

# Wolf Print

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Issue 41 Autumn Winter 2010/11



- **Life and Behaviour of Wolves:**  
a case study on captive wolves in the breeding season
- **PENEDA GERES:** wolves in mountain pasture
- **MAX:** the wandering wolf

■ NEWS ■ EVENTS ■ MEDIA AND ARTS ■ REVIEWS





## Editor's Letter

**Y**ou may have noticed that your Wolf Print landed on the doormat with a bigger thud than usual. After working out that printing 32 pages was just as cheap as 28 and getting frustrated due to having to leave so much out we came to the decision bigger is better. I hope you enjoy the extra four pages.

As I write, we are coming to the culmination of our 15th anniversary celebrations with World Animal Day just around the corner and for the first time ever a week long celebration of all things wolfie in Wolf Awareness Week. Both events happen in October and all the details are on the events pages at the back.

Even with the extra space we still had trouble packing everything in. Hear about the astonishing life of a radio-collared wolf in Croatia and find out what really happens when things go wrong in captive wolf packs. George Bumann gives a moving account of the life of Yellowstone's Wolf 42 in Making Tracks and why he chose to immortalise her in a life sized sculpture. There is an article about Portugal and of course the all important Wolves of the World to give you a general idea of what is happening.

We also present the latest information on how your donations are helping wolf projects around the world and introduce new UKWCT patrons and special advisors. Finishing the line-up is the usual UKWCT news and a good few pages of Christmas gift ideas! Sorry, but it is the last issue before the festive season.

Finally, this will be my last Wolf Print as Editor. I have decided to scale back my commitments to the Trust to just my Senior Handler duties. I took on the role of Education Officer after the sad death of Roger Palmer and for four years have put my own business either on a par, or on the back-burner to help the UKWCT develop its education programmes. That now achieved, I feel happy to turn more attention back to running the business and developing other areas, one of which is devoting more time to writing. I wish the new editor luck in their new role and hope they have as much fun as I did producing this fantastic magazine.

*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  
Cornelia 'Neil' Hutt  
Erich Klinghammer  
Desmond Morris  
Marco Musiani  
Michelle Paver

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust Directors  
Nigel Bulmer  
Anne Carter  
Charles Hicks  
Sue Hull  
Tsa Palmer

Specialist Advisors  
Alistair Bath  
Claudio Sillero  
Denise Taylor

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.

Download Wolf Print, including back issues, from [www.ukwolf.org](http://www.ukwolf.org)

Design and artwork: Business Pluspoint  
[www.businesspluspoint.co.uk](http://www.businesspluspoint.co.uk) Tel: 0118 988 5530  
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.



16



6

# contents

## REGULARS

- 2 Editor's Letter
- 12 Life and Behaviour of Wolves  
Captive Wolves in the Breeding Season
- 27 Merchandise  
Wolf gifts, souvenirs and stocking fillers
- 22 Making Tracks  
A personal reflection by sculptor George Bumann

## NEWS

- 4 News from the Trust
- 10 New UKWCT patrons and special advisors
- 18 Donation and project information
- 24 Wolves of the World

## FEATURES

- 9 Large Carnivore Conservation in Europe  
Sandra Benson reports on a talk by Luigi Boitani
- 15 Max the Wandering Wolf  
The story of a radio-collared wolf in Croatia
- 20 Peneda Geres - wolves in mountain pasture  
Tim Newton, conservation researcher

## WHAT'S COMING UP

- 30 Special Events at the Trust  
Open days, holiday activities, howl nights and more
- 32 Wolf Awareness Week  
A week of special events to celebrate the wolf



12



18



27



# Wolf News

## Update on the Trust Wolves

Since the last issue of Wolf Print life has settled down for all our wolves. Summer is a calm time anyway and they all enjoyed the warmer weather interspersed with cooler, rainy days. All of them seemed to hold on to their winter coats longer this year, maybe disbelieving the harsh winter weather had finally disappeared.

**Duma** held her coat the longest but this we think was due to a number of reasons. Life as a lone wolf has taken some getting used to for our oldest resident. She developed a false pregnancy (not uncommon for wolves but harder to deal with in old age), which saw her go off her food and lose condition about the time Dakota died. The vet has checked her several times since then as she struggled to put weight and condition back on. She has had a full check, including blood tests



and her health is good. This could only have meant that she was not coping well with the isolation. We continued to monitor her closely and look for alternatives in her management. For some months Duma lived next to the European girls, swapping between the holding area and the main enclosure but it was thought that she would prefer her own established territory and she now has the run of the middle enclosure all to herself. This is the ideal place as she can see what is going on all over the site, sometimes racing down to fence-run with Mai or patrolling the top of the enclosure to see who has arrived. As autumn approaches, she has started to eat better and is beginning to put on weight in preparation for the colder months. Duma

relishes the time we spend in the enclosure fussing her. She will greet us very enthusiastically, either muzzle or hand holding and bouncing about. Once the initial frenzy is over, she settles down going from handler to handler for attention. Once satisfied, she may wander off for a while exploring the enclosure and then return for another round of fuss. Eventually she will lie down nearby and fall asleep, giving us the cue to leave her relaxing quietly in the shade.

**Lunca** and **Latea** have had a busy summer. After six years they are finally back into full work, going out on members' walks and doing meet-and-greets. They stopped work after Alba's injury, (he wasn't fit enough for the walks and they didn't like to leave him behind), but since his sad death earlier this year we have slowly brought the girls back into work. They have loved the extra interaction, wagging their tails as they wander up and down the line-up.

Lunca especially enjoys the initial greeting and often chooses a few special members to rub against. They have taken everything in their stride since losing Alba and have exceeded all our expectations, proving they never lose the skill or enjoyment of being socialised wolves. They are also continuing to get to know more handlers which will ensure their continued



socialisation in the future. It's fair to say both Latea and Lunca are less likely to stand for long periods for meet-and-greets but they make up for it in other ways, always entertaining with their antics which usually involve water. With the warm weather, both have been making visitors laugh by sitting or lying in the water troughs to cool off. They also love splashing about in the stream, soaking everyone when they shake off the water after emerging from the deepest, dirtiest places. Both of them were fantastic at supporting Duma when they were living close together after Dakota's death, playing with her through the fence and showing no aggression. They are probably the most intelligent of all our wolves and are affected the most by change, although they will adapt. Neither of them like building work on site and had a couple of difficult weeks while we were working in the top enclosure holding pen. They soon recovered, especially when they moved into this enclosure a week after we



completed alterations to the holding pen fence. This is all the wolves' favourite place, due to being able to look through the window at visitors in the education room and greet every visitor arriving at the centre, as the enclosure is parallel with the car park. Latea continues to show little if any ritualised aggression towards Lunca, a result of being spayed but also with Alba gone there is no competition between the two sisters now. Life for the European Pack is better than it has been for many years and we are proud of them for being so adaptable to the changes we have made to their lives.

The Canadian Pack, Torak, Mai and Mosi, continue to be a huge draw and very popular with all visitors. They are in the prime of life, healthy and exhibit great behaviours. Mosi has held on to her higher-ranking status after the drama of this year's breeding season. This makes life for Mai a little challenging due to Mosi and Torak sometimes ganging up on her,



wolves. He is not showing any dominance towards the public, which most male wolves do on maturity. This could still change but for now we are able to continue to take him out with the public as his temperament is so good. If he lived with another male, we are not sure he'd be the dominant male of the group.

**Mai** delighted a couple of children at the May open day. The father was recording howls and the pitch and quality of one of the children's howls was exactly right for Mai to respond. For ages they howled back and forth, Mai lying on one side of the fence and the child standing on the other just feet away. The moment was magical, a real communication between human and wolf. Mai continues to seek human

contact whenever she can but we have to watch our attention doesn't cause unwanted dominance from Mosi who is wildly jealous of any attention which isn't directed towards herself. Even though she is the lower ranking wolf now, Mai will not give up her rivalry with Duma. The two continue to enjoy the odd fence run and like to strut past the others enclosure when out on walks. This is all normal behaviour but we monitor the situation closely to ensure its not excessive or stressful for any of the wolves.

**Mosi** continues to be the trickiest of the three to manage. From an early age she has always been outgoing, curious and mischievous. She can, for no reason, choose to pick on another wolf or start a big play session which usually involves mouthing Mai, with Torak often joining in. She does not

have the leadership skills Mai had and could cause us problems in the future, so we are keeping a close eye on the situation and discussing management of the pack to ensure all three are safe and stress-free. With all this said, Mosi is fun to handle as you never know what she will get up to next, so she keeps us on our toes. For the handlers she respects she is a joy to work with as she is such a great character and throws herself into everything one hundred per cent. She adores Torak who isn't always the attentive mate he should be but Mosi hardly notices as she has very thick skin.

Well, the summer calm is nearly over, but it's always great while it lasts.

Photos:

Duma - John Boyle  
Lunca - Chris Odell  
Latea - Chris Odell  
Torak - Amy Brockley  
Mai - Chris Odell  
Mosi - Amy Brockley

but as the hormones receded and the summer months unfolded this settled down to a manageable, safe level.

**Torak** continues to be as aloof as royalty, disappearing for most of the time on the May and August open days, much to his fans' disappointment. He is a wolf who likes to think things over before making a decision; when calling the wolves onto the yard he sometimes stands half way through the gate, working out if he really wants to go for a walk and looking to see if his favourite people are inviting him to go. Usually, if it's the right handlers, a little tickle under the chin or a kind word is the final persuader for him to calmly walk the last few feet on to the hard standing to be collared up. He is an exceptional wolf who doesn't appear to be going down the route of our other male





# Wolf News

## Director's Letter

We have had the most marvellous summer weather-wise, and it is a great relief for all of us at the Trust when at last the grass stops its energetic growing phase. Clive and all his work experience team have been constantly working to get on top of weeds on the gravel paths, thistles and docks in the wolf enclosures to make the wolves' grass mounds comfortable for them to stretch out and sunbathe on, and strimming and mowing the site.

### Alladale Estate

It's at times like this that I would seriously like to follow Roger's dream of having bison as herbivores to share the wolves' enclosures or alternatively, as Wolf Park in Indiana do, to help cut down on the work! - but sadly that will never happen - the nearest animals might be Highland cattle. I recently visited Paul Lister's Alladale Estate in Sutherland and the



Highland cattle there were magnificent and had obviously withstood one of the harshest winters for many years last season. The scenery at Alladale is absolutely stunning and I would recommend anyone to visit and see how the project is progressing. The Elk are installed in their own enclosure and the wild boar breeding well, again in a separate area. The deer have been culled from 3000 animals to a more sustainable level of 800 for the 23,000 acres. A huge planting programme of half a million native trees is being undertaken in extremely difficult terrain, some of it very steep hillside, and having to be done by JCB machinery before the project can

move forward into its long term aim of having bison, wolves and bears. The next animal they hope to obtain this autumn is European lynx.

### Changes at the Trust

On the Trust home front Toni Shelbourne, our Education Officer for the past four years, has decided to step down and concentrate full time on her Tellington Touch business which she ran alongside her work at the Trust. Toni, together with Denise Taylor, have developed all the UKWCT education programmes and been responsible for writing the PowerPoint presentations and courses for our work experience students. Toni has also for the last two years been Editor of Wolf Print Magazine which she has turned into the packed 32-page magazine you receive three times a year as part of your membership of the Trust. Wolf Print is without a doubt the most widely-read wolf magazine in Europe, if not the world. Toni will still continue being associated with the Trust in her voluntary role as a Senior Wolf Handler.

Toni's departure means that Vicky Hughes, who came to the Trust over five years ago on work experience and joined the staff as Assistant Education Officer working

under Toni in July 2008, will be promoted to Education Officer. Vicky will also become Editor of Wolf Print ably assisted by the same team: Julia Bohanna, Gillian Steedman, Sandra Benson, Angela Barrow, Denise Taylor and me. Vicky has a degree in animal science and management and she was the pilot student to go to Bulgaria to get our International Student Exchange Programme started, so she is well qualified for the job.

With Vicky as the driving force, we are putting into place another education facility at the Trust. During the summer months we are converting the Pole Barn,



which currently stores the Trust's van and trailers into a building where there will be room for permanent education features such as a life-size model wolf and a large wolf den which will enable three or more children to crawl inside and experience how wolves live. We were lucky enough to have a leading prop maker, Paul Robbens, come on a wolf walk with his family recently and he offered to help on this project. I worked with Paul at Shepperton studios when the wolves starred in the film 'The Company of Wolves' over 20 years ago and he made the animatronic wolves for the film. We have decided to use Alba's likeness as our wolf in recognition of what a special wolf he was and, being a European wolf, he will fit in with our European education theme.

### Wolf Awareness Week

This project should be near completion for our first Wolf Awareness Week which is being held from Sunday 17th to Saturday 23rd October. We will have several speakers during the week talking about wolves around the world and we are pleased to say the Wolves and Humans Foundation will be here all week with their educational displays. Richard Morley, Director of Wolves and Humans was involved in the very early years of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust, is a key member of our team and it is a particular delight to welcome him back. In the years to come we will build on this event and hope to have schools and colleges visit and also

have all the key organisations working in wolf conservation to join us. (For further details see the back page or visit our website.)

We plan to have willow weaving and art workshops during the week so do come along. I strongly believe all the wolf organisations in the UK should work together to achieve more. Even though understanding of wolves and their place in nature has increased vastly over the last 10 to 15 years, and they are no longer universally vilified, there is still much to be done if we are to ensure that we will have wolves in the world by the end of the century.

#### New website

Our new website went live at the beginning of August and I would like to thank Darren Prescott and Clive Longbottom for all their hard work. I think the website is easy to use, informative and has had much praise from new Wolf Trust members as well as from a wider



field of user. We are also benefiting from the fact that it is a secure site using World Pay etc. and are busier than ever with bookings and orders for merchandise. It is also a great deal easier for the office if people can book onto events via the website without having to phone up.

#### Zoo Association membership

Lastly I am delighted to say that following a recent inspection by Peter Sampson, Director of Paradise Wildlife Park, he thoroughly recommended the Wolf Trust for membership of the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA). He spoke highly of our organisational set up and the great facilities we have for our wolves, and so our membership of this organisation has been approved.

Hope to see you at World Animal Day on October 3rd or at Wolf Awareness Week.

Tsa Palmer,  
Director.

# 15th Anniversary and Book Launch



A warm May Bank Holiday saw the UKWCT begin its 15th Anniversary Year celebration in style. Hundreds of visitors came to help us celebrate.

There were activities going on all over the site: The children's tent was particularly popular, helped by the presence of Sarah-Jane Honeywell, well-known CBBC presenter, who kept all the children entertained by storytelling and helping to make wolf masks.

In the education room Marco Musiani launched the second in The World of Wolves book series, on which the UKWCT has collaborated on since conception. Marco and Toni Shelbourne, the Trust's Education Officer, gave talks about wolves and the new book to a packed room.

The day was a great success and started a year of special events and happenings. This includes the launch of a brand new interactive website, and World Animal Day and Wolf Awareness Week, both in October (See events pages for full details).

Photos: Denise Taylor



## Englefield School Days

Each year the Englefield Estate near Reading holds a special, free event for local school children. The grounds of the house, outbuildings and deer park are opened up and filled with outdoor activities to teach children about farming and the environment. Over the two days, around 2000 children visited stands, tried their hand at various skills and learned about the countryside. Having been one of the busiest stands last year with the wolves in attendance, it was with some trepidation that we set up the UKWCT area. Would we be as popular without the wolves to draw the crowds in? We set up the stand into four areas, storytelling, arts and crafts, an exhibition of skulls and wolf related items and had the Trust's DVD playing.

We needn't have worried, we were inundated and the volunteers had no time to sit down for the whole two days. At times we had different groups in all the four areas, we read out stories, talked about wolves and helped them make wolf masks. Each child left with a mask, a UKWCT sticker and information about the Trust. The volunteers by



the end had helped cut out around 1500 masks, read to hundreds of children and above all made learning fun. It was fantastic to look out and see all the wolf masks around the estate, the children loved it. Hopefully we also managed to educate another generation about wolves.

Toni Shelbourne, Education Officer



# Wolf News

## 'Re-Wilding' Europe and the Return of Predators

Tuesday 13th July saw the final seminar in the 2009/2010 Zoological Society of London's (ZSL), Communicating Science series. The title "'Re-wilding' Europe and the Return of Predators", attracted a full house to the ZSL meeting rooms in London. Four talks filled the hour and a half event with Thorsten Wiegand from the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Germany leading the way with his talk entitled 'Modelling Tools to Better Understand the Dynamics of Large Carnivore Reintroductions'. He discussed the importance that computer-generated models have when planning a reintroduction of any species. This includes the data needed to predict viable habitat areas and optimum species numbers for reintroduction.

Wiegand's lecture was followed by 'Restoring and Managing Wolves in Sweden' by Guillaume Chapron from the Grimso Wildlife Research Station. He summarised the current wolf population in Sweden and how through genetic studies it has been found that the entire population of 263 wolves are descended from just three founding animals. This small genetic pool has left Sweden's wolves seriously inbred. Chapron went on to explain that the cull of 27 wolves carried out in January of this year was allowed to take place under the wolf management policy in an attempt to balance the population. It also hoped to increase public support for introducing wolves from another European country in the hope of improving the overall genetic health of the current population.

David Hetherington from the Cairngorms National Park Authority looked at the case for bringing the lynx back to Britain. He deliberated if the species would thrive in the farmed landscape of modern Britain. Examples from Germany were given where the lynx was reintroduced of what was needed. With the species being solitary it was concluded that everything necessary in Scotland for the lynx to be re-established was in place. However, it is the public's attitude to large carnivores that needs to change, for without support a lynx project would not be viable.

The final speaker, David Macdonald from Oxford University's WildCRU, presented the case for re-wilding the UK. He briefly touched on the difficulties in selecting suitable animals for reintroduction and the battle against concerns and prejudice. Macdonald focused on the issues when considering managing animals in a

fenced reserve and looked at the questions that need to be answered to allow any project along these lines to be successful. These included: how big must a fenced reserve be? Answer: an area of at least 600km<sup>2</sup> is needed. Is there sufficient space in the Highlands? Answer: yes, there is sufficient space. Will wolves regulate deer numbers? Answer: yes, the wolf population has the potential to regulate deer numbers. David concluded that from an ecological perspective it is potentially feasible to release wolves into a fenced reserve but further exploration of the concept is required.

The seminar was fast-paced, full of interesting facts and thought-provoking questions. Will we have large carnivores roaming Britain again in complete freedom or in fenced reserves? I suppose we will have to wait and see...

The 2010/2011 series of lectures start in October. For further details visit <http://www.zsl.org/science/scientific-meetings/>

V J Allison-Hughes BSc (Hons)

Photo: Peter Cairns



## Yellowstone Update

We had a wonderful month watching the pups in Yellowstone. It is all a bit nerve wracking as this year has seen a real explosion of grizzly and black bears. The wolves are having a very busy time making sure dens/rendezvous sites are not being overrun. Add to that the fact that having made the elk population extremely fit and some of the elk now bunching up and charging the wolves, life is a little hard for them. 'Fortunately' with all the rain the vegetation is lush and bison are dying from bloat!

Just to clarify from my previous article in issue 40 of Wolf Print, only 10% of wolves in Yellowstone have collars and therefore have numbers. We had a glimpse of the remaining Cottonwood Pack (most shot by hunters last autumn when they 'tricked' them over the Park boundary) and one additional wolf - none of which had collars!

Kirsty Peake

## Wish List

Can you help? The UKWCT would be very grateful for the following:

- A3 colour printer
- Used postage stamps (including a small part of the surrounding envelopes).

Thank you.

facebook

You can now visit the UK Wolf Conservation Trust's official facebook page and

find out about all the latest events and what the wolves are up to:

[www.facebook.com/pages/UKWCT/114376781907597](http://www.facebook.com/pages/UKWCT/114376781907597)



# The Challenges of Large Carnivore Conservation in Europe



## A talk by Prof. Luigi Boitani at the University of Kent on 26th March 2010

Luigi Boitani is a leading wolf expert and, amongst other prominent roles, is the Chairman of the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe. He runs numerous research and conservation projects on the wolf population in Italy and has written more than 200 scientific publications, 75 technical reports and eight books.

The event was hosted by the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE).

Professor Boitani began his talk by pointing out what he believed are the key challenges to conservation in Europe:

- Negative attitudes with large carnivore/human relationships
- Increased livestock and hunter conflict
- Legislation and protection laws not enforced
- Acceptance that wolves are transient and not based in each individual country only

Large carnivores do not recognise country boundaries. The research tracked a bear which travelled from the Italian Alps to Austria and then onto Germany in the summer of 2006. Luigi quotes 'If we want good conservation then boundaries need revising'. The Convention on Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (The Bern Convention) was adopted in Bern, Switzerland in 1979, and came into force in 1982. The principal aims of the convention are to ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats to increase cooperation between contracting parties, and to regulate the exploitation of those species (including migratory species). To this end, the convention imposes legal obligations on contracting parties, protecting over

500 wild plant species and more than 1000 wild animal species. Amongst other things the directives provide for the establishment of a European network of protected areas to tackle the continuing losses of European biodiversity on land, on the coast and in the sea, to human activities. Professor Boitani felt if countries had signed up to the Bern Convention, then why is this not being monitored and enforced?

Boitani believes there are four actions which need to be addressed:

### Prevent depredation

This is done in a variety of ways through guard dogs, electric fences and fladry commonly used in Russia and Poland.

### Compensation

At present this varies from country to country.

### Wolf/Human Relationship

The co-existence is often governed by the habitat and prejudice, e.g. if there is plenty of prey available there is less risk of livestock being taken and less conflict. Boitani feels if there are areas of multiple conflicts then a multiple solution is required. A cross border population approach is necessary, moving away from country level and using new guidelines. A habitat directive towards this has already been written.

### More Research

There needs to be a move away from just counting how many predators might cause damage and actually to look at what the real damage is and what can be done to prevent this.

Guidelines have seven levels of wolf conservation goals:

- Species presence
- Species viability
- Eco system balance
- Predator and prey balance restored
- Natural fluctuation of predator/prey is determined by prey density
- System is able to exist in a dynamic state
- Evolutionary potential of the species is maintained

Questions need answering: How many wolves and where? Should there be high densities in small ranges or adaptive densities in larger ranges? He feels it all boils down to one question: What level of conflict can be tolerated? Hunting and lethal control may need to be acceptable to maintain co-existence and a renewed strategy of tolerance.

Sandra Benson

For more information go to [www.lcie.org](http://www.lcie.org)

# New Patrons and UKWCT Special Advisors

The Trust has always been supported by patrons; recently there have been changes and additions. The UKWCT would like to say a big thank you to Christoph Promberger, who has supported us for many years, and David Clement Davies who are both stepping down. We gain two patrons and three special advisors, who cover various fields. We welcome:



## **Cornelia 'Neil' Hutt - Patron**

Cornelia Hutt is a former public school teacher and administrator. She is a member of the board of directors at the International Wolf Centre in Minnesota and regularly contributes articles to their wolf magazine and quarterly publication. Neil is also chair of the board for the Red Wolf Coalition in North Carolina. The Red Wolf Coalition advocates for the long-term survival of red wolf populations by teaching about the red wolf and by fostering public involvement in red wolf conservation.

She says "Being a patron of the UKWCT is yet another way to express my commitment to the work of one of the world's most respected wolf organisations. The impact and scope of the UKWCT's accurate, timely and effective educational programme and products benefit wolves around the globe. A visit to the UKWCT, with its ambassador wolves in their natural habitat, provides a matchless experience for people of all ages. It's an unbeatable way to learn what's true and what's not about a fascinating and complex predator."

## **Dr Marco Musiani - Patron**

Marco Musiani PhD was born in 1970 in Rome, the city of the famous she-wolf. He has been interested in wildlife biology, ecology and management research since he started his career in the mid 1990s. Marco is an assistant professor of landscape ecology at the University of Calgary and is also affiliated with the University of Montana. He teaches wildlife management and landscape ecology, supervising graduate students interested in these subjects on a variety of related themes.

Many of Marco's projects are centred on carnivore species that serve as entry points into broader environmental issues.

For example, one of his projects dealt with livestock protection from wolves in the Balkans. His work on wolf depredation on livestock incorporates interdisciplinary problem solving, conducting scientifically sound research and the application of ecological research to decision making.

His papers have been published in many international scientific journals including Conservation Biology, Bioscience, and Animal Welfare. He has won numerous awards, including the prestigious National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and Italian National Research Council Study Abroad Scholarships.

Marco reviews research and management projects such as the Wolf Reintroduction Programmes in the Northwestern and Southwestern USA and is a consultant for the Portuguese Wolf Project, University of Lisbon.

In 2003 Marco helped organise the World Wolf Congress (WWC) which attracted over 500 delegates from all over of the world. The WWC provided forward thinking research evidence which has now been collated into a series of groundbreaking books on wolf ecology and conservation, for which Marco and the UKWCT were driving forces behind achieving publication. It was at the 2010 book launch in the UK that Marco agreed to become a patron of the Trust.





**S**pecial advisors help the Trust in their area of expertise when we are developing education programmes or keeping up to date on current practices and innovative projects.

#### **Denise Taylor - Special Advisor**

Denise Taylor, former director of the UKWCT, continues to advise on forward thinking-education trends. She is the founder and director of Education 4 Conservation, an environmental education organisation. Amongst other roles, she sits on the IUCN Canids Specialist Group and raises funding for the Large Carnivore Project in Bulgaria.



#### **Dr Claudio Sillero - Special Advisor**

Claudio was born in Argentina, but now lives in Oxford, England. He is a Zoology Research Fellow at Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit and supervises its projects worldwide and is internationally recognized for his work on carnivore conservation projects. One of his greatest contributions is his work to protect the critically endangered Ethiopian wolf. In 1995 he founded the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP), receiving the Whitley Award for Animal Conservation from the Royal Geographical Society in 1998. In addition to directing the EWCP, he participates in and influences dozens of other projects that benefit threatened carnivore species and biodiversity worldwide.

Claudio's interest lies in ensuring the economic and social well-being of the human communities that need to co-exist with carnivores. His current work focuses on mitigating conflict between wildlife and humans to promote the sustainable survival of both. He has established an international network, The People and Wildlife Initiative, which focuses on partnering with communities to develop methods of conflict resolution. Claudio is also the Chair of the IUCN Canid Specialist Group, the international body responsible for the conservation of wolves, jackals, dogs and foxes.

#### **Alistair Bath, PhD - Special Advisor**

Alistair is an Associate Professor within the University of Newfoundland, where he teaches natural resource management issues, conflict resolution and public involvement. He is a member of the IUCN Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe and has conducted numerous projects throughout Europe focused on human dimensions in wolf, brown bear and lynx management. He also works in North America on the reintroduction of wolves into northwestern United States and on carnivore conservation in Canada. Dr Bath is considered a leading authority in human dimensions of wolf management.



Other patrons continue to support our work.  
The full list is:

#### **Desmond Morris**

World-renowned zoologist, author and painter

#### **Michelle Paver**

Author

#### **Erich Klinghammer**

Founder of Wolf Park in the USA

#### **Marco Musiani, Ph.D,**

Associate Professor with the University of Calgary

**Cornelia Hutt**, Director at the International Wolf Centre, and Red Wolf Coalition USA

Special Advisors:

**Denise Taylor**

**Dr Alistair Bath**

**Dr Claudio Sillero**



Photo: Clive Readings

# Life and Behaviour of wolves

A case study on captive wolves in the breeding season

Toni Shelbourne  
Senior Wolf Handler

Many people find out my job title and assume it's the greatest job in the world - what could be better than working with socialised wolves? It's true the job has many special moments but what happens when it all goes wrong? Working with a dangerous wild animal can be challenging and stressful when problems arise. In the wild, wolves can manage their own lives, choosing to disperse or stay with their pack, breed and work out their social structure without impediment. With captive wolves, even if you have the facilities the UK Wolf Conservation Trust has, the breeding season will always be stressful and unpredictable for both the wolves and their carers. Many organisations choose to keep only one female in a pack of males to cut down aggression at this fractious time. Most stop interacting with the wolves, running events or shut down to the public completely to allow the wolves peace and quiet through the height of the breeding season. When it does go wrong careful handling of the situation is needed. We have a duty of care to keep all the wolves safe and injury free but when do you step in and when do you allow the wolves to sort the problem out between themselves? A few years ago when the European pack went through a transition in pack leadership the Trust had to make some tough decisions about how to manage the situation.

## CASE STUDY: Breeding Season Aggression in the European Pack

### HISTORY

The problem stemmed from Latea deposing her sister as the alpha female in the group a few years previously. Due to confidence issues Latea constantly bullied Lunca. Alba the male had to step in to maintain order in the pack by suppressing Latea's more ferocious attacks. In 2006, after Alba had fractured his neck, we decided he'd require help in managing the females' behaviour. The concern was that he would become overtired having to control Latea's extreme dominance while he was still recovering from his injury. That year the vet injected both females with a hormone suppressant. The effect was minimal and within three weeks they had shaken the drug off and it only prolonged the season and the problem.

In 2007 and 2008 there had been some small success in reducing the aggression level by using a combination of homeopathic remedies, but it was touch and go to not tip the delicate balance of power between the females which could result in a fight for supremacy. In the 2008 breeding season, after a bid by Lunca and Alba to depose Latea which resulted in blood injuries, (Latea kept her bullying alpha status), the wolf welfare team discussed controlling the hormone levels for the safety of both the wolves and their handlers.

### THE OPTIONS

In June 2008 we began to seriously research options for the packs' safety and mental wellbeing. Information was gathered from all over the world and it took months to come to the right decision. The options were:

#### Implants

After much research and talking to specialist zoo vets, we were recommended a new contraceptive implant called Suprelorin which shuts down sexual hormones for around six months. This had been successfully used in captive Mexican and Grey wolves. The drawback was it would have to be inserted annually. Sedation every year to carry out the procedure was felt to be too risky due to age, etc. The drug also forces the animal into a short season so aggression levels may have risen anyway. The international database for contraception in zoo animals at St Louis Zoo in the States was contacted for further information; however, they had no data to say whether it would suppress aggression levels in wolves. We came to the conclusion that the danger and stress of sedation for possibly no positive outcome was not a favourable option.

#### Neutering

Nancy Gibson of the International Wolf Centre, (IWC) who works with David Mech was consulted at length. She had been over in the UK and spent some time observing our wolves. In an email correspondence Nancy



said, 'There are different opinions regarding neutering of wolves, but we have found that it is ideal for our situation and will continue to practice that procedure for the benefit of the wolves and staff. We neuter our wolves before the age of one. We have found that it does take the edge off the hormone levels during the breeding season. We have six animals of varying ages of which five are males, all in one enclosure. The males could get very aggressive towards each other during the breeding season and fight over the one female. We have found that it protects them from each other and the staff who regularly clean the exhibit and bring in road-killed deer once a week'.

Another question to consider was if we needed to castrate Alba as well as spay Lunca and Latea. There was a lot of debate and hard thinking but again Nancy gave us peace of mind, 'I think having seen your wolves and knowing the stress that breeding season can present, I would suggest that you neuter the male as well. You will still see some aggression but it will be a bit more controllable'.

#### **Not interfere**

The third option was to do nothing. However, we have a duty of care to these animals to ensure they are healthy, safe and



as stress-free as humanly possible. If we did nothing, and next season the pack fought again, could we live with ourselves if one or more of them died due to the injuries sustained? Perhaps a handler would be hurt trying to separate them. We also have a duty of care to the volunteers and staff.

#### **Break up the pack**

The fourth and worst option would be to permanently remove Latea from the pack and make her live out her life as a lone wolf, something we would try to avoid at all costs.

#### **THE DECISION**

After long debate, soul searching and gathering advice to ensure we were doing the right thing, we decided to neuter the whole pack. It was not an easy choice and some people disagreed that Alba should also be done. The ultimate decision, however, was with the welfare and senior team who know the wolves best and could make a judgement on what the outcome would be. It was felt that if Alba could smell other females on site in season then he may be aroused and try to mate with the girls which could have serious consequences. However, if he himself smelled different would that also cause a problem? We didn't know for sure but had the reassurance in the information from the International Wolf Centre.

We understood they were wolves and that to some extent this was a natural behaviour. The problem with captive wolves is that the individual being harassed does not have the choice of leaving the pack as it would in the wild. Latea is not a confident leader and all information obtained tells us that aggression between females only increases with age. Wolf Park and many other wolf facilities keep no female wolves together because of this problem.

The team could give no hard assurance that the neutering option would have the desired effect. There are sexual hormones produced in the brain and other glands in the body, so they would still display some aggression. Would it work? No organisation we knew of in the UK had performed the operation to alleviate this problem; the evidence from the IWC would suggest it would help but they performed the procedure on sexually immature wolves.

If this failed Latea might still have to live alone. There are no guarantees when dealing with wild animals but to do nothing could have carried unacceptable risks and was, in our opinion, totally irresponsible.

#### **THE RESULTS**

Alba, Lunca and Latea underwent the procedure on 9th October 2008. They all came through the anaesthetic well and their post-op recovery was swift. The timing of the operation was a crucial factor as we



wanted it completed before the annual rise in hormones. All we could do now was wait and hope the outcome would be beneficial.

Two years on and we couldn't have been happier with the result. The first breeding season after the operation in spring 2009 showed a marked change in Latea's behaviour. She still dominated Lunca, in a true alpha female fashion, but the aggression was back to a manageable, acceptable and above all, safe, level. For the first time in years we were able to walk them right through the breeding season and although Latea did pick on Lunca the intensity was within normal bounds. They still acted like wolves and did all the ritualised displays of the breeding season but without the dangerous element we had witnessed in previous years. It was also much less strain on Alba whose health was starting to deteriorate. In fact we lost him in February 2010 when the old injuries and the strain on the rest of his body finally took him from us.

We all collectively held our breaths when Alba died, it couldn't have been at a worse time of year; would the girls fight through the breeding season? Without his excellent management of the situation it could have been disastrous. We needn't have worried; they were as calm as anything and after a brief readjustment period following Alba's death, they continue to live together peacefully and safely. They are even starting to work with the public again. Their lives are enriched, calm has been restored.

When we went ahead with the neutering, we really didn't know, beyond guessing, what would happen. We didn't find anyone in the UK who had carried out the procedure under our circumstances, other organisations choosing to separate females if issues arose. After our success we have been able to advise others in similar circumstances. Each situation and pack is different but for us the decision to neuter was the right one, enabling the pack to have a more enriched and stress-free life and above all stay together.

Toni Shelbourne

# ALPHA AND OMEGA 3D



**IN CINEMAS  
OCTOBER 22**

Get ready for the movie extravaganza of the year when ALPHA AND OMEGA bursts onto our screens in glorious 3D on 22nd October 2010!



Across the UK, animal and wolf fans alike will have the chance to enjoy a new 3D animated children's film **ALPHA AND OMEGA**. Based on the power struggle, hardships, friendship and love endured by two wolf packs living side by side in Canada, this is one adventure you won't want to miss!

Kate and Humphrey are two wolves who are nothing alike. Kate's an alpha wolf - to her, discipline, duty and responsibility are everything. On the other hand, Humphrey is an omega wolf - fun, friends and frivolity are what are important to him. In the world of wolves, alphas and omegas don't mix, mingle or mate - such is pack law.



As the alpha wolf daughter of the western pack leader, Kate is arranged to marry Garth, the alpha wolf son of the eastern pack leader, not for love but to prevent a deadly war between the two packs. But the marriage is put on hold when, unbeknownst to anyone, Kate and Humphrey are taken by park rangers from their home in Jasper Park, Canada and relocated to Sawtooth Park, Idaho.

Desperate to get back in time to marry Garth and prevent war, and battling each other's different points of view, the long distance and a few bears and porcupines along the way, Kate and Humphrey must work together to make the long journey home to their beloved Jasper Park. But Kate and Humphrey soon discover a new obstacle: somewhere along the way, they have fallen in love.

For the perfect family film this autumn, head to your local cinema to watch **ALPHA AND OMEGA** in 3D, released nationwide on 22 October 2010.

## Some fun wolf film facts - did you know?

- The Jungle Book was one of the first films to depict wolves as loving, loyal animals
- Benicio Del Toro is the latest actor in a very long line to play the 'Wolfman'
- Dances with Wolves starring Kevin Costner won 7 Oscars
- One of the main characters in Hayao Miyazaki's Japanese film Princess Mononoke was raised by wolves
- In the 1994 film Wolf Jack Nicholson turns into a wolf after being bitten by one

Find out more and watch the movie trailer at <http://alphaandomegamovie.co.uk>



# Max: the wandering wolf

This is the remarkable story of Max, a radio-collared wolf in Croatia whose story surprised everyone. It is not unheard of for young males to be adopted into other packs, temporarily or otherwise. Their job is to help the exchange of genes among the wild wolf population. Max, however, turned out to be a very sociable young wolf...

**WOLF NUMBER W18**, also known as Max, was collared in the summer of 2007 in the area of Gorski Kotar, Croatia. He most likely originated from a group of wolves known as the Suho pack and for the majority of the time Max could be found inside their territory, with other family members (confirmed by howling). His GPS collar collected 3140 locations up until October 2008 and 1919 (61.1%) of them were inside Suho territory. However Max was captured and fitted with his radio collar in the territory of the neighboring Snježnik pack where 271 (8.6%) of his locations were fixed.

This young wolf was found to be carrying out long excursions in all directions from his



original pack, including visiting one wolf pack in the neighbouring country of Slovenia (5.2%). He also visited the territory of the Risnjak pack, back inside Croatia in which a total of 956 (30.5%) of Max's locations were recorded. This was the last pack that Max visited, as from September 2008 he stayed within the territory of the Risnjaks and his collar showed that he was spending time with the pack members, in particular a female radio collared wolf called



Rina. The analysis of the data from their collars showed that they were staying and moving together. Further evidence that Max was with the whole Risnjak pack came from repeated howling responses from the whole pack, including Max and Rina.

It is known from studies carried out in Yellowstone National Park, USA, that a foreign wolf can be accepted by a pack and be permanently or temporarily integrated. However, there is not much (if any) evidence that a single wolf successfully joins and leaves several neighbouring packs. Moving around can be a tricky business and runs the risk of being killed. In the first 389 days of tracking, Max covered an area of 1153.8 km<sup>2</sup>. This is currently the largest (home) range documented for a single wolf in Croatia. The movements of Max covered territories of four known wolf packs in Croatia and Slovenia, but 112 of his locations were outside the areas of these packs, and could be covering areas of other wolves which are not currently studied by the project.

Unfortunately, the story of Max ended on 11th December 2008, when his collar produced a mortality signal and he was found dead by researchers. He was found lying in a natural position, without any visible injuries. His last resting place was under a large fir tree, on a hill top, in the middle of Risnjak pack territory. Analysis of the data from his collar revealed that he stopped walking

around on 23rd November 2008, but remained alive until 28th November 2008, when he stopped moving at all. Rina and probably the rest of the Risnjak pack visited him once on the spot where he was lying while he was still alive, but then they left him for good. After post mortem examination it was found that he died from natural causes. A small puncture wound on his left hind leg had become infected resulting in his demise.

We will never know if alive today whether Max would have stayed with Rina and the Risnjaks or continued his sociable lifestyle. It is fair to say that Max the wandering wolf was a most exceptional fellow and showed us a new side to wild wolf interactions.

*Comprised from research papers written by Dr Josip Kusak of the Croatia Project.*

*Photos: Josip Kusak*







Torak relaxing by Alvin Yap



Lunca and Latea by Danny Kirby- Hunter

Duma by J Lawrence



Torak by Danny Kirby- Hunter

# UKW feat

Sunday	4
Monday	5
Tuesday	6
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	16
Saturday	17
Sunday	18
Monday	19
Tuesday	20

Wednesday	21	© (Over Readings - Dakara?) Wednesday Hanukkah begins
Thursday	22	Thursday Winter Solstice - Shortest Day
Friday	23	
Saturday	24	Saturday Christmas Eve
Sunday	25	Sunday Christmas Day
Monday	26	Monday Boxing Day/St Stephen's Day/Bank Holiday
Tuesday	27	Tuesday Christmas Bank Holiday
Wednesday	28	
Thursday	29	
Friday	30	
Saturday		Saturday New Year's Eve

December 2011		
1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15
16	17	18
19	20	21
22	23	24
25	26	27
28	29	30
31		



# CT 2011 CALENDAR

## uring the Trust's wolves

Brighten up your home or office over the coming year with the UK Wolf Conservation Trust's 2011 planner. Opening from A4 to A3 there's plenty of space for planning your events and activities. Each month features a different picture of our wolves, and we've brought you a selection of those pictures here to whet your appetite.



*Lunca by Alvin Yap*



*Latea by Alvin Yap*

*Duma by Pat Melton*



*Mai by Alvin Yap*



*Mosi by Matt Booth*



The UKWCT 2011 Calendar  
Supplied with mailing envelope.  
**£8.50**

To order, visit [www.ukwolf.org](http://www.ukwolf.org) and click 'online store', or call Lynn Kent at the Trust on 0118 971 3330.

See pages 27 to 29 for a range of exciting new gifts, clothing and souvenirs, as well as Christmas cards and stocking fillers.

Please note: all UK orders are subject to a minimum P&P charge of £4.50. For overseas orders, please contact us.



# Wolf Trust Donations

After the success of the book launch and Open Day on 31st May, the Trust has been able to donate a total of £10,000 split between five projects. Four of the projects are ongoing but we are proud to announce the first donation to the Mexican Wolf Fund.

## Red Wolf Coalition - £2000

From Neil Hutt, Chair of the Red Wolf Coalition Board "We are so grateful to the UKWCT. This wonderful, generous donation comes at a critical time. We are forging ahead with our two big projects - the new website and building the natural habitat enclosure for some ambassador red wolves for the public to view while we present education programmes. We have launched a fundraising campaign for this project on a website called Crowdrise. Go to [www.crowdrise.com/enclosure/fundraiser/redwolfcoalition](http://www.crowdrise.com/enclosure/fundraiser/redwolfcoalition) if you wish to donate.



"Your HUGE donation keeps us going while we focus on these ambitious but critical projects. The Red Wolf Coalition thanks each and every person who supports the work of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust by attending events and by becoming members of the UKWCT. I wish we could express our gratitude to all the conservation-minded people who believe in the Trust and in the organisations like the Red Wolf Coalition that benefit through their

partnerships with, what I consider, a world leader in wolf education. Thank you from the Red Wolf Coalition and from all the red wolves out there in the wild in north-eastern North Carolina. Because of you, they have a chance of making it in the long term. And that is what we strive for, all of us who value them. Thank you, UKWCT, for helping SO MUCH to ensure their future. You are 24-K gold."

Photo: B Crawford

## Russia - £2000

Vladimir Bologov writes "Thank you for the good news. With this donation I can buy the boat we need to find a place I would like to move some wolves to. At present I have eight pups from different zoos and wait for two more from Sankt Petersburg Zoo. The place I want to search is between Sartavala and Kostamuksha near the Finnish border. The idea is to camp on an island where I can stay with the wolf cubs during the summer and prepare a cabin for the winter. I am also going to Canada to give a presentation at a Congress for the Society of Conservation Biology in July."



Photo: Chris Senior



## Bulgaria - £2000

The donation will help towards the continued support of the large carnivore centre and wolf projects. Elena Tzingarska, project manager writes "Thank you so much for the good news."

Photo: Elena Tzingarska radio-collaring a wolf, by Denise Taylor

## Croatia - £2000



The donation will pay for camera traps which will be used in a research project to gather information on road use intensity and types to be compared

to wolf activity in the area, as well as to investigate aversion to different intensities of road use in the wolves' movements through their territories. They will also aid in the study of prey population density and abundance.

Photos:

Top and middle - the camera trap, by Josip Kusek

Right - camera trap image supplied by James Kimo Rogala





## Mexican Wolf Fund - £2000

The Mexican Wolf Fund formed by the California Wolf Centre works in cooperation with state and federal agencies to fund projects and programmes involving free-ranging Mexican wolves in the southwest United States. Its purpose is not advocacy, but to help support and fund solutions to problems and challenges on the ground. These challenges include conflict prevention, and management and dissemination of information. It is the only single-purpose, proactive fund dedicated to supporting the Mexican Wolf Recovery Project. Through the proactive Mexican Wolf Field Initiative the Mexican Wolf Fund continues to fund and expand the number of non-lethal and proactive activities that help prevent wolves from being killed in the field as a result of conflicts with humans and livestock. These include:

### Range Rider Programme:

Individual riders who monitor cattle and wolves on the open range. This puts people on the ground before conflicts occur, whilst increasing communication among the Interagency Field Team (IFT) personnel, ranchers and local citizens.

### Purchasing Supplemental Feed for Livestock:

Ranchers who are provided with supplemental feed (hay) agree to keep late-term pregnant cows and young calves within small private pastures, rather than on large public allotments, thus helping ranchers and wolves. Wolves are exposed to fewer vulnerable calves, reducing depredation opportunities. Should depredations happen on these small pastures, the IFT can effectively utilise a suite of non-lethal tools (RAG boxes, fladry, cracker shells and rubber bullets, described in detail below), which are not effective on large grazing allotments.

### Supplemental Feeding of Wolves:

Providing supplemental feed to wolves to prevent cattle depredations has been highly successful in specific circumstances. When wolves den near active cattle grazing allotments, supplemental feeding of wolves is undertaken early on, prior to depredations, or may be instituted following an initial depredation event. Supplemental feeding has been very effective to prevent depredations by packs in both Arizona and New Mexico and, in several key instances, appears to have contributed to pup survival as well.



Kent Struble, California Wolf Center

### Consolidating Calving and Grazing Operations:

This project involves a multi-tool approach to conflict resolution in the in the Mexican Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. The goal is to use a combination of range riders, moving cattle, light fencing and mobile branding pen infrastructure to keep cattle away from wolf territories by consolidating calving seasons to one time period and grazing operations over the entire watershed.

### Law Enforcement Efforts:

Enhancing law enforcement efforts is another important means of keeping wolves alive in the wild. In most areas of the world, humans are the leading cause of wolf mortalities, and this is also the case for Mexican wolf mortality in the Southwest. Currently, the MWF work closely with the IFT to support overt and covert law enforcement activities in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area and one of their biggest challenges is funding the associated travel costs of law enforcement agents and funding their ensuing activities. Much of the agents' covert work involves integrating into local activities, especially during hunting season. Funds are needed to purchase horse trailers and all-terrain vehicles (horses and ATVs provide access to remote terrain), for training additional agents and for remote sensing camera equipment that will be used to monitor areas that historically has recorded higher numbers of wolf deaths.

### Fladry:

Fladry is a string of flags hung at fence-level used to contain or exclude wild animals in a specific area. Here, the goal is to keep wolves away from livestock and other human activities. Fladry has been successfully used in Idaho and in other Rocky Mountain States; it will last for

several years and can be re-used. Turbo-fladry, which is electrified flagging, has also proved very effective.

### Conventional Fencing Material:

Conventional fencing material like woven wire can be used to construct predator-proof "ex-closures" around residences, barns and small pastures. A number of local residences in the wolf recovery area have built such fences at personal cost and have been successful at limiting wolf incursions into yards and small areas with livestock and pets. However, there are other ranchers and homeowners in the recovery area who have expressed interest in constructing similar fences but who could not afford the cost. The MWF have stepped in with financial assistance.

### Hazing Items including Paint Balls, Rubber Bullets and Cracker Shells:

The IFT currently employs rubber bullets and cracker shells frequently because they are cost-efficient and reasonably effective when used extensively. The IFT also uses paint balls because these can be safely deployed in more populated areas. Hazing is one of the most important tools and it is the first option for changing wolves' behaviour and increasing their wariness of people.

### RAG Boxes:

The Radio Activated Guard (RAG) box is a scare device that is activated by the wolves' radio collars. When the wolves get within a certain radius of the RAG box, a flashing strobe activates and loud, obnoxious sounds are emitted from two speakers. The RAG box is extremely useful around small, defined areas such as barns, small pastures and houses and when coupled with hazing techniques and fencing.

For more information about the Mexican Wolf Fund email Patrick C. Valentino at [patrick@mexicanwolfconservationfund.org](mailto:patrick@mexicanwolfconservationfund.org)

Tony Norton, California Wolf Center



# Peneda Geres

## Wolves in mountain pasture

**Tim Newton**  
conservation researcher



**ISSUE 20 OF WOLF PRINT in summer 2004 was a special edition on the wolves of Portugal. One of the most important areas for the survival of the Iberian Wolf is the Peneda Geres National Park (Parque Nacional da Peneda-Gerês, or PNPg), a mountainous area in the Minho region of North West Portugal ([www.geira.pt](http://www.geira.pt)).**

Colleagues and I have been visiting the Peneda district of the national park for the last five years, spending time in the mountains, and developing a strong interest in the local issues around wolf conservation.

*local people have grazing rights for horses, cattle, sheep and goats.*

PNPg has an area of 70,000 hectares which includes a variety of habitats including dense oak forest and high granite mountain landscape with peaks up to 1,500 m above sea level. Steep valleys are terraced with irrigation channels supporting extensive traditional horticulture, though with some signs of decline as a proportion of terraced fields are not in use. More than half of PNPg is high common pasture where local people have grazing rights for horses, cattle, sheep and goats. The gradual abandoning of traditional postural farming, with its movement of cattle and horses to high

summer grazing, has meant that some high pasture has reverted to wilderness.

Established as a national park in 1971, the PNPg now has around a quarter of a million visitors a year, mostly to one of several visitor areas such as Lindoso or Lamas do Mouro. Though there are trails Portugal does

not have a hiking culture comparable with the UK, and the Park Authorities are keen to protect sensitive habitats from disturbance. The park borders the Xurêš Natural Park in Spain, and there is some movement of wildlife such as the Iberian wild goat (*capra pyrenaica*) whose numbers in PNPg have increased from nil to 400 over the last ten years.

The PNPg constitutes one of the last shelters the Iberian wolf, *Canis lupus signatus*, and its distribution has remained unaltered during the last years. Local

information is that there are three packs of wolves within the vicinity of Castro Laborieiro, while other reports are of packs in the Serra Do Soajo and Serra Do Amarilo. There are no recent estimates of wolf numbers, though they are thought to be at a similar level identified by a study back in 1994 – 1996 (Alvares et al, 2000), which estimated there were between 3.7 and 8.0 wolves per 100km<sup>2</sup>.

As horses and cattle make up the bulk of the wolves' diet, this brings significant conflict with local farmers, a notable cause of death being deliberate poisoning and shooting, despite wolves being a protected species in Portugal.

Our principle contacts have been Pedro and Anabela Alarcão, journalists who produced a documentary film for Portuguese television *A Vida Secrets Dos Lobos* screened on the Portuguese television channel RTP in 2005. Living near Castro Laborieiro in the North of PNPg, they now run horse riding holidays and guided walks through 'the territory of the wolf.' Their company Ecotoura ([www.ecotura.com](http://www.ecotura.com)) has a strong





eco-tourist ethic; they do not, for example, set out to provide sightings of wolves, something that would be very difficult without a baiting programme. They are also keen to cater for smaller numbers of visitors to keep the environmental impact to a minimum.

### *wolves are highly adaptable to changing conditions*

Pedro has extensive knowledge of wolf behaviour through his experience in PNPG over the past ten years. He says that the behaviours of wolf packs in the area are highly individualised and are much more varied than generalisations made in wolf literature.

Though very secretive and difficult to see, wolves are highly adaptable to changing conditions. During the building of a nearby wind farm, Pedro recalled accounts of territorial marking within construction compounds, and the reclaiming of territory very quickly once work had finished. Some GPS tracking of two wolves conducted by researchers from Oporto University is also showing that their daily routine and pattern of travel is highly variable.

Pedor and Anabela are also actively involved in wolf conservation through a non-profit organization called Veranda - Associação para a Conservação e Divulgação do Património de Montanha (Association for the Preservation and Dissemination of Mountain Heritage). The predation of cattle and horses by wolves in the Peneda area is causing conflict with local people and scepticism of conservation efforts, despite a government programme of compensation payments for livestock lost to wolves. So Varanda has set up a number of projects that aim to protect wolves while also supporting traditional pastoral agricultural practices. (<http://verandaorg.wordpress.com/about/>)

The Vezeiras project is a pilot project providing three cattle owners with 400 m of electric fencing for the protection of cattle at night when free ranging means they are vulnerable to predation by wolves. Cattle roam freely during daylight hours and need to be trained to return to a specific location each evening to eat cattle cake, where they can be fenced in

for the night. An added benefit is that this regular congregation of cattle means that farmers can monitor their health and easily arrange veterinary care if required.

If this method is successful in deterring wolf attacks, it will contribute to the sustainability of the pastoral agriculture, while discouraging farmers from taking matters into their own hands by laying poison bait for wolves. (Another Veranda project is to detect the illegal poisoned bait with specially trained dogs.)

Sustainability of pastoral farming is further supported by encouraging farmers to provide accommodation for visitors to the park.

### *The future for wolf conservation depends on a careful blend of measures*

Working with the inhabitants of the park is very important. There is scepticism and resistance of new initiatives among a population with a tradition of subsistence farming and hunting, and where wolf hunting was a shared village responsibility. The future for wolf conservation depends on a careful blend of measures to protect wolves from illegal hunting, sustaining the traditional pastoral farming methods with high grazing of cattle and horses, and sensitive development of tourism to bring further incomes to supplement farming and horticulture.

From more than one source we heard that an old or ailing horse might be bought and put out to graze where wolves are known to be. Being easy prey for the wolves, a kill is likely, then compensation from the government, which would be more than the original purchase price of the horse.

The wind farm just outside PNPG is one of the largest in Europe with a total of 120 two-megawatt windmills ([www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/dec/02/portugal-wind-power](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/dec/02/portugal-wind-power)). While the 70 m turbines and new access roads have made a significant impact on the wildness of the environment, the impact has not been entirely negative. The Portuguese Environmental Agency levies a charge on each kilowatt generated for community projects, with some funding supporting Veranda. The construction also responded to

information about wolves' whereabouts and movements from sightings or GPS tracking. The building of one access road was halted temporarily so as not to disturb a she-wolf with pups in a nearby den.

As for my own experience, I have only been able to hear wolves howling in the distance once in five years. Maybe next time I visit...



*Tim Newton is a conservation researcher with a particular interest in interconnection of conservation and sustainable tourism.*



#### **Editor's note:**

The special edition of Wolf Print about the wolves of Portugal mentioned in this article is available online along with other back issues. All are available free to download from [www.ukwolf.org](http://www.ukwolf.org)

# Personal Reflections on Yellowstone's alpha female Wolf 42

Her silvery-gray coat shimmered in the early morning sunlight. At her heels were four young pups: two black, two gray. It was July 5th, a crisp morning under a cloudless sky. Forty-two, the alpha female of Yellowstone's Druid Peak Pack stood poised on a high bluff above the Lamar River. Her eyes took a long view of the Valley before this very decisive event - it was time to move the pups from the safety of the den to the open expanse of Lamar Valley. This journey occurs only once in the wolf year and it would be the last time we would ever see 42 complete it.

I and many other Yellowstone visitors feel very fortunate to have known Wolf 42 during her living years. Having reached the age of nine years old, 42's longevity fostered an endearing bond for thousands of Park enthusiasts. Forty-two was a wolf that I watched for years but never touched, never communicated with (it is unlawful to howl in the Park), and one that I had seldom viewed without the aid of a telescope. Despite the distance between our respective lives, 42 had taken a hold of my thoughts like few others. Born in Alberta, Canada, 42 (named for the research number she was assigned) was one of thirty-four wolves brought to Yellowstone in 1995 - the first wolves to occupy this region in over seventy years. Known to Park visitors as a black wolf in her younger days, 42 experienced the trials and triumphs of so many of her species. She endured the lashings of a domineering sister (leading to her being dubbed the "Cinderella Wolf" in the film "Wolves: A Legend Returns to Yellowstone"), perilous hunts for elk, a longing for a family of her own and the ultimate ascendance to alpha female. Observers came to know 42 in a very personal way. I would often ponder which route through the Valley 42 might take, where she might lay down to rest, if she would scent mark one particular rock or another, whether she would answer a distant howl. Seeing many 'predictions' materialize in 42's behavior brought a semblance of familiarity, an emotional bond with her. And just as soon as I thought I had a clear mind for this 42's intentions, she revealed another facet of her persona - like an apparition, my expectations vaporized. I found myself grasping for new understanding of this wild and infinitely complex individual.

Atop the distant bluff, 42 signaled to her pups - it was time to go. They were leaving

the Druid Pack's historic den site for their time-honored rendezvous. The rendezvous itself acts as a safe haven for young wolves - a place to learn, grow, rally with adults and to become acquainted with the other denizens of the Park. For the Druid Pack their site was a safe one, and luckily for Park visitors, a visible one as well. Over the years hundreds of thousands of Park tourists would watch the rearing of Druid puppies by their mindful elders.

The journey from the den to the rendezvous site is also one fraught with peril - it involves crossing a main road, followed quickly by swimming the flooding channels of both Soda Butte Creek and Lamar River. Standing half 42's height, the four pups were visibly taken with their new surroundings. I laughed aloud as the troupe stepped onto the road. Some of the pups lifted their paws in apparent surprise at the new sensation of hot asphalt on their over-sized feet. Down the next embankment they trod. With enthusiasm and unwavering trust in their mother, the young wolves dashed into the high, turbid waters of Soda Butte Creek. Sputtering in the swift current, the pups struggled for the far shore and were swept downstream. I held my breath as I lost view of the pups, but under the watchful eye of 42, each one made it. Drenched, the pups gathered themselves on the far bank - shaking the cold water off in a silver mist. The joy I felt at seeing them all regroup was tempered by thoughts of what lay ahead - a crossing of the mighty Lamar River.

As they approached the fording site, 42 assembled her brood with great care. Mother then strode out into the flooding Lamar River amidst the jostling waves - the pups looked on. Once on the far shore, the matriarch looked back in time to see a determined, black pup leading the entire litter in the opposite direction. Forty-two had no choice but to return. Regrouping the litter, then fording for a second time, 42 looked back to again see the black pup leading everyone further up *their* side of the River. And so it continued, mother crossing, collecting her young and striking out again. Without fail, the pups refused to negotiate the flood in favor of fits of play and games. Throughout all of this, 42 touchingly carried a select object in her mouth as she shepherded the pups. Sometimes this apparent lure, or surrogate 'pup-in-arms' was a stick, sometimes a stone that 42 would show, but never give over to her young. The cat and mouse game continued

for over forty-five minutes until I lost sight of them around a distant bend in the River.

Certainly, much of the kinship Park visitors felt with wolf 42 came from the reflections of themselves they saw in her. For me, it was starting life anew amid the challenges of a home in Yellowstone that she and I shared. Having recently finished my graduate studies in wildlife ecology, I felt disillusioned with career research, but my passion for the natural world remained. As an educator/guide in the Park, I had the opportunity to observe the daily drama of the Druid Pack and Wolf 42's life as I explored my own. The more I observed, the more I found that words failed to fully express the things I saw. Fortunately, art reentered my life at this time and offered a new voice to share what I saw unfold with the pack each day.

Forty-two's efforts were not in vain. After many fretful moments, the bouncing bodies of four young pups, two black and two gray were again seen trailing the venerable Wolf 42. They had crossed the Lamar and from there it was off to the rendezvous and a reunion with the rest of the pack. Under the care of 42 the pups had survived and now before them lay a vast new world in which to grow and prosper. Sadly, that following February, we would realize this scene would never be viewed again. Wolf 42 would fall victim to the attack by an intruding wolf pack. Her long-time mate, Wolf 21, howled longingly for days after her passing, but would hear no reply.

With the impressions of events from the Park fresh in mind and sketch pads and modeling clay in hand, I felt that my two worlds, those of art and nature, had finally joined as one. There were so many things that Wolf 42 said with a subtle shift of her weight, a fleeting glance, a pregnant pause. I wanted to pay homage to her, to create something that reflected 42's determination, compassion, bravery, traits that defined her over so many years of watching. I wanted to memorialize 42's life in that defining, noble moment just before embarking with her last litter. I wanted to hold that moment forever, that instant where she would invoke the spirit of all those who came before her and all those that would come after. There were so many things to say, so many things left unsaid, but the memories will always endure.

George Bumann.





*Author's note:*

*It is with the news of Alba's passing in the Spring 2010 issue of the Wolf Print that I write. The connection that I'm sure so many at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust shared with him was a special one to say the least and I extend my heartfelt condolences.*

*The solace of mind and spirit offered to us by individuals like Alba are dearly needed as we contend with noise within, and that of the world around us. His story parallels that of another special wolf half a world away – that of Wolf 42 in Yellowstone Park. What a fine ambassador for wolves you were, Alba – carry on wherever the hunt may lead you. GB.*

George Bumann is a sculptor and educator; he lives with his wife, young son and two black labradors in Gardiner, Montana, at Yellowstone Park's northern entrance.

His miniature to large-scale monuments to Wolf 42 (shown here) and Wolf 21 can be seen on his website at [www.GeorgeBuman.com](http://www.GeorgeBuman.com)

# wolves of the world

news from  
around the  
world



Red wolf, Valerie Abbott

## nibbles

- **Arabian Wolf Distribution Update from Saudi Arabia.** A review of unpublished reports has confirmed the presence and persistence of grey wolves (*Canis lupus pallipes*) from at least 13 protected or proposed protected areas in Saudi Arabia indicating the value of synthesizing and publishing such data. Although wolves are still declining in Saudi Arabia various factors, including the wolves' habituation to humans, scavenging omnivorous behaviour, high reproductive rate, large home ranges, long daily movements and long distance dispersal, may contribute to their persistence and even re-establishment in protected areas and other sparsely inhabited locations. For the full published paper see [www.canids.org/canidnews/13/Arabian\\_wolf\\_in\\_Saudi\\_Arabia.pdf](http://www.canids.org/canidnews/13/Arabian_wolf_in_Saudi_Arabia.pdf) or <http://tiny.cc/m10a7>

- **Two dead, third missing; US investigates wolf killings.** The US Fish and Wildlife Service say the 12-year-old Mexican wolf-recovery programme is in danger of failing, in part because of wolf shootings. Officials are investigating the suspicious deaths of two endangered Mexican grey wolf alpha males - one in Eastern Arizona, the other in southern New Mexico. The Fish and Wildlife Service is also awaiting results to determine if the New Mexico wolf was shot. A third alpha male wolf has been missing since mid-April. It belonged to the Paradise Pack, which has roamed the Fort Apache Reservation of Eastern Arizona. Although radio-collared, as of the end of June authorities had not been able to find him and now classify his status as "fate unknown." Killing a Mexican grey wolf is a violation of the US Endangered Species Act. For the full story go to: [http://azstarnet.com/news/science/health-med-fit/article\\_cbb3dde4-6b56-5119-82d0-2c8b20407ead.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/science/health-med-fit/article_cbb3dde4-6b56-5119-82d0-2c8b20407ead.html) or <http://tiny.cc/n99lc>

## Red wolf pups go into the wild

**B**y the time the US Fish & Wildlife Service biologists finished their work, a wild female red wolf in Tyrrell County, Eastern North Carolina, returned to her den and discovered she had two more puppies than when she left. They were not hers, but they wiggled around with her two existing pups just like family.

The female was chosen by the Red Wolf Recovery Programme to receive the foster pups, born April 18th - about the same time as her own pups - at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago. The 12-day-old puppies - one male, one female - were carried in a mesh pet carrier aboard a commercial airline from Chicago. They were bound for the Red Wolf Recovery Area, a 1.7 million acre mix of public and private land on the Albemarle peninsula.

The red wolf was considered extinct in the wild in 1980, but a first-of-its-kind captive-breeding programme begun in 1969 ensured the species' survival. Including this year's puppies, there are 188 red wolves in captivity in more than 40 certified zoos and wildlife facilities in the US. In 1987 the first eight red wolves were returned to the land in Eastern North Carolina, and now about 100 red wolves are estimated to live in the recovery area. Fostering puppies - slipping captive-bred pups into dens of wild red wolves with litters of their own - is one way the Fish & Wildlife Service increases the wild population.

This was the 12th fostering event the service had done since 2002, moving a total of 26 red wolf puppies into the wild. The biologists had located the pack's den about a week before, and knew she had two pups about the same age as the zoo litter. They had chosen the 9-year-old mother for fostering because she had adopted two foster pups the year before, plus her wild litter this year was small.

"We will only foster pups if they are the same age as the wild puppies," Lucash said along the way. "It works best if they are about a week to two weeks old but before their eyes are open."

Altogether, the biologists counted 41 red wolf pups in eight litters this puppy season, including the foster pups, Nordsven said. "We suspect there could be more litters, but we're not sure we'll find them 'til they are older."

<http://www.fws.gov/alligatorriver/news/2010%20News/news-RWPupsIntoWild.html> or <http://tiny.cc/arlsb>



Red wolf pup, Barron Crawford, USFWS



# Isle Royale wolves dwindling... moose still holding on

Wolves on Isle Royale have declined by 21% over the past year due in part to "toxic" inbreeding and battles between packs, while moose on the island continue to feel the effects of a warming climate. That's according to a report released from the 52nd annual study of the predator-prey relationship between wolves and moose on the big Lake Superior Island.

Wolves dropped from 24 in 2009 to 19 this year, and two of the island's four wolf packs have disappeared. Researchers Rolf Peterson and John Vucetich, Michigan Technological University biologists, said the extinction of two packs follows a winter with fewer moose as well as the "toxic effects of inbreeding" and attacks by rival wolves.

"East pack's extinction is the end of a dynasty. There has been a wolf pack centered on the east end of the island since 1972," Peterson said. Researchers last year confirmed that inbreeding is causing wolf deformities such as weak vertebrae. A spinal deformity has been found in 100 percent of wolf skeletons tested.

Wolves crossed ice and first came to the island in about 1950, and it's not clear

whether any new wolves have arrived since then to bolster the gene pool. Wolf numbers have ranged from a low 11 in 1993 to a high of 50 in 1980. Peterson added, however, that wolves on the island don't necessarily face demise. "The moose have been on the ropes for a few years, now it's the wolves' turn," Peterson said. "There may not be many of them [wolves], but they are in good shape." Moose numbers on the island are down to about half of the historic average over the past half-century, hitting an estimated 510 animals this winter. That's about the same as last year and down from 650 two years ago.

Researchers say moose appear to have bottomed-out at 385 in 2007 and now have stabilised and that the big animals may now be more threatened by global warming than by wolves. Moose have been hit hard by winter ticks and other stressing factors made worse by warmer summers and winters. Last summer was cooler and wetter and better suited for moose, and tick numbers were down. Researchers saw more calves on the island than usual, a sign moose are rebounding and saw the first set of twin calves since 2005. "We seem to have moved from a predator-controlled system to a

climate-controlled system," Vucetich said in the new report. Moose came to the island around 1900, peaking at 2,445 in 1995.

Scientists were on the island from January to March, counting and studying wolves and moose. It's considered the world's longest-running study of a simple predator-prey relationship with almost no human intrusion on the ecosystem. Isle Royale, a U.S. National Park, sits about 15 miles from Grand Portage off Minnesota's North Shore and is primarily a wilderness area.

<http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/event/article/id/166523/group/sports/> or <http://tiny.cc/4ku2p> (a \$2.95 fee is payable)



## Return of the wolf: a predator's welcome

Fifteen years after the return of wolves to Yellowstone National Park, questions remain: What have we gained, what have we lost, and perhaps most importantly, what have we learned?



Yellowstone wolf, Kirsty Peake

In the wide swath of grassland and marsh that is the Lamar Valley, groups of bison, elk and pronghorn antelope bed down under an unseasonably warm March sun as an occasional coyote darts across the rolling prairie. But on a rocky knoll beside the highway that gives park visitors a good vantage point on the landscape, sleek scopes and telephoto lenses are trained not on the

lounging herds but on a steep draw on the far side of the Lamar River on Montana's side of the West Yellowstone valley.

There, a pack of grey wolves has been visible, on and off, since about 9 a.m. Even as the wolves, like their prey, lay low for the afternoon, the scopes and eager visitors stay focused on the far hillside in hopes of catching a glimpse of the animal that had recently been the stuff of bedtime stories. Fifteen years ago what has been called the most controversial feat of conservation in United States' history took place in this valley.

On March 21st, 1995, the gates of three acclimatisation pens holding 15 Alberta-born wolves were opened, reintroducing the grey wolf to a prized ecosystem that had not seen the keystone predator for 70 years. For at least half a century prior to this, scientists had hypothesized on what was lost when the wolves disappeared. Did it allow for too many elk? How about deer? If so, at what cost? The loss of a native grass? Or was it more profound? Was it the loss of "wildness," wherein, Henry David Thoreau once wrote,

"is the preservation of the world?" Fifteen years after reintroduction, with more than 300 wolves now in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the region still grapples with the question: What do wolves mean for this slice of America famous for both the wilderness tamed by Marlboro cowboys and the wilderness yet untouched by man?

Wolves have altered how man hunts elk, how ranchers run stock and how millions enjoy Yellowstone. Among other things, their presence has allowed aspens to grow taller and given beavers more habitat. And scientists are still learning the wolf's full role in this ecosystem. "Wolves change things; that's true. Whether the change is good or bad is based on your view," said Ed Bangs, wolf recovery coordinator for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. "More willows as a result of fewer elk. Is that a good thing? If you're an outfitter on the edge of Yellowstone National Park, you're like, 'Hell no!' If you're a yellow warbler, willows are a good thing."

For the full story go to: [www.tetonvalleynews.net/news/article\\_b043ae22-42ae-11df-81a2-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.tetonvalleynews.net/news/article_b043ae22-42ae-11df-81a2-001cc4c03286.html) or <http://tiny.cc/tj24v>



Gary Kramer

# Wolves of the World: Future still uncertain for Mexican grey wolf

**M**exican wolf F521 was born in captivity at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs, Colo., in 1997 as part of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program managed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Later, F521 was brought to a wildlife refuge pre-release facility in New Mexico. She was paired with a male, M507. The wolves bred in captivity and were released into the wild with a litter in 2002. The Bluestem Pack was born and became one of the most prolific packs in Mexican wolf recovery.

Reintroduction has had its success stories like F521 and her Bluestem Pack, but the recovery programme is still struggling. Currently, the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area, which stretches from New Mexico into Arizona, is the only area authorized to carry out recovery, said Michael Robinson, a conservation advocate with the Center for Biological Diversity. Until reintroduction began, there were no Mexican wolves anywhere in the wild and they were considered extinct, he said. The larger grouping - the grey wolf - has been protected under the Endangered Species Act since 1973. But in 2009 the Center for Biological Diversity started a petition to separately list the Mexican wolf, a subspecies of the grey wolf, as endangered. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will review the petition and see if the listing of the species is warranted, said Maggie Dwire, Assistant Recovery Coordinator.

Robinson said that despite federal protection of the grey wolf, the Mexican wolf is possibly the most endangered animal in North America. There are 42

Mexican wolves in the wild, 15 in New Mexico and 27 in Arizona, with only two breeding pairs, Robinson said. There are, however, breeding facilities with about 330 wolves waiting to be reintroduced, Robinson said. The decline in Mexican wolf population has numerous causes, including targeted killing, disease and genetic problems. In 1915 the Bureau of Biological Survey, later renamed U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, started to systematically poison, trap and shoot Mexican wolves on domestic lands, Robinson said. With decades of trapping and killing, the population has declined, he said. Because of the decline, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies have switched gears and are now working to recover the species.

Reintroduction began in 1998, but research by the Center for Biological Diversity shows the wolf population continues to decline. In 1999, there were 21 new releases. The number plunged to zero in 2007. In 2009, release of captive wolves became impossible when a nasal tumor resulted in the death of the pack's alpha male, said Susan Dicks, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist. The puppies in the pack also died, and the female was moved to New York where she will remain in captivity for the rest of her life, Dicks said.

Another obstacle could be genetic issues, Dicks said. Biologists are closely monitoring genetics to determine which wolves to release, she said. Ranchers on public lands are another problem, said Dave Parsons, a conservation advocate and former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee. "Up until just recently, they've put way too much focus and priority on resolving conflicts in a way that wolves always pay the price," Parsons said. When a conflict arose in the past, the solution was to take wolves out of the picture, he said. Another problem is illegal shootings. Since 1998, there have been 33 reported illegal killings in the Southwest, Parsons

said. There are limited circumstances when someone can shoot a wolf. But the law currently states that if a wolf is on private land and in the act of killing livestock, the landowner can shoot and kill it, Dwire said. Ranchers and farmers with livestock still have concerns.

"Those who depend on livestock for income, you know, aren't going to be too concerned if they perform an illegal act against an endangered species," said Nick Robbs, a University of Arizona student whose family owns and operates Robbs Farm in Wilcox. "If it's eating your income, you'll kill it and bury it," he said.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service say it will be working to facilitate more releases and build public tolerance for wolves in the wild, Dicks said. A primary focus for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is to develop a revised recovery plan that includes wolves. The original goal was to have 100 Mexican wolves in the wild by 2006. The programme is still working on hitting the mark, Dicks said. But without a new recovery plan there is no deadline. However, Dwire said that she's optimistic. She said she hopes to reconvene a recovery team within the next year.



Roy Toft, California Wolf Center

For now, plans for the number of wolves U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wants in the wild are still on hold. But the success of F521 shows that recovery is possible.

[www.tucsonweekly.com/TheRange/archives/2010/04/14/future-still-uncertain-for-mexican-grey-wolf](http://www.tucsonweekly.com/TheRange/archives/2010/04/14/future-still-uncertain-for-mexican-grey-wolf) or <http://tiny.cc/h8qsn>



# GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS



**2011 Spiral Bound  
Engagement Diary -  
£9.99**

Week to view.  
Hardback  
165mm x 190mm

**NEW**

**NEW**

## Christmas Cards

Greeting: A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
Size: 12.7cm x 17.8cm. Supplied with envelopes.

**Torak Cards - £3.50 pkt 5**

**Mosi, Mai and Torak Cards - £3.50 pkt 5**



**2011 UKWCT A4 Wall Calendar/Planner - £8.50**

Featuring all the UKWCT wolves. Supplied with mailing envelope.  
For more details, see page 16.



**NEW**

## Glass Worktop Savers

A Tuftop® ceramic kitchen board featuring a pack of four wolves. Heat resistant, odour and stain-proof, ideal as a chopping or serving board. Not dishwasher-proof. Available in two sizes:

Small - 30cm x 23cm **£10.00** Medium - 41cm x 30cm **£12.00**

## UKWCT Candles £8.50 each

Featuring each of the UKWCT wolves Mosi, Mai and Torak with the Trust's name and website on the reverse. Unscented. Gift-wrapped in cellophane with red ribbon bow. Approximately 50 hours burning time.  
Size: 4 x 3"/ 90 x 75mm.

Please state choice of wolf when ordering.



**MORE**



# GIFTS & WOLF TRUST SO



**NEW**

**EXCLUSIVE**

## I ♥ Wolves Tee-shirt

UKWCT design tee-shirt  
available in blue and pink.  
100% cotton.

## Children's Tee-shirt - £12.99

Children's height:

1-2 yrs - 92cm/36in  
2-3 yrs - 98cm/38½in  
3-4 yrs - 104cm/41in  
5-6 yrs - 116cm/45½in  
7-8 yrs - 128cm/50½in  
9-11 yrs - 140cm/55in  
12-13 yrs - 152cm/60in



## Ladies' Tee-shirt - £16

Ladyfit chest sizes:

XS - 78cm/31in  
S - 80cm/31½in  
M - 88cm/34½in  
L - 92cm/36in  
XL - 96cm/38in

## 15h Anniversary Celebration

Mug - £5.25

Porcelain mug celebrating the  
15th anniversary of the founding  
of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust.



**EXCLUSIVE**

## The World of Wolves: New Perspectives on Ecology, Behaviour and Management £23.50

Edited by Marco Musiani, Luigi  
Boitani and Paul Pacquet

Paperback, 352pp, 15.3cm x 22.8cm  
ISBN 978-1-55238-269-1



The World of Wolves offers a fresh  
and provocative look at current  
trends in wolf and wildlife  
management. Representative case studies, from geographically and  
culturally diverse areas of the world, highlight the existing  
interconnections between wolves, their prey, their habitat, their  
ecosystems and people, and the role of science in policy formation and  
wolf management.

## Wooden Beaded Jewellery

Two designs, each available as a necklace and bracelet:

**Wolf Paw (below)**

Bracelet - £2.99

Necklace - £3.99

**Wolf Head (right)**

Bracelet - £2.99

Necklace - £3.99



**NEW**



**NEW**

To view and order our other clothing, gifts and souvenirs,  
visit our website: [www.ukwolf.org](http://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.



# WOLVES



**NEW EXCLUSIVE**

## Car Freshener - £1.95

Another UKWCT exclusive featuring the Trust's Duma. The double-sided freshener measures approximately 11cm x 6cm and has a delightful long-lasting bouquet fragrance. Not just for the car, they are suitable for your cloakroom or study and make a great stocking filler.



**NEW**

## Standing Wolf - £14

Cuddly wolf from Wild Republic in a natural wolf pose. Wipe-clean surface. Polyester plush fibre, 28cm tall.



**NEW**

## Big-eyed Wolf - £2.50

Cuddly wolf from Wild Republic made with polyester and polyester plush fibre. Supplied in a plastic 10cm diameter 'bauble'. Great stocking filler! Polyester plush fibre, 27cm long. Age 3+



**NEW**

## Full Body Puppet - £17

Long-haired hand-crafted body puppet from Wild Republic with plush fabric legs. Insert hand into wolf's back to manipulate face into lots of wolfy expressions. Surface washable. Height 37cm. Age 3+

## Wolf Slippers - £15.65

Designed and produced exclusively for the Trust by Monster Slippers. Hard-wearing, non-slip sole. Washable at 30°C. Available in children's and adults' sizes:

(Shoe size 10-1) **XS**; (shoe sizes: 1.5-4) **S**  
(shoe size 4.5-7) **M**; (shoe size 8-11) **L**

**EXCLUSIVE**

**NEW**



## Wolf Mongo Grinder - £3.00

Suction cup paws cling to the skateboard. Soft, bendy rubber lets you pose Bali on his Skateboard. A secret passcode inside lets you use the Mongo Grinders website! Great stocking filler!

# Forthcoming events at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

## Predator to Pet Workshop or Wolf to Woof! Walking with wolves included!



10am, Saturday 13th November

Join us for an exciting and fast-moving workshop developed in association with Wolf Park of Indiana. You will:

- examine the genetic evidence of the relationship between dogs and wolves
- look at domestication vs socialisation
- learn about the taxonomy of canids
- walk with ambassador wolves, seeing firsthand the ancestor of today's dogs
- receive a gift as a memento of the day



This hands-on workshop will chart the domestication of dogs from their wild roots to the present day... and much more besides.

£50 per person - places limited - booking essential

Tel: 0118 971 3330 Email: [ukwct@ukwolf.org](mailto:ukwct@ukwolf.org)

Want to do something different this Halloween?  
Come and join us on our

## Howl'oween Howl and Hoot

Sunday 31st  
October  
1pm to  
6pm

Join us on a spooktacular  
walk with the wolves,  
following a presentation  
on wolf communication  
and a howling session.

Owls will be on site, too.

£50 per person - booking  
essential



## Friday Night is Howl Night!

29th October at 7.00pm; 19th November,  
17th December, 11th February and  
25th March at 6.30pm

If you've ever dreamt of standing near a wolf  
and hearing it howl, then this is a once-in-a-  
lifetime opportunity to feel your backbone  
tingle and your ears vibrate with the sound.  
Learn about wolf communication, howl to the  
wolves, listen to them howl back.

For information and to book call 0118 971 3330

£10 per person

Booking  
required

The UK Wolf  
Conservation Trust  
Butlers Farm, Beenham  
Reading, RG7 5NT  
[ukwct@ukwct.org](mailto:ukwct@ukwct.org)  
[www.ukwct.org](http://www.ukwct.org)



## Sunday 3RD October World Animal Day British Wildlife: lost & living

at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust 11am-5pm

### MARTIN 'WOLFIE' ADAMS

(World Darts Champion)  
Judging the 'Howling

### MICHELLE PAVER

(Children's author  
and UKWCT Patron)

- Collection of taxidermy: British birds & mammals
- Hedge laying demonstration
- British Deer Society
- Secret World wildlife rescue talks and animal display
- Mole catcher talk
- Labrador Lifeline
- Chiltern Hills Falconry demonstration

- Reindeer
- Wild Boar
- Otter talks
- Hug a Husky
- Archery
- Pond Dipping
- Bouncy castle
- Face painting
- BBQ and ice creams
- Refreshments
- Picnic tables

Sorry - no dogs  
allowed on site

### ADMISSION

Family Ticket (2 adults & 2 children up to age 12):

Advanced - £18, on the day - £25;

Adult Ticket: Advanced - £8, on the day - £10;

Child (age 3-12) and Senior Citizens: Advanced - £3, on the day - £5;

Children under 3: Free







## Valentine Walk

**Sunday, 13th February,  
10am or 1.30pm**

What could be a more romantic gift for an animal lover than to walk with wolves? Spend your special day at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust in the company of one of the world's most family-oriented species. It's breeding season for the wolves as well and they are very loyal and attentive to their mates at this special time of the year for lovers.

**£75 for two people.** Comes with a year's membership to the Trust. Includes gift. Booking essential.

## Pastel Workshop with Vic Bearcroft

**Monday, 4th October 2010**

- Introduction and talk by UKWCT staff, followed by a visit to meet the wolves.
- Photo opportunities; your very own reference material!
- All tuition and individual guidance throughout the day
  - All art materials provided
- A live auction of a limited edition wolf print, with all proceeds donated to UKWCT
  - Minimum age?

If you would like a brochure about the workshop, or any further details, please contact Vic or Liz on 01636 651699 or email [vicbearcroft@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:vicbearcroft@tiscali.co.uk)

## Photography Day

**Saturdays 6th November 2010 &  
29th January 2011, 9.30am-4.30pm**

Our exciting photography days start with a brief presentation setting the scene, informing you about wolves in general and the history of our wolf centre.

After a break, there is a short walk to the photography area, where you'll be able to take pictures of our wolves. Participants must be 18 years or older.

These days make an ideal present for those interested in wildlife photography, or those who wish to take advantage of a unique opportunity to get close to wolves.

Spaces are limited so book early. **£75 per person**

## Children's Wolf Walks

27th October & 29th December, 11am-1pm

Take a walk with the UKWCT wolves.  
This event includes a short talk and tour of the centre.

**£13 per person, 6 years +**  
Booking essential; limited parent spaces.



## HOWL'OWEEN PUMPKIN PARTY

**Thursday 28th 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+**

## CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

**Monday 20th 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! The event also includes a walk with the wolves.



**£13.50 per person, 6 years +**

## CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP with Michelle Paver

**Tuesday, 26th 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. Includes a wolf walk.

Michelle will also be available to sign copies of her books.  
Book early as this event is very popular  
**£15 per person, 8 years +**



# Wolf Awareness Week

17th - 23rd October, 2010

This October, in conjunction with our friends in the United States, the UK Wolf Conservation Trust is hosting a range of events for Wolf Awareness Week. This event started in 1996 to celebrate the importance and beauty of the wolf in our world.

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

### Sunday 17th October

#### Exhibitions and workshop with talks from:

**Claudio Sillero, Research Fellow with Oxford University's WildCRU.** Claudio will talk on the problems faced by the Ethiopian Wolf, one of the rarest wolf species in the world and what is currently being done to help. The Trust has donated over £9000 to the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme in recent years.

**Kirsty Peake, canine behaviourist and member of the Yellowstone research team,** who will be talking about Yellowstone's wolves.

**Richard Morley from the UK's only wolf charity 'Wolves and Humans Foundation'** on livestock protection methods and how we can help farmers live in harmony with large predators.

The event will include a walk with the wolves and a buffet lunch. The cost for this exclusive day is £75.00 per person; places are limited so early booking is essential.

### Monday 18th to Wednesday 20th October

The Trust will be open to the public from 10am till 4pm when you will be able to speak to our knowledgeable volunteers, watch and photograph the wolves, look at various exhibitions and even make a start on your Christmas shopping. Entry costs to the Trust are £6.00 for adults (non-members); £4.00 for members, children under 12 years and senior citizens; children under three have FREE entry.

#### In addition, the following events will run on:

### Tuesday 19th October

**Willow sculptor Caroline Gregson** will be creating a wolf from willow.

### Wednesday 20th October

The art workshop will be run by well known **wildlife artist Jane Pascoe-Absolom**. This workshop will run from 10.30am till 4pm and those involved will receive expert tuition and guidance from Jane throughout the day. The cost is £25.00 per person, not including art materials, and advanced booking essential.

More details will follow on this week of special events. Visit [www.ukwolf.org](http://www.ukwolf.org) for further information.

(Thursday 21st to Saturday 23rd are booked for private events.)