

Wolf Print

The Magazine of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Issue 34 Autumn 2008

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ASK THE EXPERT
WOLVES IN ART

SPECIAL REPORTS

HOWLBOX
a new wolf tracking
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The Mexican Wolf

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Editor's Letter

Thank you so much for the overwhelming response we had from you all about the new style Wolf Print. The feedback was very positive and we have noted all the suggestions you gave us. Out of 94 feedback forms that were returned:

- 48 thought it was excellent
- 36 thought it was very good
- 8 thought it was good
- 1 thought it was fair
- 1 thought it was poor
- 9 people thought the level of content was too low
- 85 people thought it was just right

There was a vast array of things you wanted included in the magazine, ranging from more pictures, information on our wolves, our activities and wolves in other UK zoos, member's photo page, history of wolves in the UK, profiles on staff and volunteers, conservation updates from around the world, information on wolf holidays and a kids' page. Out of all those the only one we won't be including is the kids' page. This is because the junior members have their own newsletter so it is covered elsewhere.

For the few who are looking for more in-depth knowledge of wolves we appreciate your concerns and the whole Wolf Print team feel the magazine is at least one article light in its present size. We will continue to ask wolf specialists from around the world to contribute but we feel we must balance this with what the majority of readers want. We will try not to compromise the level of content but will continue to offer that information in a more user-friendly way. Once we can start sourcing advertising for the magazine it will probably increase by four more pages, two of which will be another regular article feature.

Below are a couple of comments from the feedback forms we received. 'It's much more compact - I prefer the shorter articles, especially the members' page which is easy to read. The layout is also improved, it's easy to find and identify sections.'

'I count the weeks when the next magazine is due, when it arrives I stop what ever I'm doing, sit down and start reading.'

This issue is packed full and we hope you enjoy it as much as the last one. Remember to send us your photos and stories of wolf experiences.

Best wishes

Toni Shelbourne

Education Officer / Senior Wolf Handler / Editor of Wolf Print

Wolf Print



Editor
Toni Shelbourne
Tel: 0118 971 3330
email: education@ukwolf.org

Assistant Editor
Julia Bohanna

Editorial Team
Sandra Benson, Vicky Hughes, Tsa Palmer,
Denise Taylor

Published by
The UK Wolf Conservation Trust
Butlers Farm, Beenham,
Reading RG7 5NT
Tel & Fax: 0118 971 3330
email: ukwct@ukwolf.org

Patrons
David Clement Davies
Erich Klinghammer
Desmond Morris
Michelle Paver
Christoph Promberger

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust Directors
Nigel Bulmer
Anne Carter
Charles Hicks
Tsa Palmer
Denise Taylor

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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.

Cover Price - £2.50
4 issues - £14.00 inc P&P
Overseas subscriptions - £14.00 plus P&P.
Please contact the UKWCT for overseas postage costs.
Online subscription £10.00 - PDF download only.
Please visit www.ukwolf.org

Design and Artwork: Business Pluspoint
www.businesspluspoint.co.uk Tel: 0845 890 8690
email: enquiries@businesspluspoint.co.uk

Printed by: Pensord, NP12 2YA. www.pensord.co.uk

Printed on paper from sustainable forest sources.
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Photo: Arizona Game and Fish Department

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Update on the Trust Wolves

It's been a strange summer for the wolves this year as so much work is being done around site which is always a little unsettling for them. With the new pond being built in the bottom enclosure Alba, Lunca and Latea have moved in next to Duma, Dakota and Kodiak. The middle enclosure has a specially designed double skinned fence between the holding pen and main area for this very reason as occasionally we have to shut an entire enclosure down temporarily. The double skin ensures no injury to wolves should they choose to engage in a little fence fighting.



Duma and Dakota

It was around about this time that we began to notice a change in Lunca. Suddenly, without any help from us she was losing weight. On investigation she appeared to have lost her appetite or appeared reluctant to eat, most unlike Lunca. The vet was called in to take a look at her and advised us to monitor her for another week. He was able to rule out that her cataracts were the problem and that the small hernia on her right hand side had not got worse. If there was no change we would investigate further. After careful observation she appears to be improving but she will be monitored closely over the coming months. We are all glad she has lost a few pounds but were worried about the reason why.

Alba looks a little stiffer from being in the smaller holding pen so after a couple of weeks the packs were swapped around and he was very happy to be in the larger section. The change over happened in the morning after feeding and Alba was last seen charging around enjoying the extra space.

Latea is doing well and is in that lovely quiet phase we enjoy each summer before the hormones kick in and the aggression starts up again. This year we are

investigating ways to help control this problem a little more and will keep you posted.

Kodiak continues to look extremely well, partly thanks to the care and attention given to him daily by Clive Reading our wolf keeper, who monitors him closely. We were concerned Duma and Dakota were getting the lion's share of the food at meal times as they bully him and don't always let him in the kennel until after they have fed. We have solved this problem by giving him his own kennel at feeding time which he seems to appreciate. As it doubles as his night kennel you often find him waiting on the yard in the mornings asking for his breakfast.

Duma as always is a real delight to be around. She can get a little jealous of all the attention that Kodiak and Dakota get due to all their medications but as long as you give her a big fuss first and slip her the odd treat as a pacifier she is happy for us to treat the others. She continues to be the best ambassador wolf at the UKWCT but Mai is starting to become a close second.

Dakota is recovering from an episode of alopecia which then developed into a skin infection. We gave her a few quiet weeks with no work and the antibiotics cleared up the infection in no time. She is starting to re-grow the hair now, so looks a little better but generally looks very scruffy. However, for various reasons, it has been decided to retire her from public events.

Torak, Mai and Mosi had their first weekend away recently at The Kent Show, staying at the show overnight. They behaved really well and didn't make a sound in the trailer until morning, which the handlers sleeping next to them were very grateful for.

Torak continues his fearless reputation when recently he did a press call for the new wolf pond and investigated the pond and the machinery still working on it. He really is a star and posed on a JCB digger for the local paper.

Mai continues to be the boss of Mosi and, to reinforce her position, we all greet Mai first when entering the enclosure. This, along with other simple rules, helps keep Mosi in her lower ranking place and therefore maintains pack stability. Handlers are constantly reminded to think wolf.

When these rules are adhered to, Mosi is the sweetest wolf you can imagine, but break them and Mai works really hard to



Mai

keep her firmly in her place. Mosi sometimes tries to fight back against Mai but gets little joy especially as Torak backs Mai up.

These three are entering the final phase of maturing into fully grown adults and it's interesting to watch their development into ambassador wolves for their wild cousins.

All the wolves love the warm weather and will alternately sunbathe or seek the cool of the shade. They are helped to keep cool with the water troughs for them to splash water on themselves and with special meat flavoured lollipops we make up for them to chew.

Meet the staff at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Vicky Hughes joined the Trust full time as Assistant Education Officer at the beginning of July 2008. Although new to the post Vicky is not new to the Trust and has completed two research projects with us as part of her Bachelor of Science with Honours in Animal Science and Management culminating in her achieving a 2.1 and been awarded the Systemax Cup for the best all around student of her year.

Vicky first came to our notice when she did a work placement with us back in 2006 from Wiltshire College, Lackham as part of her course. She continued to volunteer after the end of this placement and she was an obvious choice to send to Bulgaria on the pilot for the UKWCT International Student Exchange Programme.

FROM THE DIRECTORS

The last month has been very busy at the UKWCT both in terms of wolf events and the physical work done on the site by work experience students, volunteers and staff.

Firstly the wolves - the greatest achievement has been the successful trip to The Kent Show undertaken by the trio of Mosi, Mai and Torak - this was their first overnight stay and nobody knew how they would behave in the trailer overnight. They rose to the occasion of coping with quite a noisy but prime pitch at the show meeting many visitors - and they slept better in the trailer than the volunteers did in their tents, making no noise at all! It was an outstanding achievement logistically by Steve Brook (who is in charge of organising shows) and the rest of the show team.

Being the summer, the wolves have done lots of Guide and Brownie visits which have been very rewarding - the Thatcham Brownies had a very nice photo of Duma and Torak with them in the Newbury Weekly News - There have also been many school and other visits as well as the busy summer holiday programme of events.

On the site, the long awaited pond for the wolves is nearly complete in the bottom enclosure. Due to the generosity of APlant, the company where Lynne Buckland (one of our volunteers) works, the Trust was given the use of a digger and dumper truck to dig the pond. The project has grown and now and it will have running water cascading down from the top of the mound. I know the wolves, especially the juveniles, will love it!

The only advantage of the heavy clay here in Beenham is that I hope the pond will work just with clay and with no lining or concrete - there have been various working parties puddling the clay with their feet which has been fairly hilarious. We have dug out and finished a large car park at the bottom of the trust site. This means that we can turn the trailers and have more much needed parking for visitors.

We have also dug a small wildlife pond in the bottom right hand corner of the field near the stream, so that we can encourage

pond life for children in particular to study on site.

While working on the pond, we discovered a pair of buzzards nesting in an oak tree. We have also seen both little owls and barn owls using the barn owl box; the three kestrel chicks which hatched out in the kestrel box this year are seen regularly flying round the field. As always, the red kites are tempted by the carrion the wolves leave in their enclosures. We know the badgers are around as there is evidence of their scat and scuffling everywhere. We hope to be watching them soon when our new Badger Cam is installed.

Tsa Palmer,
Director



The Wolf Pond nears completion

Introducing our New Director: Anne Carter

It was nearly five years ago that I first heard about the UKWCT when I bought a subscription for a friend's Christmas present. As my friend became more involved with the Trust so, by a sort of osmosis, did I!

I was honoured to be asked to become a Director earlier this year as I have always been interested in the conservation of all wildlife and wolves are very special indeed. However, it was the badgers at the Trust that first interested me and I was enthralled to discover that there is a thriving badger population living happily in the fields around the Trust. The 'badgercam' was set up and, despite a few technical hiccups, we were able to see some good footage of these fascinating creatures rootling around after their food. With the installation of broadband on site it will be a lot easier to monitor the badgers and hopefully get some more footage for all to see.



Anne with Duma

I founded the Labrador Lifeline Trust twelve years ago and we obtained charitable status in 1998 - we are now in our 10th Anniversary year. Gaining charitable status can be a long and complicated business but I hope to help the UKWCT obtain this status as soon as possible. There are many benefits to being a registered charity - not least the fact that Gift Aid can be claimed on every unfettered donation made to the Trust therefore increasing much needed funds to help keep the wolf in the wild.

I count myself very privileged to be able to interact, even on a small scale, with the wolves at the UKWCT. They are beautiful animals and if I can help in some modest way to diminish the negative reputation that they have somehow managed to get then I will be happy.

Anne Carter, Director



Vicky in
Bulgaria

and with one of her awards

Vicky has travelled widely and visited a number of projects in Europe learning about field work first hand, which has included snow tracking in Poland as well as tracking and scat collection in Slovakia.

When it was obvious that Toni Shelbourne the UKWCT Education Officer was struggling with the ever increasing workload Vicky was asked to join the team and we are delighted that she accepted the post.

Vicky lives with her husband and dogs in Tidworth, Wiltshire.



The Wolves of Ellesmere Island

a presentation by Nancy Gibson

On the day Nancy Gibson came to the Trust, the sun shone brightly and the temperature felt more like summer's day for a change. Nancy was in the UK to watch her son row in the Henley Regatta and, despite being jet-lagged, she came to the Trust almost immediately after her plane had landed.

After spending time with the wolves at the UKWCT, Nancy went on to delight her audience with a stunning photographic story of a family of wolves on Ellesmere Island, a unique place, situated in the extreme northeast of the Arctic Archipelago, in the Canadian territory of Nunavut. Ellesmere Island is the second-largest island in the archipelago and is part of the Queen Elizabeth island group, at the northern end of Baffin Bay. Its northern tip, Cape Columbia, is the most northerly point of the North American continent. Although the island is largely barren or glacier-covered, it supports numerous species of flora and fauna, including wolves, muskox, caribou, Arctic hares, yellow arctic poppies, white mountain avens, red moss campion and a variety of lichens and moss. There are also over 30 species of birds.

Nancy is quite a legend in wolf circles, having co-founded the International Wolf Center (IWC) with Dave Mech and having undertaken many years research herself. She is an established author and gives talks and lectures on wolves and their conservation at every opportunity. Nancy also conducts educational programmes for the IWC and has lead trips to Yellowstone National Park and the Northwest Territories in Canada.

The wolves on Ellesmere Island have been studied by Mech for decades. It is about the only place on earth where wolves are not persecuted and so they are inquisitive and not afraid of their human visitors.

Nancy had prepared a presentation with lots of photographs from the 2006 trip to Ellesmere Island with Mech, Ted Spaulding, and another renowned wolf conservationist, Cornelia (Neil) Hutt (another IWC director and founder of the Red Wolf Coalition). The photographs were

amazing and vividly described each individual wolf and their antics. Nancy introduced us to a whole family of wolves with colourful names such as Redneck, Bottle Brush and Dirt Ball. Each wolf had a distinctive character of its own, and the photographs gave the audience an insight into the daily lives of the pack.

Much to the team's delight, there were pups in the den when they visited, and these too proved to be as inquisitive as the adults. The adults took turns babysitting the youngsters while the rest of the pack went off to hunt, and it was clear from the photographs that the adults enjoyed this task and became as playful as the pups.

During the trip, the team was joined by a very bold and cheeky raven, which spent some time perched on Mech's shoulder, much to the amusement of his colleagues. Ravens are often seen around wolf kills, and the two species have a symbiotic relationship. The raven was encouraged to follow the team back to camp by following a breadcrumb trail, and continued to delight everyone with its antics.

Nancy's presentation encapsulated the atmosphere of Ellesmere Island perfectly, and its cast of characters which exist in a wilderness landscape that is harsh and yet extremely beautiful and awe-inspiring. Life is extremely tough for the wolves, but the population on Ellesmere Island always seems to survive, and the pups were evidence of this.

After the presentation, Nancy and her audience enjoyed a barbeque in the evening sunshine overlooking the wolf enclosures. The wolves were in a playful mood and chased each other around the enclosure before rallying together and treating us to a wonderful chorus of howling. After seeing the stunning photographs from Ellesmere Island, it was a fitting end to a lovely evening, watching our ambassador wolves frolicking and play-fighting in the same way their cousins across the Atlantic do.

You can visit a blog about the wolves at Ellesmere Island at: <http://www.internationalwolfcenter.blogspot.com/>

Snoggin

Julia Bohanna finds out more about the new UKWCT patron: the man behind the books and the truth about an intriguing and passionate wolf kiss.

JB: When, how and why did you make first contact with the Trust?

David: I visited the Trust and met Roger Palmer in, I think, 1999, when I was beginning to write my first Wolf book, *The Sight*. He showed me all around and took me for a walk with one of the wolves. I was immediately impressed with his passion and love for the animals, not to mention how he tried to impose himself on the pack. I was even more impressed when, this year, I visited again, and saw how amazingly it has grown and developed, how great the new enclosures are and how good the new public facilities are. It's why I talked to Tsa about becoming a patron.

JB: How long did *The Sight* and *Fell* take to research and write?

David: Because *Fell* is a sequel and the characters were already so vividly in my head, it took much less time to write than *The Sight*; I think about seven months. *The Sight*, which I wrote in a little house in Southern Spain, took about a year and a half. They are long, epic books, but as I tell kids, no book is too long, if you're turning the pages and thrilled by the world.

JB: I understand that you travelled in Romania. What aspects of the country did you find most fascinating? Did you visit Dracula's Castle in Transylvania?

David: The trip to Romania in 1990 was the real inspiration for *The Sight* and, although I never saw any wolves there except, in a desperately uncertain society, for those people who locals referred to rather negatively as 'wolves'. Since I'm a fantasy writer my head was also filled with a snowstorm of myths and legends, not only about werewolves, but of course Vampires, which provide the mythical backdrop to the story. I certainly visited several of Dracula's putative castles, some which had become tourist attractions, but one of the most authentic was the ruin built by Vlad Tepes in the foothill of the Carpathians. It provided the direct inspiration for the castle described at the start of the novel.

There were so many things that were both fascinating and depressing about that five week journey in the heart of winter: the beauty of the landscape and the emotional and physical poverty of a

g with Wolves

country struggling out of Communism, the fear and uncertainty just after a revolution, and the warmth of many of the people. Above all, travelling through a country that had one foot in the twentieth century and one firmly in the eighteenth, if not the middle ages.

JB: Do you get many interesting letters from young readers in particular and on the evidence of those, do you feel that you may have educated, even converted, some to the ways of the wolf? Could you give an example?

David: I get so many great letters, especially I think from wolf lovers, because a passion for wolves gives readers a common bond. Since my novels try, at least, to build the tension of the fantasy around real facts about wolves, deer and nature, I hope that I'm educating people in the ways of the wolf, yes, although there are wider themes too about language, belief, stories, and particularly our own relationship with nature. The most moving letters though are usually from readers who I have either made laugh or cry, and who have been inspired to take up writing themselves. But I'll never forget the girls who turned up at the Trust for a talk and presented me with a beautiful wolf banner.

JB: In *The Sight*, there is a closely observed and sensual detail of Huttser the wolf having 'gums as pink and healthy as the flesh of a new plum.' What other elements of *canis lupus* surprised you and may never have been found in reference books - the advantages of getting 'up close and personal' with the Trust's wolves?

David: The straight answer is a Wolf Kiss! I didn't get that at the Trust though, but up at a centre in Colorado, when a grey got very close and personal indeed, and I'm talking tongues. The strange thing I learnt about that is how clean and sweet smelling it all was and how I was told that the power of their immune systems and their saliva made their mouths very healthy and germ free. I don't think I'll be dating one, but I find new things whenever I visit wolves, not least how extraordinary it is, if you approach them on their own terms, interacting with them.

What does it for me every time, cuts right through my soul, is the wolf's call. In Colorado they told me a lovely story of how a female, when her mate had died, had laid down in a shallow hollow to call, but that evening, when the pack would normally have joined the chorus, the others all stayed perfectly silent, both

aware and respectful. We have so much to learn, from giant squid flaring red in anger at being hunted, to elephants examining the bones of their dead, about the emotional complexity that animals have, which is clearly very difficult to talk about in purely scientific terms.

JB: Wolves speak in your children's novels. How do you prepare yourself to get into their mindset, create that authentic voice? Also, when you have observed wolves for research - perhaps even the ones at the Trust - did you constantly hear their voices, in the same way you might do with human characters?

David: I think you have to feel the animal. The growl, or snarl, or call of the wolf. The fragility, or stagginess, if you like, of a red deer. Now I'm writing about Polar bears, their extraordinary power, and their shaggy gentleness, or roaring strength. Otherwise, of course, although animals clearly have their own characters, I am being very anthropomorphic. I make that plain in the 'argument of the books' examining the nature of story telling, beliefs and legends and often, I hope, challenging misconceptions about nature and especially man's fear of it.

JB: Do you have a place that works best for writing - do you pace in an office, sit outside, up a mountain?

David: My head works best for writing, but an open view can take you flying. Always looking out on nature, even a tree in London, helps the wild juices to flow. I certainly pace constantly, and usually at home.

JB: You mention animal books as a huge influence on you as a child. If you had to choose only one (a desert island choice, perhaps) which would it be?

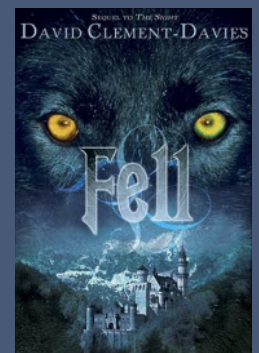
David: My Desert Island Disc of great animal stories? I was going to say *Watership Down*, which was a huge influence and one of those all important transitional novels, but I think it would have to be Kipling's *Jungle Book*. Can I have both of them? Both *Jungle Books* I mean.

JB: Do you have plans for any future lupine novels?

David: Yes, I'd like to do another connected to *The Sight* and *Fell*, but perhaps not a sequel but a prequel, possibly about the beginnings of the power, and about *Morgra*. Could you get your readers to bombard my publisher, Abrams, in the States please?



*David Clement Davies is the author of *The Sight*, a children's novel set in Transylvania, where the lone wolf Morgra possesses a terrifying power - *the Sight*. *Fell* is the exciting sequel.*



You can buy copies of *Fell* for £6.99 from the UKWCT shop or online at www.ukwolf.org

*David Clement Davies is also the author of *Fire Bringer*, *The Alchemists of Barbal* and *The Telling Pool*. He has also facilitated children's writing workshops at the Trust.*

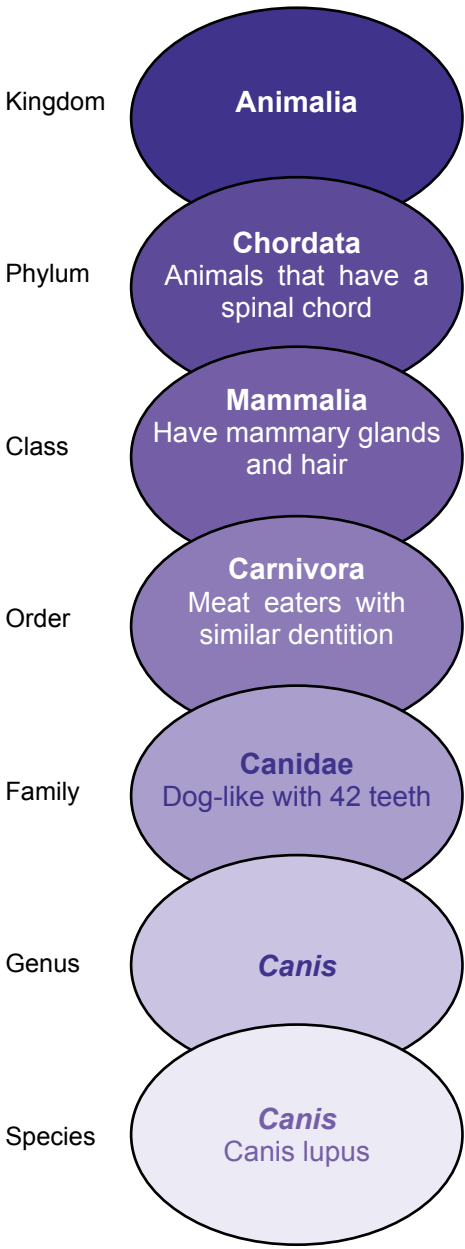
Taxonomy: the classification of life

Assistant Education Officer Vicky Hughes explains how the system of classifying animals, and in particular wolves, works.

There are at least 1.7 million species of living organisms that have been identified and there could be between 3 and 10 million species still waiting to be discovered. How do we know which organisms have been seen before and which are new discoveries?

All organisms are classified according to their homology; this is the shared characteristics that have been inherited from a common ancestor. The more recently any two species have shared an ancestor, the more characteristics they share and the more similar these characteristics are. The homologies can be anatomical structures such as body parts, patterns of embryonic development and more recently DNA.

With this information every organism can be put into different groups depending on these similarities. Taxonomists use a system of identification which was pioneered by Carolus Linnaeus (1707 - 1778) who abandoned the traditional naming system in favour of the grouping of organisms according to their physical similarities and differences based on scientific names using Latin. His system of giving an organism a scientific name of two parts is called



binomial nomenclature. We still use this system today.

In addition to identifying and naming species, a major objective of systematics is to group species into broader taxonomic categories. The first step of such a hierarchical classification is built into the Latin (binomial) name for each species. We group species that have similarities, and so are closely related, into the same genus. For example - the grey wolf and the domestic dog are both found under the genus of Canis; this genus also includes species such as the red wolf and the coyote. Beyond the grouping of species within genera, taxonomy extends to progressively broader categories of classification. It places related genera into the same family, puts families into orders, orders into classes and classes into phyla with phyla finally falling into kingdoms of which there are five currently recognised. These families are Monera, Protista, Fungi, Plantae and Animalia, into which every living thing from single celled algae, bacteria and viruses all the way through to the most complex multi-celled animal can be classified.

The table below shows eight different species all of which come from the Class Mammalia, which contains every known mammal on earth and falls into the Order Carnivora, which contains every mammal that makes up the majority of its diet with meat. From looking at their full classification it can be seen how closely related these species are:

Kingdom	Animalia	Animalia	Animalia	Animalia	Animalia	Animalia	Animalia	Animalia
Phylum	Chordata	Chordata	Chordata	Chordata	Chordata	Chordata	Chordata	Chordata
Class	Mammalia	Mammalia	Mammalia	Mammalia	Mammalia	Mammalia	Mammalia	Mammalia
Order	Carnivora	Carnivora	Carnivora	Carnivora	Carnivora	Carnivora	Carnivora	Carnivora
Family	Canidae	Canidae	Canidae	Canidae	Canidae	Canidae	Ursidae	Felidae
Genus	Canis	Canis	Canis	Canis	Lycaon	Chrysocyon	Ursus	Panthera
Species	lupus	lupus	simensis	latrans	pictus	brachyurus	arctos	leo
Subspecies	-	dingo	-	-	-	-	-	-
Binomial name	Canis lupus	Canis lupus dingo	Canis simensis	Canis latrans	Lycaon pictus	Chrysocyon brachyurus	Ursus arctos	Panthera leo
Common name	Grey Wolf	Dingo	Ethiopian Wolf	Coyote	African Hunting Dog	Maned Wolf	Brown Bear	Lion

The dingo and the wolf are the closest relatives in this example sharing the same genus and species names, whilst the Ethiopian Wolf and Coyote are more distant relations within the same genus and so on until you get to the Lion and Brown Bear, who fall into the Carnivore family but branch away from the canid line into their own families.

Each taxonomic level is more comprehensive than the previous one for example all species of dogs are mammals, but not all mammals are dogs.

also possible to identify the point whereby evolution species have divided from each other due to their habitat, diet or geographical location.

Canids originated approximately 40 million years ago, they are the oldest family in the order of Carnivora; the modern day family of canidae contains all of the existing species of canid found in the world today, of which there are currently 14 recognised genera and 34 different species.

The difference between a species and a subspecies is as follows:

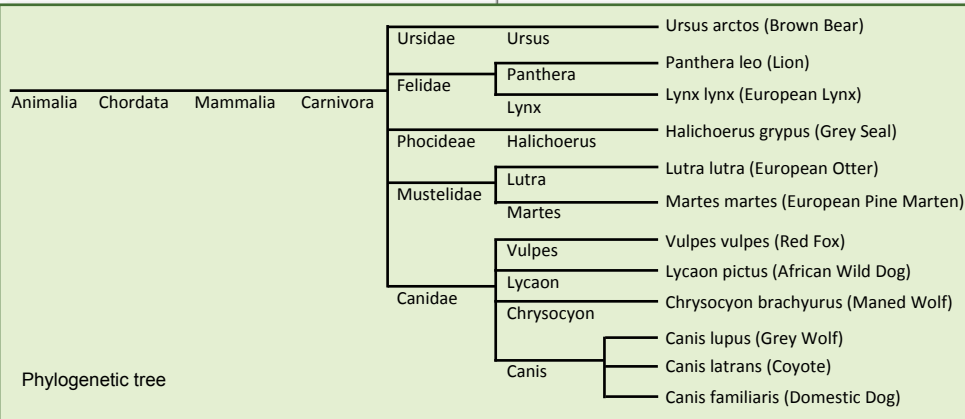
A species is a group of similar looking populations whose individuals have the potential to inter-breed and produce viable fertile offspring.

A subspecies is a diversion from the original species usually through geographical isolation. For example the European grey wolf (*Canis lupus lupus*) is a subspecies of the grey wolf found in North America. It is geographically isolated from other wolves but could still breed and produce viable offspring should it come into contact with grey wolves or other wolf subspecies.

There is still one species which the debate carries; Red Wolf (*Canis rufus*). It is hoped that through DNA analysis of this species it will eventually be placed into the canid family tree.

The science of taxonomy is fiercely debated and forever changing. It is highly complex and new information is published constantly. The ever changing classification can seem confusing to the wolf enthusiast, but whatever they are called they are still wolves that need our help.

Vicky Hughes, BSc (Hons)



In order to illustrate the relationships between species, phylogenetic trees are used; these are similar to human family trees in which the branches show both close and distant relations with the connections between. By working backwards through these trees it is

This number of species is a continuous issue for debate as within each recognised species there are a number of closely related subspecies, which with modern advances in DNA sequencing have to be reclassified as species in their own right.

List of Wolf Species and subspecies

(The UKWCT understand that this list may differ from other views and is subject to change. To our knowledge no definitive list is held.)

Subspecies of *Canis lupus* (Grey wolf)

Common Name	Classification	Status	Historic Range
Mackenzie River Valley Wolf	<i>Canis lupus occidentalis</i>	Stable	Alaska, Northern Rocky mountains, Western and Central Canada
Great Plains Wolf	<i>Canis lupus nubilus</i>	Stable	Southern Rocky mountains, Midwestern United States, North-eastern Canada, far South-western Canada and South-eastern Canada
Eastern Timber Wolf	<i>Canis lupus lycaon</i>	At Risk	South-eastern Canada, Eastern United States
Arctic Wolf	<i>Canis lupus arctos</i>	Stable	Canadian Arctic, Greenland
Vancouver Island Wolf	<i>Canis lupus crassodon</i>	Endangered	Vancouver Island
Mexican Wolf	<i>Canis lupus baileyi</i>	Critically Endangered	Central Mexico, Western Texas, Southern New Mexico and Arizona
Dingo	<i>Canis lupus dingo</i>	Vulnerable	Australia and South-east Asia
Eurasian Wolf	<i>Canis lupus lupus</i>	Stable	Western Europe, Scandinavia, Russia, China, Mongolia, Himalaya mountains
Arabian Wolf	<i>Canis lupus arabs</i>	Critically Endangered	Southern Israel, Saudi Arabia, Yemen & Oman
Caspian Sea Wolf	<i>Canis lupus campestris</i>	Endangered, declining	Between Caspian and Black Seas
Russia Wolf	<i>Canis lupus communis</i>	Stable	Central Russia
Iranian Wolf	<i>Canis lupus pallipes</i>	Stable	Northern Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran
Tundra Wolf	<i>Canis lupus albus</i>	Stable	Northern Russia and Siberia
Italian Wolf	<i>Canis lupus italicus</i>	Endangered	Italy, Switzerland, France
Iberian Wolf	<i>Canis lupus signatus</i>	Stable	Portugal, North West Spain

Other Wolf Species – some of which are in debate

Red Wolf	<i>Canis rufus</i>	Critically Endangered	North Carolina, USA
Ethiopian Wolf	<i>Canis simensis</i>	Critically Endangered	Afro-pine regions of Ethiopia
Himalayan Wolf	<i>Canis himalayensis</i>	Critically Endangered	Northern India and Eastern Nepal
Indian Wolf	<i>Canis indica</i>	Endangered	Eastern Indian Subcontinent

wolves of the world

news
from
around
the world



nibbles

- **Wolves Return to Washington State.** The grey wolf was wiped out in Washington by the 1930s but on 5th July 2008 biologists heard both adult and juvenile wolves howling during a survey. Locals have also reported seeing wolves in the area. No one knows whether the pack will stay, and the state has a lot of work to do before it can be said that wolves once again live in Washington state.
- **Three Mexican Wolves Killed Illegally.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife service have identified three female wolves and a possible male illegally shot in Arizona or New Mexico. Each of the dead wolves was an "alpha" or lead member of a pack. There is now a \$50,000 reward for information on illegal wolf killings, which is hoped, will lead to the conviction of the wolves' killer or killers.
- **Natural Enemies:** The Wolf and the Moose are natural enemies that need each other. The landmark project on Isle Royale, a scheduled island in Lake Superior celebrates its 50th birthday this year. Wolf Watch has looked at the relationships between predator and prey on this island over the last five decades. It has been found that the wolves and moose depend on each other for survival: The moose are the wolves' chief nutritional source, and the wolves in turn help keep the moose population in check. The project is the longest running of its kind.

Alpine Murder Mystery

In the summer pastures of the Maurienne region of the French Alps which rise to over 9,000 ft along the French / Italian boarder, something mysterious has been happening. Since the start of the year 17 sheepdogs, some of which have been Pyrenean mountain dogs, specifically trained to defend sheep flocks from wolves, have been poisoned.

The killings are thought to be related to the battle that has been waged between shepherds and wolves and between sheep lovers and wolf lovers since the European wolf started to re-colonise France from Italy 16 years ago.

Some shepherds have accepted and adapted to the presence of the wolf, whilst others have sworn never to accept their presence. It is thought that the attacks on the sheepdogs are meant to destabilise the systems which have been adopted to protect both the sheep and the wolves.

Extract from article by John Lichfield
(The Independent, 18th July 2008)

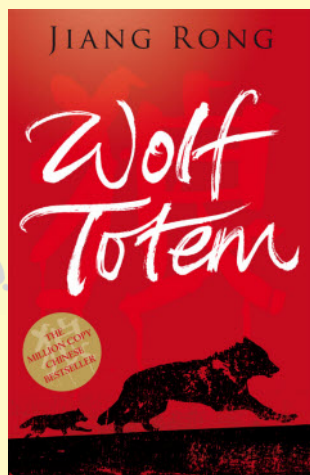
Reprieve for Wolves in the Northern Rockies

Only seven weeks after it went to court a federal judge has ordered the Bush administration to restore endangered species protection to the wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains until the full case can be heard.

Since de-listing occurred in March this year 106 wolves were killed over a 118 day period, which is almost one wolf per day, the 12 conservation groups which have won this preliminary injunction hope that the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be forced to provide better protection for the wolves before attempting to remove them from the endangered species list again.

Judge Molloy found that the US Fish and Wildlife Service had failed to meet its own criteria before removing the wolf from the endangered species list, as the agency was required to show that the wolf sub-populations across the area were interbreeding, a genetic necessity for healthy, sustainable numbers. Judge Molloy found that the agency had offered no such evidence. So the battle continues.

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



Wolf Totem

Jiang Rong

Hamish Hamilton

Hardback

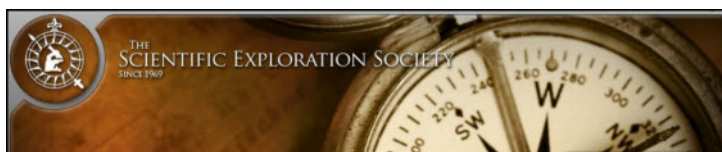
544 pages

234mm x 153mm

£17.99

ISBN 978 024 224 3520

'Wolf Totem' by Jiang Rong is set in the 1960s, the heyday for the people of the Inner Mongolian grasslands. It celebrates a time when an age-old balance based on culture and tradition was maintained between the nomads, their livestock and the wild wolves who roamed the plains. It tells the story of Chen Zhen a man who is sent to Mongolia during the time of the Cultural Revolution. There he discovers an apparently idyllic, simple life based on an eternal struggle between wolves and the humans in their fight to survive. His role of educating the local population is quickly superseded by his own education in their ancient way of life. The focus is upon the delicate balance between the sheep-herding nomads and the wolves that prey upon the flocks.



Romania Mammal Monitoring Expedition - join the team tracking bears and wolves in Transylvania

24 January to 7 February 2009

The Romania Mammal Monitoring Project will focus on the wildlife of Romania, giving you the opportunity to work with renowned scientists, Christoph and Barbara Promberger, identifying mammals by their tracks.

Travelling across great areas of untouched land you will be able to track wolves, bears and lynx; study the habitat of river otters and martens; set camera traps to study the behaviour and patterns of Romania's mammals and amass as much data as possible to support Christoph and Barbara in their work. The projects undertaken on this trip will contribute greatly to ongoing local projects, covering almost a winter's worth of work in two weeks. It will also be part of a much larger project across Sinca Noua to ensure the sustainability of the environment.

You will be joined on the trip by Dr Michael Perring, Chairman of the Scientific Exploration Society and Anneka Svenska, wildlife presenter and active supporter of the UK Wolf Trust.

Whilst relevant skills are useful no specific qualifications are necessary except for enthusiasm, compatibility and a reasonable level of fitness.

For more details visit: www.ses-explore.org or contact Voyage Concepts on 020 8399 6060



Making Tracks

wolves in the media

It is "A passionate argument about the complex interrelationships between nomads and settlers, animals and human beings, nature and culture. The slowly developing narrative is rendered in vivid detail and has a powerful cumulative effect. A book like no other."

Adrienne Clarkson (Chair of the Man Asian Literary Prize judging panel.)

Oath Breaker

The Chronicles of Ancient Darkness

Michelle Paver

Orion Children's books

Hardback

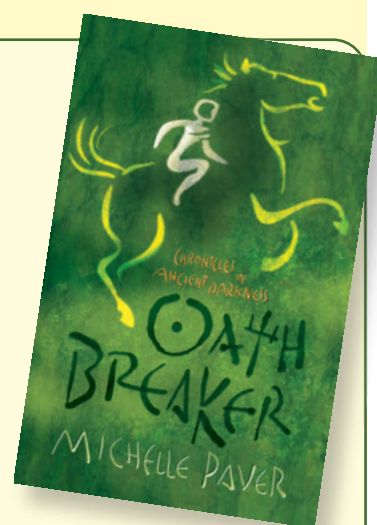
240 pages

216mm x 135 mm

£9.99

ISBN 978 184 225 1745

Published 1st September 2008



Readers of WOLF BROTHER and the previous books will know that this is the fifth book in the Chronicles of Ancient Darkness, which takes you back six thousand years to the world of the hunter-gatherers - and, of course, wolves.

When Torak was outcast, he was the hunted one. In OATH BREAKER he becomes the hunter, when he swears to avenge the killing of one of his closest friends. His search for the killer takes him to the Deep Forest, where he must face fire, war and overwhelming evil...

To gain inspiration for the Deep Forest, I travelled to the last primeval lowland forest in Europe, at Bialowieza in Poland. But for fresh insights about wolves, I visited - as always - the wolves at the UKWCT. I've learned so much from them which have helped make the stories come alive: from their individual characters, to little things, such as the way in which they like to eat hazelnuts. Whenever I visit, I always look forward to an enthusiastic wolf welcome. No wonder this is my favourite part of the research.

Michelle Paver

Editor's note:

Michelle will be at the World Animal day on 5th Oct and will give a talk about how the UKWCT wolves have inspired her in the writing of the character Wolf in her books.

Life and behaviour of wolve

Sandra Benson - Deputy Senior Wolf Handler (UKWCT)



Photo: Arizona Game and Fish Department

The Mexican wolf or lobo as it is known in Mexico, is one of the smallest subspecies of the grey wolf, and is also the southernmost in its range, which overlaps with the red wolf (*canis rufus*). Sadly both of these animals have come perilously close to extinction. This subspecies of the grey wolf is believed to be the rarest mammal in North America and one of the most endangered in the world.

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Mammalia
Order:	Carnivora
Family:	Canidae
Genus:	Canis
Species:	Grey wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>)
Sub Species:	Mexican wolf (<i>Canis lupus baileyi</i>)
Conservation Status:	Critically endangered (IUCN 3.1)

Historical Range

The Mexican wolf was originally found in the foothills and mountainous areas of central and north Mexico, the Sonora and Chihuahua deserts, and into South East Arizona, South New Mexico and South West Texas. This area is mostly dry, chaparral scrub, although the higher elevations are forested with spruce and fir.

Physical Characteristics

Adult Mexican wolves range in weight from 65 - 85 lbs, are approximately 4.5 - 5.5 feet from nose tip to end of the tail, and on average are 28 - 32 inches to shoulder.

Their coat varies in colour from reddish brown to buff and white, with red and white faces. The coat is shorter and more adapted to warmer climates, and their ears are more pointed than the rest of the grey wolves, making them look more similar to their cousin the coyote.

Diet

As with all wolves, their main prey is ungulates, Coues white tailed deer, javelina, antelope, pronghorn and elk, as well as smaller mammals like rabbits. Wolves are opportunistic and can and do sometimes kill livestock. At the turn of the 20th century, reduction of their natural prey caused wolves to begin attacking domestic livestock, and this led to government agencies and private individuals endorsing eradication of the wolf.

Intensive monitoring shows that elk are the most common prey. The chart below gives the estimated diet of wolves in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area based on diet analysis:

- Elk: 75%
- Small Mammals/Unknown: 11%
- Deer: 10%
- Livestock: 4%

Pack Size

They live in small packs usually consisting of a breeding pair and their offspring from the previous year. The pack size is smaller than most northern grey wolves as the prey is smaller in size. The adults usually mate for life and breeding takes place once a year

between January and March, with a gestation period of 63 - 65 days, resulting in an average of four to six cubs.

Social Life

All wolves are social creatures and the Mexican wolf is the same, with the regular hierarchy from the alpha breeding pair to the omega at the bottom of the pack. Packs rarely encounter each other because of their intricate boundaries formed through scent marking and communication through howling. The pack hunts together and helps raise the young.

Downward Turn of the Mexican Wolf

Between 1915 and 1926 federal wolf agents working in the Predatory Animal and Rodent Control Programme eliminated almost all of the wolf population in the Southwest.

By the 1940s there were a few Mexican wolves in remote parts of Arizona and New Mexico.

In the 1950s wolf control programmes began to decimate any hope of viable breeding populations, plus development of a deadly new poison, Compound 1080, in 1952, brought the Mexican wolf to near extinction.

Realisation

In 1976 the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed *Canis lupus baileyi* as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and in 1977 they hired a wolf trapper, Roy McBride, to live-trap as many Mexican wolves as he could find. He came back with five wolves from the Durango region of Mexico, and one was a pregnant female.

Mexican wolves in zoos at this time were from two bloodlines - Aragon (in Mexico City) and Ghost Ranch (in the US) and these five new wolves were desperately needed to strengthen and add diversity.

During 1979 the Mexican wolf was listed in Appendix II (strictly protected species) of the Bern Convention on Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.

Start of the Recovery Plan

In 1979 the USFWS created a Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan and Team. This was intended to establish a captive breeding programme with a goal to establish self sustaining populations in the wild, in its original range in the mountains of South Arizona and New Mexico. Although little seemed to be happening quickly, advocacy and educational programmes were being prepared by various groups.

es: *the mexican wolf*

Between 1915 and 1926 Government federal wolf agents working in the Predatory Animal and Rodent Control Programme eliminated almost all of the wolf population in the Southwest.

In 1980 the Wild Canid Survival and Research Centre started working with the recovery programme and received its first breeding pair of Mexican wolves from the Rio Grande Zoo in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In 1982 the Recovery Plan was signed by US and Mexican officials, but progress was slow and by 1986 several wolf groups began increasing pressure on the USFWS by asking which three states were going to produce suitable land for the reintroduction.

Texas felt that there was nowhere on their land that was suitable. Arizona proposed 15 suitable sites and New Mexico offered White Sands, an area used by the army as a missile practise range. In 1987 an army commander said no and it looked like the reintroduction plan had failed.

Wolf advocates regrouped to form the Mexican Wolf Coalition, which sued the US Department of Interior and the Department of Defence. Key players were: Defenders of Wildlife, The Sierra Club, and PAWS (Preserve Arizona's Wolves), who raised thousands of dollars and provided public information.



Photo: Wild Canid Survival and Research Center

The army and USFWS changed their minds again

In 1991 the International Union for Conservation of Nature, urged that the Mexican Recovery Programme should be given priority over all other wolf projects and captive wolves were paired for maximum breeding potential. Most of this work was done in zoos, none of which were federally owned, operated or supported.

By 1993 only 53 were in captivity, in 14 zoos' breeding programmes. It was felt 200 - 300 were needed to safeguard the subspecies

from extinction and to provide stock for future reintroduction.

In March 1998 the USFWS, the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, began the first reintroduction release of eleven Mexican wolves - three adult males, three adult females, three female cubs and yearlings and two male cubs. Sadly it was not a story with a happy ending. The wolves were not born to this environment. The Blue Range site has many roads crossing it, and cattle men still held permits to drive cattle on the land. In addition they were released on land that was open to public hunting. Within a year none had survived.

Undaunted, the release continued with three more released into the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest in March 1999 and the following summer another 19 were released.

In June 2001 a panel of researchers headed by Canadian Paul Paquet produced a report which was part of the Recovery Plan. It recommended:

1. Wolf managers should be free to release wolves direct to Arizona's side of the site
2. Ranchers with cattle should remove any dead cow carcasses

In May 2004 the New Mexico Game Commission finally endorsed the wolf restoration.

In spite of continued shooting, wolf numbers are rising. In 2004 there were between 50 - 60 in the wild of which half were wild-born, and also approximately 250 in captive breeding programmes. For a list of the breeding programmes/zoos, see website:
http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/cap_manage.shtml

A population count by the Interagency Field Team in winter of 2006 - 2007 estimated 60 wolves in the recovery area.

In June 2008 this same team relocated a pair of Mexican wolves into the recovery site at Gila Wilderness. The adult female (1028) and male (1008) came from Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge breeding programme.

Tragically, the killing continues. In July the Arizona Republic reported that of nine wolves that died in 2008, at least three were killed illegally. The USFWS identified three female and possibly a male were shot; each was an alpha.



Photo: US Fish and Wildlife Service

This still occurred after a government census of wolf population in January 2008 found only 52 wolves and just three breeding pairs. In addition, wolves can be legally shot if involved in three or more livestock depredation incidents in a year, but this must be confirmed as wolf kill.

Greta Anderson of the Western Watersheds Project in Tucson writes:

"The public strongly support the restoration but it is not resonating with the government".

Michael Robinson of the Centre for Biological Diversity in New Mexico agrees, "The USFWS should pledge that for every wolf illegally killed, two more will be released in its place". He also feels ranchers can do a better job of preventing conflict through removing dead cows.

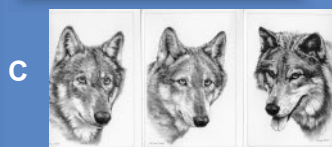
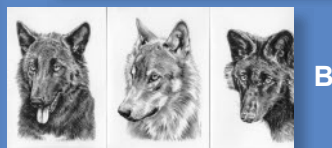
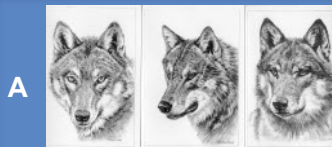
Terry Johnson, an endangered species specialist for the Arizona Game and Fish Dept chairs the Adaptive Management Oversight Committee made up of six agencies who meet quarterly, their last meeting on the 30th July. He feels it is time to put wolf recovery back on track with a rethink of strategy.

The battle to keep the Mexican wolf in the wild continues, and it will not be an easy one to win, but *Canis lupus baileyi* has many supporters who are determined the Mexican wolf is here to stay.

Information sourced from:
www.mexicanwolfeis.org
www.wildcanidcenter.org
www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/
Return of the Wolf - Steve Grooms

Editor's note - Sandra has volunteered at the UKWCT for many years and is a Deputy Senior Handler. She also organises the weekday volunteer rota and along with other vital roles edits Howls and Growls, the volunteers' newsletter.

Christmas gift ideas



Notelets - £3.30 pkt 6

Six notelets per pack with two of each design, plus envelopes.

A - European pack

B - McKenzie pack

C - North American pack



Christmas Card - 75p each

featuring Torak, Mai and Mosi.

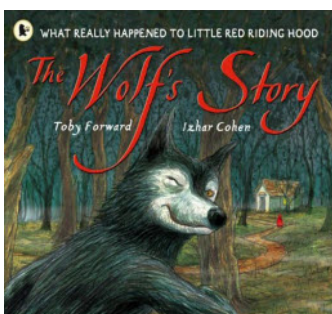
Inside: *Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

18cm x 11.5cm; supplied with envelope



MicroLite Polar Fleece Blanket - £7.50

140 x 190cm. 100% polyester. Suitable as single, double or king size bed or as a throw.



The Wolf's Story - £5.99

by Toby Forward; illus: Izhar Cohen
Ever asked for the wolf's story? It was never Little Red Riding Hood and sticky toffees. Now, with the truth before you, you too can trust a wolf... can't you?

24 pages; paperback; 26.6 x 24.4mm



Wildlife in Pastel DVD - £9.99

by Vic Bearcroft

Step-by-step instructions in creating your own wolf portrait.

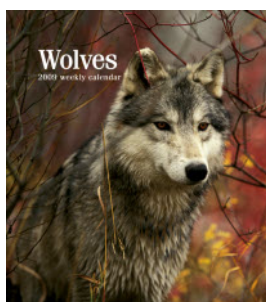


THE UK WOLF CONSERVATION TRUST - 2009 CALENDAR -



2009 A4 Wall Calendar - £8.00

Featuring all the UKWCT Wolves



2009 Engagement Diary - £9.99

Wiro-bound, hard cover engagement diary featuring full-colour images alongside planner pages for each week of the year, plus several pages for personal notes. 16.5cm x 19cm



Mountain T-shirts - £17.00

Dyed and printed in the USA. 100% cotton.

Available in adult sizes S, M, L, XL and XXL

D - Leader of the Pack

E - Trio

F - Waiting Patiently



Sterling Silver Jewellery

Inlaid with mother of pearl



Necklace - £16.50

Earrings - £26.00

(boxed, pierced ears only)



Lobo Velour Towel

- £12.99

76 x 152cm.



Cotton Backpack - £9.50

Zip fastening cotton backpack decorated with wolf motif.



Chocolate Raisin Wolf Whoopsies - £2.15

100g. May contain traces of nuts.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL UK ORDERS ARE SUBJECT TO A MINIMUM P&P CHARGE OF £4.50. FOR OVERSEAS ORDERS, PLEASE CONTACT US.

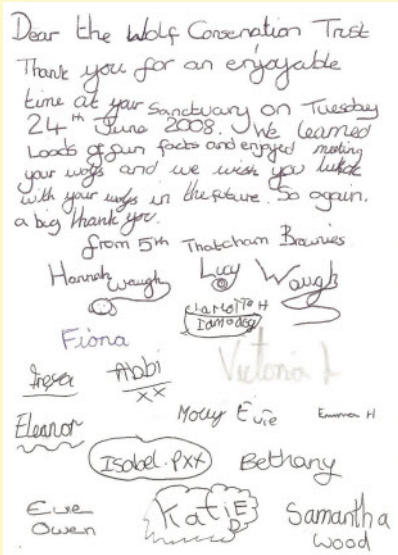
from our members

HAVING RECEIVED a copy of your newly updated version of Wolf Print I just wanted to make a suggestion. I thought it would be a great idea if there was a page or space on the member's page for members to be able to send in a photo of the wolves from the trust which they have taken during visits, walks and photography days etc. I think this would be a great idea and enjoyable for all the members to share such wonderful photography of the wolves with each other. It could state what wolf it is and who took the photo and what date it was taken as a caption on the photo. Kind regards, Emily.

Ed: Well, Emily, we would love to publish members' photos; after all, the members page is your page to fill. The trouble is most people don't send the photos in the right resolution.

If you want a photo to be considered for Wolf Print, please email it to education@ukwolf.org

Images for A4 use, such as the cover, should be a jpeg or tiff, minimum 300dpi and around 3000 pixels wide x 4500 high. Pictures for articles can be smaller.



Thank you from the 5th Thatcham Brownies

Remember: this is your page - use it or lose it!
Send us your photos and tell us your stories and experiences of wolves from around the world - not just our wolves.

Ask the Expert: *Why do wolves have an Omega wolf?*

The Omega seems to be the wolf that all the other pack members take out their anger and frustrations on - even younger wolves follow the adults in tormenting the Omega wolf, which seems cruel to me, and the Omega wolf is the one who eats last. I believe nature does not do anything without good reason but I cannot see what the advantages of such a wolf are to the pack. **Eileen Tracey - UKWCT Member**

The life of an omega wolf, (which could be a male or female) may seem harsh but it is an essential role for maintaining pack stability. These wolves are often more suited to the lower ranking position, displaying a vast array of submissive body language. It is often said these animals prefer this position over being a lone wolf, as company for a wolf in whatever form is better than a lone existence.

The theories behind the role of an omega are varied with some scientists even saying the constant harassing is to ensure the omega is up to the job of being the babysitter for the cubs however the majority of scientists would agree that the role is to relieve stress within the pack and act as a scapegoat for frustration. It may even insert itself between fighting alpha pairs to prevent injury between the two leaders and therefore the possible break up of the pack. Omegas are resourceful and can often use play to defuse a situation and you will often see them initiating a play session, even if they do take the brunt of the aggression.



The other thing to note is the bite inhibition of wolves - what seems to be extreme aggression and a hard bite to us in reality is nothing to a wolf. Through watching wolves play fight at the

UKWCT, especially Alba, Latea and Lunca, you can often see the teeth don't even touch the skin even though it looks like they are trying to do each other serious damage. If a wolf meant it, the omega could be killed, but this is rarely the case.

Although they often eat last they can be very cunning in getting a meal. In captive packs you can often see a pack fighting over one piece of a carcass while the omega has run off with the other and is able to get a good meal without being discovered. They are good problem solvers and will use all resources available to them to survive.

It is not unheard of for an omega to change roles and become the alpha wolf by leaving the pack and starting a new pack or through changes within the existing structure, the alpha can also become the omega animal too. Pack hierarchy is fluid and nothing is set in stone.

Email questions for Ask the Expert to education@ukwolf.org

The Howlbox

The tracking and monitoring of wolves in the wild is changing. Joe Jaszewski finds out more.



WOLVES WERE HUNTED

and trapped to near extinction in the American West, but the federal government reintroduced a handful of Canadian grey wolves in the mid-1990s. Since, wolves have thrived in Idaho and nearby states, and they are estimated to number almost 800 within Idaho's borders alone.

Snug in her sleeping bag near Bull Trout Lake about midnight one night, Teresa Loya heard the howls. They first started high and then dropped an octave lower. Then a second wolf sang out, at a lower pitch than the first. At least one more wolf joined in for a chorus that lasted for about 15 minutes and echoed off the surrounding mountains. She was tempted to venture into the darkness right then and there. "I was laying there going, 'Should I get up? Should I check the telemetry?'" Loya said.

Those howls aren't just the sounds of nature to Loya. To her, they sound like the future of wolf management. In fact, the fate of Idaho's wolves may rest on a small black box Loya developed in her spare bedroom in Missoula, Montana. Loya's invention broadcasts a recorded howl into the wilderness and records any responses from wolves in the following two minutes. From that response, Loya hopes wildlife biologists will be able to get an accurate count of the number of wolves in any particular area,

reducing the need for the expensive, invasive and time-consuming process of outfitting wolves with radio collars.

As a condition of removing Idaho's grey wolves from the endangered species list, Idaho must report wolf numbers to the federal government for the next five years. But officials expect federal funding to dry up after the wolf is delisted for good, so the state is searching for a cheaper alternative to radio collaring.

Enter the Howlbox.

IDAHO IMPLICATIONS

Curt Mack, wolf recovery coordinator for the Nez Perce Tribe, said it costs about \$1,500 to \$2,000 to attach a radio collar to one wolf, then about \$1,000 per year per wolf to keep tabs on their locations.

"There just isn't going to be the funding there to continue the intensive radio collaring," Mack said. Mack sees the Howlbox - which cost about \$1,500 each - being used in remote, rugged country that is difficult to access.

Steve Nadeau, large carnivore coordinator for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, has a similar vision. "We think it has some real potential to assist us particularly in areas we have difficulty getting in to trap and radio collar," Nadeau said.

WHAT IS A HOWLBOX?

The Howlbox plays a pre-recorded howl through speakers then records any responses. Researchers and wildlife officials hope the box will allow them to count wolves based on the number of responding howls. They currently count wolves using radio telemetry, which is expensive and time consuming.

HOWLBOX FACTS:

- Records for two minutes after playing a wolf howl.
- 80 GB hard drive stores audio.
- Programmed to howl once in the morning, once at night.
- Costs about \$1,500 per box.
- Usually placed in a tree and secured with zip-ties.

Loya will leave the box in the field for several days, and then hike back in to retrieve it and listen to the recordings. Each box is programmed to howl once in the morning and once in the evening.

Currently, the programming is done in Linux code, but one of Loya's priorities is to develop a menu-driven interface so the user doesn't have to know Linux to operate it.

The howl the boxes broadcast was acquired from Fred Harrington, a Canadian behavioural ecologist and wolf-howl expert. Harrington characterises the high-pitched howl as "friendly" and "non-aggressive", which he has found to be more effective than a lower-pitched, aggressive howl in eliciting a response.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

When David Ausband, a research associate with the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, tapped Loya, then an undergraduate student, to develop the Howlbox, she went to work on it in her sons' former bedroom.

She laid boards over a twin-sized bed for a work table. Her two sons, David, 24, and Eric, 20, both computer programming majors at Montana State University, helped their mother with the components and programming.

David and Eric still consult with their mother about the development of the box, and Loya plans to tap their expertise in developing a more user-friendly interface.

"It is truly, truly a family project," Loya said.

IDAHO A TESTING GROUND

Loya hopes to learn several things from her summer of Howlbox testing in Idaho.

She wants to know how long the Howlbox needs to stay in the field to record enough howls. Current battery capacity lets her leave the box for three to five days.

She wants to gauge the right howl-to-wolf ratio. That's why Loya puts the box in places where the number of wolves have been documented, so she can cross-reference that number with how many howls the box recorded to get an accurate idea of how many wolves are in the area.

For instance, if the box is in an area frequented by a pack known to have eight members and the box records four different howls, she knows that the box captures the howls of about half the wolves in a given area.

Loya uses a spectrometer to see a visual representation of the howl frequencies. From that she can count how many unique howls the box recorded.

She also hopes to determine if, like a human's voice, each howl has a unique sound and, therefore, a unique frequency plotted on the spectrometer.

Loya's goal by the end of the summer, after several research excursions, is that she will have enough data to tell biologists the capabilities of the Howlbox.

Joe Jaszewski writes for the Idaho Statesman.

Both Nadeau and Mack are cautiously optimistic that testing will reveal the Howlbox to be a valuable tool in the state's management of a healthy, sustainable wolf population, post-delisting.

"Theoretically, it all should work. But you never know until you get it out there in real-world situations," Mack said.

NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK

The Howlbox is being tested in central Idaho to determine its reliability and accuracy in the field. But in order to test the Howlbox, you must first find the wolves. "They're very elusive, they're very mobile, and they live in some really harsh landscapes," Loya said.

During a recent research trip in the Lowman area, Loya and two wildlife technicians, Lacy Robinson and Ryan Kalinowski, camped out for nine days to find packs in the area for Howlbox tests. Armed with radio telemetry gear, GPS receivers and previously gathered data on wolf locations, the three spent their 10- to 14-hour days chasing faint radio beeps across ridges and down draws and through 8-foot-high alder thickets.

Tracking wolves, Loya says, is like finding a needle in a haystack. Except the needle moves. Quickly. One wolf they tracked moved about 10 miles through rugged country in just two hours. "We can't keep up with the four-legged critters," Loya said.

When the researchers spot a wolf, Loya sets up a Howlbox. The box is usually installed in a tree and covered with a black garbage bag about one kilometre away from where the wolf was spotted. One major benefit of the Howlbox is that it is less invasive and disruptive to the wolves, which have to be trapped and sedated to be collared.

Wolves in Art

Su Shimeld: Wildlife and Pet Portrait Artist



As a child Su watched in fascination the animals, insects and birds around her. She adored wildlife and also thoroughly enjoyed drawing. Throughout the following years, her love of art and her concern for her fellow creatures has been unceasing.

A lover of wildlife since childhood and a keen conservationist for the past 30 years, Su has realised a lifelong ambition: whilst combining her love of 'Wildlife in Art' she also supports Wildlife Conservation Societies through the sale of each artwork, card and print.

Su has completed numerous paintings and drawings of a variety of animals including wolves, orangutans, giraffes. Completed in the finest detail, Su's work has a photographic quality which captures the spirit of the animals she studies.

Su has been a supporter of wolf conservation for many years, and recently became involved in our work at the Trust. She immediately agreed to provide the drawings for the forthcoming books *The World of Wolves: perspectives on ecology, behaviour and policy*, which are sponsored by the UKWCT, and has completed a total of 16 drawings for the two books in the series. These will be published later this year and there will be an official launch for the books at the Trust in early 2009.

Su has also recently finished a pastel of Torak (shown here) which she has donated to raise money for wolf conversation.

Su's website at www.natureinart.co.uk has a gallery of her work, and you can also purchase greeting cards. She will also be exhibiting her work at the book launch in 2009, so please keep an eye on the UKWCT website for details of this - www.ukwolf.org.



Leon Evans

Leon Evans studied at Stourbridge College of Art in the West Midlands and then onto the North East Wales Institute of Technology and Art, where he developed his techniques in all mediums including oils, pencil, crayon and water colour. He became their first student to have work accepted by the Association of Illustrators for their 'Images' annual exhibition in Covent Garden.

Leon set up his company Spiral Gallery in 1991 and with a great interest in portraiture began publishing a series of limited edition prints entitled 'Legends'.

Since then his water colours sporting images from football, boxing and motor racing have become very popular. His great interest in wildlife has inspired a series of animal pencil studies where his challenge is to not only capture the intricate detail within the texture and form of the animal, but also a little bit of its individual character and personality.

Leon recently donated one of his limited edition prints (shown above) called 'Wild Spirit' to the UK Wolf Conservation Trust, the print which featured our very own Duma and Dakota was auctioned off through the Trust's website and raised £250 which will go to the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme.



Clive Meredith: Wildlife Artist

Clive Meredith was born in Wellington, Shropshire in 1964. He has both lived and worked in Hampshire for a large part of his life. He is recognized as one of the UK's leading wildlife artists.

Clive is entirely self taught, his passion for pencil drawings coming from his love of studying British wildlife. Clive has worked in other mediums, particularly oil, but only pencil gives him the thrill and control that he strives for in his pictures.

Clive's works in pencil are true labours of love and the fruit of many hours of work. Detail is built up painstakingly, working first with hard then softer leads, resulting in remarkable effects. The wrinkled hide of a rhino or the wet fur of a swimming tiger is realized with great sensitivity, giving the animals a vivid presence and strong individuality. Clive considers the setting to be as important as the portrait of the animal, giving authentic sense of habitat and season.

The success and ever growing patronage that Clive has attracted over the last few years speaks for itself. His originals are highly sought after and there is a strong collectors market for his fine art limited edition prints.

Much of Clive's art can be viewed on line by putting his name into Google.





Mai

SEPTEMBER

Monday 1 :	Children's Photography Day - full
Wednesday 3 :	Dogs Trust Visit
Saturday 6 :	Members' Walk - full
Sunday 7 :	Walk for Ethiopian Wolves, Battersea Park
Wednesday 10 :	Adults' Wolf Keeper Day - full
Thursday 11:	Outdoor & Environment Education Celebration
Friday 12:	School Visit
Saturday 13 :	Private Walk
Sunday 14 :	Members' Walk - full
Monday 15 :	Private Visit
Tuesday 16 :	Private 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 - full

OCTOBER

Friday 3 :	Mammal Trust Walk - private
Saturday 4 :	Private Walk
Sunday 5 :	World Animal Day at the Centre (see back page)
Monday 6 :	Thatcham Cubs visit
Saturday 11 :	Members' Walk
Sunday 12 :	UKWCT Photo Day - full
Tuesday 14 :	Solihull College
Saturday 18 :	Centre of Applied Pet Ethology - wolf course practical day at Trust
Sunday 19 :	Members' Walk
Tuesday 21 :	School visit
Friday 24 :	Howl Night
Saturday 25 :	Wild Arena Photography Day
Sunday 26 :	Members' Walk
Monday 27 :	Creative Writing Workshop - with David Clement Davis
Tuesday 28 :	Pumpkin Party
Friday 31 :	Children's Walk Frome Dog Club



Torak by Darren Prescott



Dakota by Darren Prescott

NOVEMBER

Saturday 1 :	Wild Arena Photography Day
Sunday 2 :	Open Day at the UKWCT
Monday 3 :	Pumpkin Party
Tuesday 4 :	Winchester University visit
Saturday 8 :	Members' Walk
Sunday 9 :	Members' Walk
Saturday 15 :	Members' Walk
Sunday 16 :	Private Walk - Spice
Saturday 22 :	Members' Walk
Sunday 23 :	Members' Walk
Friday 28 :	Mammal Trust Walk - private
Saturday 29:	Members' Walk
Sunday 30:	Wild Arena Photography Day

For details & availability visit www.ukwolf.org
All dates are correct at the time of going to press

Forthcoming Events at the UKWCT

Sunday 5th October
World Animal Day
British Wildlife: lost & living
in association with The UK Wolf Conservation Trust **2pm - 6pm**

WATCH & PHOTOGRAPH WOLVES

BIRDS OF PREY

LOOK & LEARN ABOUT

- Badgers
- Bats
- Bees
- Deer
- Hedgehogs

CHILDREN'S WILDLIFE WALKS & TALKS

- What's on the Wing
- Pond Wildlife
- Wild Back Garden
- ... and much more!

ANIMAL TREASURE HUNT

FACE PAINTING

MEET
Michelle Paver
author of the *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* series signing her new book *Oathbreaker*

Anneka Svenska
UK Celebrity Ambassador for World Animal Day and wildlife presenter

Demonstrations by wildlife artists
Vic Bearcroft & Sue Shimeld

REFRESHMENTS SERVED ALL DAY including ice creams & barbecue

FAMILY TICKET
(2 adults & 2 children up to age 16) £18.00
On the day £20.00

Adult advance ticket £8.00
- on the day £10.00

Child advance ticket £3.00
- on the day £5.00

For further information & advance ticket sales:
The UK Wolf Conservation Trust
Butlers Farm • Beenham • Reading • RG7 5NT
ukwct@ukwolf.org • 0118 971 3330 • www.ukwolf.org

All funds raised at this event will go to support projects working to keep wolves in the wild

DONT' FORGET: 7th September 2008
Walk for Wolves in aid of the Ethiopian Wolf.
Remember to sponsor the UKWCT team by donating via our website www.ukwolf.org
You will be able to donate up to the end of October so there is still time to help us save this beautiful species.

Half Term Activities

Sunday 27th October, 13:00 - 16:00

Writing Workshop

with **David Clement Davies**

£10 per person, 8 years +

Find out how David researches his work and have him cast an eye over your writing.

**Monday 28th October and
3rd November, 10:00 - 12:00**

Howling Pumpkin Parties



£12 per person, 6 years +

Come walk with the wolves, stuff pumpkins and see what the wolves do with them!

Thursday 31st October, 11:00 - 13:00

Children's Walk



£12 per person, 6 years +

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

NEW!

UKWCT WOLF CENTRE OPEN DAY
2nd November 2008 • 11:00 - 16:00

£5 for adults and non-members
£3 for children under 12 and members

Look around the Wolf Trust - Photograph the wolves
See what they get up to when hanging around
in their spacious enclosures.

For more information visit our website at www.ukwolf.org

Howl Nights

18th September, 24th October times vary throughout the year. **£10 per person**

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!

A photograph of a wolf howling, with its head tilted back and mouth open.

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