



# WOLF CHRONICLE

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## From the Editor

### Dear Members

I hope you've all had a great summer and enjoyed your school holidays. The Trust has been

buzzing with activity and we've been busy with all the fun events that have been going on. Some of you joined in our summer wolf walks and wolf picnics and enjoyed feeding the wolves their watermelon treats.

Our Open Day over the August Bank Holiday weekend went really well; we were pleased so many of you turned up to show your support. Lots of you visited us in the Education Centre and took part in our 'Wolf Trust Games'. Everyone enjoyed trying to get the ball in the wolf's mouth

on the 'Feed the Wolf' stand and catching prey to feed your family by knocking down tin cans in 'On the Hunt'. Well

done to Lexie-Mae who was the winner of the under 8s category, and to Martha who was the winner for the over 8s. The 2 runners-up for the under 8s were Kye Booth and Maizie Neal, and Charlotte King and Gracie for the over 8s. Your prizes will be in the post to you shortly.

Remember Wolf Chronicle is yours so if you have any ideas of what you'd like us to cover please email and let us know.

Also don't forget full details of all our events can be found on the back page - you get advance notice of these dates but they do book up quickly. The wolves and I look forward to seeing you soon!

**Danny**

Assistant Education Officer / Assistant Wolf Keeper





# News

Summer arrived... then it went again! Thoughts of building an ark to rival Noah's crossed our minds and mud was an unavoidable feature of the wolves' enclosures. They didn't seem to mind and took everything in their soggy stride.

The Arctics enjoyed a thunderstorm that rattled around the Trust recently, with lightning and torrential rain. They had fun chasing each other, jumping over logs and generally being crazy. The Arctics are 18 months old now and maturing into beautiful animals. They have shed their fluffy puppy coats and are now streamlined, slim and fit. Their characters are also developing...

**Massak** is still the aloof, wary one who won't come near until he trusts you. But he's gaining confidence and instead of standing half way across the enclosure observing you, he will now approach the fence to examine new people. To look into Massak's eyes is to realise how intelligent he is. If he sees his brother or sister being fussed by the handlers he will

rush over and push them out of the way so he can receive attention.

**Pukak** is the bravest Arctic and loves fuss. He's getting a bit cheeky though. On an enrichment walk he will sometimes find a dead creature which, naturally, he wants. We can't let our wolves pick these up because we don't know how they died or if poison was involved. When Pukak realises he won't get what he wants, he throws a tantrum and gives his handler a hard time for a few minutes. It's soon over and he carries on enjoying his walk.

**Sikko** is a little princess but is tougher than you think. Being smaller than her brothers she has to stand up for herself. She is very affectionate if she trusts you and licks your face until it feels as if it has been sandpapered. Being small has its advantages - she can weave and dodge when playing so that the boys have a job to catch her. Sikko is quite submissive to her handlers but she soon regains her confidence and demands affection.

The Arctics will not be walking with the public but are having lots of enrichment walks. Because of their long quarantine they are wary of large groups.



Sikko, Pukak & Massak

Arctics photo: Clive Readings Wolves illustration: Danny Kidby-Hunter



Our two old ladies, **Duma** and **Lunca**, are generally well but both are showing signs of age. This is not surprising as Duma is 14 and Lunca is 13.

Duma gave us a scare a while ago when she briefly collapsed on a walk. She was soon up again but of course we were worried. The vet was consulted and said that if she was well in herself then we should not intervene. Although both girls are officially retired, they still enjoy walks with their handlers and are always eager to come out.

Lunca continues to enjoy her food, her walks and lying in the sun – when it comes out! She was getting very stiff so the vet prescribed an anti-



Lunca



Duma

inflammatory medicine for her which has made a real difference. Lunca now moves much more easily and even breaks into a trot on her walks. The problem lies in getting her to take her daily tablet. With their exceptional sense of smell, wolves know exactly when there is an addition to their food. All sorts of foodstuffs have been tried to persuade her to take her meds and Spam is currently her favourite! No doubt she will soon have us racking our brains to find a new and irresistible carrier for the medicine!

**Mosi** and **Torak** are still happy in their partnership and are well. They do not do public walks because Torak made it quite clear he didn't like them. As always, the welfare of our wolves is the priority so they have been retired. They still go out regularly on enrichment walks with their favourite handlers and enjoy them immensely.

Torak is looking magnificent in his summer coat. People seem to prefer to see the wolves in their thick winter coats but wolves sensibly shed these for the warmer weather. Also they lose weight so that they do not have excess to carry in the heat. Torak looks lean and very fit - when he is in motion you can see the muscles move under his coat like well oiled machinery.



Torak

Turn over for more!



Mosi has not lost as much coat as Torak and still has lovely black, grey and brown markings, highlighted with auburn. She is always eager to go on her walk and marks every available piece of grass! At the moment, Mosi and Torak are in the enclosure next to Mosi's sister Mai. The girls get a lot of exercise running up and down the fence together, trying to out-do each other with their speed and the ferocity of their growls. Sometimes the boys join in but they generally prefer an easy life. Mosi is full of character and makes people laugh with her antics. Torak is not so amused by his mate when she pesters him for attention!



Mosi

**Mai** and **Motomo** are very attached to each other. Mai is a changed wolf from the one who was deposed as alpha by her sister Mosi some years ago. She now has enormous confidence. She still loves interaction with people and going for a walk but does it on her own terms. She motors round the field, over-marking the scent of any wolves that have been there earlier. This has come about through having her own partner and giving birth to a litter of cubs. When fence-running with Mosi, Mai's tail is up in the air, signifying dominance. It's a good thing these two will never get together again! Sometimes on a walk Mai will suddenly decide she wants to go back to Motomo and will make this clear to the handlers.



Mai & Motomo

This could be after 10 or even 30 minutes, but Mai's decision is final.

Motomo is gaining confidence all the time. When he first arrived at the Trust he would hide behind the mound, only poking his head out occasionally if there was food about. Now he will come down to the fence to see what is going on. His favourite game is to hide in the undergrowth and suddenly pounce or run at other wolves who are being walked past. It worked at first but the others are now wise to the fact that he can't

actually get them! Motomo is not keen on Mai going out for a walk - sometimes he will howl mournfully until she comes back. Being our only unsocialised wolf he can't be taken out for walks but he is very happy in the enclosure with Mai.



# News

Nuka, Tundra & Tala



The Beenham pack are now 16 months old and looking good. Their characters are more defined and they're full of fun.

**Nuka** is a typical boy, mischievous but friendly, confident but still sometimes needing reassurance. He is a big, strong wolf with the good looks of his father, Motomo. Nuka has a beautifully marked, expressive face and enormous feet!. He probably won't grow any taller but will fill out as he matures. He has a lovely disposition and is always happy to meet people on a walk. Nuka and his sisters love to play in their enclosure pond, dragging out logs that obliging handlers throw in or galloping round the edge. Nuka is usually the catalyst for a game of chase or water-bombing and the girls are happy to join in.

**Tala** has the same colouring as her mother, Mai. She is a stunning wolf with her black coat and amber eyes. She is finer in face and build than her brother. Tala likes to think about things before she rushes in. There is a quiet confidence in her - she will happily mingle with a large group of people, weighing things up and getting all the information she needs. She is a very intelligent wolf and it is fascinating to see her working

things out. She is happy to meet people but is a little more reserved than Nuka.

**Tundra** is the most wary of the Beenhams. With her handlers she is affectionate and playful but in large groups she likes to keep a distance and watch what's going on from the sidelines. This is natural behaviour for a wolf, she won't commit herself unless she is absolutely sure of her safety. Tundra will sometimes make her own decision to meet a member of the public and they should feel very honoured because as a general rule she does not do meet and greets. She is quite happy playing in the stream or waiting while her brother and sister do the work of an ambassador wolf. Tundra broke a toe when she was a cub and had to wear a cast for a few weeks. She is fully healed now but will always have a slight limp. This does not interfere with her enjoyment of rough games with her siblings and she is a happy wolf. Tundra has inherited her father's colouring but her markings are not as prominent as Nuka's and she has a more delicate face.

The Beenhams are a delight to the public and handlers alike and are growing up to be exceptional wolves.

Beenhams photo: Jason Siddall



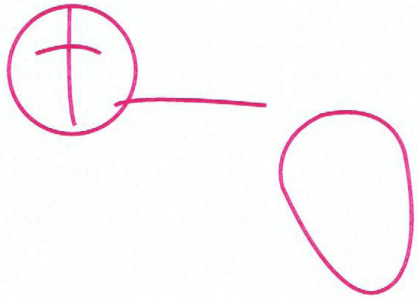


# Fun

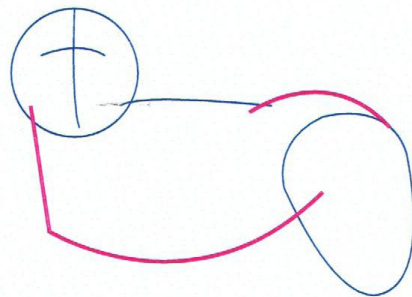
## HOW TO DRAW A WOLF!



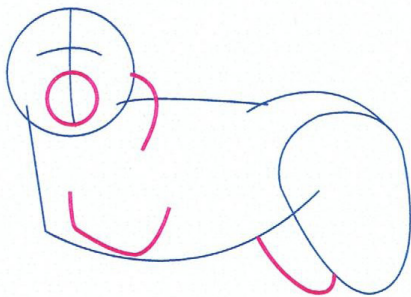
Drawing a wolf is easier than you think. Danny Kidby-Hunter shows you how to do it.



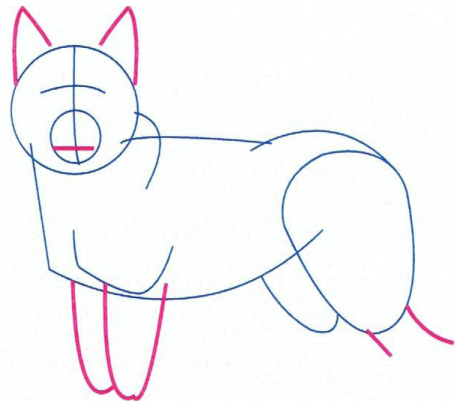
**1** First, start with some simple shapes as shown here. The lines will guide you and can be rubbed out later.



**2** Join your shapes together so that you have the outline of the wolf's body.



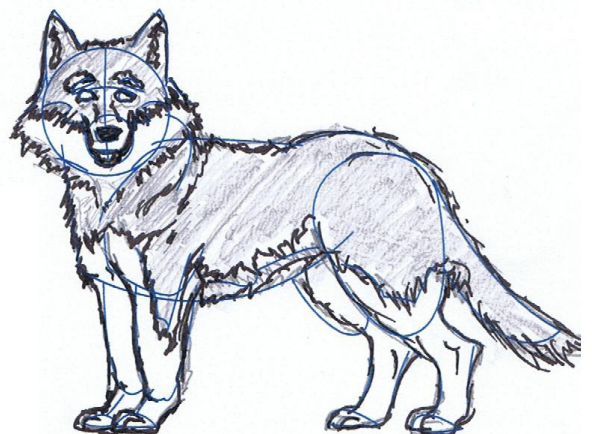
**3** Start adding details on the face to show the position of the muzzle and the haunches of the legs.



**4** Add some ears, the top of the front legs and mark the tip of the nose.



**5** Now you have the basic shape you can add details such as eyes and feet.



**6** Finally add finer details and fur. You can even add colour to finish your wolf.



# Wolf Facts

## The Red Wolf

The red wolf is one of the most endangered canids in the world. It is a smaller cousin of the gray wolf. Its coat has a reddish tint to it which gives it the colour for which it is named.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Hunted to the brink of extinction, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rounded up fewer than 20 pure red wolves to be bred in captivity. By 1980 the red wolf was declared extinct in the wild, with only small populations remaining in captivity. To enhance their genetic diversity, the Red Wolf Recovery Program placed captive-born red wolf pups with wild mothers and their litters in a method called "fostering." Although still greatly endangered, the red wolf is making a comeback and a few wild populations are thriving in North Carolina, USA.



### RED WOLF FACTS

**Height:** About 26 inches at shoulders.

**Length:** 4.5-5.5 feet long

**Weight:** 50-80 lbs.

**Lifespan:** 6-7 years in the wild; up to 15 years in captivity.

**Diet:** The red wolf's diet consists mainly of small mammals such as rabbits and rodents, as well as berries and insects and occasionally deer.

### RANGE

Historically, red wolves were found throughout the southeastern United States from Pennsylvania to Florida and as far west as Texas. Today, wild populations roam more than 1.7 million acres throughout northeastern North Carolina.



### BREEDING

**Mating season:**

Late winter.

**Gestation:**

60-63 days.

**Litter size:**

2-6 pups.

### BEHAVIOR

The red wolf's large ears help it cool down, which is essential in the humid climate of the southeastern US. Red wolves are primarily nocturnal (active at night), and communicate by scent marking, vocalizations,

facial expressions and body postures, just like grey wolves.

Pack size varies with the amount of available prey. A hierarchy of dominant and subordinate animals within the pack helps it to function as a unit.

Turn over to find out how to get your own Red Wolf toy and special virtual signature!





# News

## WINNER!



We're pleased to announce that the winner of the Michelle Paver creative writing competition is **Karianna Sweet**, aged 10, from Bristol. Michelle was very impressed with Karianna's story (see *her comment, right*). Karianna wins a copy of Michelle's *Chronicle of Ancient Darkness Omnibus*.

The story is very good but too long to be published here in full - it's almost a book in itself! Here is the first paragraph. If you'd like to read the rest, contact Wolf Chronicle and we'll send you a copy.

"A vivid and well-observed story by a writer who knows wolves and has really tried to imagine what it's like to be one. I particularly liked the evocative names. Well done, Karianna!"

Michelle Paver

“He was woken by the howling of wolves, he got up and out of the old den - a coyote had made it so it was quite a squeeze to get out. He trudged off under the thick canopy of the fir forest. He was in farm territory now so had to keep his wits about him. His name was Hvit, which means 'white' in Norwegian and is pronounced 'Veet'. He was a white timber wolf, he was whiter than snow with eyes so bright you couldn't look at them directly. He had blue eyes since his didn't change when he was a pup and on his right ear he had a small black snippet at the end. He found a dead calf killed that night. "Well," thought Hvit, "at least I'm not the only one brave enough to come here..."”

### Webkinz Signature Endangered Red Wolf

Your own virtual wolf!



only  
**£13.99!**



Available online at **ukwolf.org** or at the UKWCT's shop in Beenham, Berkshire



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







# Wolf Facts



## Making sense - what wolves eat

Wolves have to work hard to get a meal in the wild. Deborah Duguid Farrant finds out what makes a good wolf dinner.

When a wolf cub is born the only 'food' it has is the mother wolf's milk. This lasts for between three and six weeks and then the cubs are weaned. Weaning is the time between drinking milk and eating proper food and in the world of wolves it is the responsibility of every adult wolf to help wean the cubs. The way this happens is the adult wolves will go out hunting and eat more than they usually would. When they return to the cubs, they are greeted with lots of excited yips and yaps. The cubs will lick the adult wolves around their muzzle or mouth area. This triggers a reflex reaction called regurgitation which is when the wolf brings up some of the food it has recently eaten but by now it has been partially digested by the stomach acids and has become warm, soft and gooey - perfect cub food! It is not long before the cubs are eating the meat straight from the prey that has been caught.

We say that wolves will eat anything from a mouse to a moose and most things in between. Small mammals like mice, voles, shrews, rabbits etc. are tasty snacks for an adult and a good small meal for a young wolf but better still they make for good hunting



practice for the rapidly growing youngsters.

The larger the prey, the more wolves and more experienced hunters you need to catch them. A lot of prey are dangerous to wolves and can even kill them. If you think about large deer, elk, bison and moose, they all have antlers or horns and hooves for defence - these can seriously injure or even kill a wolf. So wolves are really careful about which of these animals they try to catch. Normally they will smell the grass and shrubs where the animals are eating and sometimes they are even bold enough to go up to them carefully and smell their breath. The scent they pick up tells them if the animal is healthy, sick, injured, old or young. If it is any of the last four, the wolves know they have a chance of success.

Turn over for more!

Toark photo: Lee Piper





# Wolf Facts



Usually the breeding pair will eat first, choosing which part of the animal they need most, then the other wolves will slowly join in. It may be several days or even a couple of weeks before they are able to eat a big meal like this again. Life is hard when you are a wolf.



They will also, if they are desperate or hungry enough, eat livestock (farmers' and ranchers' cattle and sheep). Sometimes when they find one dead in a field it is an easy meal. This may be because the farmer or rancher hasn't had time to get rid of

Wolves also become prey specific. This means the food their parents hunted and gave them as cubs is the food they will hunt and eat when they grow up. It is what they are used to and have an understanding of how to hunt safely.

the carcass but sometimes they will kill one for themselves. This is only something they would do if there was no other prey about because it brings them too close to humans and wolves are afraid of us.

Tundra photo: Vicky Allison-Hughes



## Puzzle

Debs has taken a lovely arty picture of one of the Trust's wolves but can you answer the following question...

**Who am I?**



Answer on  
page 12!



# Letters

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

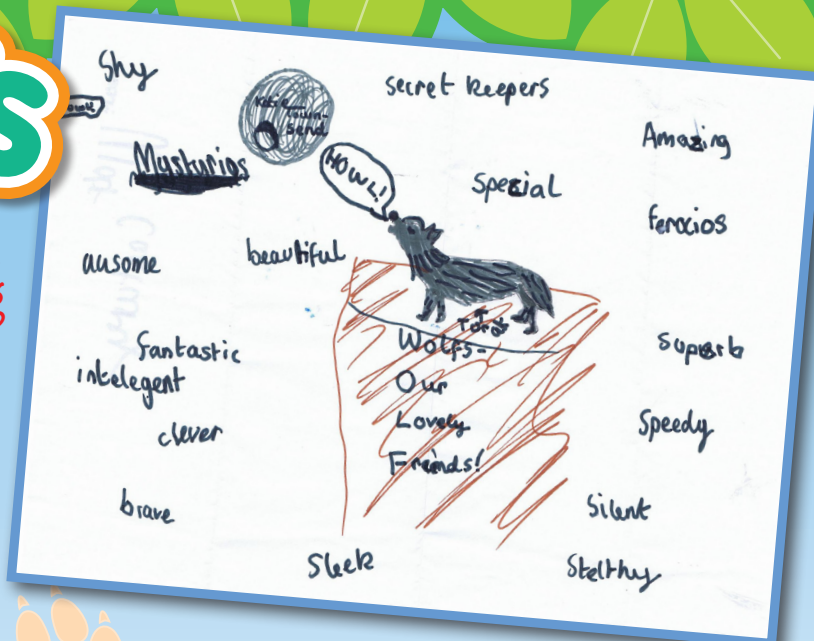
"Thank you so much. I can't say how much fun I had. I am so happy I came. If I did not come I would not know all of these facts such as wolves can hear 10km in the open air and up to 8km in the woods. I also learnt they have 200,000,000 receptors in their nose. My favourite wolf is Nuka."

Yours sincerely  
Charlie Coaker

"Thank you for letting us come to the Conservation Trust. I had a good time stroking the wolf. My favourite wolf is Tala. I loved walking with them."

Yours sincerely  
Jessica

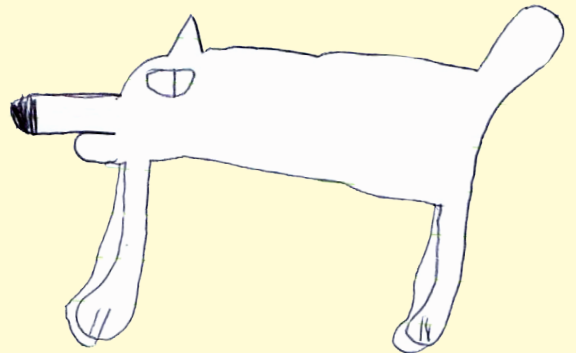
These letters are from pupils at Highdown School in Emmer Green who paid us a visit recently. Thanks guys!



Here is a lovely picture that sums up what Kate Townsend, aged 8, believes a wolf to be. We agree, Kate!

"Dear Zookeeper of wolf park. I thank you for saving places in the wolf walk for us."

Yours faithfully  
Saskia Geraux-Ross



Saskia enjoyed her visit so much that she sent in this fantastic drawing!

Karianna Sweet not only won our creative writing competition, she even sent in this terrific wolf drawing!



Turn over for more of your comments and great writing. Please keep it coming - you're all very creative!







# Letters

"Over a 10 hour period I did a sponsored silence. I raised £50 which I now donate to the Trust, along with a poem I wrote about a wolf. It would be good to know how you could use the money I raised to help wolves around the world"

From Theo Wakeling,  
aged 11

## The wolf

A cub learning all the sounds and sights,  
Unaware of the human emotions  
or war and strife,  
Its first kill, elk blood around the mouth,  
Fully grown, leaving the pack  
and heading south.

A lone wolf, a single howl,  
hunting alone as silent as an owl,  
Its own pack, a mate and cubs  
With fierce loyalty and love.

This is a wolf.  
How could you fear it or kill it?  
How could you will it?

There is a lot we could learn  
from how it thinks.  
Loyalty, hunting skill and team work.  
For together they link.

Thank you for your stunning poem and incredible generosity, Theo. Your money will go towards one of our many projects - read about them at [ukwolf.org](http://ukwolf.org)

"Thank you so much for spending your time trying to help us understand your amazing wolves. You put a lot of effort in to make our day enjoyable but, at the same time, educational. You let us experience something that we may easily not experience again in our lifetime.

My favourite part of the tour was walking with the wolves and being allowed to rub their bellies. I expect that this was the highlight of many people's days. Along with this, I enjoyed howling to the wolves and hearing them howl back."

Thank you again  
Harry Weatherall

Harry was part of a group from Hoe Bridge school and we're really glad he had such a good time with us!

## PUZZLE ANSWER

WHO AM I? It's our boy Nuka!



Photos: Deborah Duguid Farrant



# Events

## CHILDRENS WOLF WALKS

● Thursday 3rd January 2013  
11am - 1pm

**£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.*



Mosi and Torak photo: Tristan Findley