

Wolf Print

The Magazine of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust - incorporating Wolf Whistle - issue 33 Summer 2008

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Editor's Letter

Welcome to the new style Wolf Print; we hope you enjoy this edition. For those of you who have previously subscribed to Wolf Print you will notice a number of differences; we hope you continue to enjoy and value the newer, up to date version. Studies have shown that people like to read information in bite sizes, enabling the reader to pick up and put down the magazine. Where possible, we have included links to further information if you are interested in the article or subject.

In this edition we are revisiting Croatia with an update on how the Trust's donation has been spent, looking at parasites in wolves and highlighting the Walk for Wolves in aid of the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme. Alongside these features are some old favourites like what the UKWCT wolves have been up to, what's new at the Trust and news of wolf conservation world wide. We have a new section which is your page, so get involved by writing us a letter or article, sending in photos or asking a question you really want to know the answer to.

Also enclosed is an evaluation form; let us know what you think of the new style Wolf Print and how we can improve it further.

Toni Shelbourne
Editor

Toni Shelbourne is the Trust's education officer and a deputy senior handler. She is also involved in wolf welfare bringing her previous experience of working for Guide Dogs for the Blind where she was part of the management team for kennels.

Wolf Print



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Aims of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

- To enhance the conservation, scientific knowledge and public awareness of the environment.
- To stimulate greater interest in wolves, their food, their habitat and their behaviour.
- To provide opportunities for both ethological research and for people to interact with wolves.
- To improve the chances of survival of European wolves in the wild.
- To set up an education programme for schools, conservationists and other organisations.

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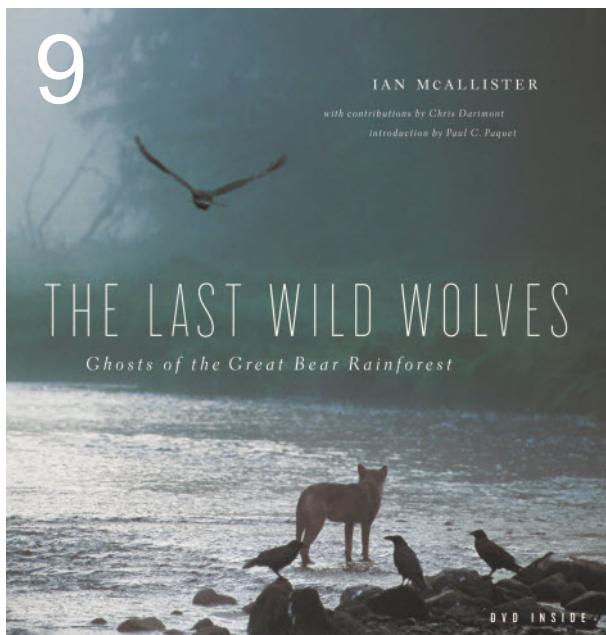
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Wolf NEWS

Editorial Handover



After being the editor of Wolf Print for 32 issues and almost ten years, it is now time to hand the reins over to someone else. Wolf Print has always been

very close to my heart, and I am extremely lucky that the work has allowed me to work with some of the finest people throughout the world who are passionate about conserving wolf populations. The ethos of Wolf Print has always been to explore the issues that impact on the conservation of wolves, with a particular focus on Europe. Through this work, and my other involvements in wildlife conservation, I have had the good fortune to visit some of the wolf projects that the UK Wolf Conservation Trust supports, and have attended a number of international conferences.

Biologists, conservationists and wildlife managers throughout the world have been a huge support to Wolf Print and have been the magazine's lifeblood, providing articles and news about what is happening out in the field, and I am sure they will all continue to support Wolf Print as it moves forward.

Toni Shelbourne is taking over as editor from this issue onwards, and will be assisted by a team of sub-editors and editorial team members. Toni has been involved as a volunteer at the Trust for a number of years and in January 2007 took on the role of Education Officer. It is fitting that Wolf Print be taken under the wing of the Education Team at the Trust, given the nature of the magazine and its conservation message.

Toni has a number of changes planned for Wolf Print, not least of which is its amalgamation with Wolf Whistle, and incorporating the new look magazine into the membership package which will mean that all members will receive a copy of the magazine.

I hope you will continue to support all the work at the Trust, and I have agreed to continue to contribute to the magazine and help out wherever I can.

Denise Taylor

Update on the Trust Wolves

As the season changes life gets a little easier for our nine resident

wolves. The stress of the breeding season abates as hormone levels recede and we are all looking forward to a quieter period. Alba and Lunca unsuccessfully tried to depose Latea this spring so she is still very much in control of the pack and asserts her authority whenever she can. Due to Alba being needed to help keep the peace, he has had a break from swimming and has looked a little stiffer than normal over the spring months. This has been supported with extra medication and the return to swimming, it's hoped, will quickly relieve the stiff muscles and strengthen his stamina.

All the wolves have had a change of feeding routine which now means they are only shut in their kennels for a maximum of 2 hours a day. The older wolves have an option of a warm kennel overnight which they seem to use but are frequently seen sleeping outside in the morning when the feeders arrive. This new routine is still under trial as we have to be very careful of noise control late at night. We are hoping we can make this a permanent change but we do need the goodwill of all our neighbours for this to continue.

Kodiak has had a few more episodes where he seems to have trouble getting up; at fourteen he really is an old wolf. Once he is back on his feet after just a few minutes he seems fine and trots around well. We are supporting him with conventional drugs as well



as increasing his dose of homeopathic remedies and trying out some new ones. Summer is always a worry as he is prone to fly strike; however he is checked from nose to tail daily and allows Clive our wolf keeper to remove any fly eggs before they hatch out. Wolves don't normally tolerate flies around them but he goes into such a deep sleep that he doesn't notice them landing on him.

Dakota continues to do well with little change to her condition which seems to have stabilised. It is now over a year since the diagnosis and she continues to amaze us all with her level of fitness. She continues to be in semi-retirement, coming on the walks but not meeting and greeting. This means Duma meets more people but as she loves interacting, for her it is no hardship. Through the breeding season Kodiak again plucked the hair from Duma's hind legs making her look a little moth eaten but now they are in their summer coats it has all grown back.

The Mackenzie pack, as Torak, Mai and Mosi are now known, continue to mature and the handlers are starting to see a glimpse of what they will be like when they are fully mature at three years.

Thank you for all the birthday presents of tinned fish, etc. The wolves really appreciate it.

FROM THE DIRECTORS

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust started life in the mid 1990s as one man's dream to work for the conservation of wild wolves throughout the world, and has now become an organisation that has an enviable international reputation achieved largely through education and raising awareness.

When Roger died in 2004 there was understandably a huge amount of concern from one and all (not least myself) as to what would happen to the Trust. Well, four years on I think and hope everyone will agree that it has grown and formalised in a variety of ways. Most of our progress I think has been beneficial, particularly the setting of standards for wolf welfare and guidelines in training, etc. brought about by the ever increasingly important role of health and safety in everyone's lives. We have also implemented in the last three months CRB checks and medical forms for all the volunteers, the formalisation of merchandise sales through the till and installed a new computer system in the office. We are now, I think, truly professional in our approach and running of the Trust.

From having two part time staff in the office and a wolf keeper in 2004, we now have one full time administrator, one wolf keeper, a part time book keeper and one and a half education officers. Our focus as always is on education and this year one of our long term goals will be achieved in the form of "the international student exchange scheme." These students, who have undertaken work experience here at the Trust and have proved themselves to be outstanding, will be going to visit the Bulgaria project to support Elena and her team. Not only will we be achieving this but

we continue to offer education programmes to many diverse groups from schools, universities, WI groups, children with special needs, painters, photographers, writers, etc.

Last year we had nearly 4,000 visitors here at the Trust. Many of these visitors come simply to see wolves close up. They or their children are obviously interested in wolves and wildlife in general, or at least they are just curious. We enjoy having people visit the Wolf Trust for whatever reason, because we know that showing live wolves close up and in a favourable light, will have a lasting effect for the rest of our visitor's lives.

Similarly, people who have been brought up on Red Riding Hood stories as children will never again believe these myths when they see our wolves. Visitors see the wolves being friendly with each other and our volunteers, and watch them enthusiastically coming over to the handlers and greeting them. Any explanations given by the accompanying speaker fade next to these in person impressions.

In addition, by educating people about wolves, we bring our focus nearer to the world at large, and the efforts needed for its conservation. When we consider the wolf and what environmental factors affect it, we learn about such things as pollution, habitat destruction and global warming, which affect not just wolves but all life. While we concentrate on wolves and their habitat, our efforts are part of a larger educational process to bring awareness of the need to protect our



home, which we share with all the other animals.

Wolves not only teach us about the environment; they can also teach us about ourselves. Eric Klinghammer, the Director of Wolf Park in America (on which the Wolf Trust is based) wrote an article in the late 1980s, which is still surprisingly relevant, called "why should we save wolves when humans are starving?" It describes how wolves and other wildlife serve a profound purpose by providing a medium whereby we can learn about and improve ourselves. If you would like to read the article, visit the wolf park website at <http://www.wolfpark.org/Articles/whysupportwolves.html>

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you on your next visit.

Tsa Palmer
Director

Celebrity Visit to the UKWCT



Michelle Paver (Patron and author of 'The Chronicles of Ancient Darkness') visited the UKWCT recently and brought along Sir Ian McKellen.



Ian became interested in our wolves whilst recording the talking books for Michelle's series.

Finally...



New Director and Patron for the UKWCT

Anne Carter joins the board of Directors. Anne brings with her knowledge and experience of gaining charitable status which the Trust is looking into applying for.

David Clement Davies takes on the role of Patron. David is the well known author of *The Sight* and *Fell*.

More information on Anne and David in the Autumn issue of Wolf Print.

walk for wolves



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This year Born Free is organising the second annual sponsored walk in aid of these amazing creatures. You can help in two ways: either come and walk with us or sponsor the UKWCT team.

To walk, all you have to do is fill in the form and send it back to Born Free. Most of the UKWCT team will be walking in the morning so come and join us.

If you are sponsoring us or walking please direct all your friends and family to the on-line donation page below.

You can donate on-line at www.justgiving.com/ukwolfconservationtrust

The Ethiopian Wolf

Slender and long-legged with its distinctive red-tinged coat the Ethiopian wolf is a close relation of both grey wolves and coyotes. There are only 500 Ethiopian wolves left, making them one of the world's rarest carnivores.

Their last stronghold is high in Ethiopia's Bale Mountains. Here they live in large family packs, with an intricate social structure, preying upon rodents. Found only in a handful of scattered mountain pockets in Ethiopia, the remaining 500 Ethiopian wolves are suffering from habitat loss, disease and persecution from local communities which are moving in on the wolves' territories.

The goal of the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP) is the conservation of the Ethiopian wolf and its Afroalpine habitats by counteracting threats to the survival of the wolves and promoting the conservation of Afroalpine ecosystems.

Work is centered on capacity building, including funding Ethiopian Nationals to

receive training nationally and abroad and gain field experience working with the EWCP field team; on monitoring the wolves and the use of afroalpine resources; disease prevention and control (directly benefiting the community as well as the wolves); community education; habitat protection support and population management.

In addition to the capacity building undertaken by the project, the EWCP has also helped to attract funds to secure the Bale Mountains National Park and is looking to develop eco-tourism in the area - all these actions being compatible with the project's aim of less reliance on external funding and management - and eventual self-sufficiency.

The UKWCT has a long standing connection with the EWCP, which is run by the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WILDCRU) from Oxford University, and last year invited their education officer Zegeye Kibret to the centre to exchange ideas and cement friendships.

We are delighted that Jenny Seagrove, star of TV's *Judge John Deed* and Born Free Trustee, will be coming along at 2pm to join in. Jan Fennell, the world-renowned Dog Listener, will be supporting the walk for the whole day.

- Decide whether you want to walk 1.7, 3.4 or 5.1 miles
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7th September 2008
Battersea Park
London



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wolves of the world

news
from
around
the world



nibbles

- **Wolves return to Central France.** Wolves have started returning to France's Massif Central Mountains, almost a century after they were extirpated out from the region, experts believe. The National Office of Hunting and Wildlife carried out tests on one individual's prints and excrement and believed it to be a male grey wolf.
- **Inbreeding Problem**
Finland's small wolf population is faced with danger of inbreeding. The reduction in the size of the wolf population in Finland is threatening the animal's genetic diversity. This situation is already being faced in Sweden, where a highly inbred population of around 120 wolves is known to be suffering from a range of congenital bone disorders.
- **Illegal wolf hunters become the hunted**
Yet another wolf has gone missing in Norway and conservationists fear she's been killed by increasingly radical ranchers who want to see wolves wiped out. Police and conservationists are now teaming up to hunt the illegal hunters.

Wolves in the Northern Rockies: De-listing

The recent removal of grey wolves in the Northern Rockies from the endangered species list marks a seminal moment in the history of American wildlife conservation. For the first time, a species officially recovered under the Endangered Species Act will be managed with public hunting.

It is believed public hunting will develop a strong hunter constituency that advocates for wolves politically and helps protect and improve habitat, just as hunters do now for other animals like deer, elk and mountain lions.

The key is for hunters to move beyond the view that they compete with wolves for big game. The statistics show that with the exception of a few elk herds, wolves have not had a negative effect on big game populations or hunter success rates.

Wolf 253M becomes first victim of de-listing

253M, a disperser from the famous Druid Peak wolf pack, left the safety of Yellowstone National Park and hit out for Utah.

Nicknamed "Limpy" because his back legs were crippled in a fight, he was shot in Wyoming on the first day wolves lost their protected status under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Mexican Wolf Cubs

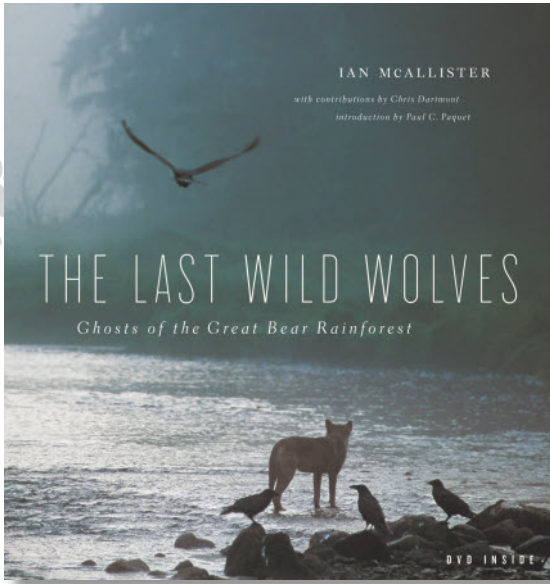
The Wolf Sanctuary in Eureka is celebrating the birth of a litter of endangered wolf cubs. It's the first time a litter has been born as the result of a procedure to induce ovulation in an endangered canid.

Researchers used a hormone treatment called an Ovuplant to induce the ovulation process in a Mexican grey wolf named Anna.

www.wildcanidcenter.org



For the latest information on what's happening to wolves, join the Wolf Seeker Yahoo group by emailing WolfseekerNews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



The Last Wild Wolves

Ghosts of the Great Bear Rainforest

Ian McAllister

Douglas & McIntyre

Hardback

192 pages

267mm x 280mm

ISBN 978 155365 2427

This is by Ian McAllister, photographer, writer and co-founder of the Raincoast Conservation Foundation, who has observed and lived on the rugged north coast of British Columbia for 17 years. This is one of the last places on the planet where wolves live relatively undisturbed by humans.

This book describes his experiences over that period following two packs of wolves, one in the extreme outer coastal islands and another farther inland in the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest.

The behaviour of these animals - which depend on the vast old-growth forest and its gifts - is documented in words and pictures as they fish for salmon in the fall, target seals hauled out on rocks in winter, and give birth to their young in the base of thousand-year-old cedar trees in spring. Most interestingly, scientific studies reveal a genetically distinct population of wolves - one that is increasingly threatened by human incursions.

With contributions from wolf biologist Chris Darimont, he documents the lives of these wolves.

The book comes with a 20 minute DVD documentary of the wolves

Tooth & Claw

Living alongside
Britain's Predators

Peter Cairns &
Mark Hamblin

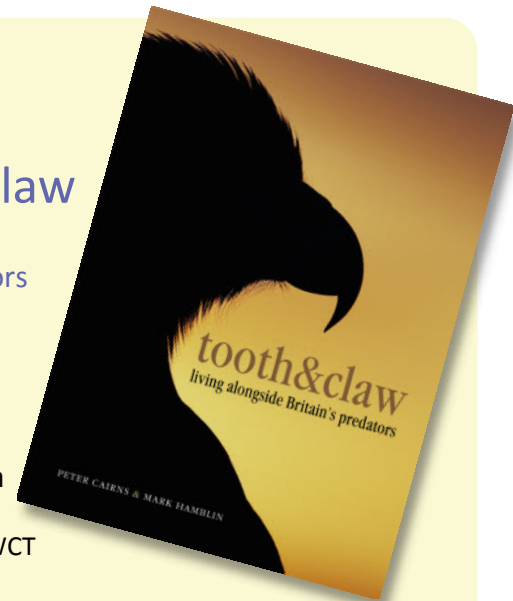
Hardback

240 pages

310mm x 230mm

240 pages

£25 RRP from UKWCT



It is rare that a book is published that combines outstanding wildlife photography with a strong conservation message, but Tooth & Claw does just that. This book is a treat for anyone who is interested in conservation issues in the UK and especially those concerning predators.

This publication is the first of its kind using stunning photography and insightful storylines to bring our relationship with Britain's predators to life. Three years in the making, this beautifully appointed book contains 240 pages filled with spectacular imagery, thought-provoking quotations and interviews with many individuals and organisations involved with predator management.

The ten case-studies cover a range of contemporary predator issues such as bird of prey persecution, the plight of our rarest predator the Scottish wildcat, and the possibility of seeing wolves, lynx and bears back in Britain. This book also asks questions of the planet's most efficient predator: us.

The book is part of the Tooth and Claw education and communication project originated by the authors to encourage and understand the issues surrounding predators in Britain.

For more information about the project please visit their website: www.toothandclaw.org.uk

To purchase the book visit www.ukwolf.org



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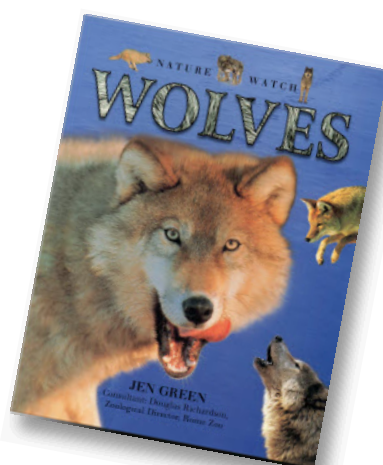
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Matthew & Torak by MIKE LAWN

Sculptor Matthew Bodoano-Jones

The latest talent to hit the art world is giving collectors the opportunity to own unique hand crafted bronze sculptures of wolves. The sculptures have been recognised for their mastery, with Nature in Art, the UK's museum dedicated to art inspired by nature, exhibiting Matthew's work along side some of the world's leading artists, including Picasso, Bugatti and Audabon. Matthew is passionate about getting close to his subject, his fascination with wildlife since the age of seven led to his sculpting animals in terracotta. The sensitivity of his modelling and his ability to capture both the movement and expression of his subjects caught the attention of his teachers. He was encouraged to apply for a scholarship at the City and Guilds of London Art School. He was successful, and the rest is history, with exhibitions UK wide.

For his current collection Matthew spent time with wolves in the French Alps and at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust. There are three sculptures which depict three different stages of a hunt:

- **the trotting wolf** covering mile after mile in pursuit of prey
- **the stalking wolf** closing in steadily, the moment when the predator and prey size one another up
- **the final chase**, where the wolf attempts to come to terms with the quarry, running them down in a test of endurance and speed

In the time spent at the Trust Matthew said "it was a privilege to be so close to these inspirational animals, interacting with both pups and adults. I was given the opportunity to touch their fur, feel the play of their muscles, be close enough to look in their eyes and get a real understanding of their nature. At times it was slightly nerve racking but it was a unique way to try and capture the spirit of these extraordinary wild animals."

Matthew is kindly donating 10% from the sale of each of his bronze wolves to the UK Wolf Conservation Trust. To enquire about or buy one of Matthew's bronzes, please call him on 07894 162444 for further information.

Auction in aid of the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme

The well known artist Leon Evans recently donated a limited edition pencil drawing print of Duma and Dakota (number 140 of 600). The size, including the frame, is approximately 600mm wide and 740mm long. We would like to auction this fantastic piece with the money raised going towards the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme. The reserve price is £80. Please email your bid to education@ukwolf.org

The closing date will be 30th August 2008. An update of the highest bid will be posted on www.ukwolf.org at regular intervals throughout July and August.

For more information about Leon and to view some of his other works visit www.leonevans.com



Pastel Art Workshops with Vic Bearcroft

Do you love wolves? Are you creative? Would you like your own wolf portrait framed and hanging on your wall?

Enjoy a unique and memorable day in the company of wolves and award-winning wildlife artist Vic Bearcroft interacting with, photographing and painting the UK Wolf Conservation Trust (UKWCT) wolves. You don't even need artistic experience; the workshops are suitable for everyone. You will learn the techniques of painting in pastels under Vic's expert tuition, based on many years of wildlife painting and teaching.

When you attend a workshop, you will also be contributing to European wolf conservation projects, as 40% of the workshop fee is donated to the UKWCT.

Vic will also auction a specially signed limited edition print at the end of each workshop, the proceeds of which are donated to the UKWCT. A large range of wolf prints are also available, including recently completed works of Torak.

In addition, he has also filmed a series of 'Wildlife in Pastel' tutorial DVDs, due to be screened on television from July 2008. The first of these was filmed partly on location at the UKWCT and features a portrait tutorial.

A painting of Torak, entitled 'Chewing it Over', can be seen at Marwell International Wildlife Art exhibition at Marwell Zoo, Winchester, from 21st to 24th August. This is the largest wildlife art exhibition in the world and this painting will be the centrepiece of Vic's exhibition.



The next workshop is on 28th July

For more details of workshops and prints available, contact Vic at: vicbearcroft@tiscali.co.uk or tel: 01636 651699 www.vicbearcroft.co.uk



Life and behaviour of

Toni Shelbourne takes a look at how wild wolves deal with this perennial problem

Many of you will be aware that domestic dogs suffer from both internal and external parasites. To control them in our pets usually means a simple trip to the vets, but which parasites do wild wolves suffer from and how do they deal with them?

harder to cope and the infestation can take a stronger hold, possibly contributing to the mortality rate.

One of the most significant external parasites in the wolf seems to be sarcoptic mange.

partly due to the irritation. The wolf will become emaciated and have secondary bacterial infection from the abrasions caused by continual scratching. The animal will eventually die. It's thought that the sarcoptic mange mite is an important regulator in wild wolves; more wolves mean more mange is transferred and numbers are controlled.



Summer can be a tough time for wolves who suffer from the same common infestations that we see in dogs and cats including fleas, ticks, lice and sarcoptic mange.

External parasites (ectoparasites) generally live alongside the host and wolves seem to tolerate them well unless other factors come into play, like viral and bacterial infection, disease or malnutrition. If the wolf is laid low from a secondary complication the immune system, already under stress, can find it

This sub-surface mite lays its eggs in the skin tunnels; transmission between animals is by direct contact. The biggest threat of infection to the wolf is another wolf or other predators like foxes and coyotes.

Symptoms include hair loss, often on the ears and elbows first, but spreading to the whole body if untreated, intense itching, crusty lesions and a hardening of the skin which turns slate grey. This is the same mite that can be seen in many urban foxes in the UK. Feeding and behavioural changes occur, presumably

Lice also occur in wolves.

In many cases the introduction of the parasite to wild wolves seems to have come from interactions with domestic dogs. These wingless insects, which fall into three categories of biting, chewing or sucking lice, spend their whole time on the host. Cubs get infected in the den by the mother through direct contact and are most at risk.

Symptoms include hair loss, matted undercoat and a distinct mousy smell. Secondary bacterial infection can occur from the wolf scratching or from the action of the lice feeding. Although usually not fatal, death can occur through exposure to severe cold as guard hair is broken off or scratched out and undercoat matted.

Lice became the focus of the Alaskan government in the 1980s when a severe outbreak was threatening the fur trade as trappers were reporting the quality of the wolf pelts were affected by the infestation.

A programme was carried out to trap and treat infected wolves by injecting ivermectin, an anti-parasitic drug, or scattering bait laced with the drug. This proved difficult as not all members of the pack could be caught and the bait was often consumed by non-targeted species. However the lice soon spread and by the early 1990s all packs on the Kenai peninsular were believed to be infected.

wolves: *parasites*



ticks can bleed a young cub dry

Ticks, if in large numbers, can bleed a young cub dry but generally only cause irritation to the wolf. The tick will simply feed and drop off the host into the environment again. However, Lyme's disease can be carried by deer ticks and though it is not known of the significance in wolves, it can cause foetal mortality or abortion in some animals.

Internal parasites (endoparasites) include tapeworm, roundworm, heartworm, liver fluke, hookworm and whipworm.

Roundworm is a cub's most serious threat. Females will pass on roundworm to their cubs through the milk and the placenta. This in turn probably accounts for some cub deaths in the den.

Liver fluke is only a risk to fish-eating wolves but tapeworm is common. They usually cause no problem if in small numbers but if the animal is ill, the worms will affect it more by taking a greater hold and helping to bring the wolf low.

It seems to be an integral part of the moose/wolf population. Moose house the tapeworm's larvae in cysts in their lungs which affects stamina making the infected moose easier to prey upon. The more wolves, the more likely moose are to become infected from shed eggs ensuring the life cycle of the worm; predator and prey numbers are stabilised.

Prey and predator are so closely linked where health and survival are concerned you can't help but admire the design nature follows. If left alone, the wolf would be controlled and regulated by its fellow predators and prey.

How are parasites dealt with at the UKWCT?

Very few parasites are seen on the Trust's nine wolves.

Endoparasites are tested for every three months by collecting a faecal sample which is sent away for testing by a local lab. If worms were found then the appropriate treatment would be applied. As we routinely gut rabbits and feed human grade muscle meat the risk of endoparasites is extremely low.

To date, since this system has been in place, no worm eggs have ever been found in the samples and no wolves have ever shown any symptoms, except the cubs when they were small from infection via the mother.

Ectoparasites seem to be limited to ticks which the wolves pick up from the woodland walks. These are often on their heads where they have brushed through the undergrowth and the ticks have attached themselves. These are removed immediately by a tick remover and destroyed.

As flea infestation is often a product of fleas being endemic in the environment, for example eggs laid in your carpet, which when hatched re-infect your dog; the wolves seem rarely to get them, their enclosures being, we assume, flea free.

With other parasites, direct contact is needed, so sarcoptic mange which can survive for only a short time off the host would be a minor threat to their health.

As our wolves come in contact with the public it is even more important that not only are the wolves healthy but the risk to the public is minimised.



Evidence of endoparasites can often be seen in the wolves' scat either with the naked eye or when the faeces is tested.



Walking with Wolves

I was looking for a special experience this year to ease the pain of being fifty and, being someone who loves wolves, a Howl Night and Wolf Walk fitted the bill beautifully.

The presentation on how wolves communicate was very informative and interesting and was good preparation for 'howling'. We couldn't wait to get outside and howl at the wolves and see if they'd answer. We weren't disappointed. The sound of a wolf howling sends shivers down my spine and it was very rewarding to get an answer to my howls.

The Howl Night would have been enough of a treat but I was greedy for wolf experiences and did the walk the next day. We were blessed with lovely weather and it was great to see Mosi and Mai enjoying being in the forest. They agreed to do a couple of 'Meet and Greets' but couldn't wait to get back to exploring all those interesting forest smells! There was plenty of staff on hand to answer our questions and their knowledge and enthusiasm added greatly to our enjoyment of the day.

Back at the Centre, after tea and biscuits and a bit of wolf-related retail therapy, we had a very special treat: we were allowed into Mosi, Mai and Torak's enclosure. This felt very different to the walk in the woods. Suddenly we were on their territory.

All three wolves jumped up onto their platform and came round to look at us. Some of us got our faces licked! Mosi seemed to take an interest in me and would not leave me alone. At one point I had five staff around me - felt like a film star! I don't know what Mosi found so interesting but I do know that I'll never forget that experience.

I want to say a big thank you to all at the Centre (people and wolves) for making my birthday such a special event. I don't know how I'm going to beat that. My husband suggested wrestling alligators but I think I'll pass on that one!

You're doing wonderful and important work at the Centre and I will do all I can to support you.

Karen Wright

I just wanted to thank the volunteers that took a group of us Walking with Wolves on Saturday 3rd May. This was such an enjoyable experience. We went on a two and half hour walk with Dakota and Duma, and then went back to the Centre to say hello to Kodiak, Alba, Lunca and Latea. It was great to see Alba doing so well, and being so happy with his sisters, after his horrific injury.

The highlight of the day was when we got to go into the Mackenzie pack's enclosure. Torak, Mosi and Mai were **very** boisterous! Torak clearly knows what a handsome young wolf he is, and is friendly but coolly aloof. But Mosi and Mai are just big bundles of boisterous fun! We were a large group of strangers, but they came bounding up to say hello. Torak made a more dignified approach after the mayhem had subsided a little. This was a truly wonderful experience. These three juveniles are a wonderful credit to the Trust.

Thank you so much to the enthusiastic volunteers who gave up their time to show us these beautiful creatures and answer all our questions.

Alison Skoyles

Dear Everyone

Thank you all very much for my walk with the wolves. Your wolves are so beautifully cared for and all the staff so attentive and friendly, it makes a day to treasure.

Thank you all for such a wonderful opportunity, it is also so reassuring to know they are so carefully looked after by people with a great passion for them.

Hi

Just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in the wolf walk on 22.3.08 and especially the three volunteers who made my son's visit so special and magical.

We have all fallen in love with the wolves and have avidly been spreading the word. Keep up the good work

Letters to the Editor

We'd love to receive your letters and comments about Wolf Print or anything else to do with the Trust.

You can send your letters and comments to the editor in two ways:

via email to
education@ukwolf.org
(saving paper)

or by post to
The Editor,
Wolf Print Magazine,
UKWCT, Butlers Farm,
Beenham, Reading,
Berkshire, RG7 5NT
(we will save your stamps)

Ask the Expert



the young cubs practice their howling

"At what stage did Mosi and Mai decide on their 'status' in the pack and what signs did you see at the Wolf Trust?"

Wolf cubs begin to sort out their status within their subgroup between three and five weeks of age. As soon as they become mobile and all their senses have developed they start to use posture, vocalisation and aggression to work out who will lead their litter mates.

For around two weeks the cubs fight very competitively until leaders emerge. You will see them riding up on each others backs, pinning litter mates to the ground, mouthing and holding each other down. The

dominant male and female cub will display many of the signals that can be seen in adult wolves like tail and hackle raising when interacting with other litter mates, aggression around food and a slight aloofness.

Normally, as they grow the structure within their subgroup will remain the same but you will often see them trading off positions in play and mobbing sessions where the lower ranking cub may appear dominant for that play session. Once they reach the late juvenile/early adult stage when

they lose their puppy licence, they will enter the subordinate adult group and will settle or move up the ranks depending on the individual.

Mai seemed to gain the alpha position with ease within the group using her aggression, helped to some degree by her being the largest of the girls. She was always quick to put Mosi in her place and showed the lead in hunting and finding food. Mai would also stand back and allow Mosi to investigate unknown objects etc, saving herself if they turned out to be dangerous.



Mosi and Mai sort out who's boss

Ask the Expert

This is your space, so why not write to us with your questions?

Email: education@ukwolf.org or write to:

Ask the Expert,
Wolf Print Magazine, UKWCT,
Butlers Farm, Beenham, Reading,
Berkshire, RG7 5NT



Research and Monitoring of Wolves in Croatia:

PROJECT REPORT

Abridged from Josip Kusak's original report by Julia Bohanna

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust generously donated £2,000 to this ongoing project in Croatia, all of which was spent on field work, fuel, food and the occasional car repair. The project could then continue to track three previously marked wolves and also to mark three new ones, the latter of which were fitted with GPS-UHF-VHF collars.

This progress report covers the period from 14th November 2006 to 22 November 2007. Dr Josip Kusak and his team continued to radio-collar wolves (and lynxes), as well as examining carnivore corpses. They then translated the results of their studies into management and protection issues, including discussions about responsible culling where necessary. They also continued their involvement into new highway migration through large carnivore habitat.

WOLF TRAPPING AND TELEMTRY TRACKING 2006-2007

| Code | Name | Pack | Start | End | Collar | No Locations | No Days | Fate |
|------|-------|----------|----------|----------|--------|--------------|---------|--------|
| W05 | Hilda | Snježnik | 02.07.02 | 11.11.07 | VHF | 346 | 1958 | Active |
| W12 | Sara | Snježnik | 26.08.05 | 01.04.07 | GPS | 1538 | 583 | Lost |
| W14 | Noah | Suho | 28.09.06 | 19.04.07 | GPS | 728 | 203 | Lost |
| W15 | Grga | Suho | 30.10.06 | 13.02.07 | GPS | 544 | 105 | Lost |
| W17 | Tara | Jelovac | 16.08.07 | 23.08.07 | GPS | 25 | 7 | Active |
| W18 | Max | Suho | 12.09.07 | 09.11.07 | GPS | 211 | 58 | Active |

ANALYSIS OF GPS COLLAR SENSOR DATA

The activity of five wolves marked by the GPS-UHF collars from the Gorski Kotar, Lika and Dalmatia regions was studied. It was no surprise that they were mostly active at night but that activity depended upon their age, social status and other physiological facts, as well as the area they inhabited. The wolves were resting for 66% of the time but when they were active, they were mostly running - 25% of the time.

At the close of 2006, there were four radio-collared wolves, three with GPS and one with VHF: Hilda and Sara from the Snježnik pack, Noah and Grga from the Suho pack. The Risnjak pack did not have any radio-collared animals at that time. Unfortunately, the signal on the three GPS collars died prematurely and it was not possible to locate the wolves again. Noah was the last wolf to be lost. Ironically, it was Sara's six year old low tech VHS collar that continued to function. Complaints were made to Vectronic in Germany, who manufacture the GPS collars. However, in winter 2006, the following information had already been recorded:

- In the Risnjak's pack's territory, the footprints of at least four wolves were found, showing resettlement after a decrease/disappearance of some animals in 2005/2006.
- The Snježnik pack had at least six wolves, including Hilda and Sara, in winter 2006/2007.
- The Suho pack had at least six wolves, including Noah and Grga.
- Interestingly, during that same winter, two lone wolves roamed the territories of all three packs.

Gorski Kotar

The loss of signals from Hilda, Noah and Grga prompted the team to capture new wolves in Gorski Kotar on the territories of all three packs. The size of the area was extended to 1854 square km and Josip travelled about 1,000 km per week searching for wolf signs, checking traps and carrying out radio telemetry. Signs of wolf (and lynx) presence (i.e. footprints, scat, scratch marks, vocalisation) were found in 101 different places. Those places were subsequently mapped with GPS devices and analysed with GIS software. Wolf signs were found in an area of 247

square km. Two new wolves were radio collared:

- **MAX.** A large three year old male weighing 36kg, found at Pogoreli vrh place. Captured in the midst of Hilda's pack territory, Max was initially assumed to be a member of the Snježnik pack. However, he then disappeared into Suho territory and was found deep in Slovenia, outside any known pack. He was with members of the Suho pack who had likely temporarily left their group to explore neighbouring areas.

RINA. A year and a half old female weighing 25kg, found below Sija Top. She was the first wolf from the Risnjak pack to wear a GPS collar. It will give a better insight into the life of the pack; something that was not possible with VHS.

Human activity such as timber cutting and extraction during 2007 at 37 different locations in an area of 41.9 square km influenced some wolf activity. All different areas of human activity were evaluated before the final decision - i.e. where to set traps.

Velebit Mountain and the adjacent Lika region

This is the third main region permanently inhabited by wolves and it was here that real progress was made. Vedran Slijepčević, an experienced veterinarian student, covered 669.4 square km searching for wolf signs outside 'Sjeverni Velebit' National Park but also inside and around 'Velebit' Nature Park. The region differs from Dalmatia and Gorski kotar, where wolves had been studied for a decade. It is characterised by rugged limestone, high altitudes and deep forests. Information was needed on home ranges, movements, numbers and densities. In autumn and winter Vedran compared the fitness of ungulates killed by hunters with those killed by large carnivores, as well as radio collaring roe and red deer. Wolf trapping was then

done in the summer. The presence of a second trapper other than Josip meant that the team were able to have traps active for all three packs at the same time, rather than just two. 46 traps were used, covering an area of 158.6 square km.

Signs of wolf presence were found within 177.4 square km, mostly on Senjsko Bilo Ridge, but also at two other separate clusters south of it. This is the same area where wolf signs were found in 2006. A total of 68 wolf signs were found, including one dead wolf. However, it was not possible to discover the cause of death because of the advanced decomposition of the corpse. 13 traps were set here until the first wolf was captured.

Approximately 165 days were spent in the field, the bulk of the work being done by Josip Kulak. Others previously employed were Djuro Huber (Project Leader) and Tomislav Gomerčić. New to the project were Vedran Slijepčević and Magda Sindičić. Many other volunteers also played a part. The amount of field work increased this year, as well as meetings, lectures - where the results of the field work were presented and disseminated. One new wolf was radio collared in this region:

- **TARA.** A two and a half year old female weighing 26kg, found at Senjsko Bilo Ridge. She was with the newly named Jelovac pack.



CONCLUSION

The project continues to shed light on varied facets of wolf, lynx and large carnivore behaviour in Croatia.

The future data from the inclusion of three new radio collared animals will be interesting to follow.

The entire report, including in-depth statistics and the data about lynx capture and radio-tracking, is available on the UKWCT website.

Forthcoming Events at the UKWCT

Children's Photography Day

Monday 1st September

from 10am - 1pm

Cost £20 for one child and one parent. Children must be 8+ and accompanied by an adult

This is a new event at the trust and is going to be an exciting one. Following on from the adult's photo days this is a chance for kids to have a go; we may even discover a wildlife photographer of the future.

The morning will consist of a short talk on the UKWCT followed by some photography hints and tips. We will then take a walk round the Centre to see the wolves in their enclosures before photographing one of the packs on our specially designed, fenced off, photo mound.



Children's Sculpture day

Tuesday 26th August

from 1pm - 4pm

Cost £20 per child. For 10 years +

Local artist Matthew Bodoano-Jones (featured in this issue on page 11) has kindly agreed to hold a children's sculpture day at the UKWCT.

The children will have the opportunity to learn from this fantastic artist: we will take a walk round the centre where Matthew will instruct the participants in sketching their chosen wolf before returning to the education room where they will be able to sculpt their own wolf from air dry clay so that the works of art can be taken away at the end of the day.



Bronze wolf sculpture by Matthew Bodoano-Jones
Photography: Steve Russell

Howl Nights

15th August, 18th September - times vary throughout the year

Cost £10 per person

Ask anyone how wolves communicate and the howl will most probably be the first answer you get, even though they communicate in a range of ways such as sound, smell, touch and body language. Wolf sounds range from the spine-tingling howl that calls the pack together and plays a huge role in socialisation and bonding, to the rough short bark that signifies fear and is used to warn other pack members of a threat or intruder. Other sounds include the whine, whimper, yelp, growl and snarl, all of which are probably heard more often than the howl, and yet it's the howl that defines the wolf and fascinates us.

The evening will start off with a talk on wolf communication. You will also have the opportunity to let out a howl and see if the wolves respond!



For more information and to book call the UKWCT on 0118 971 3330



JULY

Friday 4 : Mammal Trust Walk - private visit
 Saturday 5 : Members' Walk - full
 Sunday 6 : Member's Walk - full
 Tuesday 8 : School Visit - private
 Wednesday 9 : Bracknell & Reading Young Farmer - private visit
 Fri 11 - Sun 13: Kent County Show
 Friday 18 : 1st Sherborne St John Guides - private visit
 Saturday 19 : Members' Walk - full
 Sunday 20 : Members' Walk - full
 Tuesday 22 : Prospect School - private visit
 Thursday 24 : Wiltshire Wildlife Trust - private visit
 Friday 25 : Children's Walk
 Saturday 26 : Members' Walk
 Sunday 27 : Members' Walk
 Monday 28 : Vic Bearcroft Pastel Workshop
 Tuesday 29 : Children's Wolf Keeper Day
 Thursday 31 : Sunshine Holiday Club - private visit

AUGUST

Friday 1 : Children's Walk
 Saturday 2 : Members' Walk - full
 Sunday 3 : Walkabout : private walk
 Monday 4 : Beenham After School Club - private visit
 Thursday 7 : Michelle Paver Writing Workshop
 Beenham Village Open Evening
 Sat 9 - Sun 10: Artemis Gathering - Show
 Saturday 9 : Members' Walk - full
 Sunday 10 : Members' Walk - full
 Monday 11 : Children from Chernobyl Annual Visit - private
 Wednesday 13 : Children's Walk
 Friday 15 : Mammal trust Children's Walk - private visit
 Howl Night
 Saturday 16 : Members' Walk
 Sunday 17 : Harley Davidson - private visit
 Monday 18 : Young Carers - private visit
 Tuesday 19 : Children's Wolf Keeper Day
 Friday 22 : Children's Walk
 Saturday 23 : Chapel Row Fayre
 Sunday 24 : Members' Walk
 Tuesday 26 : Sculpture/Art Day with Matthew Bodoano-Jones
 Wednesday 27 : Mammal Trust Wolf Keeper Day - private visit
 Saturday 30 : Members' Walk
 Sunday 31 : Members' Walk



SEPTEMBER

Monday 1 : Children's Photography Day
 Tuesday 2 : Women's Institute - private visit
 Saturday 6 : Members' Walk
 Sunday 7 : Walk for Ethiopian Wolves, Battersea Park (see p7)
 Wednesday 10 : Adults' Wolf Keeper Day
 Saturday 13 : Taylor - private visit
 Sunday 14 : Members' Walk
 Thursday 18 : Howl Night
 Sat 20 - Sun 21: Royal County of Berkshire Show
 Tuesday 23 : Women's Institute - private visit
 Saturday 27 : Marwell Photography Day - private visit
 Sunday 28 : Members' Walk





Torak

by Heather B Studios