subject to availability.

Fathers' Day Walk

Sunday, 17th June, 10am and 2pm

Stuck for that special gift for a Dad who has everything? Why not get him the ultimate gift – walking with wolves? The event includes a photo opportunity with the wolves and a gift for Dad. **£75 for two people.** Open to children age 12 years plus; £10 extra per additional child, subject to availability.



Booking essential. All walks come with a year's membership to the Trust.

Eggstatic Spectacular!

**Wolf Walk & Easter Egg Hunt
Thursday 5th April, 11am**

Have you ever wondered what the wolves love to do at Easter? Well, they do enjoy hunting for eggs!

Come for a walk with the wolves and then decorate some eggs for their very own wolfy Easter Egg Hunt – the wolves love it and so will you! Please book early for this popular event.

Cost £15 per person, 6 years +

Children's Wolf Keeper Day

Wednesday 11th April, 10am-3pm

- Come dressed to get mucky and see what the wolves and their keepers get up to during the day.
- Take over the job of the Wolf Keeper looking after the wolves. Don't be fooled – it's hard work but lots of fun.
- Spaces are limited to make the day really special, so please book early.

£30 per person. 10 years +



Children's Wolf Walks

16th February, 10am start & 2pm start
4th April and 6th June, 1.30pm start

Take a walk with the UKWCT wolves. This event includes a short talk and tour of the centre.

£13 per person, 6 years +

Booking essential; limited parent spaces.

Forthcoming events at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

UKWCT Wolf Centre Open Day – Saturday, 19th May, 11am to 5pm

Come and celebrate the 12 wolves' birthdays... there will be a giant 'wolfelicious' cake for the wolves!



- Look around the Trust
- See our wolves
- Photography sessions from the platform
- Ask the experts about living with wolves
- Listen to the wolves howling
- Birds of prey flying demonstration
- Luke's Creepy-Crawlies
- Other animal exhibits
- Children's activities incl. face-painting
- Nature trail • Pond dipping
- Bouncy castle
- Refreshments
- Picnic tables available
- Booking not required
- **Sorry: no dogs on site**



Adults and non-members: **£7**

Members, children (3-11), senior citizens: **£5**

NEXT WOLF CENTRE OPEN DAY:

Monday 27th August

WORLD ANIMAL DAY Sunday 7th October – incl. other exhibits and activities (see website later in 2012)

Family ticket (2 adults & 2 children up to age 12) – **Advanced: £18, On the day: £25.**

Adult ticket – **Advanced: £8, On the day: £10.**

Member, child (3-11) or senior citizen ticket – **Advanced: £5, On the day: £5. Child under 3 – FREE.**



Date for your diary:

Wolf Awareness Week 2012 – Saturday 13th to Friday 19th October.

Wolf Keeper Experience Days

29th March; 10th, 24th & 30th May; 13th, 21st & 28th June – 10am to 4pm.

If you – or someone you know – is a wolf lover, then this is a unique experience: during the day you will see behind the scenes at the Wolf Trust and shadow the keeper in tasks such as cleaning out the wolf enclosures, preparing and giving medication and get involved in our wolf enrichment programme. There is a maximum of 6 people on each day.

All participants will also have a walk with the wolves, meet a wolf, have the opportunity to take photos, and receive a souvenir certificate at the end of the day.

Please bring your own packed lunch. Tea, coffee and squash available.

£100 per person, age 16 or over. Booking Essential.

You are advised to have an up-to-date tetanus immunisation.

Spring Photography Day

Sunday 1st April, 10am – 4pm

Your first opportunity to photograph all 12 of the Trust's wolves, including our amazing Arctic trio.



Held when the wolves are at their most charismatic, our photography workshop starts with a brief presentation setting the scene and giving you some background information of the wolves and the centre. You will then have time to photograph the wolves either in their enclosures or out on a walk.

Open to photographers of all abilities and standards of equipment. Participants must be 18 years or older. Full details on the website.

Spaces are limited – so book early. **£100 per person**



Predator to Pet Workshop

Join us for an exciting and fast-moving workshop developed in association with Wolf Park of Indiana. You will:

- examine the genetic evidence of the relationship between dogs and wolves
- look at domestication vs socialisation
- learn about the taxonomy of canids
- walk with ambassador wolves, seeing firsthand the ancestor of today's dogs
- receive a gift as a memento of the day

This hands-on workshop will chart the domestication of dogs from their wild roots to the present day... and much more besides.

Saturday 9th June and
Saturday 13th October – 10am to 2pm

A walk with ambassador wolves is included, allowing you to see first-hand the wild ancestor of today's dogs. You'll also receive a gift as a memento of the day.

£50 per person – places limited – booking essential

Further details at www.ukwolf.org or to book call 0118 971 3330