

LOOK!
MICHELLE
PAVER
COMPETITION!
See page 7!

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WOLF CHRONICLE

From the Editor

Dear Members

I can't believe it's May already! The Trust has been buzzing with activity - no sign of stopping any time soon.

Remembering all the way back to February, the Arctics and Beenham packs experienced their first real snow! You can see from these photos of Pukak how much fun they had exploring the strange white stuff! The wolves also enjoyed tucking into their specially decorated eggs and celebrating Easter with our guests on the Easter Egg Hunt Walk back in April. Both the Arctics and Beenham packs also celebrated their first birthdays this year!



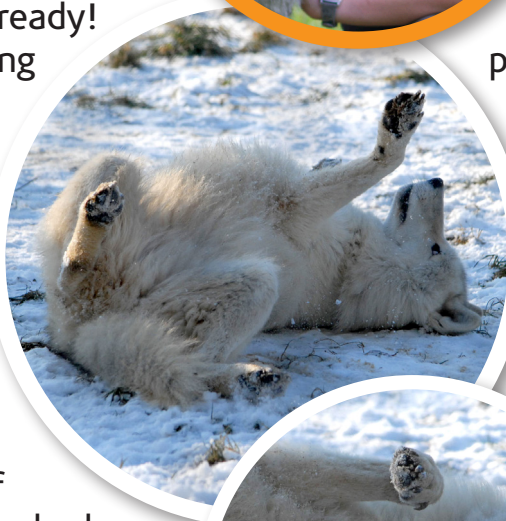
We've had our first Open Day of the year which went really well. It was great that so many of you came to see us. Come again in August!

Once again we have a jam-packed edition of Wolf Chronicle this month and I'm pleased to see that so many of you have got involved with it so please keep sending in your photos and letters. There is a chance to win a special copy of the *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* Omnibus book, signed by author Michelle Paver and we reveal who won last edition's competition!

The wolves and I look forward to seeing you at some of our upcoming events soon!

Danny

Assistant Education Officer / Assistant Wolf Keeper



News



Spring has sprung! However it has arrived accompanied by hailstones, freezing temperatures and unseasonably hot sunny days, all within a couple of weeks. The wolves have started to lose their winter coats but rather tentatively, as if not sure what the weather will bring next. There has been a lot happening on site, with work ongoing to improve and maintain the wolves' enclosures.

Pukak is the most forward of the three, he can't help himself! His natural curiosity will propel him towards the nearest person to greet them submissively, with crouched posture and lots of squeaking.

Sikko is next to pluck up courage once she has watched her brother for a while. She tries to persuade you that she is put upon by her brothers.

Our Arctic wolves continue to thrive and had their first birthday on 8th March. They are in the top enclosure next to our Education centre and are the first wolves that the public see when they arrive. They love attention and interact amongst themselves by the fence, playing to the delighted audience.

Massak, Sikko & Pukak



This is easy to believe as she is much smaller and has retained her delicate features. However she is able to take care of herself as the boys know to their cost.

Massak is the largest Arctic and the most wary.

If he chooses to greet you it is a great honour. With his handlers he is more forthcoming and lets them know he wants attention by nudging them gently with his nose. He is a striking wolf who likes to keep his distance until he is absolutely sure of what is going on.

The Arctics are being socialised to groups of people in preparation for walking with the public. Having been in quarantine for 6 months, with only 10 people allowed by law to interact with them, they can find crowds a bit scary. All three love the pond and stream in the field. A favourite game is chasing and catching small twigs as they float downstream, perhaps an indication of how they would hunt for fish in their native lands.

Being the only Arctic wolves in the UK, Massak, Pukak and Sikko are very popular and will make wonderful ambassadors for their wild cousins.

News

Our two oldest wolves, **Duma** at 14 and **Lunca** at 13, have moved into the enclosure next to the Arctics. The two oldies like to be where they can see what is going on around the site and watch the antics of their next door neighbours. Duma and Lunca have been retired from walks at weekends but will still go out on short walks during the week.

After a lifetime of being our most professional and well-known ambassador, Duma deserves a rest, although she is still eager to come out and see people during the week. The Queen of the Wolf Trust remains healthy, active and delighted to see her human friends.

Lunca is much slower than Duma but still enjoys her walks and human interaction. Although she no longer



Duma

does meet and greets, she loves to go out and sniff all the new scents in the surrounding fields. To see Lunca being affectionate to her favourite handlers you would not believe the change that comes over her when food is involved.

She must be separated from Duma at feeding time or she will chase Duma off and eat all Duma's food as well as her own! Apart from this, the two old ladies live together in peace and can often be seen lying together soaking up some sun.



Lunca

Mosi and **Torak** were temporarily retired during the breeding season to allow them time to interact with each other. They have now moved into the enclosure next to Mosi's sister, Mai. At first there was a lot of posing, grumbling and fence-running because the two sisters are not the best of friends. Mosi is still the same, full of character and attitude - for this reason she is a great favourite amongst the handlers. Never a dull moment with Mosi!

Torak is the same handsome but wary wolf, happy with his partner Mosi.

Turn over for more!

News

He is quite laid back most of the time but when Mosi pesters him too much he retaliates and stands no nonsense from her. It is an impressive sight to see the very large Torak telling off bossy Mosi in no uncertain terms – and unusual to see Mosi so submissive.



Mosi & Torak

When Mosi and Torak are on a public walk they don't do meet and greets like our other wolves, but they present wonderful photo opportunities walking together or splashing around in the pond. Mosi and Torak are now 6 years old.



The happy couple, **Mai** and **Motomo**, seem content in their new enclosure – even if it is next to the pesky Mosi. Mai can lie on top of the mound and keep an eye not only on her sister but also her cubs just down the site. At 6 years old she is a magnificent looking wolf, with her coat turning more silver every year. Mai and Mosi's mother was completely

white so Mai could be going in this direction. Mai was retired for the breeding season so that she and Motomo could have quality time together. She will not have any more cubs as she has had an operation to prevent this. Mai is happy with Motomo but has kept her love of human interaction, liking a good scratch through the fence until she is called away by her mate.



Mai & Motomo

Motomo is our only unsocialised wolf but he has grown in confidence since he arrived to live at the Trust. He will now come to the fence to see what is going on, even if it's not feeding time! He always keeps an eye on Mai and doesn't like her to have too much human interaction. Motomo is in his prime at 4 years old and a very handsome wolf. He has passed on his colouring and markings to two of his cubs while the third takes after her mother.

Mai & Motomo photo: Barry Welch Mosi & Torak photo: Danny Kidby-Hunter

News



Tala, Tundra & Nuka

The Beenham Pack have taken up residence in the bottom enclosure and take full advantage of the pond. Nuka, Tala and Tundra are typically boisterous, mischievous young wolves, loving to play and explore everything.

Nuka is friendly and inquisitive, scared of nothing. In Nuka's world everyone is his friend and he likes them to know it. His greetings are sometimes a little over-enthusiastic but always good natured. He is the spitting image of his father and almost equal in size, a force to be reckoned with as he matures. Nuka and Tala like to meet and greet the public but Nuka prefers to throw himself on his back to have his belly rubbed. This is very appealing of course but his handlers must try and persuade him to stand up, which is not always easy as he loves all the attention he gets.

Tala takes after Mai in looks, a black coat flecked with grey and tan and beautiful eyes which contrast with the dark fur. Tala is very friendly but with the public she is a little more reserved. Instead of just throwing herself at

everyone like her brother does, she stands politely and quietly for her meet and greets, sometimes giving the lucky greeter a lick on the hand. At the moment, Tala seems to be the one who has inherited her mother's calm disposition with humans, but things can always change!

Tundra is the most reserved of the siblings. She is shy and quiet when out on a walk and will stay on the outskirts of the crowd, watching intently while her brother and sister meet the public. Occasionally she will pick out a person who takes her fancy and sidle up to them for some attention. Who knows what she sees in one human over another, but that is the way she is at the moment and we are happy to accommodate her.

In their enclosure the Beenhams revert to being typical young cubs, fishing in the pond, playing chase and being very pleased to see their handlers for a visit. They are charming and very entertaining and we look forward to seeing them grow into their future ambassadorial roles.

Beenhams photo: Danny Kidby-Hunter

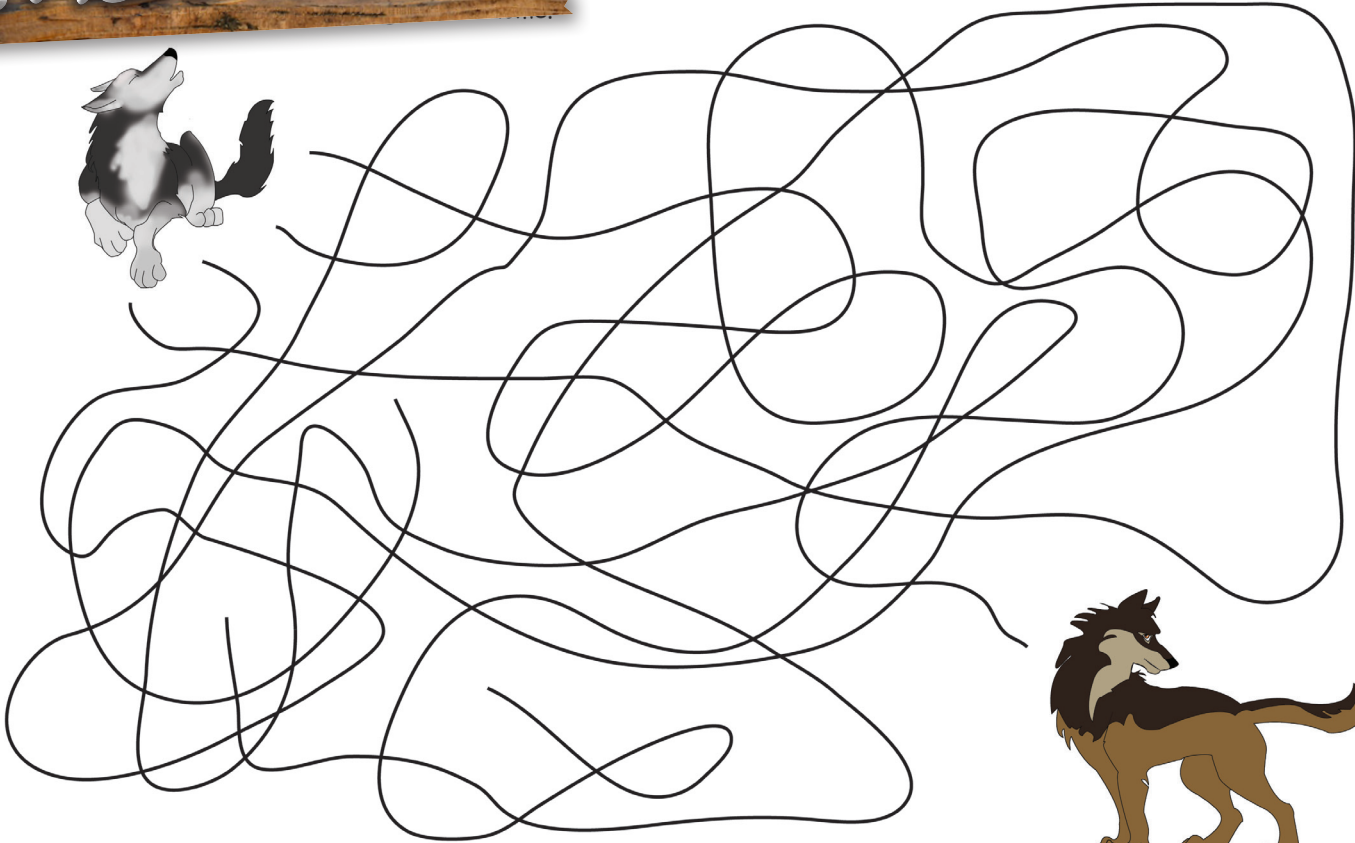


Puzzles

Try these tricky teasers!

Mai's maze!

Mai was out hunting but she lost her way. She's calling to Motomo to find out where he is. Can you help Mai find the right path home?

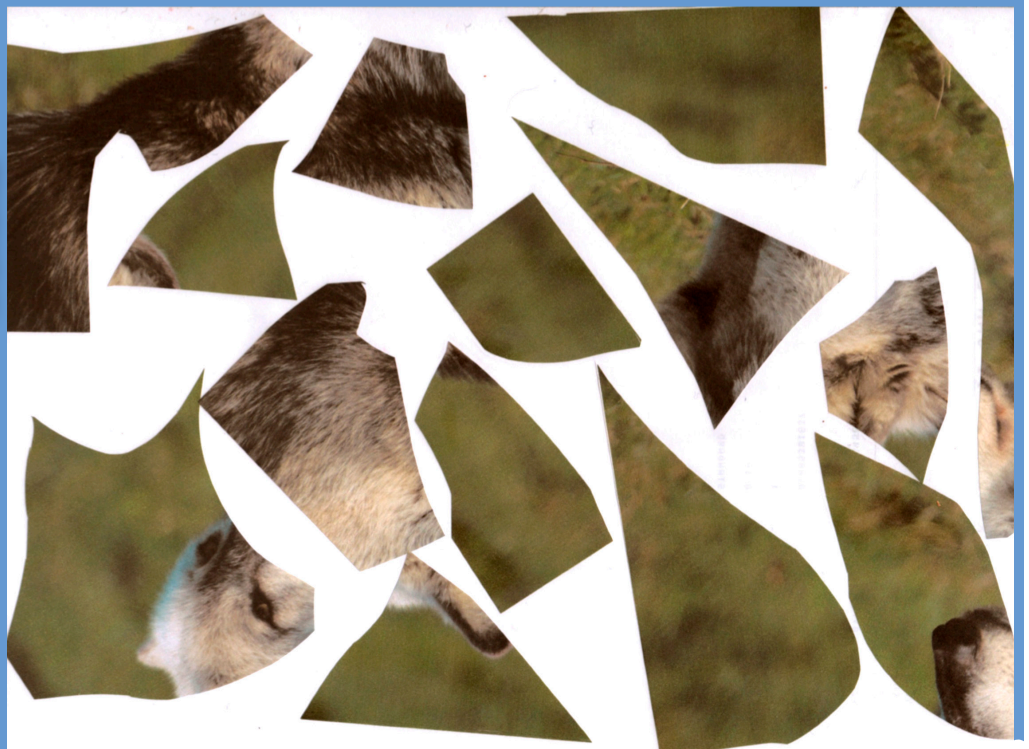


Paws

jigsaw!

Carefully cut out the pieces of the jigsaw (right), then reassemble them to find out which of the Trust's wolves the picture shows.

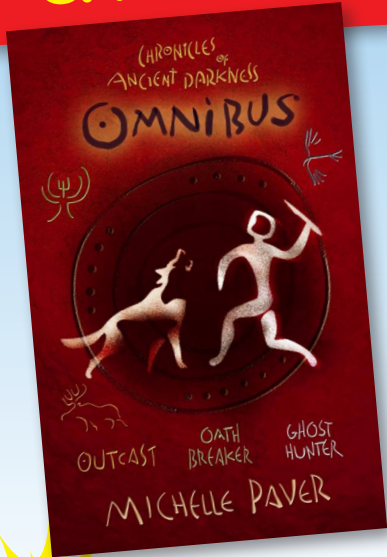
Answers on
page 12!





Competition

WIN A SIGNED COPY OF MICHELLE PAVER'S
CHRONICLES OF ANCIENT DARKNESS OMNIBUS



As some of you know, Michelle Paver, author of *The Chronicles of Darkness* series, and Wolf Trust patron, is holding a creative writing workshop during the summer holidays here at the Trust. To get your creative minds going, we have asked Michelle to give us an opening line to a story and we want you to finish it! The lucky winner will get a signed copy of *The Chronicles of Ancient Darkness Omnibus II* hardback book.

Closing date for all entries is **Monday 9th July** and Michelle will pick the winner. The chosen story will be announced on **2nd August** at Michelle's workshop and the winner will have their story published in the next edition of *Wolf Chronicle*.

"He was woken by the howling of wolves."

Michelle says: "This is a first line that you could take in all sorts of different directions. For instance, who is "he?" A person, a wolf, or another kind of animal? What does he feel on hearing those wolves? Fear? Friendliness? Relief? Is the story all about wolves, or does it concern something else entirely? it's up to you to decide.

One thing i would suggest, though, is that once you've written your story, you might like to put it aside for a couple of weeks. Then take it out again, read it, and see if you can make it a bit better. It's amazing what a difference a couple of weeks can make.

Anyway, however you go about it, and whatever kind of story you write, I hope you have fun!" Good luck!



Please send your story to **WCMay12 Win, UKWCT, Butlers Farm, Beenham, Reading, Berkshire RG7 5NT** or email us at **ukwolfconservationtrust@googlemail.com** with **WCMay12 Win** in the subject line. Please include your name and contact details.



Feature

Wolf socialisation



Here at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust we believe it is important for the wellbeing of our wolves that they are socialised. This means that the wolves are hand-raised from tiny cubs so that they accept humans and aren't afraid of them. By doing this, any human activity around the

wolves doesn't cause them stress and they can behave naturally without being scared of people. It also means we can interact with our wolves, take them on walks and give them veterinary treatment without upsetting them.

We can show you how this process works by following the progress of the Beenham pack over the last year.



1 On 3 May 2011, Mai gave birth to 3 cubs, Nuka, Tala and Tundra. They stayed with her for 10 days as her milk gave them a good start to life and helped with immunity to disease.



2 The cubs are taken for hand-raising before their eyes open. This is so the first thing they see is a human and this means they accept people as a natural part of their world. When they are tiny, they completely rely on us for care which helps the bond between people and wolf.



3 The cubs are monitored round the clock while they are small. What they eat, how much they weigh, even how often they go to the toilet, is recorded so we can see that they are growing properly. All this strengthens the bond between the cubs and their handlers and gets them used to different people.



4 At five weeks old the cubs start eating solid food. We give it to them by hand rather than regurgitate it!



Turn over for more!

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. EMAIL US AT education@ukwolf.org





5 At around 3 months old, the cubs start to live outside in an enclosure. It is important to keep a lot of contact with them but it's also good for them to observe the other wolves on site.



6 At this time the cubs start their lead training. We do this slowly so that the cubs get used to everything at their own pace and it's fun for them. This way they learn that walking with people is a really good thing to do! Here they are practising meet and greets with some volunteers.



7 By the end of the year, the cubs are ready to go on their first public walk. Haven't they grown!



8 At the end of February 2012, the cubs were nearly 10 months old and did their first walk with the public. Thanks to all the care and attention they had received growing up, they were calm and relaxed and enjoyed meeting new people, especially Nuka!



9 Now the cubs are a year old and the next generation of ambassador wolves for the UKWCT. Due to the intensive care they received growing up, they are fully socialised and accept people as their friends, as you can see!

Our founder, Roger Palmer, was influenced by the work done at Wolf Park in Indiana, USA. Dr Erich Klinghammer, who founded Wolf Park, pioneered the captive wolf socialisation process. If you would like to read more about wolf socialisation, please go to <http://www.wolfpark.org/wolfarticles.shtml> and at the bottom of the page you can download an article called "Why Hand Raise Captive Wolves". There is lots of good information on this excellent site so please have a look.

Photos: Vicky Allison-Hughes, Matt Booth, Julia Brown, Nikki Davies, Danny Kidby-Hunter, Jason Siddall



Wolf Facts

Making sense - the wolf's ears

How do wolves' ears work? Can they hear better than us? Deborah Duguid Farrant has listened and will now tell!

When a wolf cub is born it is deaf but by three weeks old that has changed and the cub can now hear.

A wolf's ear is shaped like a cone or a scoop that catches sound and lets them know what direction it is coming from; by swivelling their ears they can pinpoint when the sound is loudest and know that is the direction it is coming from. Even when they are asleep wolves' ears stay standing upright, still catching or scooping up the sounds around them, allowing them to be alerted to danger or possibly dinner!

Wolves can hear sounds over great distances in a forested environment. They can hear another wolf howling about 6 miles away (just over 9½km) and in an open environment they can hear another wolf howling about 10 miles away (just over 16km). We humans can hear sounds in an open environment (sometimes) for just about 4 miles (nearly 6½km).

As you can see a wolf's sense of hearing is far greater than ours and they can also hear noises that are too high pitched for the human ear to hear.



Massak photo: Danny Kidby-Hunter

Letters

We love hearing from you about anything wolf related. Here is a selection of writing and pictures we've received recently.

"Thank you for an amazing day. I felt very lucky to meet a real wolf and even luckier to hear them all howling together while we were sitting in the education centre. I wanted to share my day with my school, Kings Langley Primary, so I made a Wolf Awareness Poster for 'show and tell' to let my friends know that people should protect the wolves. Perhaps our school will come and see the wolves. I think my mum and dad had as much fun as me. We think the wolves are so smart and beautiful and can't wait to come back. See you soon."

Love Ryder Dempsey
Aged 6,
Hemel Hempstead

I can't pick a favourite wolf now. I love them all.

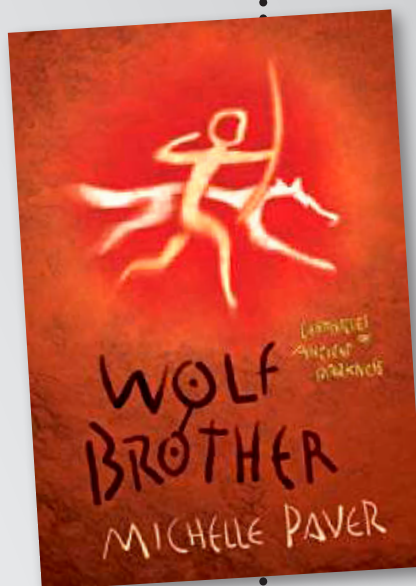


Ryder enjoyed his visit with us so much that he sent us these pictures of his wolf work. Well done, Ryder!

Wolf Brother book review

Wolf Brother is the first book of six and begins the amazing Chronicles of Ancient Darkness series by Michelle Paver. This book is full of interesting description. It makes you want to carry on reading and reading as it has suspense. The author gives a great image of what is going on whilst still using your imagination. It stands out from the crowd.

Torak, who is a young boy with a great destiny, loses his



father in the forest and gets into dangers they'd never imagine.

It's aged for 7-11 years old but I found some of the words difficult to read which was good as I learnt what they mean now.

My favourite part of the book was the beginning because it was full of suspense. I didn't know what was going to happen next. I definitely recommend it, especially to a wolf lover and children from 8-13.

Sophie Farrant (by email)

Letters

Amber eyes

With amber eyes he watches over
his pack and family,
Strong together as they fight
for survival,

With angry eyes he sees fences
across the land and men with guns,
He only kills to survive,

With sad eyes he looks at the sharp
traps and soft fur of his pups,
As they did not survive.

Yours sincerely
India aged 11

*What a beautiful poem, India. Thank you
for sending it to us. Wolves do have a
hard life out in the wild but we do what
we can to help them and the people
who live near them..*



WINNER!

Congratulations to **Angelica Fraser**
who answered all the questions
correctly of Wolf Trust Quiz and is
the winner of an exclusive tour of the
Trust for her and her family.

Here are the answers to the questions:

- 1: The Arctic wolves were born at Parc Safari, Quebec, Canada.
- 2: Lunca is a European wolf.
- 3: Duma was 13 years old at the time of the competition.
- 4: The Beenham pack's parents are Mai and Motomo.
- 5: The Arctic's quarantine period lasted for six months.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

MAI'S MAZE: ▼



PAWS PUZZLE:

The jigsaw is of lovely Mai!

Events

CHILDRENS WOLF WALKS

● Monday 20th August 2012
11am start

£13 per person (6 years +). Booking essential. Limited parent spaces.

Take a walk with our wolves. Includes a short talk and a tour of the centre.

WOLF PICNIC

● Wednesday 22nd August 2012
11am start

£15 per person (6 years +). Booking essential. Limited parent spaces.

Take a walk with the wolves then make some special treats for them.

CHILDRENS' KEEPER DAY

● Wednesday 29th August 2012
10am - 3pm **£30** per person (10 years +).
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. Don't be fooled – it's hard work but lots of fun. Spaces are limited to make the day really special, so book early.

WACKY WOLF DAY

● Wednesday 15th August 2012
10am - 1pm

£15 per person (8 years +). Limited parent spaces.

A fun scavenger hunt for children and wolves - a wolf walk is included. Come and have some fun! Booking is essential.



Tundra photo: Jason Siddall

Events

UKWCT OPEN DAY

● Monday 27th August 2012

11am - 5pm

£7 - adults and non-members

£5 - members, children (3-11 years) and senior citizens.

Booking not required.

Sorry, no dogs on site. The site is accessible for those with mobility scooters and wheelchairs.

We've plenty to see and do!

- Look around the Trust
- See our 12 wolves
- Photography sessions
- Ask the experts about living with wolves
- Listen to the wolves howling



- Quirks Animal Roadshow with animal handling opportunities
- Animal exhibits
- Birds of prey flying demonstrations
- Childrens' activities including face-painting, nature trail, pond dipping and bouncy castle
- Refreshments and picnic tables available

WORLD ANIMAL DAY

● Sunday 7th October 2012

Come and see our wolves plus other exhibits and activities (see website from July for further details).

£18 (advanced), £25 (on the day) - Family ticket (2 adults and 2 children)

£8 (advanced), £10 (on the day) - adult

£5 - members, children (3-11 years) and senior citizens.

FREE - Children under 3



Motomo photo: Paul Tyrer Wolf costume photo: Tara Armstrong