

# Wolf Print

The Magazine of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Issue 38 Autumn Winter 2009/10

## Tracking Wolves in Poland

Jonathan Simons reports

**ALSO:**



**BOOK LAUNCH:** A New Era for Wolves and People  
UKWCT Christmas Appeal for Russian Wolf Cubs  
Wolf Depredation Management

■ NEWS ■ EVENTS ■ MEDIA AND ARTS ■ REVIEWS





## Editor's Letter

**T**his issue looks at the rare Arabian wolf and updates us on the on-going work in Poland. We have a special report from Tom Smith, one of our exchange students who helped out on the large carnivore project in Bulgaria, as well as great articles on tracking wolves and herd protection research.

For those of you who are interested in Alba and his disability, for the first time you have the unique opportunity to find out how we rehabilitated him after his spinal injury four years ago, and what has happened to him from then until now. Read more about it on page eleven.

The back cover gives you all the info on World Animal Day on 4th Oct 2009. This year the theme is North America and looks like it will top last year's event for interest and entertainment. Christmas sees a new event at the centre which involves Christmas trees, wolves and treats! See page 26 to find out more. We also have other great events at the Trust and info on wolf watching opportunities in Yellowstone.

Christmas is just around the corner, so get your orders in early so Lynn can post all your Christmas goodies to you in time for Santa to deliver them! There are new items and calendars on the merchandise pages, but remember, the full range is on line at [www.ukwolf.org](http://www.ukwolf.org).

Wolf Print is evolving with every issue and 2010 will see some further changes to the magazine. Since June 2008 when Wolf Whistle, the old UKWCT newsletter, was incorporated into Wolf Print, we have been sending it out to all our members and adopters, as well as those few faithful people who subscribe just to the magazine. Wolf Whistle was light, small and cost the UKWCT about half the amount in postage, packaging and printing than the new style magazine. We haven't increased its price or added money on for postage for many years, but with the economic changes we find ourselves losing around £4,000 a year producing Wolf Print. That's money we are not able to send to wolf projects in Europe and around the world. So how does this effect you? In 2010 Wolf Print will go down to three issues a year and will arrive on your doormat in February, June and October. The price for subscribers will remain the same at £14.00 per year including postage and packaging (a little more for overseas subscribers) and this will cover all our additional costs in postage and go towards covering the overall cost of the magazine. The magazine itself will increase by four more pages to 28 to compensate for the one less issue a year.

*Toni Shelbourne*

Education Officer / Senior Wolf Handler / Wolf Print Editor

# Wolf Print



Editor  
Toni Shelbourne  
Tel: 0118 971 3330  
Email: [education@ukwolf.org](mailto:education@ukwolf.org)

Assistant Editor  
Julia Bohanna

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

Published by  
The UK Wolf Conservation Trust  
Butlers Farm, Beenham,  
Reading RG7 5NT  
Tel: 0118 971 3330  
Fax: 0118 971 0522  
Email: [ukwct@ukwolf.org](mailto: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  
Sue Hull  
Tsa Palmer

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust is a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England & Wales. Company No. 3686061.

The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the publishers or The UK Wolf Conservation Trust.

All rights reserved throughout the world. Reproduction in any manner, in whole or in part, in English or other languages, is prohibited. The work may not be photocopied or otherwise produced within the terms of any licence granted by the Copyright Licensing Agency Ltd or the Publishers Licensing Society Ltd.

## 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 provide education programmes for schools, conservationists and other organisations.

Cover Price - £3.50  
3 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](http://www.ukwolf.org)

Design and Artwork: Business Pluspoint  
[www.businesspluspoint.co.uk](http://www.businesspluspoint.co.uk) Tel: 0845 890 8690  
email: [enquiries@businesspluspoint.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@businesspluspoint.co.uk)

Printed by: Pensord, NP12 2YA. [www.pensord.co.uk](http://www.pensord.co.uk)

Printed on FSC paper from sustainable forest sources. This magazine is fully recyclable. By recycling magazines you can help to reduce waste and add to the millions of tonnes of paper already recycled every year by the UK paper industry. You can recycle paper through your home recycling collection scheme or at your local recycling centre. Visit [www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com) and enter your postcode to find your nearest site.



# contents

## REGULARS

- 2 Editor's Letter
- 12 Life and Behaviour of Wolves  
The Arabian Wolf
- 22 Merchandise  
Gift ideas for Christmas and the New Year
- 16 Making Tracks  
Wolves in media and art

## NEWS

- 4 News from the Trust
- 10 Wolves of the World
- 26 Book Launch

## FEATURES

- 8 Habitat Suitability Study for Polish Wolves  
Vicky Hughes
- 9 Alba: from injury to recovery  
A case study by Toni Shelbourne
- 14 Snow, Ice & Wolves: tracking wolves in Poland  
Jonathan Simons
- 18 Wolf Depredation Study  
Peter Haswell
- 20 UKWCT Student Exchange Programme  
Tom Smith at the UKWCT and in Bulgaria
- 25 Predator to Pet  
Kirsty Peake reviews the UKWCT's new workshop

## WHAT'S COMING UP

- 27 Special Events at the Trust  
Book launch, open days, holiday activities, howl nights
- 28 World Animal Day at the UKWCT







## Update on the Trust Wolves

As summer moves into autumn we can look forward to frost in the wolves' coats in the mornings and also to the hormone levels rising. The wolves have spent the summer alternately basking themselves in the sun and sheltering from the rain, but winter coats will soon be growing in preparation for the long winter ahead.

**DUMA**, whose vet record sheets numbered about five for her whole life, decided to fill loads in at once back in June. She suddenly developed a nasty looking discharge from her vulva and Toni Shelbourne quickly recognised that she might have pyometra which, simply translated, means pus in the womb. This is a potentially life-threatening condition if not treated quickly. The vet was called and confirmed the diagnosis. In the past the only treatment would have been to have her spayed, but a newer treatment involves injections of a hormone to reduce the size of the womb and antibiotics to clear up the infection. Unfortunately the amount of liquid to be injected and the size of the needle used were huge, but she tolerated the first injection well. The next day she had to have another one and she was a little upset about it, but after one attempt we managed to inject her. She had the week off work and enjoyed her daily clean-up sessions to remove the discharge from her hind legs and feathers.



Duma - Matt Booth

The treatment appeared to be working as the discharge was reducing. She was due a last hormone injection a week later. The same vet came but unfortunately Duma was ready for him this time and refused to let him near her to administer the drug. So we opted for

another course of antibiotics and hoped this would clear it. If not, she would have to be spayed and we were worried about the effect on her relationship with Dakota. After the antibiotics had finished she still had a small amount of discharge, so our homeopathic vet prescribed pulsatilla, which is a remedy for creamy discharge and that did the trick of clearing the rest of the discharge. After more than two weeks off work, she was chomping at the bit to get back into the swing of things and really enjoyed the added attention of meeting all her adoring public once back at work.

**DAKOTA** has had a relatively good summer health wise but has so many lumps and bumps now. Temperament and behaviour wise she remains the same, loving the sun but seeking her favourite shade under the trees at the front of her enclosure when it's hot. This spot



Dakota - Franca Knight

is perfect as she can keep an eye open for anything going on, especially the school children who might have the odd apple to give her which is one of her favourite treats. Nick Thompson, our holistic vet, came to see her in June for a check-up and was amazed at how well she was looking. A quick review of her treatment showed that she was still on the correct management plan. She is still a cheeky girl but her antics went a little too far one day when, in a submissive gesture, she accidentally whacked Duma across the nose with her paw. Duma jumped back startled but soon recovered her wits and we were treated to a brilliant display of dominance and submission as Duma put her sister back in her place.

**LUNCA** has finally reached her optimum weight! Her diet was always challenging. In the past it would have to be abandoned in the breeding season due to Latea's aggression levels, but this year we have been able to keep it up all year round and after six months of intensive dieting she is skinny again. We have now been able to increase her intake, a fact she seems very grateful for. As Alba is now fed separately from the girls, we are confident that the overweight Lunca will not rear her head again. She seems relaxed and happy, even at the height of the diet, and is more



Lunca - Paul Denton

active and playful because of the reduced weight. She loves the regular walks with her handlers as she can get extra attention which she really enjoys.

**LATEA** has been taking advantage of Alba's wobbly legs and plays really roughly with him, often knocking him over and pinning him to the ground. She is sometimes very boisterous but Alba doesn't seem to mind, getting up again and running off, encouraging a game of chase. She is still dominating both Lunca and Alba but at a much reduced, normal level and it was good to see them continuing to play happily right through the year. Even at ten years old they can match the Mackenzie pack for activity levels and playfulness. They particularly like the pond and are often seen swimming, paddling and, in Latea's case, trying to drown Lunca which is a favourite pastime of hers.



Latea

**ALBA** has proved that if you give a wolf an inch he will always take a mile. When feeding, he often gets knocked aside by his sisters when entering the kennel and by the time he gets in there all the food has gone. We compensated for this by feeding him an hour or so later with his morning medications. Alba decided that it wasn't worth going in the kennel with his sisters. If he just stood on the yard and looked really hard at the feeder, surely he could wheedle some food out of them - and then he needn't go in the kennel at all. We tried



various options but eventually decided that with everything else that was going on with him that we would just feed him on the yard and let him back out again. Alba's hind quarters, especially the left hind leg, seem to be deteriorating and he appears to have some paralysis and pain in that area. Nick Thompson, our homeopathic vet and Julian, our normal vet, have looked at him and we have tweaked his treatments and management plan. We are hoping he will improve with the new measures but only time will tell. After four years of living with the injury he has vertebrae which are now possibly restricting the spinal cord.



Alba - Paul Denton

**MOSI** discovered wheels were better than paws at one of our mobility walks held at the centre for those who are unable to do the woodland walk (see page 25). She had great fun spinning the wheels on a wheelchair with her feet. It really shows her curious side. She is so cheeky; her eyes twinkle with mischief sometimes. Mind you, like the rest of us, a big, full belly will slow her down. One day, Torak at the last minute decided not to go in for his food, Mosi took full advantage and the result was a belly fit for bursting. We had a school visit that day and we have never seen her stand still for so long to be stroked by the children, her belly weighing her down.

**TORAK** as usual attracts a lot of attention but remains his aloof, majestic self. He really does things on his own terms. Some days he flies



Mosi - Oliver Matla

onto the yard wanting to go out for a walk and on other days you can't see him for dust. When he is relaxed he will jump on to the platform for a fuss from his favourite handlers, gently licking your face or briefly holding your arm in a wolfy welcome. When playing he is not averse to dragging Mai and Mosi around by a leg. They take it in good spirit and let him get away with murder as they are as infatuated by him as so many of us are. Summer is never his best look as the loss of his thick winter coat shows up his gangly legs and long body but he is still a beautiful animal and a firm favourite with many of the visitors.



Torak - Oliver Matla

**MAI** continues to be a good alpha and does an excellent job of squashing Mosi's over

exuberance. In her mind she need only get rid of Duma to become the top female on site. This is a task she works hard at by fence-running and vocalising, tail and hackles erect. In her role as an ambassador wolf she really does match Duma in her enthusiasm for meeting people. She loves to interact with everyone and recently took up gardening. Clive the wolf keeper was recently pulling up some large weeds from her enclosure, when he looked around the pile had diminished; Mai had carried them off and started playing with them. She also helped Torak go potholing by giving him a little push while he was standing next to a large hole they had dug in the



Mai - Paul Denton

mound. Torak slide down into the hole and disappeared. When he emerged Mai had a very cheeky look on her face and he looked a little sheepish.

So with the summer nearly over the hotdog flavoured ice lollies will be packed away and the wolves will be enjoying the cooler weather, who knows what Santa will bring them this year.

#### ADOPT A WOLF.

Have you thought of adopting one of our wolves? A wolf adoption makes a wonderful gift for Christmas or any other special occasion. See page 24.

## Badger Update...



At last we have some positive sightings of our family of Badgers. During the very hot spell food has been a bit meagre for them as the slugs and worms have been well underground. Many people think that Badgers will dig for their food but in fact they do not, preferring the worms and slugs to come to the surface. During this time we fed them with peanuts, apples and dog food which they and some of the other wildlife seem to have devoured with gusto. We have had four Badgers on camera at one time, two adults and two of this years cubs, which are now growing very fast. Pictures show some of the family caught on camera early one evening. They remained in view of the cameras for about one hour before moving off to the fields to look for their favourite diet of worms.

The hide is now fully operational. We have also installed a solar light which hopefully will give enough illumination to photograph the badgers without the requirement of a flash.

# FROM THE DIRECTORS

Over the next few months the Trust has decided to make some changes to the Board of Directors, Patrons and Specialist Advisors.

After many years service as a Director, **Denise Taylor** has stepped down from the board in order to pursue her wider conservation aims with Education 4 Conservation Limited, an organisation she has run since 2003, and on which has worked collaboratively with us. Denise is not going to leave the Trust, but will continue as a specialist advisor with a particular emphasis on education, as this is her primary career focus. Denise will also advise on fund-raising for the Trust in the coming year, and will help us to develop our funding strategy to include grant fund raising, and sponsorship. She will also continue to liaise with international network contacts on behalf of the Trust.



Denise Taylor with Mai

Denise joined the Trust in 1996 not long after Roger and I first set it up as a wolf conservation organisation. She immediately took up the mantle to launch Wolf Print, and from there developed a strong network of international contacts, including our partnerships with Bulgaria, Russia and Croatia. Over the years, Denise attended numerous conferences all over the world and continued to strengthen our international links.

Denise has been a proactive member of the Trust board, and has always been keen to see that our education profile has been high, which is something that underpins our overall strategy.

She is highly involved through Education 4 Conservation and the Trust in the project of the Academic publication of the book, "A New Era for Wolf Recovery, Human Attitudes and Policy." This is to be launched at the Trust on Saturday 7th November at our last Open Day of 2009.

## NEW DIRECTOR

Other changes to the board include the addition of **Sue Hull**. Sue is no stranger to the Trust and indeed was instrumental in helping Roger and me set it up in 1995.

She originally studied geology before finally succumbing to a passion for animals.

In 1985 Sue was one of the founding members and President of the Wolf Society of Great Britain, an organisation dedicated to wolf related education and conservation, only the third such organisation in Europe. During her time at the Wolf Society she contacted Roger and myself and the wolf society made regular visits to see our wolves, which at that time were kept in two enclosures in the garden!

Sue and her husband Roger themselves had a wolf "Tundra" in 1990 who they hand raised and hoped would live at Wolf Watch UK as a companion for Tony's Ayla. Unfortunately, he suffered from an inoperable severe congenital eye defect and had

to be put to sleep at five months old.

Sue was responsible for bringing Erich Klinghammer over from the States to give a talk to the Wolf Society and during his stay brought Eric to meet Roger and I. Thus this meeting was the inspiration for setting up the wolf trust, and followed by Roger's subsequent visit to Wolf Park was realised in 1995.

In the Trust's early years Sue was Education Coordinator and responsible for running seminars and indeed spoke at several early ones herself, on topics such as wolf behaviour and wolf hybrids. She used to write in the Wolf Society Magazine "Howler" her regular column called "Hull's Howl" and arranged many trips not only abroad to Portugal and Wolf Park for wolf society members, but also to study wolves in this country at Port Lymphe and Highland Wildlife Park.

In 1996 Sue had a break from wolf activities and completed an MSC in Animal Behaviour at Southampton University and set up a



New UKWCT Director Sue Hull with Wolfgang  
Photo: Monty Sloan/Wolf Park

behavioural practice primarily in treating problems in dogs. Thus in Sue we have someone who has a huge amount of knowledge in both wolf and dog behaviour. She has also owned and raced sled dogs for 25 years and currently lives with a pack of seven Siberian Huskies plus six chickens and her husband Roger.

Recently Sue came with myself and Linda Paul, one of the Trusts senior handlers, in charge of training at the Trust, on a visit to Wolf Park. It was as a result of this visit and the good time we had that Sue agreed to become re-involved with wolf education.

She has started by introducing the very successful "Predator to Pet" workshop which we ran recently; I look forward immensely to her working with us.

## UKWCT PATRONS

It is some time since we made any changes to the Patrons at the Trust, and we are really keen to bring on board new patrons who will not only continue to raise the profile of the Trust and its work, but who will also be proactive in helping us to raise funds for our European projects. Our current patrons are Erich Kinghammer, Desmond Morris, Michelle Paver, David Clement-Davies and Christoph Promberger.

We currently have specialist advisers from Wolf Park who in the past have helped us with scientific queries we've had about our captive wolves. As with the patrons, this aspect of the Trust's infrastructure is something we want to expand, and in the coming months we will be looking to our network of international links to see whether we can recruit some notable wolf names to join us. We will keep you informed of our progress on this.

Tsa Palmer,  
Director



## DONATIONS UPDATE

The UKWCT has just sent money to the following projects:

**Croatia - £3000.** This will fund a year of field work for Josip Kusak and his colleagues working on the Croatian wolf management programme

**Russia - £2000.** Continued support for the Wolf Rehabilitation Centre in the Tver region ran by Vladimir Bologov

**Bulgaria - £1750** which supported a number of students from the UKWCT working on the project. We have also sent **£3000** to support a permanent manager for the Centre to be in charge when Elena Tsingarska is away from the site.

**Armenia - £2000.** This is for the WWF to help locals protect livestock from wolf predation and continue the tolerance Armenian people have for wolves. This also supports the work of Alistair Bath in this country.

There is no walk for wolves this year but the UKWCT will be supporting the **Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme** again this year. It has been a tough time for the project that had to deal with another outbreak of rabies recently.

Donations were made possible by the continued support of Bacardi - owners of the Eristoff Vodka brand - who donated another £10,000 to the Trust this year, and through funds raised from Open Days and members' continued support. Thank you.

## A BIG Thank You

A huge thank you to **Keith & Carole Wright** for donating their Sony camcorder to us; it has already proved very useful. Not only are we able to record wolf behaviour, but we have also put together some videos to incorporate in the wolf handler training programme.

Toni Shelbourne says, 'You couldn't imagine how useful it is to us. We were even able to film Alba walking and running so the vet could analyse his movement. I can't thank Keith and Carole enough for their generous donation'.

## ERISTOFF VODKA VISITS THE UKWCT

Eristoff vodka has been a proud supporter of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust for the last three years. In July members of the brand team joined us at the wolf centre to learn more about the work we do and how their annual contributions have helped the protection of wolves around the world.

Eristoff vodka is famous for its iconic wolf logo and the link with the wolf dates back to when Eristoff was first created by Prince Eristoff, in Georgia, in 1806.

The Persian name for Georgia is 'Virshan' meaning Land of the Wolf. The history and heritage of the spirit is integral to the personality of this successful vodka and the world of the wolf has become the global identity for Eristoff being showcased in its PR, Advertising and "Wolf Night" events which have taken place around the world.

Through its contributions to the Trust, Eristoff vodka hopes it can help influence positive attitudes towards the wolf and show its

support for the protection of this incredible animal.

"We had an amazing day at the Wolf Centre. To be able to meet the wolves, the team at the Trust and see firsthand the difference that is being made from all their hard work was very special," says Marie-Anne Ambrosi, Global Marketing Manager for Eristoff.

"It was inspiring to hear about the different projects the Trust assists with and the passionate and dedicated people that are contributing every day to help change people's misconceptions and attitudes to ensure the wolf's existence.

"And we would particularly like to thank Duma for being such a welcoming host and being sensitive to some of our initial fears!"

The Eristoff team joined us for a walk around the Centre with Duma and had a chance to give her a good belly scratch and have their photo taken. They then joined us and other visitors to the Wolf Centre for a howl night where we all had a 'howling' conversation with the wolves.

Photo: the Eristoff team with Duma and handlers Toni Shelbourne and Linda Paul.



### ERISTOFF VODKA

The favourite vodka in many countries throughout Europe and South America, Eristoff is now also available in the UK. If you would like to embrace the spirit of the world of the wolf and mix your favourite vodka cocktail at home, Eristoff is available in Tesco stores nationwide.

For a tall refreshing summer drink you may want to try an Eristoff Wolf Breeze:

50ml (2 shots) Eristoff vodka  
White cranberry juice  
White grapefruit juice

Pour Eristoff vodka into a tall glass filled with cubed ice, then top up with half white cranberry juice and half white grapefruit juice. Garnish with a sprig of redcurrant.





As regular Waitrose shoppers will know, when you shop you can deposit tokens in to their token collecting donation scheme. Recently the UKWCT benefited from a collection at Waitrose in Theale, Berkshire, and we were awarded £300. Pet Melton, one of our Assistant Senior Handlers, went to collect the cheque.

## facebook

The UKWCT seems to have a growing number of fans on Facebook where two Wolf Trust appreciation societies have been started.

'UKWCT Friends', has loads of comments from people who have been on events and 'UK Wolf Conservation Trust Work Experience' was started by our work experience students talking about their time at the Trust and swapping stories and photos.

If you are a fan of Facebook, look them up and join in the chat.

## WISH LIST

The Trust has a number of items it could do with to help with the day-to-day running of the Trust, as well as for special events. Can you help?

- Portable TV / DVD combo TV use at shows to play the Trust DVD
- Mops
- Brushes for cleaning the kennels
- Display stands for publicity at shows
- Trestle tables
- Wooden signs for around the site or material to make them
- Small marquees for open days

## A Habitat Suitability Study for Polish Wolves

Quantitative evaluation of potentially suitable habitats for various animal species was first proposed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 1980 and has since become an important tool for ecological assessment and conservation planning. The UKWCT's Vicky Hughes looks further.

Among the targeted organisms, large carnivorous mammals are of special interest to land managers and conservationists, as the conservation of large carnivores has often been a political issue. Livestock owners and hunters claim that numbers of carnivores are too high and should be reduced, while conservationists advocate their roles in maintaining biodiversity. The spontaneous re-colonisation of new areas by large predators, as well as deliberate reintroductions calls for accurate prediction of species occurrence and abundance in new areas. Attempts to predict favourable habitats in regions so far unoccupied have been made for wolves in the USA, Italy and Switzerland.

The central European population of wolves (*Canis lupus*) has its Western border in Eastern Poland. The wolves in Poland have been protected since 1998; since their protection was put into place the wolves have begun to expand towards the west. This study published in June 2008 looks at predictions made by a computer modeling program, using data on wolf abundance collected between 2000 and 2006, and relevant geographic information to work out which areas of Poland offer suitable habitat for the expanding population of wolves.

The study identified the most suitable areas of Poland for wolves to successfully populate, highlighting different habitats with the necessary resources. These habitats include a percentage of forests, meadows and marshes, with a low road density. The study showed a potential wolf range for Poland of 24 patches of good habitat; six of these patches are

already occupied and 18 new ones were highlighted. It was also shown that up to 24% of land in Poland could be suitable for wolf population; currently only 16% of the country is occupied by the species. Using historical data on wolf occurrence between 1950 and 2006, the areas selected by the model used in this study and those inhabited by wolves in at least one decade overlapped in 81-86%. Furthermore, the probability of wolf occurrence predicted by the model correlated positively with the number of decades the wolves were actually recorded in the area. Based on the relationship between patch size and wolf numbers, it is estimated that Poland could support a population of 1450 - 1540 wolves, two to three times larger than the current estimate. Interestingly the study highlighted that the current restriction of the geographic range of wolves to eastern Poland has not been caused by the lack of suitable habitat in the rest of the country; the best potential ranges with good habitat and amounts of prey are as yet uninhabited by wolves. Therefore, there must be other factors hampering wolf dispersal and restoration to western Poland.

Due to the broadly similar geographic conditions, the model used in this study may also be applicable to eastern Germany, Belarus Republic and the Baltic States (Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia) and may in the future be used to estimate wolf populations and possible habitat size in these countries.

Abridged from the habitat suitability model for Polish wolves based on long term national census.

W. Jedrzejewski, B. Jedrzejewska, B. Zawadzka, T. Borowik, S. Nowak and R. W. Myszajek, from Mammal Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences, Białowieża, Poland and The Association for Nature 'Wolf', Twardorzeczka, Poland.

Photo: Jonathan Simons





# Alba: the story of a wolf's recovery from injury

IN JUNE this year it was the fourth anniversary of Alba's near fatal accident when he somehow managed to fracture his C2 vertebra. An injury that left him fighting for his life and from which he has never fully recovered.

This day-to-day account, with detailed veterinary and management notes, tells the whole story of his miraculous recovery from the day it happened to early 2009. It highlights the dedication of volunteers and the determination of one very special wolf.

Below are a few extracts:



## 4th July - 10 days after the accident

We tried to find a way to protect the bed sore that Alba has on his left shoulder tonight without success. We were able to clean the wound but the tape we had would not stick to anything. The good



news is that while we were doing this we were certain that we witnessed a small amount of movement in his left foreleg. This is the limb that is giving the greatest concern, and we have to emphasise that this is a very small indication. We have a physiotherapist coming to assess him on Friday evening. She has spoken to our vet and has the full picture from a veterinary point of view.

He is eating well; he seems to prefer chicken meat with bone in - could it be that he is trying to obtain calcium? He defecates and urinates and tonight after getting urine on himself he cleaned himself up. This is going to be a long hard slog and even then there is no guarantee of success at the end of it. It really is up to nature and the strength of Alba. On the plus side he is a very fit wolf in the prime of condition.

## 14th July

He lies in a normal position now with his head up and his shoulders off the ground, and he is much keener to come out of his kennel when called. He is still on antibiotics in case his bedsores turn nasty. He still has anti-inflammatory tablets and the homeopathic remedies. We have just opened up a second hard-standing to give him more room to move about, a fact that he seems to much appreciate.

## 25th July

Alba very active - running around energetically. As he is still running sideways, if a hand is placed on his right hip he could run straight for a couple of steps before he stumbles and falls, although it was really hard to keep up with him as he was running so fast. When he stopped, whilst standing, his legs were placed into a more normal and balanced standing position and then physio resistance exercise could be carried out. This involved gently rocking him from side to side to ask him to resist the pressure and remain standing. This helped with muscle development and balance. His left hind leg when coming to rest was mostly left out and to the side instead of under the hip joint. If the hind legs were repositioned into a normal stance then the forelegs were in front of the vertical. The forelegs would then have to be

repositioned and he would stand for a while in balance before running on. After repositioning him several times and supporting him while running, he seemed to be a little straighter in movement and also while standing. The running had to be allowed otherwise he became a little snappy. The long grass in the holding pen is impeding his movement; he is tripping over it as his left foreleg is dragged or knuckling. As we can't get electrical equipment in it will need to be cut by hand with rip hooks etc.

## FULL REPORT

*If you'd like to have a copy of the complete case study please send a cheque to UKWCT, Butlers Farm, Beenham, Berks, RG7 5NT, for £5 made out to the UK Wolf Conservation Trust. Please indicate that it is for a copy of Alba's case study and include your address.*



# wolves of the world

news from  
around the  
world



## ■ Rare Washington wolf pack behaving itself.

Despite the controversy that surrounds them, the grey wolves that made a home for themselves within Washington State are acting neighbourly, so far. They are the first confirmed pack of wolves to live within the state since the Great Depression, state officials say. The neighbours to the wolves have a variety of thoughts about them: some are utterly opposed to the comeback of what they call blood-thirsty vermin, while others unconditionally favour the return of what they see as a long-missing part of Washington's ecosystem. More seem to take a pragmatic view of the wolf's recovery. Their reactions to the return of this large predator are not black and white, but, like the wolf itself, in the grey area between the two extremes.

## ■ Wolf delisting faces new court challenge.

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition recently filed a lawsuit challenging the removal of grey wolves from Endangered Species Act protection in Idaho and Montana. While the Greater Yellowstone Coalition officials say they support eventual state management of wolves once adequate standards and safeguards are in place, they say the delisting fails to ensure thriving populations in the northern Rockies and undermines efforts to find sound, science-based solutions to wolf-management issues. Further, the group says delisting lifts wolf protection before achieving the necessary level of connectivity between populations in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and central Idaho. Delisting of wolves in Idaho and Montana became official 4th May 2009. Wolves remain protected under the Endangered Species Act in Wyoming because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has not accepted the state's management plan.

## Researchers find arthritis killing wolves

### Something is killing the wolves on Isle Royale in Lake Superior, and it could be a condition that many humans suffer from.

About 60 years ago, hungry wolves from Minnesota went looking for new territory and fresh meat across the 20 miles of ice and snow on the lake during a very cold winter. They found an island teeming with moose that, until then, only had to fear men with guns.

"It's not just a world full of people, it's a world full of millions of other creatures and two of the major ones in this area are moose and wolves," explained researcher Rolf Peterson of the Michigan Technological Institute. Peterson and his wife Carolyn have been studying the relationship between the wolf and the moose here for nearly 40 years. They organize volunteers from all over the world who come here to comb the island for bones of mammals, predator, and prey.

After a week in the wilderness the volunteers are loaded down with skulls, leg bones and

vertebrae and it doesn't take an expert to see the wolves are in big trouble. A deformity of the animal's spine caused by inbreeding pinches nerves, which must be painful and disabling. What they discovered is arthritis is devastating the wild creatures. The wolves are crippled so badly they can't dodge the flailing hooves of a cornered moose, and every single wolf on the island has the same defect.

"In the last 10 years, we have not found a normal wolf," said researcher John Vucetich. Peterson says inbreeding is probably the cause and nothing can be done to prevent the inevitable. "Wolves will decline, possibly to the point where their population is in jeopardy," he said. So all is not well in this northern paradise where the wolves roam freely, but face extinction. Dedicated scientists like Vucetich and the Petersons can only helplessly document the end of their own research.

<http://kstp.com/news/stories/S1025936.shtml?cat=206> or <http://tinyurl.com/krb4up>

## Group seeks federal probe after Mexican wolf pup deaths

Conservation groups asked the federal government to investigate the deaths of three endangered Mexican grey wolves found dead in southwestern New Mexico. The deaths are a significant blow to the decade-long effort to reintroduce the species in the Southwest. The most recent survey showed there were just 52 wolves scattered between New Mexico and Arizona at the end of 2008.

"Because Mexican grey wolves are so rare, every wolf out there is important to the population," said Michael Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity. The center is among the 16 groups that made a formal request for the inquiry. The group's listed

more than a dozen questions they want answered, including who was allowed near the wolves' den prior to their deaths. Officials had been monitoring the pack's breeding male because it was linked to four livestock killings within the past year. Officials have also said it does not appear the pups' deaths were suspicious. The pups - all from the San Mateo Pack - were born in April.

Wildlife agents rescued two pups, which were taken to the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, but found three others dead.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gJE88ai\\_nDEw0V1AHfEeJp4y4imqAD99B4OS80](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gJE88ai_nDEw0V1AHfEeJp4y4imqAD99B4OS80) or <http://tinyurl.com/lcydoA>



■ **Habituated grey wolf removed from Yellowstone National Park.** A wolf that had become habituated to people and chased bicyclists on more than one occasion was euthanized in Yellowstone National Park, by park staff. The yearling male wolf from the Gibbon Meadow Pack was first sighted in March 2009. The wolf was exhibiting behaviours consistent with being conditioned to human food. The park reports there have been several incidents of unnatural behaviour, including chasing bicyclists on at least three occasions, and one report involving a motorcyclist. Attempts at hazing the wolf from the area were made, only to have the wolf return and repeat this behaviour. Hazing techniques are meant to negatively condition an animal and may include cracker shells, bean bag rounds or rubber bullets; all non-injurious deterrents. The decision to remove the wolf from Yellowstone was made in consultation with the United States Fish & Wildlife Service. This is the first time such a management action has occurred since wolves were reintroduced in Yellowstone in 1995-1996. Yellowstone National Park removed this wolf from the population in accordance with the park's habituated wolf management plan.

■ **Non-lethal deterrents help in wolf control: predator, prey deaths reduced using air horns, starter pistols, guard dogs.** Non-lethal methods of keeping wolves away from sheep and other livestock are reducing deaths for both predator and prey in the Wood River Valley region of Central Idaho. The project prescribes non-lethal deterrents to keep Phantom Hill Pack wolves out of the sheep herds. The pack faced "lethal removal" in 2008 after the animals were confirmed to have killed 14 sheep and two dogs in 2007. In the Phantom Hill Pack project, Defenders of Wildlife works with ranchers and shepherds to track the wolves and use various scare tactics to discourage wolf entanglements with sheep and dogs. Air horns, 22-calibre starter pistols and bright lights are among the devices used to repel the wolves. During the first summer of the Phantom Hill Pack project in 2008, there was only one confirmed case of wolf depredation, Berkley said. The nationwide program, developed with the Bailey Wildlife Foundation, also suggests placing range riders, herders, guard dogs, pens, different types of fencing and fladry in the way of would-be marauding wolves, said Suzanne Stone, Northern Rockies' representative of Defenders of Wildlife. Fladry is a series of red or orange cloth flags hung on a thin rope or attached to fence line. "Using these types of techniques can help preclude the need for lethal control," she said.

See also Peter Haswell's report on page 20.

## Ethiopian wolf vaccination program

Over recent weeks the **Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Program (EWCP)** team has been camped at over 4,000m above sea level on the Sanetti plateau, running a vaccination campaign to prevent a rabies outbreak from spreading through the wolf population. EWCP wolf monitors first noticed something was wrong when they returned from a trip to the West Morebawa population - 11 wolf carcasses were found and samples sent to laboratories returned positive results for rabies. The EWCP team, based in the Bale Mountains, was given permission by the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority to vaccinate 50 wolves in the Sanetti population against rabies, with the aim of isolating the outbreak and stopping its spread. The team sprung into action and managed to successfully vaccinate a total of 48 wolves in nine packs, making sure that at least one female in each pack was vaccinated.

For now, the threat of rabies seems to have been contained, but for how long? Interventions like these are a costly exercise, requiring a hefty investment in terms of both finances and EWCP resources. And it only takes one rabid dog to come into contact with one Ethiopian wolf for the disease to spread like wildfire. Left unchecked, a rabies outbreak could have devastating effects on a species that numbers less than 450 animals in the world today. EWCP has to tackle emergency rabies outbreaks like this as soon as it can and therefore funds are vital in order to purchase vaccines and protect the wolves. Although at the moment the wolves are in a much better position than October 2008 when the vaccination program started. Anne-Marie Stewart gives us her personal account of the vaccination procedure:

'It's 2am on the Sanetti Plateau and it's cold. Very cold. There's no wind, no sound at all in fact. Then suddenly the silence is shattered by a slightly out-of-breath cry: "Wolf!" Ibrahim, the vet assistant, has just checked the traps and has run back to report that we've caught a wolf! There is an immediate flurry of activity in the surrounding tents. Beanies and gloves are hastily pulled on, vet supplies are checked, someone grabs a large blanket, and we're off. In the moonlight it's easy to find our way over the deserted landscape, towards the trap where our Ethiopian wolf awaits. As we near the trap site, we hang back while Ibrahim and Alo spread the blanket between them and make their way towards the wolf. Suddenly they break into a run, and in a flash have thrown the blanket over the surprised wolf and are holding it on the ground. As soon as it is covered, the wolf relaxes, and the rest of us rush in to assist with the vaccinations.

It's an adult male; he's in good health and weighs about 17kg. From his size, coat colour and teeth wear, Claudio reckons he's the dominant male of the pack. He is quickly given two doses of rabies vaccine, one on each hindquarter, and attaches a blue tag to his left ear for identification purposes. His legs are checked for any trap injuries, and within five minutes he's ready to be released. Alo loosens his hold on the wolf's body and as soon as we remove the cloth covering his eyes, he's off into the night, turning only once to look back at us before running off. All in a night's work. That was wolf number four from Nyala pack - only one more to catch and we can move on to the next pack.'



# Life and behaviour of wolves

## The Arabian or Desert Wolf

**Sandra Benson, UKWCT**

Little is known about this rare sub-species of the grey wolf. Sandra Benson tracks down the facts.

### HISTORICAL RANGE

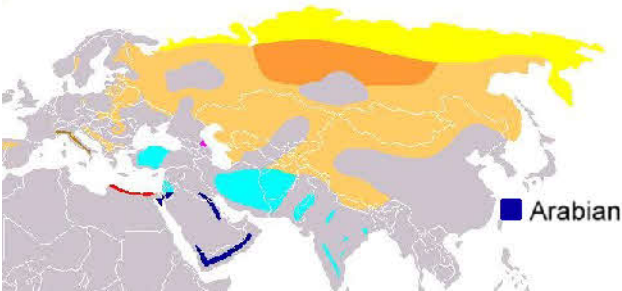
The Arabian wolf (*Canis lupus arabs*), is one of the smallest sub-species of the grey wolf. It was once found living throughout the entire Arabian Peninsula, but now can only be found in small clusters of Southern Israel, Oman, Yemen, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and possibly in parts of the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt.

This small wolf lives in one of the most extreme environments on earth; the arid and semi-arid areas of the Middle East. Inhabiting mountainous areas, gravel plains and desert fringes,



these wolves have large home ranges which they patrol constantly. They escape the heat by digging deep dens and burrows, but as they cannot survive without water, they do not wander far into the great sand deserts.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) desert has seen the extinction of many indigenous species and among these is the Arabian wolf, not seen wild in this area since the 1980s. To see this wolf in the UAE one would need to visit Arabia's Wildlife Centre in Sharjah ([www.breedingcentresharjah.com](http://www.breedingcentresharjah.com))



### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Arabian wolf is a desert adapted canid and although one of the smallest wolves, is one of the largest canids in Arabia.

Their coat hairs are thin, short, wiry and light in colour, varying from light brown through to a greyish yellow, with the stomach being paler or white. The hair on the back remains long, which is thought to be an adaption against solar radiation. In winter their coats are thicker and longer, but not as long as its northern subspecies.

An adult wolf stands approximately 25 - 26 inches (63- 65 cms) at the shoulder and weighs an average of 40 - 45 lbs (18 - 20 kgs). The desert wolf is very lean; to survive it must carry no excess weight or fat. It is honed down to optimum weight and physique by constant exercise and the ceaseless effort of seeking prey.

The ears are large compared to other wolves, this adaption enables the Arabian wolf to dissipate heat and keep the blood

### Scientific Classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Mammalia
Order:	Carnivora
Family:	Canidae
Genus:	Canis
Species:	Grey Wolf ( <i>Canis Lupus</i> )
Sub Species:	Arabian Wolf ( <i>Canis Lupus Arabs</i> ) - recognised in 1934
Conservation Status:	Critically endangered
Legal Status:	No protection, except Oman but rarely enforced

cool. As the Arabian wolf, like other canines, possesses no sweat glands, it helps control body temperature by evaporation from the lungs, by rapid panting.

Arabian wolves are unique, as their middle two paw toes are fused. Their eyes are yellow as with all wolves, but some are found with brown eyes, thought to be an indication of interbreeding with feral dogs, which adds to the threat of survival.



## DIET

This is a true hunter constantly on the move tracking and killing prey. It has the stamina to cover long distances, but also has to cope with heat gain and water loss.

Arabian wolves will hunt small to medium animals from cape hares, dorcas gazelles and ibexes, foxes, small birds, reptiles, rodents and insects. They are a solitary hunter which will take any carrion it can find but like all wolves they will also eat fruit and plants.

They are opportunistic feeders, hunting mainly at night and will attack and eat any domestic animal up to the size of a goat, the consequences of which result in farmers retaliating by shooting, trapping or poisoning the wolf.



## SOCIAL LIFE

They live in small groups mainly due to lack of prey, and tend to congregate together only during the mating season, but have been known to form larger packs if food is less scarce.

They usually hunt solitarily, in pairs or occasionally in small groups of three to four wolves.

This sub-species has rarely been known to howl, perhaps due to the fact that it is usually on its own.

The only time that the Arabian wolf is known to be territorial is when its pups are born.

## PACK SIZE AND BREEDING

Unlike most of their Northern sub-species, their breeding season starts in October and runs through to December. Gestation is 63 - 65 days, resulting in normally two to three pups, but litter sizes of up to twelve have been known. This is unusual as most desert animals usually only produce a single young to increase the survival chances of both the offspring and the mother.

The pups, like all canines, are blind at birth, and are weaned between six to eight weeks when the parents begin regurgitating food for them.



## THREATS

Interbreeding with feral dogs is a hazard and a threat to the integrity of this sub-species.

Arabian wolves in Oman have also contracted rabies. In the Arabian Peninsula and Jordan, vast areas are used by the nomadic Bedouin for grazing livestock, and they consider the wolf to be the major predator of their goats and sheep. Systematic shooting, trapping and poisoning has nearly eliminated the Arabian wolf from most areas in the Middle East.

## CURRENT STATUS

In Oman, the wolf population has increased since hunting was banned and there is a possibility that they will re-establish themselves.

In Syria, the Arabian wolf is unprotected; an exact population number is unknown but is estimated at 200. There is no compensation paid for livestock damage or predation.

The Lebanon has approximately 50 Arabian wolves, with no legal protection and no livestock damage compensation.

Jordan's wolf population is unknown, but estimated at 200. There is no protection and no livestock damage compensation.

Saudi Arabia has between 300 - 600 wolves with no protection and no livestock damage compensation.

In the UAE the Arabian wolf is extinct.

## THE FUTURE

The primary concern for conservation of the wolf in Arabia is their safety. The ideal situation would be a national park, and protection status is crucial.

Captive breeding is the second most important focus. Arabian wolves are currently being bred in Oman and held in captive breeding programmes in Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Compensation is required on proof that there is livestock damage and predation.

Greater education about these beautiful creatures could contribute towards helping people understand how humans can co-exist alongside this rare wolf.

# SNOW, ICE AND WOLVES - TR

It was an exciting thought. Tracking wolves in Poland in winter. Pardon the pun, but how cool would that be? Needless to say we jumped at the opportunity and, for a while, -18°C temperatures didn't sound too bad...



**MY FIANCEE ROS AND I PREPARED** ourselves by buying thermal layers all made from that wonderful material: merino. Expensive stuff but worth every penny! New boots were needed too. And we had to get fit, as we were likely to be covering distances between 10 and 15kms each day through some rough terrain and knee-high snow. As February 2009 drew closer, the apprehension and excitement grew stronger.



Duma's paw print at the UKWCT

We realised that even having tracked many animals all across the world we hadn't seen wolf tracks before, in the flesh, so to speak. There is only so much you can learn from books and photographs. So we came up with the cunning plan of asking the UK Wolf Conservation Trust (UKWCT) if they might allow us to visit and have a look at some wolf tracks and scat so we could get our 'eye in'. Well, they were fantastic, going one better than that and offering us a walk with one of the resident wolves. This meant we could see exactly how the

wolf moved, the way the tracks were placed and to look at very fresh tracks on lots of different substrates. This was an offer not to be refused. So one windy and cold November day we had our walk with Duma and she was very obliging with her tracks. It was one of life's great experiences and we are very grateful to everyone at the UKWCT who made it happen for us.

Our expedition to the two national park areas in Poland, Bierbrza and Bierbrzanski, was being undertaken with a group of other highly experienced trackers. Our aim - to find evidence of any wolf packs, get an idea of how many packs there might be, and the number of individuals in those packs. This was a bit of a tall order considering we were there for only a week and there was a very large area to cover, but we like a challenge and so set off with high hopes.

Poland is a fantastic country to visit, the people are incredibly friendly, very hospitable and the local food is good too! For the first half of the expedition we were staying in a small hotel lodge near Dobarz and it was from here that we forayed out each day on the 'hunt' for wolf spoor.

Our first day was a gentle introduction to tracking in the snow; snow is great to track in as you see so much more - sometimes it can be overwhelming,

though - so many tracks. We were able to identify the tracks of animals such as Elk, Brown Hare, Roe Deer and Fox. Some of these were really fresh, like the Hare that bounded off in front of us with eight foot leaps or the Roe Deer that covered 13 feet from a standing start! We even came close to walking right into the backside of a very large male Elk that we were tracking. We had been trailing a really fresh set of Elk tracks for about 1.5km when we came over a small hill and there he was 50 feet downwind in front of us calmly munching a bush. It was a great start to the trip.

Each day we travelled to a different location within the park where it was possible we would see evidence of wolf. We decided early on that the only way we were going to cover the area as efficiently as possible was to split up into at least two groups. So that is what we did on most days. This way we covered twice the area in the same amount of time and it also meant that each team hoped they would be the first to find wolf tracks. A great incentive!

**THE FIRST FOUR DAYS WERE EXCELLENT** tracking, but no wolves, though we were not yet downhearted. There were still a few days left and plenty to play for, as they say.

We moved on to the 'Red Marsh' (Bierbrzanski) area for the remainder of



# TRACKING WOLVES IN POLAND

the trip and on the way we stopped off at a wildlife rehabilitation centre to see some wolves. The animals we met were a cohesive pack though they did not appear to have the same amount of space or be as socialised as the UKWCT wolves. This may well have been for ease of feeding and viewing. We spent several hours watching these magnificent animals and studying their interactions.

Then it got even better. The owner of the park also had a young Lynx that he was working to rehabilitate which required a daily walk. This walk wasn't taken alone, along came the Lynx's best friend- a young deer no less - and a crazy spaniel. The only animal on a lead during the entire walk was the dog. It was fascinating to watch the Lynx play at stalking and 'killing' with no apparent harm, physical or otherwise, being done to the deer, who equally enjoyed the game. Unfortunately, we were asked to not publish any of the photos we took as the rights to all pictures of this unique event have been sold to help raise funds for the work and the upkeep of the park.

We moved into our new lodge accommodation - the family home of our hosts - and the next day split up into three groups. Within the first two hours every team came up trumps finding wolf tracks crossing the forest track that formed the core of our search area. All these sets of tracks were about 24 hours old. Pretty fresh but not fresh enough for us. We then broadened the search area, each group covering another 10-12kms looking for any further sign of the wolves but those first tracks were all that we found that day.

It came to our last full day of tracking; we decided to head back to the forest track because that had been the 'hottest' spot with the only wolf tracks we had found so far. Once again we split into three groups and one of the groups quickly hit the jackpot - fresh wolf tracks and scat - three hours old. Fresh! Needless to say the adrenaline started to pump even though we knew there was very little chance of catching up with the pack; hope sprung eternal though.

Now we had a hard choice. We needed to split the group one last time, half

tracking forward in the direction the wolves were travelling; the other half tracking back along their route. The reality of seeing the wolves was pretty slim, but even so, turning our backs and walking away from where they were headed was pretty hard.

At first it was impossible to judge how many wolves were in the pack. They had been running 'in line' where they crossed the forest track. This is when each following pack member runs exactly in the footsteps of the preceding animal, making it look like one wolf. It wasn't until an individual broke away from the pack to investigate something that we started getting a handle on how many there were. We began to see real patterns as the tracks came together and then spread apart; ever searching for the chance of food and working within the landscape and geography as a cohesive team. There was a sense of silent communication and flow of a united and focussed group at work. At one point the whole pack split to investigate an area where a deer and an elk had rested in the snow and here we could count a definite four individuals with a possible fifth.

We ended up back tracking the pack for about 3km to the point where they entered the forest from a restricted part of the park. We could go no further. We were pretty disappointed; we really felt that we could have tracked them back to their last rest point and possibly to a kill site, too. In spite of that, the tracks and signs we had seen as we worked back along their route had been really exciting; and we had been able to tell a lot about them as a pack from what we had seen. It was a most amazing experience to be able to begin to piece together the story of a day in the life of a wild wolf pack from the tracks we had found. Despite the heavy legs from the hours slogging through knee-deep snow, the whole experience left us wanting to go back for more and with all that new kit we bought it would be rude not to!



Wolf Print in Bierbrzanski

Jonathan Simons

Jonathan Simons is passionate about wildlife and people tracking and has served a five year apprenticeship under the tutelage of Ian 'Max' Maxwell of the Shadowhawk Tracker School. He has tracked animals and people in many areas from Portugal to Poland and from the USA to Africa. He has worked extensively within the nature conservation arena, undertaking survey and research work, both at home and abroad, with extensive bush living expeditions in South America and the West Indies.

He now writes a regular article on tracking for Bushcraft & Survival Skills magazine, appears regularly on BBC Radio Somerset, and is working on a number of television and DVD projects.

To find out how you can learn more about the art of tracking, visit his website [www.tracks4life.com](http://www.tracks4life.com)

# Making Tracks

wolves in the media and the arts

## Bonnie Marris - Wildlife Artist

Bonnie Marris is one of those wildlife painters that, as soon as you look at her work, you know she is passionate about the subjects. She not only produces incredible pictures of wolves, but you can feel the mood and the soul of her animals. She says, "I developed my talent by portraying animals from the inside out".

Bonnie is from Ada, Michigan, USA and her animal fascination began as early as two years old when she would spend hours in front of a wolf cage at a zoo.

Whilst studying at Michigan State University she illustrated many books, one of which



was an expert in mammalogies text. This work brought her to the attention of leading zoologist George Schaller, who invited Bonnie to prepare the art for posters to support his world wide rare animal relief programmes.

Bonnie feels that to maintain her skills requires frequent and substantive field trips, therefore, she makes two major, and countless smaller, trips yearly to observe and learn about the wildlife she loves, particularly predators. In 1980 she lived in the Alaskan wilderness for six months as part of her research, "to get into a natural environment and see the animals on their own terms is as important as knowing the animals themselves." says Bonnie. "For instance, grey wolves on the tundra - the vast, vast tundra with the wind and other forces of nature at their most extreme - that's what makes them what they are. To stand not far from a grizzly that is so overpowering, so beautiful and so large. To watch it pull up a small tree with a swipe of



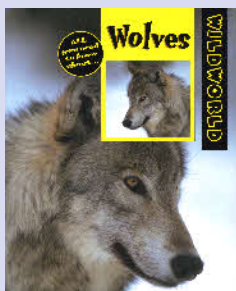
its paw and just a few minutes later see it delicately picking blueberries. Alaska changed me; it gave me the biggest incentive to paint and increased my interest in predators".

Her work is a hit wherever she has exhibitions and her paintings were a sell-out at a recent Western and Wildlife Art show at the Autry National Center of the American West.

Many of her paintings are available in fine art limited edition from The Greenwich Workshop, Inc.

For a list of authorised dealers go to [www.greenwichworkshop.com/fineartdealers](http://www.greenwichworkshop.com/fineartdealers)

To view more of Bonnie Marris' work visit: [www.greenwichworkshop.com/marris](http://www.greenwichworkshop.com/marris)



### WILD WORLD - WOLVES

Karen Dudley  
Paperback, 64 pages, 203 x 253mm  
A & C Black Publishers Ltd  
£5.99 from [www.ukwolf.org](http://www.ukwolf.org)

THIS BOOK provides in-depth information about wolves. It begins by comparing the wolf to a dog, helping young people make comparisons to an animal that they are already familiar with.

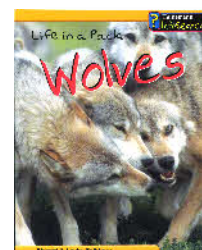
It includes chapters on: classification, habitat, tracking, prey, the physical characteristics of the wolf, behaviour and their status and conservation. There are four pages dedicated to folklore and myths versus facts, which help the reader understand where negative messages about the wolf originated. There are particularly good

entries initiating discussion and thought called Viewpoints, for example: Should we control wolf populations to increase the size of big game herds?

The book has increased credibility by introducing quotes by wildlife biologists like David Mech and Diane Boyd. The 'What You Can Do' section shows how the reader can become involved and lists details of organisations in the UK and internationally. This book has very clear colour illustrations, photographs, maps, layout and glossary. An excellent book for younger readers.

### LIFE IN A PACK - WOLVES

Richard & Louise Spilsbury



Paperback,  
32 pages,  
189 x 240mm  
Heinemann Library

£6.99 from  
[www.ukwolf.org](http://www.ukwolf.org)

THIS BOOK is one of a series which introduces the subject of group behaviour in animals. It provides enough factual information without being too scientific. The book explores all aspects of wolf behaviour and life, from the question: What is a wolf? to the roles in a pack: hunting, habitat, breeding, play and communication. In particular it introduces the reader to issues concerning wolves and people, wolf protection, and finishes with details of websites and additional books so that the reader can continue to pursue their interest once the imagination has been captured.



## LYCOPTOS - a comparative study of the ways of Iberian wolves in three captive packs

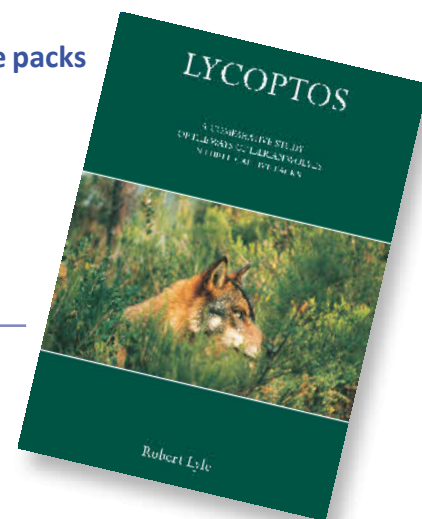
Robert Lyle

Paperback, 88 pages, 204 x 148mm

First published by The Wolf Society of Great Britain

(now Wolves and Humans Foundation - [www.wolvesandhumans.org](http://www.wolvesandhumans.org))

Available for £11.99 plus £4.50 P&P (UK addresses only) from [www.ukwolf.org](http://www.ukwolf.org)



Although not a new publication (first published 2000), this book is a fascinating study into wolves in captivity over a twelve year period, and it reinforces why these wonderful creatures hold a magic for all of us.

Robert Lyle was born in the UK in 1920. He moved to Portugal in 1963 where he made trips to see wolves in northern Portugal. At that time they were estimated to be 100 in the wild. This made him determined to do all he could to help save this creature, in a country that became his second home.



He met Portuguese wolf expert and biologist Professor Francisco Petrucci-Fonseca; they had the same ideas and hopes, and in 1985, founded Grupo Lobo, a non profit NGO, formed to conserve the wolf and its habitat in Portugal.

In January 1985, he obtained permission to study the behaviour of a captive pack of wolves (MI), in the National Game Reserve at Mafra, near Lisbon, and this study, to March 1991, enabled him to build his "knowledge of the language of wolves". Learning of their subtle social structure, their individualities, this confirmed his belief in their intelligence, mutual friendliness and their natural wisdom.

From June 1991 to January 1997 he observed and socialised with the first Malveira pack (MIIA) and in 1994 to January 1997 the second Malveira pack (MIIB).

In 1989 he was asked to care for a captive wolf, named Ambar, she had lost her foot in a snare and would have struggled to survive in the wild. A friend allowed them to use a small enclosure on her farm and this became the start of the Iberian Wolf Recovery Centre which now sits in over 40 acres of native trees in the rural surroundings of Mafra.

The Iberian wolves studied are sub-species of the European grey wolf, and are known as "canis lupus signatus". They are smaller, reddish in colour and weigh approximately 30 - 35 kgs.

His study offers alternative theories of behaviour, which make the reader think outside scientific reports.

Pack one (MI) began with four wolves (2 female, 2 males), pack 2 (MIIA) began with six littermates (2 female, 4 males) and pack three (MIIB) originated with two wolves moved from pack two (1 female, 1 male).

His studies show how captive packs go through the same three stages as wild packs - pair bonding, family building and pack dispersal, although the dispersal in the captive packs was caused by human interference, by removing the omega which in the wild would often be enforced by the pack. Also removal of the cubs in litters simulates the death of the majority of wolf cubs in the wild due to disease or predation.

Robert Lyle describes the four main types of communication: visual, vocal, olfactory and tactile, signs we see in our own wolves at the Trust. He continues by describing what these look like and the resulting behaviour.

He covers wolf education and how wolves learn in four ways: example, experience, joint example and experience and finally instruction.

One unusual observation showed that his pack alphas did not scent mark the boundaries of their territories as they would in the wild. Robert Lyle's conclusion was that this was because the fence marks the boundary. He writes "but the explanation is more psychologically complex because a wolf's territory is in practise wherever he is. It goes beyond that, territory is personal space".

This is an exceptional book, written by an amazing man who was passionate about wolves until he died in 2003. He left his legacy to the Iberian wolf, through his writings and the Iberian Wolf Recovery Centre.

He finishes his book by saying, "our nearest relative in the animal world is said to be the chimpanzee. Genetically speaking this may be so, but socially and psychologically I think we are much closer to the wolf. Perhaps this is why for thousands of years, we have enjoyed a symbiotic relationship with wolf's descendent, the domestic dog".

He goes on to say, "I believe that the purpose of existence on earth is to be what one is, in our case, this imperative almost certainly demands a lifetime dedicated to becoming, but the animals do not have to take this journey, they are already there".

Photos: Robert Lyle/WAH





# Wolf Depredation Management

Peter Michael Haswell



and encroach further into natural habitats, and often result in disproportionate culling of the animals suspected to be involved. The US sheep industry loses 5% of its annual production to predation, part of which is caused by wolves. While these losses may seem small, they cause significant impacts on small scale farmers whose livelihood is based on the income from their herds. In many cases, the majority of losses are incurred by a small number of producers and certain hot-spots, resulting in increased costs and reduced animal performance. Consequently, in these areas "the wolf is still seen as a nuisance... predation upon livestock is the crucial factor in wolf persecution".

that provided the motivation for my research. My hope was that the repellents I tested would prove to be successful, possibly adding another arrow to the conservational quiver of depredation management techniques currently in use.

There has already been some research into the effectiveness of deterrents and primary stimuli disruptors, such as fladry (thin strips of red fabric placed along fencing), strobe and acoustic devices. However, further research into other objects is needed to determine if they too can successfully disrupt predation.

Primary repellents immediately disrupt a predator's action through a number of mechanisms including neophobia, irritation and pain. Wild animals, especially wolves, appear to be inherently wary of new stimuli (neophobic). As we did not want any risk of causing harm to the wolves at the Trust, the use of neophobic devices presented itself as the most suitable. Disruptive stimulus approaches show potential due to their low cost and simplicity, however, predators rarely form a conditioned response (reaction based upon a stimulus input, which is so strong that negative effects do not always have to be experienced in order for the desired behavioural response to be enacted) and will eventually habituate (become accustomed/used to). As a result, the predator will lose its responsiveness and fear due to a lack of consequence after exposure.

During the summer of 2008, with the help of handlers and volunteers at the Trust, I embarked upon a research project as part of my final year of studies at the University of Southampton. After a thoroughly enjoyable placement at the Trust, made possible by Clive Readings the wolf keeper, combined with my lifelong interest, I knew I wanted to focus my research on wolves, ideally contributing to Wolf conservation. Yet it still remained for me to find a topic that was both practical, in terms of

*"Grey wolves are a top trophic level, keystone predator"*

obtaining data, and productive, being beneficial to conservation efforts. After discussions with Toni Shelbourne and Vicky Hughes, the Trust's education officers, I decided to look into human-wolf conflicts and attempt to test some potential non-lethal solutions to the predation of livestock in the form of simple repellents that could serve to reduce and/or prevent predation of livestock by wolves in areas of the world where more expensive technological scare devices are not available.

Human-Wildlife conflicts arise when activities of wildlife coincide with activities of humans and reach a level that is considered to be unacceptable. Such conflicts are becoming increasingly significant as human populations expand

"Lethal control has had devastating impacts on some predator populations". In an attempt to reduce rates of predation by wolves, lethal methods are often seen as a final solution both historically and currently. In areas such as the UK, many large carnivores, including wolves, are now extinct and most large mammalian predators have been lost from 95-99% of the US and Mexico. "Protecting livestock reduces the necessity for killing wolves".

Grey wolves are a top trophic level, keystone predator, responsible for the natural regulation of many populations including elk, moose and coyote amongst many others. By doing so, wolves have wider effects upon other species and the ecosystem as a whole, providing valuable ecosystem services, such as the regulation of river courses, which are of great benefit to humans. In the southern Greater Yellowstone ecosystem a "cascade of ecological events" was triggered when the grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*) and the wolf (*Canis lupus*) became extinct in the local area.

As I am sure most readers already know, wolf conservation is not only moral but in our own best interest, and it is these facts

The testing of repellents ran for a period of six consecutive weeks in order to view the effects of continual exposure and levels of habituation and therefore effectiveness of the different scare devices. Some of the wolves at the Trust are easier to work with than others. After investigating the availability of handlers it was decided that I was to have three separate test groups consisting of Mai and Mosi, Duma and Dakota, with Torak being tested alone. Each week the wolves were exposed to fencing with the various simple repellents hanging at intervals. Handlers were informed not to interfere with the wolves' behaviour except in order to prevent contact with the fence. Dakota proved a particular challenge in this, her habit of grabbing things being well known. The



wolves' responses to repellents were observed by myself in the form of an ethogram (behavioural observations) logging the proportions of the wolves' actions that were fearful, inquisitive or simply just oblivious to the potential repellents. I then collated and analysed the data in order to understand how the wolves reacted to each potential repellent and how this reaction changed due to increased exposure. Did the wolves learn to be less fearful of the potential repellents due to a lack of negative reinforcement?

*"A wide range of non-lethal methods have been developed"*

The different test groups and potential repellents affected the levels of fear elicited. Unsurprisingly, the younger and more adventurous Mosi and Mai, given extra confidence by being tested together, did not show statistically significant fear towards any of the potential repellents. Interestingly Mosi, the lower ranking wolf, interacted more with the fencing than Mai did, who was generally more cautious. A similar observation was drawn from the testing of Duma and Dakota (lower ranking). Duma and Dakota showed significant fear towards flagging and wind chimes (seen with Torak also) which were the most effective of the potential repellents tested, showing some level of success which did not decline greatly over the test period but negated habituation. Torak was also found to be fearful of lion scented faecal pellets. Small bells were found to be very ineffective for all groups, and in general CDs and lion scented faecal pellets showed initial signs of success; however the wolves habituated to them with exposure. This culminated in Mosi and Dakota ripping apart the fences in the final test week, arguably showing a great decline in repellent effectiveness. However, this may be interpreted conversely as destructive acts can also be construed as

behaviours enacted to cope with fear or stress.

Disruptive stimuli work on the basis of being novel and undesirable. Behavioural responses to aversive events vary greatly. The more noxious the stimuli, the stronger the aversion. The animal's ability to predict and control threatening events determines the intensity of emotions exhibited, predators may learn that random firing of repellents have nothing to do with their activity and over time may habituate and learn to cope with the repellent.

There are many factors which are likely to influence the effectiveness and applicability of non-lethal management techniques in the field. The results produced by my research at the Trust do, however, support the inclusion of non-lethal livestock protection devices in integrated predation management. Environmental factors need to be combined with site and farm factors in order to fully understand and predict susceptibility and appropriate management measures.

A wide range of non-lethal methods have been developed to limit predation upon livestock. Regrettably, many have practical limitations and are unlikely to be widely applicable. It is therefore important to incorporate a range of rotatable methods in an adaptable scheme in order to achieve greatest success. The improvement or reinstatement of traditional livestock husbandry techniques such as corralling stock at night should be used alongside repellents in order to achieve success in decreasing livestock depredation.

Value placed on wild animals depends heavily on species knowledge of local peoples; education is a major conservational tool in changing attitudes

and promoting tolerance. Change in human attitudes can be achieved through proactive co-management plans and stakeholder involvement. Only once human, environmental, carnivore and site specific factors are taken into account can an adaptable management plan be implemented and conservation of large carnivores achieve success. It is of utmost importance to keep striving to discover and test the effectiveness and field application of non-lethal depredation controls if large carnivores and humans are to co-exist peacefully.

Peter Michael Haswell  
BSc Upper 2nd Honours  
Environmental Science  
(Biodiversity and Conservation)  
University of Southampton



Pete with Mai at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

The complete research dissertation is available on the Trust's website: [www.ukwolf.org/dissertations](http://www.ukwolf.org/dissertations)

Images of Fladry use courtesy of Defenders of Wildlife, Washington DC, USA.

Visit [www.defenders.org/proactive](http://www.defenders.org/proactive) for more information on Fladry use and other depredation techniques.



# UKWCT Student Exchange Programme

Tom Smith

*The UKWCT student exchange programme is in its infancy but already it has made a difference to up and coming conservationists.*

*The programme has been supported by funding from Bacardi, so students who may not be able to afford the trip can apply for financial help. On the other side, the project in Bulgaria gets much needed help; it's a win/win situation.*

Tom Smith is currently studying a part-time Masters in Ecology and Environment at Lancaster University. For his dissertation he wanted to investigate the effect of large carnivores on temperate ecosystems. Having successfully applied for the UKWCT's student exchange program, he spent six weeks at the Balkani Wildlife Society Large Carnivore Project. In this special report Tom tells us of his experience.

The project is run by Elena Tsingarska and focuses on investigating the ecology and behaviour of the wolf population in the West Pirin Mountain range. The area is absolutely stunning; the village is surrounded by snow-capped mountains and the amount of plant and insect life is breathtaking. The area is ideal for wolf and bear populations. The project provides educational services on large carnivores to the local population. They have two captive wolves and a captive bear that act as ambassadors for their species, giving people the chance to meet what are usually very elusive creatures. This helps to break down prejudices and raise awareness of issues facing carnivores in the area. The wolf project is closely linked to the

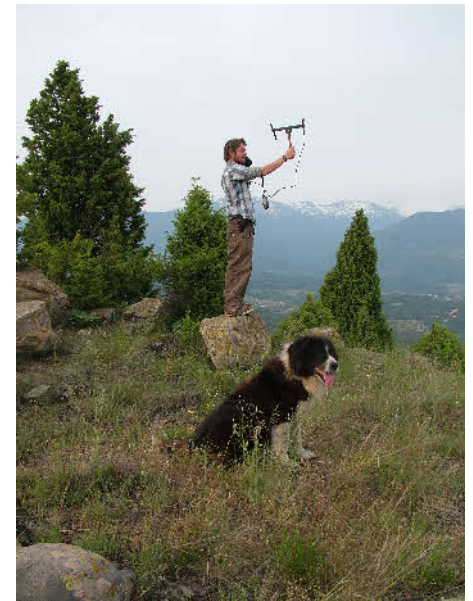
Semperviva project, which works towards the protection and reinstatement of local, rare breeds of goat, sheep, horses and livestock guarding dogs.

Every day I would feed the bear and wolves and make sure they had enough water. I built up a good relationship with the wolves over the time I was there which was a great honour. A strict code of hierarchy must be followed when making contact with the wolves. When I first met Vucho, the eldest, he only allowed me to stroke him on the side of his mane but as the trust built up, mainly by feeding them, he was comfortable enough for me to stroke the top of his head. The wildlife in general was fascinating, most of the time I was so excited I felt like a kid again, looking under rocks and walking through the woods and meadows. We worked in the field, radio tracking a young male, who was fitted with a radio collar last autumn, giving important insights into the movements and activities of wolves in the area. I also helped with the general maintenance around the farmhouse and enclosures and a variety of jobs that needed to be done such as milking the sheep. The way of life is very down to earth and at times can be tough, but the people I met were very hard working and believed in what they were doing.

*The experience working in the field will be invaluable for my research and future work.*

I learnt about wolf ecology and how to conserve them and about the social problems and conflicts that surround large carnivores. There is a big divide between hunters and the people working towards the conservation of the wolf. Not only do they see the wolf as a pest and shoot them on sight, they are also against the livestock guarding dogs. These dogs are essential to reduce livestock damage and human-wolf conflict. While I was working on the project, two of these dogs successfully chased away a full size bear. They are very effective and should be promoted wherever carnivores threaten livestock.

Elena invited me to sit in on a workshop, working towards the creation of a national wolf management plan for Bulgaria. At the workshop I met many people working to save the wolf and other carnivores and the connections I made will be very useful when I go into the field again.



*Tom tracking a male wolf in Bulgaria*

The trip also taught me about myself and which direction I would like to follow in my career, confirming that I will continue to work in the conservation industry but more specifically in temperate climates. It has also firmed up my belief in the importance of carnivores in ensuring the balance of an ecosystem. The workshop highlighted the importance of addressing social issues to achieve conservation goals; however I still think that I will be focusing on the ecology side of the industry.

*I would recommend the exchange trip to anyone interested in ecology and conservation.*

It can be very hard work but is extremely rewarding. It is a great opportunity to see how conservation works in the field and learn how people from a different background approach similar, and very dissimilar, problems. It has been a wonderful experience which I will never forget.

Tom Smith



*Tom with Vucho in Bulgaria*



# CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR RUSSIAN WOLF CUBS



## CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR GIVING

and at the UKWCT the volunteers always want Christmas to be extra special for our hard working wolves. They often club together to buy special favourite treats for them to eat over Christmas. This, along with their normal high quality diet, ensures they are in tip top condition throughout the year. Our wolves get the best of everything.



But at the Chisty Les Orphan Wolf Cub Rehabilitation Centre, which is situated in the Tver region of Russia, the wolves aren't quite so lucky. Many of these cubs and young wolves have been stolen from their dens after their mother and the rest of the pack have been shot, or born in a zoo with no hope of a stress free life and good conditions such as the Trust wolves enjoy. These cubs are rescued from certain death, distress or a life of dog fighting in cities like Moscow.



Vladimir Bologov and Laetitia Becker run the Chisty Les Wolf Reintroduction Project. They aim to rear the cubs with either foster parents or with minimal contact before releasing them into a protected area.

It costs £1 a day to feed each cub and growing wolf and with the number of wolves needing their specialised help increasing each year the Centre struggles to feed and care for all the wolves. Our aim is to raise at least £365 to feed one cub for one year until it is released into the wild where it should have always been.



You can help to achieve this by giving all you can to our Christmas appeal. Let's send these wolves a gift that will ensure their first year of life is safe, disease and hunger free.

**To donate, simply complete and return the form below and mark your envelope 'Feed a Cub for a Year Appeal'. The closing date is 20th December 2009.**

To find out more about the project go to [www.russianwolves.com](http://www.russianwolves.com)

**Give the best present this year: give the gift of life!**

## payment details

Please return your completed form and payment to: **The UK Wolf Conservation Trust, Butlers Farm, Beenham, Reading, RG7 5NT.** Cheques should be crossed and made payable to: **The UK Wolf Conservation Trust** and marked 'Russian Wolf Feed a Cub for a Year Appeal'

Payment method (please tick): Cheque ☐ Credit/Debit card ☐

### Credit/Debit Card Payment

Card type: Switch ☐ Solo ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Maestro ☐

Card number:

Issue number (if applicable):  3 digit security code:

Expiry date:   /   Start date:   /

Name on card: .....

Signature: .....

Your contact details in case of any query:

Name: .....

Telephone: .....

Email: .....

Thank you.



# GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS



**2010 A4 Wall Calendar - £8.50**  
Featuring all the UKWCT wolves.  
Supplied with mailing envelope



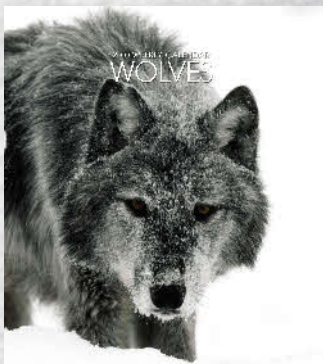
**Savage Freedom: The World of the Wolf - £4.99**

An account of Ian Redman's involvement in Wolf Conservation and the biology of this magnificent wild canid. In the early days of the UKWCT Ian was a speaker at Trust seminars.

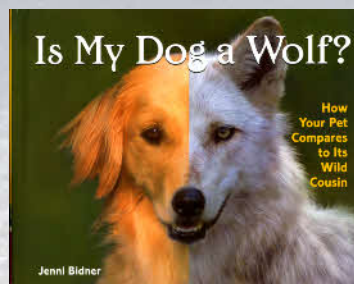
Paperback, 96 pages, 210mm x 148mm



**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



**2010 Spiral Bound Engagement Diary - £9.99**  
Week to view  
165mm x 190mm



**Is My Dog a Wolf? - £6.95**

Does your dog chase cats, dig holes, chew your stuff, bark at strangers? Probably. But did you know that your best buddy is acting like a wolf? By studying wolves inside this book, you can learn even more about your terrific pet.

Hardback, 64 pages,  
172mm x 225mm.



**Lined Wolf Fleece - £29.99**

All available in sizes S, M, L & XL

- A** Brown wolf head
- B** Brown wolf in trees
- C** Grey wolf in trees
- D** Blue snow wolf

64% acrylic,  
23% polyester,  
13% acrylic resin.  
Lining 100% polyester.  
Machine washable

**Baseball Cap - £14.95**

Cotton baseball cap with emboidered wolf motif, padded inside rim and adjustable strap. Available in denim, stone and black.





**Sterling Silver and Turquoise Jewellery**

Howling Wolf necklace - £7.70  
38cm chain  
Howling Wolf earrings - £8.00

Howling Wolf & Feathers necklace - £13.00  
44cm chain  
Howling Wolf & Feathers earrings - £13.00

# STOCKING FILLERS

**Power Stones - £4.50 each**

Various designs.  
4.5cm x 3.5cm approx

**Pottery Wolf Magnet - £2.00**  
7cm x 5cm approx

**Mini Notebook & Key Ring - £1.40**  
8cm x 6cm

**Notebook & Beaded Strap - £2.50**  
Padded notebook with plain paper  
14.5cm x 11.5cm

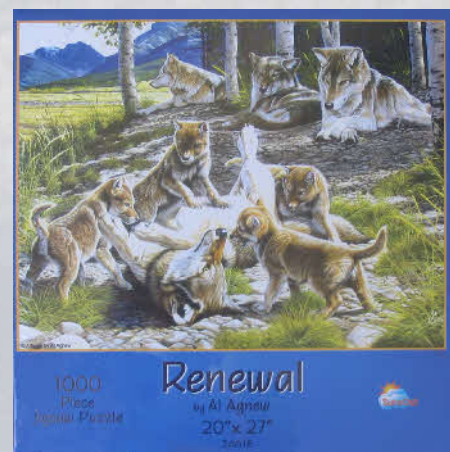
**Make-up / Pencil Case - £3.45**  
Zipped, padded case  
22.5cm x 12.5cm approx

**Fair Trade Wooden Key Ring - £1.50**  
9.5cm x 3cm

**Bottle Opener - £2.40**  
9.5cm x 3cm

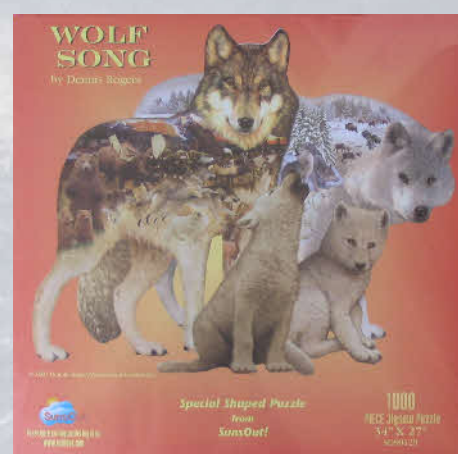
**Five Wolf Magnet - £2.00**  
8cm x 5.3cm

**Cotton Bandana - £2.99**  
45cm x 45cm



**1000-piece Jigsaw Puzzle £12.99**

'Renewal' by Al Agnew  
Completed size 51cm x 68.6cm



**1000-piece Shaped Jigsaw Puzzle - £15.99**

'Wolf Song' by Dennis Rogers  
Completed size 86cm x 68.6cm

**More gift ideas for family and friends overleaf...**

**TO VIEW AND ORDER  
OUR FULL RANGE OF  
GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
WWW.UKWOLF.ORG OR  
CALL 0118 971 3330**

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





#### Wolf Backpack - £14.25

Gorgeous Suma® plush backpack for all wolf fans from age 3+ to adult.

40cm long approx.  
Cotton lined.  
Adjustable straps.

## UNIQUE GIFTS FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL

### Walking Membership - £75

- "Wolf Walk" in beautiful countryside for the member plus one guest (minimum age 12 years) when you can meet a wolf. Additional guests can be invited at a cost of £20 per head, subject to availability.
- "Wolf Print" magazine three times a year.
- 10" x 8" colour wolf photograph and information pack.
- UKWCT car sticker.

### Visiting Membership - £40

- Visit to the Wolf Centre for member plus two guests (no age limit) on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday (pre-booking required; no wolf contact). Additional guests can be invited at a cost of £15 per head.
- "Wolf Print" magazine three times a year.
- 10" x 8" colour wolf photograph and information pack.
- UKWCT car sticker.

### Junior Membership - 7-12 years old - £30

- "Walk with the Wolves" on one of our special Children's Walks for junior members plus one adult. Additional guests can be invited at a cost of £12 per head.
- Welcome pack, including 10" x 8" colour wolf photograph, fun fact sheet, newsletter, membership certificate, UKWCT car sticker and a free gift.
- "Wolf Chronicle" newsletter three times a year.
- 10% discount off all children's events throughout the year, e.g. Wolf keeper days, Howl'oween pumpkin parties, photography days and creative writing workshops.

### Adopt-a-Wolf - £40 (see all wolves on pages 4-5)

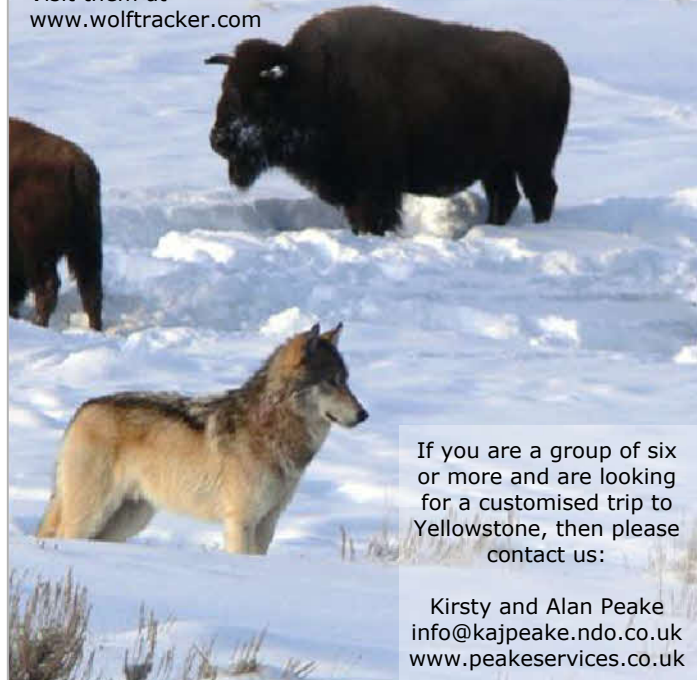
- 10" x 8" colour photograph of your chosen wolf.
- Biography of your wolf and Certificate of Adoption.
- "Wolf Print" magazine three times a year.
- Bottle of real wolf hair from your adopted wolf.
- UKWCT car sticker.

**TO ORDER, CALL 0118 971 3330**

## Winter Wolf Discovery

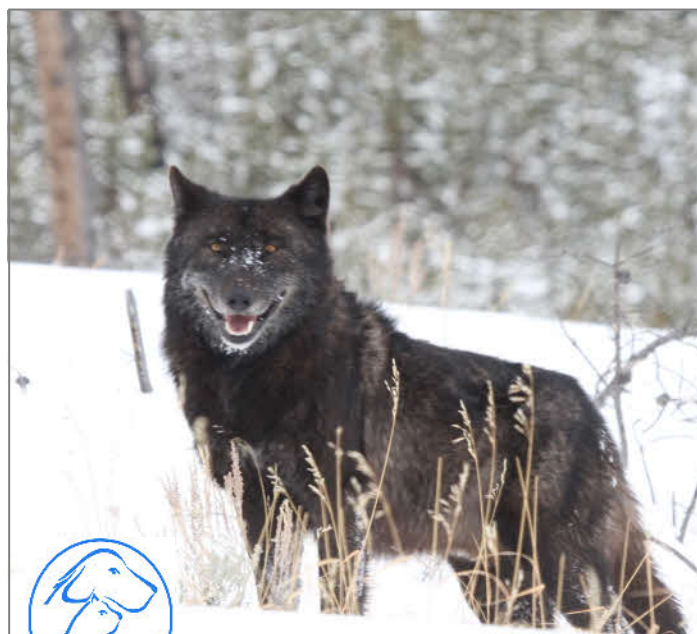
For 2010 we have teamed up with **The Wild Side Wildlife Tours and Treks**, run by Dr Nathan Varley and his wife, Linda Thurston. Nathan and Linda specialise in wolf behaviour and are based at Yellowstone National Park. They work closely with the Wolf Project Team and Dr Jim Halfpenny (world renowned tracker). Nathan and Linda offer several types of expeditions.

Visit them at  
[www.wolftracker.com](http://www.wolftracker.com)



If you are a group of six or more and are looking for a customised trip to Yellowstone, then please contact us:

Kirsty and Alan Peake  
[info@kajpeake.ndo.co.uk](mailto:info@kajpeake.ndo.co.uk)  
[www.peakeservices.co.uk](http://www.peakeservices.co.uk)



### Wolf Behaviour and Ecology

This nine-month course is by correspondence and has an optional day seminar at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust in Berkshire. If you are interested in learning more about wolves, their habitat, survival, pack structure, conservation efforts and learn where they differ from the modern dog, then this course will be of interest to you.

Accredited to the NOCN, participants will gain 15 OCN Advanced Awards.

For more information and registration visit  
[www.coape.org](http://www.coape.org)





# PREDATOR TO PET

(or wolf to woof!)

**A review of the UKWCT's  
popular new workshop,  
by Kirsty Peake**



**W**hen I saw the flyer for this workshop I knew this was one that I wanted to attend and I was not disappointed. I don't want to give too much away in this write-up of the day as I would like to encourage all of you to attend the next one which is going to be held on **Saturday, 24th October from 10am to 2pm.**

*...dogs most closely related to the wolf include the Pekingese*

My aim here is to give you an overview and taster of what was a great day in the company of like-minded people and of course Duma, one of the Trust's ambassador wolves, who joined us in the afternoon.

Sue Hull, the new Director of the UKWCT, ran the workshop. Sue has many years of experience, not only with wolves, but with dogs as well. As ever, it was like coming home when I arrived - there is always such a friendly welcome and that atmosphere continued throughout the day.

Sue started by talking and explaining about the closeness of the wolf and dog in genetic makeup but also explained how far apart some modern dogs are from the wolf because of our interference. She quoted Martin Clunes in his programme about dogs when he said that we are living with a wolf. It could be said that his dog is living with a monkey. So although the genes are close there are some great differences between wolves and dogs (and us and monkeys!).

The workshop was interactive and soon questions were being asked and discussed by everyone, but guided efficiently and expertly by Sue. We were taken on a journey back to where dogs came from and explored the reasoning behind the whys and wherefores of domestication. We discussed how dogs achieved their current shapes and what happened

behaviourally to them as these changes occurred.

Sue had some great information sheets. I was astounded to learn that dogs that are most closely related to the wolf include the Shar Pei, Afghan, Malamute, Husky and the Pekingese! Further amazement was felt when Sue put up a series of photographs. One particularly got Toni Shelbourne, the

*...questions were being asked and discussed by everyone*

Trust's education officer, and my attention as we both thought it resembled a Chihuahua - albeit a big one! It was in fact a wolf who had bred too closely and had come out with some very dog like features.

To finish the morning session Sue discussed the findings of Professor Ray Coppinger and his wife, Lorna, on how we arrived with our special bond with the modern dog. It was not a case of us domesticating wolf, more wolf domesticating itself when man stopped being nomadic and started village life.

Lunch time saw us all continuing discussions that had been stimulated by the morning session. Some people had different views and it was a good opportunity to explore these in a supportive environment.

In the afternoon we headed out with Duma for a walk. During this, when Duma decided to stop, Sue continued talking about wolf hybrids and what to look for in a dog to see if it has wolf in it. We were all reluctant to leave and had a last wander down to look at the wolves. As we left we were given the choice of two gifts to take home to remind us of the day. I thoroughly recommend this day to anyone interested in wolves and how the domestic dog has become the most successful wolf, but totally reliant on us for its survival.

*Kirsty Peake*

Kirsty is a qualified animal behaviourist and a Member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers. She is also a Tutor with COAPE (Centre of Applied Pet Ethology). In 2007 Kirsty wrote a course on Wolf Behaviour and Ecology and she now tutors this with Dr. Peter Neville.

Along with her husband she spends half the year in Yellowstone Park studying wolf behaviour.

*To check availability at the next workshop, please visit [ukwolf.org](http://ukwolf.org) or call the UKWCT office on 0118 971 3330.*

# Forthcoming Events at the UKWCT



## BOOK LAUNCH - Saturday 7th November at the UKWCT Open Day **A New Era for Wolves and People: Wolf Recovery, Human Attitudes and Policy**

We are delighted to announce the launch of a new wolf book that the **UK Wolf Conservation Trust** has supported since the concept was first realised by Professor Marco Musiani at a wolf symposium in Banff, Canada.

Marco and his co-editors, Luigi Boitani and Paul Paquet, have brought together ground-breaking research from biologists and wolf conservationists throughout the world. The project became so big that the book was subsequently split into a series of two books. The second book, with a strong human dimensions focus, will be published towards the end of 2009.

UKWCT specialist adviser, Denise Taylor, was the project manager for the book, and commissioned the accomplished wildlife artist, Su Shimeld, on behalf of the Trust to produce a series of unique drawings and sketches to illustrate the book.

We are very proud to have been an integral part of such a worthwhile project. We hope you will support the Trust and wolf conservation by buying the book. It would make an ideal gift for family and friends who love wolves as much as we do. Or why not treat yourself.

You can buy copies of the new book at the UKWCT Open Day 7th November when we are officially having the launch with the media, or pre-order your copy by emailing us at [ukwct@ukwolf.org](mailto:ukwct@ukwolf.org) or by ringing us on 0118 971 3330.

Paperback, 224 pages, RRP £16.99

## HOWL NIGHTS



18th September at 7.00pm  
22nd October at 7.00pm  
27th November at 6.30pm  
18th December at 6.30pm  
22nd January at 6.30pm

£10 per person

This is a very popular event at the Trust. The evening starts with a talk on wolf communication, then you'll have the opportunity to let out a howl and see if the wolves respond! (Don't forget to dress up warmly for an evening under the stars.) Booking essential.

## The UKWCT WOLF CENTRE OPEN DAY and BOOK LAUNCH Saturday, 7th November, 11am - 5pm

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

- Look around the Wolf Trust • Photography sessions
- Ask the experts about living with wolves • Watch the wolves being given meds • Wildlife Artists • Book Launch (see above)
- Listen to the wolves howl • Children's activities • Badger talks • Nature Trail • Pond Dipping • Refreshments available

For more information visit [www.ukwolf.org](http://www.ukwolf.org)

## Mobility Walks

For those unable to come on our popular countryside walks due to mobility issues, we offer special mobility walks at the Wolf Centre. These take place a couple of times a year, usually in the summer half of the year when the ground is firm.

The event starts with a PowerPoint presentation in the Education Centre and then a short walk around the site, with the chance to meet the wolves up close. There is a large area of gravelled path around the enclosures, which allows good viewing of all the wolves and is wheelchair accessible.

The wolves are happy around wheelchairs and the events offer an ideal opportunity to see wolves first hand.

Next walk 9th September. To book, call 0118 971 3330



Mosi tests the breaks



# Children's Events

## OCTOBER HALF TERM



### HOWL'OWEEN PUMPKIN PARTY

**30th October, 11am - 1pm**

Come and help us celebrate Howl'oween. Walk with the wolves and listen to them howl. Carve and stuff pumpkins filled with their favourite treats. Watch the wolves enjoy working out how to get the treats out of the pumpkins - they love it!  
£13.50 per person, 6 years +

### CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP with Michelle Paver

**27th October, 1pm - 5pm**

Find out how Michelle researches her work. She will then guide you through writing a short piece of your own and finish the day by reviewing some of the work.

Michelle will also be signing her latest book *Ghost Hunter*, the final book in the Chronicles of Ancient Darkness series. Book early as this event is very popular  
£10 per person, 8 years +



### CHILDREN'S WOLF WALKS

**26th October and 2nd November, 11am - 1pm**

Take a walk with the wolves. Includes a short talk and tour of the Centre.  
£12 per person, 6 years +

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

### CHILDREN'S WOLF WALK

**30th December, 11am - 1pm**

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

£12 per person, 6 years +



### CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

**21st December, 11am - 1pm**



Come and help the wolves have a great Christmas by decorating a Christmas tree for each pack. Make edible decorations which you will then hang on their special wolf Christmas trees. See how long it takes them to unwrap and eat their presents! Event also includes a walk with the wolves.

**£13.50 per person, 6 years +**

**Booking essential for all events on these pages except the Open Day - call 0118 971 3330 for details and availability**

Sunday 4th October, 11am - 5pm

# World Animal Day

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust Celebrates North American Wolves



- **WOLVES UP CLOSE**

- PHOTOGRAPHY SESSIONS
- HOWLING COMPETITION
- BIRDS OF PREY flying demonstrations
- HUG A HUSKY
- BRITISH WILDLIFE including bats, hedgehogs, dormice, otters, creepy-crawlies and much more

- **NATIVE AMERICAN DANCE DISPLAYS**

- NATIVE AMERICAN MERCHANDISE
- ARCHERY
- WILDLIFE ARTIST DISPLAYS  
and pastel workshops running throughout the day
- EDUCATION ROOM
  - + Talks throughout the day on the Yellowstone wolves
  - + Wolf keeper talks
  - + Badger talks
  - + Meet former World Darts Champion Martin "Wolfie" Adams
  - + Meet Howie Watkins, former presenter of "The Really Wild Show"
  - + Learn about day-to-day life at the Trust
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES & COMPETITIONS
  - + including pond dipping, nature trail and painting
- CATERING ON SITE

## TICKETS

**Family Ticket:** Advance: £18.00 On the day: £20.00  
(2 adults & 2 children up to age 16)

**Adult Ticket:** Advance: £8.00 On the day: £10.00

**Child Ticket:** Advance: £3.00 On the day: £5.00

Further information: [www.ukwolf.org](http://www.ukwolf.org)

Advance ticket sales: 0118 971 3330

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

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust, Butlers Farm, Beenham, Reading, RG7 5NT.

