

Wolf Print

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Issue 44 Autumn Winter 2011/12



The arrival of the Arctic Wolves

Linda Paul on this
historic event

- Croatia project update
- Carter and Jenny Niemeyer write for Wolf Print

■ NEWS ■ EVENTS ■ MEDIA AND ARTS ■ REVIEWS



Editor's Letter

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of Wolf Print. Wow – I thought we'd had a busy spring but that was nothing compared to this summer. With the safe arrival of the Arctic cubs we all felt we could finally take a breath knowing all the new wolves were here safely, then we realised that 12 wolves are a lot of extra work!

Our trio of Arctic wolves have settled in well after their long journey, there is an article in this edition detailing their journey over for your interest on page 12. The Beenham cubs are growing quickly and have been taking part in the practice walks getting them ready to start meeting their public sometime this autumn; there is a full update on their progress in Wolf News on page 8.

In June the education team had the opportunity to represent the Trust for a third year at the Englefield Countryside Days for Schools. This is a two-day event during which the local Englefield estate opens up to local primary schools to enjoy an organised day of learning and memorable experiences. And what busy days they were: our small team spoke to approximately 1,500 students over the two days telling them about the work of the Trust.

To-date we have held two of our four open days planned for 2011, we have had an amazing turnout for both events but the record-breaking day was at the end of August when over 3,500 guests turned up to see the wolves! We are now in the run-up to our planned World Animal Day event on October 2nd and are looking forward to meeting some more of you then. Our younger supporters have had a variety of activities to attend over the summer holidays with events such as the Wolfy Picnic proving to be a huge success with children and wolves alike. The wolves certainly love their stuffed melons and the children seemed to enjoy watching their hard work being destroyed and devoured.

We are now looking forward to our autumn and winter events including our seminar, Wolf Awareness Week activities, half term pumpkin parties and Christmas Cracker event.

I really hope you all enjoy this edition of Wolf Print and will continue to follow us and the wolves in the coming years as our new generation of ambassadors start to meet their admirers.

Vicky Allison-Hughes

Education Officer / Assistant Senior Wolf Handler / Wolf Print Editor

Cover photo: Pukak by Tristan Findley

Wolf Print



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Aims of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

- To increase public awareness and knowledge of wild wolves and their place in the ecosystem.
- To provide opportunities for ethological and other research that may improve the lives of wolves both in captivity and in the wild.
- To provide wolf-related education programmes for young people and adults.
- To raise money to help fund wolf-related conservation projects around the world.

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Tsa Palmer and Sikko

We have had a special summer getting to know the Arctic wolves who arrived on 28th June from Canada, and watching them and the Beenham Pack develop.

As has been written elsewhere, our newest arrivals were completely unfazed by the change in their environment. They have lived up to everything I have read about Arctic wolves - their temperaments are so calm and affectionate. Wolves in the Arctic are unafraid of humans, as all wolves were originally. There has been no persecution of them in these regions, unlike in America or the rest of the world. Arctic scientists and photographers describe how they are inquisitive and come near to the camps, displaying no fear.

Massak, Sikko and Pukak are descended from cubs that, in 1976, were orphaned on Bathurst Island, in the Northwest Territories. Parc Safari in Quebec saved a few of these cubs and went on to breed several generations of the family. Roxy, our cubs' mother, is now 8 years old and has bred several litters. She has one cub from this year's litter that survived the harsh conditions and so stayed with her. There is also a two-year-old male Kujataa and a three year old female called Mikki. The alpha male and father of all these cubs is Gunzo, who is now 11 years old.

Several of Roxy and Gunzo's cubs have been imported to Europe - some to Germany and others to Belgium, I believe. However, we are currently the only facility in the UK to have Arctic wolves.

People ask: how have the Arctics adapted to summer in England? The answer is:

fine. On the day that they travelled from Parc Safari, the temperature was 30°C. Wolves are one of the most adaptable species on the planet as they live almost anywhere, from the Arctic to India and Africa. Massak, Sikko and Pukak have obviously got thick white fluffy puppy coats, but they manage to keep cool by frequently standing waist deep in the water

trough. On hot days they are given ice-cool fish and meat lollies to eat. They appear more compact than our own Beenham pack cubs and will not grow as tall. However, their shorter ears, thicker fur and stockier torsos are all designed to keep them warm in the Arctic's freezing temperatures that can fall to -50°C.

The Arctics spend a large part of the day lying in the shade of the trees in their large two-acre enclosure. Recently they have found hazelnuts and apples ripening, which has given them an interesting supplement to their diet. To reach these treats, they help themselves by standing on their hind legs. Under quarantine regulations, only ten people are currently allowed to go and interact with them. This means they have company every day and we spend time getting to know them. We also try to take them for walks on leads and collars around the enclosure a couple of times a week. Massak is the shyest of the three but they are all extremely friendly. The enclosure they were living in at Parc Safari was about a sixth of the size of the enclosure they enjoy now, so they are very content.

I had originally thought that when they came out of quarantine the new wolves could live with Nuka, Tundra and Tala. However that would not be a good idea! Nuka, Tundra and Tala are extremely

boisterous and spend a large part of their time testing out who is going to be alpha in the pack. They have typical feisty wolf temperaments - they would dominate the Arctics and teach them bad habits. So the two packs will be kept separate.

The plan is to divide the middle large enclosure and join it up to the bottom enclosure with an additional holding pen in between. We therefore hope to be able to move Motomo and Mai into this adjacent new enclosure in the New Year, thus allowing their current enclosure to be used by one set of the cubs. The young wolves will enjoy the pond and it will also mean that all the wolves can move enclosures again, which is so important for their enrichment.

We have a lot of events planned at the Trust this autumn and winter. The Wolf Barn is finished, so we can now easily accommodate seminars and workshops. The first of these events is World Animal Day on 2nd October, followed by an interesting and varied WOLF AWARENESS WEEK from 15th to 21st October. This will include art and willow workshops and our annual seminar on 16th October, with speakers Carter Niemeyer, Vladimir



Danny Kirby Hunter

Bologov, Troy Bennett, Gary Marvin and Claudio Sillero. It is going to be an exciting event. In the New Year we are looking forward to welcoming award-winning filmmaker and cinematographer couple Jamie and Jim Dutcher, both of whom will be speaking at the Trust on 28th January.

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these events.

Tsa Palmer

Kirsty Peake: new specialist advisor to the Trust

Kirsty Peake was born in Scotland. Her ambition as a young girl was to own a golden eagle and a wolf. She didn't quite achieve this, ending up instead with a parrot and a bunch of Lakeland Terriers!

She has always been fascinated by wolves and their behaviour and in particular how could early man 'tame' them to hunt for him. Her working life took her to Africa and she studied 'village dogs' and how they interacted within the village. A meeting with Professor Ray Coppinger introduced her to the wolf-village dog-domestic dog research that he and his wife Lorna had been carrying out for some years and as a result of that she became more

involved in studying wolf behaviour in relation to domestic dog behaviour.

After the re-introduction of the wolves to Yellowstone National Park, Kirsty and her husband Alan took small groups out to watch the wolves and study their behaviour. Now they have a house just 30 miles north of the Park and spend approximately six months of the year out there following their passion of wolf-watching.

A qualified companion animal behaviourist and trainer, Kirsty runs a behaviour practice in South Devon with two other behaviourists and a support team.



She is delighted to become a Special Adviser to the UKWCT and looks forward to being able to assist them in their projects. The UKWCT has come a long way over recent years and is now, in Kirsty's opinion, one of the leaders in the world of wolves offering research facilities and education opportunities.

Red Wolf Recovery

An estimated 110 to 130 wild red wolves range throughout the five-county red wolf restoration area in north-eastern North Carolina. Potential hybridization with resident coyotes and illegal gunshot mortality remain the two major threats to red wolves. This is the world's only wild population of this critically endangered top predator, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Red Wolf Recovery Program and the Red Wolf Coalition continue their efforts to ensure the long-term survival of these beautiful native animals and to engage the public in red wolf recovery. The effects of the recent massive storm, Hurricane Irene, are still being evaluated, but the Recovery Team and the Red Wolf Coalition are confident that the red wolves and other resident wildlife handled the wild weather successfully. The crop of spring 2011 wolf pups are old enough now to have been able to get to safe ground with their parents and other pack members.

The Red Wolf Coalition conducts red wolf education programs and teacher workshops and makes "discovery boxes" with artefacts and information available to formal and non-formal educators. In addition, the Red Wolf Coalition has secured funding to build a red wolf viewing facility in red wolf country so that visitors and residents can learn about red wolves and see them in their natural-habitat enclosure. Additionally, this attraction will bring much-needed tourist revenue to the struggling rural economy. This will, in turn, help residents to become invested in the value of having red wolves on the regional landscape.

The Red Wolf Coalition welcomes support from red wolf fans all around the world, and the organization is deeply appreciative of the UKWCT's efforts to bring awareness of red wolves to the public. Please learn more by visiting the web site at www.redwolves.com



Photo courtesy of Greg Koch, www.gkphotography.net

Trust News

Open days round-up



Above – one of our new Arctic wolf cubs showing off for photographer Stan Neptune.

Below – photographer Andi Hunte snapped UKWCT volunteer Rachael Goodier in a wolf costume



So far, we have had a fantastic turnout for our 2011 open days. In May, we had a lovely but slightly wet day with a turnout of approximately 1,600 people to see the wolves. Then for our August open day, with all 12 wolves now on show, we had a record-breaking turnout of over 3,500 people. They came to see all the wolves but specifically the Beenham cubs and the newest arrivals - our trio of Arctic wolves, the only ones in the UK.

People flocked from far and wide and the wolves took it all in their stride. Torak did his usual trick of welcoming the first groups through the gates, before disappearing off to sleep and only coming out as the last of the guests were leaving. Mosi kept the lines of visitors waiting to get in very amused by welcoming them with her usual happy squeaks as they came through the gate. Duma and Lunca are now old hands at open days. Motomo was a complete star, posing for photos all day while Mai slept in the sun. For the six cubs for whom it was their first open day, the

attention was rather overwhelming initially but by mid- afternoon they had got used to the crowds and to the lines of cameras, big and small, pointing at them.

Below – Motomo poses for Dee Neptune



The huskies and small animals were also very popular with visitors queuing to have their chance to hug a husky or hold a python. A huge thank you must go to all those that came to visit; it truly was an amazing day. Our team of volunteers were left stunned and a little hoarse after speaking to so many people about the Trust's work.

Our next open day is October 2nd for World Animal Day. The final one for 2011 is during Wolf Awareness Week on October 20th. Full details can be found on page 32 or on our website.



Photo: Andi Hunte

Donations Update

During the final quarter of 2011 the UK Wolf Conservation Trust has been able to donate an additional £3,000 to the Large Carnivore Centre in Bulgaria and £2,000 to the Red Wolf Coalition due to the success of the August open day. This money will allow these projects to continue their superb work. These are both projects we have been supporting for a number of years and their education projects are vital in improving the relationships between the wolves and people in their local communities.

With these sums included the Trust, with your help, donated a total of £15,850 during 2011 to worldwide projects helping wolves.

• Bulgaria – The Balkani Wildlife Society	£4,000
• Russia – Chisty Les Biological Station	£2,000
• Croatia – Zagreb Veterinary Institute	£3,000
• Ethiopia – Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Trust	£2,000
• USA – Red Wolf Coalition (see report on page 5)	£2,000
• Nepal – Friends of Nature Wolf Monitoring Project	£2,850

Photo: Vladimir Bologov

Ethiopian Wolf Expedition with Professor Claudio Sillero, EWCP.

Professor Claudio Sillero invites six to nine wolf supporters to travel with him on a very special expedition to Ethiopia to live with the rarest African carnivore – the only wolf in Africa.

12-22
November
2011



Claudio has almost single-handedly saved the Ethiopian wolf, conducted all the research, and continues to monitor and protect the species. Unlike other rare carnivores the wolves are easily found and observed; every day will be spent helping to monitor different wolf packs in the hinterland of Bale during the all-important breeding season. You will travel on horse-back (no previous experience required) and camp in the Afroalpine habitat of the wolves.

£5,650 per person. Everything is included and organised by Spencer Scott Travel (ATOL 3417). www.spencerscotttravel.com

Contact: Liz on tel. 01825 714310 email: info@spencerscott.co.uk

Wolf News

Update on the Trust Wolves

Already it seems as though summer has come and gone. The heather is out, the blackberries are ripening on the bushes and the bracken is turning. Our wolves have enjoyed their summer, with hormones at their lowest ebb all has been peace and harmony in the enclosures! While the wolves have been settled and calm, the staff and volunteers have been extremely busy caring for two sets of cubs as well as our older wolves, a demanding but thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding experience.

The Beenham Pack



The Beenham Pack – Nuka, Tundra and Tala – are now four months old and growing fast. From being small bundles of fur whose only interests were bottles of milk and sleeping, they have very much developed their own personalities and distinctive markings.

They love to go out on training walks with their handlers to explore everything, sniffing at the fascinating scents of all the other wildlife that lives around the site. It was a great day when they plucked up the courage to go into the stream! At first it was very tentative but soon they were splashing about happily, stalking and catching leaves and twigs that float in the current.

Tala, the most adventurous, jumped into the deepest part of stream without thinking - and suddenly discovered that she could swim! Tala has the striking colouring of her mother Mai, black with

an attractive shading of grey. She is a feisty little wolf and extremely intelligent; she knows what she wants and goes all out to get it. Tala started life as the smallest of the three cubs but has rapidly caught up with her siblings and is now a sturdy and healthy wolf.

Nuka still holds his place as the biggest cub, as befits a male. He is handsome and has the markings of his father Motomo. Nuka is fairly laid back and after he has greeted his handlers he will often go and lie under the trees, letting his sisters get on with their play-fights and greetings. If he wants to join in, though, he will and takes his turn at being both dominant and submissive. Nuka is going to be a big wolf just like Motomo.

Tundra seems to have inherited her mother's disposition and her father's markings. She is affectionate towards

her handlers and very vocal, squeaking and whining in a most appealing manner while she is being made a fuss of. Tundra broke some small bones in her foot and had to wear a cast for 3 weeks. She coped with this admirably and didn't allow herself to be dominated by her siblings, joining in the play fights with gusto and letting Tala especially know that she was not to be trifled with. Perhaps the cast came in handy as a club to help with this! Tundra is recovering well now the cast has been removed and will join Nuka and Tala on their walks around the field.

Photos:

*Above – The Beenham pack
by Danny Kirby Hunter*

Top Right – Mosi & Torak by Tristan Findley

Right – Mai & Motomo by Tristan Findley

Mosi and Torak

Mosi and **Torak** have been enjoying their public walks again since the end of the breeding season. Although neither wolf will do meet and greets with visitors, they make a very photogenic pair and our visitors are always impressed to see the two wolves walking together.

Torak is tall and majestic, with his aloof demeanour contrasting beautifully with the smaller, vivacious **Mosi**. All our wolves except the two sets of cubs have lost their winter coats for the warmer weather and present an entirely different picture to visitors than that of a wolf in its full winter coat. Torak, being quite short-coated is a wonderful sight as he walks with his handlers, the muscles visible under the coat moving like a well oiled machine as he strides out, seemingly without effort. Torak is a friendly wolf to those he likes and trusts, but he is now five years old and socialised male wolves are known to narrow their circle of friends as they get older. He now has a dedicated team of special handlers!



Mosi has retained her mischievous ways and will take advantage of any situation if allowed to do so. She doesn't seem to realise that she is now an aunt and should moderate her behaviour. Mosi shows great interest in the Beenham Pack as they are walked around the field,

as does Torak. Mosi will make noises at them through the fence which the cubs find interesting and she will accompany the small pack along the fence line as long as she can. Mosi is and always will be a character and she is a great favourite with handlers and visitors alike.

Mai and Motomo

The proud parents of the Beenham pack, **Mai** and **Motomo**, continue to be a very happy couple, playing and chasing around their enclosure or keeping an eye on their cubs that now live in the adjoining area.

Motomo's confidence has increased a lot and he has been seen play-bowing to the cubs through the fence and then pretending to chase them. The cubs think this is great fun and rush around madly until Mai comes along and calms everything down.

Mai is happy for the cubs to be taken on their training walks and she strolls along the fence until they are safely in the field. When Tundra was unable to go with her siblings because of the cast, Mai would follow Tala and Nuka until they were in the field and then come back to lie beside the fence,

watching over Tundra until the others returned. A couple of handlers always stayed with Tundra but Mai obviously takes her role seriously.

Motomo, being our only unsocialised wolf, cannot come out on walks but Mai now comes out regularly again and is happy to be with the people that she loves. Ever the attentive mother, if she hears her cubs making a noise while she is on a walk, she will demand to be taken back to check that all is well. Mai still loves to be scratched and fussed through

the fence and will usually stay still for this attention as long as the handlers are willing to continue. However, Motomo sometimes takes umbrage at this and will call her back silently, standing and staring at her intently until she leaves the humans and returns to him in a submissive posture, as if to apologise. He doesn't chastise her, just sniffs her all over. The interaction between them is fascinating to watch but the most important thing is that Mai and Motomo are such a well-matched pair, and truly happy in their partnership.





The Arctic Pack - Pukak, Massak and Sikko - have settled in to their new home so well you would think they had been born at the Trust.

It was an exciting day when they arrived on 28th June to a small welcoming committee. There was some concern that they would be stressed by the flight from Canada and the vital, but time-consuming, clearance through Animal Control at Heathrow airport. Eventually, the special van arrived and there was a great sense of drama and a collective holding of breath while the doors of their travelling crates were slowly lifted... and out came the first Arctic wolf cubs in the UK, one by one. Stress is obviously not a word they know because they immediately started investigating their new area and examining the admiring faces peering at them through the quarantine fencing.

Their calm, relaxed demeanour is testament to the excellent way they were socialised at their birthplace, Parc Safari in Quebec.

The cubs had to be hand-raised from birth because they were born during the worst snowstorm for decades and were very poorly indeed when staff at the Parc dug them out of the snow.

Pukak is the joker of the pack and is very affectionate. He is the first to greet his handlers with small, happy noises and lots of licks. He has the colouring of a typical Arctic wolf cub - white mixed in with grey and shadings of light brown. Pukak loves his food and will get cross with his siblings if they get too close when he is eating. He is a wolf who is full of fun and happy to see everybody. He will often start a game of chase if he thinks his brother and sister are getting

The Arctic Pack

too much attention from handlers and when they are both rushing around, he will sneak back for some more fuss.

Sikko is smaller than her brothers, with a fine, delicate face surrounded by a mass of white fur. She is very similar to Pukak in that she loves to greet her handlers with a sometimes overwhelming display of affection! All the cubs love to jump in the water trough but Sikko was a little clumsy about this at first. The logistics of getting four legs over the brim and into the water confused her somewhat and one back leg would be left dangling outside while she hopped around in the water, working out why she didn't seem to have the correct number of legs.

Massak is the most wary of the three and the last to come up for a greeting. Once he has established who is there, he rushes up and the handlers are treated to the same exuberant greeting. Massak's colouring is a little different in that his coat has more of a light brown tinge to it. This makes identification a little easier for those who observe them from outside the fencing! He also has a wider muzzle than his siblings which gives him a very distinguished air.

The Arctics are six months old now and, as they mature, the cubs' coats will change to the typical white of the Arctic wolf. The quarantine period will be completed at the beginning of 2012 which will be an exciting time for everyone.

Duma and Lunca

Duma and **Lunca** continue to live in harmony together, except at feeding time when they must be fed separately, otherwise Lunca would eat all Duma's food! Apart from that, the two senior wolves of the Trust seem to appreciate each other's company and spend the



Lunca by
Paula French

days when they are not working lying around in their enclosure or watching what is happening on site. Their area is almost opposite the food shed so they know when their dinner is being prepared. Duma will wake up, stretch and saunter over to fence to wait but Lunca will trot up and down the fence line impatiently, willing you to hurry up. Duma has always been a wonderful ambassador wolf and loves her work meeting the public. Lunca is always very eager to go out on a walk with her and will be happy to meet a few people; however, she gets restless quite quickly. Lunca's eyesight is deteriorating but she copes extremely well and uses her nose to guide her. Sometimes she will gently

bump into something on a walk but carries on regardless. It is wonderful that our two oldest wolves have company in their later years. Duma has someone to show off to and Lunca has someone to be her boss - except at feeding time of course!



Duma by Chris Odell

The Arctic Pack – Pukak, Massak and Sikko – make themselves at home at the Trust...



Photographs on this page by Danny Kirby Hunter, Tsa Palmer, Darren Prescott and Jason Siddall

...whilst the Beenham Pack – Nuka, Tundra and Tala – continue to entertain us





Arrival of the Arctic Wolves

by Linda Paul, Senior Handler

AT LONG LAST OUR BEAUTIFUL ARCTIC WOLVES ARRIVED WITH US ON TUESDAY 28TH JUNE 2011.

This story started some twelve months ago when Parc Safari in Canada offered to donate their next born litter of cubs to us to enhance our education programme. We waited with baited breath for confirmation the cubs had been born and it was with great relief I received a call from Parc Safari advising of their birth on 8th March 2011.

Once the cubs are born is when the hard work really starts. The first order of business was to ensure one enclosure on site would be approved for quarantine purposes. Work had to be undertaken to facilitate approval and this work was completed and approval given in April. In order to move the cubs we

We had taken the decision that to ensure a smooth transition for the cubs from Parc Safari to the UKWCT: One other volunteer (Angela Barrow) and I would fly over to Canada a couple of days before the cubs' travel, giving us time to spend with the animals and, in my case, re-acquaint myself with them before the trip.

Saturday 25th June

We arrived at Montreal Airport around 9pm and were met by Nathalie Santerre (Chief of Operations Carnivores & Primates, Parc Safari). Nathalie whisked us off to Hemmingford to check into our hotel. Although we were both really tired we found it hard to sleep that night as we were so excited about seeing the cubs the following day. Even though I had spent a week with them in April, I knew they would have changed so much and I just couldn't wait to see how big they had become or how their personalities had developed.

Sunday 26th June

We were both up at 6am; neither of us could

sleep and the excitement was building! After some breakfast we left to get to Parc Safari and see our now 3½-month-old cubs. Walking through Parc Safari takes some time as it's an enormous facility. We had a chance to admire the white lions, tigers and hyenas on route to the cubs. Having built ourselves up for this moment we were not to be disappointed and the rest of the day was spent playing and walking with the cubs and generally having

a relaxing time with them before they started their long journey the following day.

I noticed that the cubs' basic personalities hadn't really changed and their individual character traits were just a bit more obvious now they were a little older.

Sikko is a proper little girl, quite dainty, loves cuddles and is very playful. She's also the smallest of the three wolves with delicate facial features.

Pukak was always the most affectionate of the three and is now very, very affectionate towards his human friends. So much so that he just can't get close enough to you and he almost needs to be peeled off your lap!

Massak was always the loner and takes longer than the other two to decide if he likes someone, but once he does, he's incredibly loving. He's also the largest of the pack.

All the wolves are various shades of white, beige, grey and also a little black. Their coats change during their first two years of life and it can take up to two moults to produce the snow white coat associated with an Arctic wolf. As with all wolves, the Arctics have the black thumbprint (denoting a scent gland) approximately one third of the way down their tail and this thumbprint will remain black and stay with them forever.

Monday 27th June

Air cargo movement of all animals must to be done in IATA-approved wooden crates. Being placed in crates can obviously be stressful for any animal. We had decided, therefore, that as soon as the crates had



had to ensure a CITES Export Permit was issued in Canada which then allowed us to apply for our Import Licence and CITES Import Permit. Once this paperwork was issued we then had to provide all documentation to the airline for travel; the travel approval was received mid-June and at that point we were all systems go!

been built they would be delivered to Parc Safari so that the cubs could be introduced to them and be allowed to sleep and eat in them to keep their journey as stress-free as possible.

Their journey to the airport was to start at 2pm. At 1.30 we started to play with them around the crates and all three decided to go straight into their own crate and settle down; I couldn't have been happier! All the animals were comfortable and relaxed which was a great relief.

A little later than planned – at 2.30pm – we were on our way.

On arrival at Montreal Airport we had to check the cubs into the British Airways World Cargo Centre whilst all the Customs exit documentation was approved. At this point we had a heart-stopping moment when we were told there was one document missing! However, once Canadian Customs rechecked the paperwork they agreed everything was in order and the cubs were free to travel. The relief we all felt at this point was incredible!

By this time it was around 7pm and we had to say goodbye to the cubs in the Cargo Centre to get ourselves checked in for the flight home. Once on board the flight the British Airways cabin staff were very intrigued to learn they had three live wolves in the cargo hold of the plane and went to great lengths to ensure we knew what was happening in the hold and how comfortable the cubs were!

Tuesday 28th June

We arrived at Heathrow Airport at 9.45am. As soon as the aircraft came to a standstill I literally shot out of my seat carrying my hand luggage and made my way to Heathrow's Animal Reception Centre to check on the arrival of the cubs. Waiting for the cubs to arrive was a nerve-racking time. The only thing on my mind was wanting to see them physically and check they were ok after their flight. The ARC staff were incredibly understanding and made me very comfortable until the cubs arrived. Once in the Centre the animals

have to be checked over by a vet to ensure they are in a good state of health and their microchips are also checked. The vet was very impressed with the animals' health and general demeanour. We all agreed that the animals had travelled incredibly well and that I was probably more frazzled than they were! As the ARC is a quarantined area the vet suggested I allow the animals out of the crates and into a kennel as it can take some time for the Customs paperwork to be cleared.

All the cubs were in great form and delighted to finally get some cuddles; even a terrible thunder and lightning storm couldn't dampen their spirits (or mine)!

The certificate authorising acceptance in the UK was issued at 2pm. Now the formalities were completed we could get on our way to Beenham. My only concern at this point was that having had a few hours out of the crates, how on earth was I going to get them back in? I needn't have worried; each wolf trotted very happily into its own crate and it took less than five minutes to get them all sorted out then we were finally on the last leg of our journey to the UKWCT.

At 3pm the first Arctic wolves in the UK were released into their new enclosure and seemed to wonder what all the fuss was about! They happily checked out their new home and played with each other (and us!) before being given bones and settling down to have a well-deserved chomp!

A project such as this cannot be undertaken without the support of a great team and on behalf of the UKWCT I would like to thank:

WB Global Logistics for their handling of the transportation of the animals in Canada (and for keeping me calm when we thought there was paperwork missing!)

British Airways for their thoughtful manner in handling the animals.

Animal Reception Centre (Heathrow) for looking after

all of us so well for what seemed like an eternity!

Specialist Wildlife Services and *James Cargo* for the transportation of the wolves within the UK.



And finally... *Parc Safari* for giving us these wonderful animals and spending so much time and effort hand-rearing and socialising the animals since birth. The wolves' easy dispositions are a testament to the wonderful job done by Nathalie & her team in their formative months.

Due to UK quarantine regulations the animals have to be kept in isolation for six months with only authorised personnel having access to them. This quarantine period will be over at the end of December 2011 at which point the animals will become the UKWCT's newest ambassador wolves and we very much look forward to introducing them to you in January 2012.

Linda Paul
Senior Handler





Life and behaviour of wolves:

Built for the kill? Wolf diet and predatory adaptations

Pete Haswell

From Jack London's man-eaters in "White Fang" to Mowat's mice-eaters in "Never Cry Wolf", much confusion and misinformation has long surrounded the hunting and dietary behaviours of wolves. Only in recent years has light truly been shed on the subject, and only through direct observations and hard science are we learning more about what wolves eat and how.

Wolf and prey flesh composition are similar and as such are nutritionally exchangeable. Providing that entire carcasses and a range of organs, bone and muscle tissues are consumed, all essential nutrients will be obtained and no deficiencies are experienced.

Estimates generated from basal metabolic rate and the energetic requirements of wild wolves puts consumption from 2.5 to 6 kg per wolf per day. A minimum daily requirement is estimated at 3.25kg per wolf per day. Productivity and survival have been found to decline when food availability falls below this level. Captive wolves can be maintained on a much smaller diet of 1.1 to 1.7 kg per wolf per day due to the reduced energetic requirements in comparison to their wild cousins.

Wild observations put food availability per wolf per day at 5.4kg in North America and 5.6kg in Eastern Poland. The proportion of this food availability lost to scavengers or cached for future consumption must however be subtracted from these estimates. The loss of food to scavengers is primarily dependent on pack size. Smaller packs tend to have higher food availability but take more time to handle and consume a carcass, allowing more opportunity to scavengers. Schmidt and Mech (1997) hypothesise that the ultimate explanation for group hunting in wolves is that breeding pairs can efficiently direct toward their offspring the short term surplus from kills that would be otherwise lost to scavengers.

Wolves are flexible, opportunistic feeders. Prey items range in size from 1 to 1000 kg, consisting of mice, rabbit, fish and birds through to deer, beaver, sheep and bison amongst many others. The wolf's diet greatly depends on availability and experience with particular prey items. Food sources may change throughout the year and prey-switching may occur due to changes in circumstance. This can occur negatively if wild prey stocks fall and switching to livestock occurs. Wolves do not always kill to obtain sustenance. They scavenge prolifically from wild and agricultural carcasses and even garbage sites. To a small extent wolves also forage, consuming berries, herbs and grass which are utilised to assist intestinal cleansing.

Wolves and their prey have coevolved in what is known as an 'evolutionary arms race'. Successful predators, and prey that are more adept at avoiding predation, are more likely to survive and pass on genes for beneficial adaptations. A positive feedback loop exists, leading to the specialisation of both predator and prey alike.



Wolves have a number of physical and behavioural adaptations allowing them to successfully source enough food items to survive and reproduce. The wolf's predatory lifestyle and carnivorous diet revolves around capturing prey and consuming them as quickly as possible. The wolf's ability to survive in a wide range of environmental conditions and predate upon a large variety of animals is made possible by its generalist carnivore dentition and digestive processes.



Canids usually dispatch prey with multiple opportunistic bites of a shallower depth and less precision than the deep single penetrating bites of felids. Wolf claws dulled by long distance travelling are unlike the retractable sharp claws of felids who hunt by ambush. Claws therefore do not play a role in the take-down of prey. A wolf skull does not reflect the extreme specialisation seen in other carnivores. It does not have the robust premolars, jaw and associated muscles of the hyena used for bone crushing, or the large, closing muscles and solidity of felid skulls. It also lacks the hinge adaptations of mustelids permitting the jaw to be locked around large, active prey. A wolf's jaw is connected in such a way as to help prevent dislocation whilst it undergoes severe stress in the act of clinging and pulling down moving prey. The skull is long, allowing maximal opening. Bone is reinforced with diagonal lines crossing the skull in order to help resist fractures.

Wolves are flexible, opportunistic feeders.

digestion is inefficient due to the large quantities of protein ingested which likely restricts enzyme function. Early scats are popular with ravens at kill sites. Easily digestible food passes through the digestive tract more slowly than food with indigestible components. Wolves have been observed to mix their food with indigestible components such as hair. This permits rapid emptying of the gut and further feeding thus reducing loss to scavengers. Hide and bones are last to be consumed and the degree to which these are consumed is a good indicator of food availability. Pack size also influences carcass utilisation. Hair and bone are the only dietary constituents not entirely digestible; hair acts as roughage and is also ingeniously wrapped around bone fragments in order to prevent damage when the wolf passes faecal matter.

Wolf jaws contain a great variation of tooth types. Incisors and canines are the tools utilised in subduing prey. Canines puncture and grapple assisted by incisors. These teeth are subjected to enormous stress and the elliptical cross section of the canine is designed to resist the strong front-to-back forces exerted upon it when clinging to prey. Incisors are positioned in front of the canines to permit separate functioning in nipping and pulling live prey, removing tissues from dead prey and in handling non-struggling food items such as berries or small mammals. Carnassial teeth are primarily utilised in the consumption of food; they are self-sharpening with upper and lower blades shearing past each other, trapping and cutting meat and hide when the jaw closes. The molar's grinding surface is adapted to crushing and grinding although not as reinforced or specially shaped for bone crushing as in other carnivores.

Wolves possess relatively short guts because their carnivorous diet is highly digestible. Saliva facilitates swallowing and little mechanical breakdown of food in the mouth occurs. This permits quick maximal intake and minimal loss to scavengers or other pack members. Wolves usually feed upon body organs and muscle first. Early

Wolves store surplus food energy as fat, which composes 15% of overall weight. Wolves are often food-limited so typically exist at the lower end of fat content, often with depleted bone marrow fat stores; a precursor to starvation. Wolves have the ability to survive for long periods with low food consumption. In food shortage, weight is lost daily but wolves have the ability to alter enzyme systems according to diet and can recover from weight lost during fasting. Wolves are clearly adapted for a feast and famine diet but we still know little of the bodily functions that deal with the starvation process.

A wolf's senses make it a highly skilled predator and scavenger. The sense of smell is perhaps the wolves' most formidable tool. The surface area of a wolf's nose receptive to smell is 14 times that of our own and up to 100 times more sensitive. Wolf sight is equal to our own but their night vision is far more developed. Sight is utilised in more open areas whereas smell predominates in wooded areas. Wolf hearing allows determination of noises as far as six miles away in forested areas and ten miles in open tundra. Senses are used

both in locating or tracking prey and determining which item can be caught and killed.

Wolves have great endurance and highly efficient respiratory systems allowing long-distance pursuits. Body composition and gait are developed to further efficiency. A slender frame, with long legs and narrow chest promote a streamlined motion covering large distances. Large feet allow effective traversing of snow. Muscle composition consists of slow-twitch long-distance fibres for pursuit and fast-twitch fibres for the rush and the final take-down permit the wolves' style of hunting.



Behaviours involved in the processes of obtaining prey, feeding patterns and geographic habits are another evolutionary adaptation to wolves' predatory lifestyle but require their own article for discussion.

It becomes clear that wolves are highly adapted for their generalist carnivorous diet and opportunistic hunting activity. Eons of evolutionary progression have led to this marvellous and efficient yet adaptable animal, making it one of the most successful species in the northern hemisphere prior to man's influence. This marks it as one of nature's great survivors.

Pete Haswell, BSc Hons Environmental Science (Biodiversity and Conservation)

Pete is currently working as a Wolf Field Technician with Defenders of Wildlife in the Northern Rockies, USA and is collaborating with Josip Kusak on a project the UKWCT supports in Croatia.



UK WOLF CONSERVATION TRUST

2012



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December 2012		
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July: Motomo, by Martin Hunte

June 2012

May 2012

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July 2012

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Monday Spring Bank Holiday (UK)
Holiday (Rep. Ireland)
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Tuesday Queen's Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday (UK)
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Sunday Father's Day (UK)
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© Jason Siddall – Tala
Thursday Summer Solstice – Longest Day

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Notes:

Project Update: Six

Wolves are everywhere. How we view them depends on how much we know about them and how much their existence affects our lives.

Project founder and co-ordinator, Josip Kusak, charts the progress of this project which is supported by the UKWCT.

Green bridge Konjščica (150m) was built in 2008 and is one of ten green bridges built in Croatia on the highway to the south (Dalmatia).

In the early 1990s, the only thing known about wolves in Croatia, apart from general biological facts, was how many were found dead or killed as pests. This number was steadily decreasing, indicating that there were fewer wolves to find. A group of enthusiasts created the 'Croatian Wolf Group'; their only goal was to change the legal status of wolf from pest to protected species.

We were all surprised when Croatian wolves became protected after only one year of our pro-wolf campaign. One challenge was addressed; then a dozen others emerged. The number of claims for damage compensation rose exponentially in the first few years after the protection. 90% of them came from Dalmatia, where wolves were not known to exist! Why not from other traditional wolf areas? Are there really wolves or are stray dogs causing the damage? Do wolves have any other choice of prey beside livestock? How many wolves are there? Is the number growing or are more people aware of the compensation? What is the size of pack territory? What do their activity patterns and habitat-use look like? Are these parameters different for different parts of

wolf range in Croatia? What are main threats for wolves: illegal killing, traffic, diseases? Will new highways fragment wolf population and what could be done to mitigate this treat?

The number of illegally killed wolves rose 3-5 times after the protection. Should we be more focused on people management? Why do hunters dislike wolves? Can we change this? Where else can we expect wolves to show up in the future? These were questions needing urgent answers to maintain protective measures.

We collected information, analyzing damage reports and the circumstances of wolf attacks. It was not enough. I went to Dalmatia in 1996 and implemented research there for over four years. I interviewed locals, visited wolf attack sites, surveyed livestock guarding methods and radio-tracked wolves. Wolves had re-colonized during war times. This happened suddenly; people believed helicopters brought them in. No one could convince them it was not true!

Conditions in Dalmatia perpetuated wolf-related problems. Villages were inhabited by elderly people with small flocks (10-40) of sheep. Animals were grazed in dense Mediterranean chaparral with scarce water sources. They could not afford a guard dog. Wolves adapted. They hid in dense vegetation during the day, away from houses and close to water sources, then came in at night for unguarded livestock. If they were unable to make a kill they

would move from one illegal garbage/slaughter dump to another. They rarely hunted wild prey. Small numbers of wild boar were heavily hunted all year round. Boars were considered 'good' but wolves as 'bad'. Locals killed them whenever possible and left them on electric poles, at crossroads etc. Wolves were hated, and those who protected them, hated more.

I experienced verbal and physical attacks: pierced tyres, broken glass on my car. One livestock owner said: 'I would like to meet those who proposed wolf protection! If they would stand between the wolf and me - I would shoot through them to kill a wolf!' This was the local situation. In 1999 we published a Temporary Wolf Management Plan. Our good ideas and solutions were not accepted. Alistair Bath, a Canadian Professor and human dimension expert in managing natural resources, explained that we must involve representatives of so called 'interest groups' when forming any wolf management plan.

Meanwhile, we monitored the wolves, collected/examined dead ones and studied potential wolf ranges and movements, habitat use and activity in the Northern part (Gorski kotar) of Croatia. The area is 80% forest; there are wild ungulates but almost no livestock or garbage dumps. This study lasted nine years, with 19 tracked wolves from three packs. Wolves in Gorski kotar need about 350 km² per pack, and move about 4 km (measured as a straight line) in 24 hours. In Dalmatia they needed only 150 km² and moved only 2km/24h. On average there were 5.5 wolves in the Gorski kotar packs and average wolf density was 1.7/100km². We collected between 10 and 15 dead wolves annually. Thorough examination of carcasses at the veterinary faculty in Zagreb revealed the



One of the discovered wolf-dog hybrids

teen years of wolf research and conservation in Croatia.

prevalence of rabies (5%), trichinellosis (27.3%) and the first-in-the-world documented case of fatal visceral leishmaniasis. Out of 149 genetically examined 'wolves', we recently discovered five wolf-dog hybrids: all from female wolf and male dog. All hybrids were from Dalmatia, indicating that the social structure of wolf populations is unstable, most likely due to high mortality. What does this mean for conservation, the wolf population dynamic and its 'purity'?

Two new highways were constructed through the main portion of the large carnivore's core area in Croatia. The first (northern highway) was built from 1996 to 2004. The second, starting at the junction from the northern highway and leading to the southwest, connects all the way to Dubrovnik. Both highways cut through the most forested part of Croatia and through bear, wolf and lynx ranges. Situated in mountains, these highways already have numerous viaducts and tunnels that help maintain the habitat continuity. To further improve the permeability of highways, eleven green overpasses, one tunnel and five viaducts were added to already-planned crossing structures.



Processing a tranquilised wolf.

When highway contractors were planning these highways we had thirty years of large carnivore research (first bear radio-collared in 1981, wolf in 1998) and arguments/recommendations prepared to preserve habitat continuity. Monitoring of the newly constructed green bridges showed 10 to 15 large mammals crossing daily! Green bridges placed in the right places mean the habitat continuity can be preserved. Studies revealed various misuses such as walking, hunting, driving over green bridges and/or letting the livestock and dogs use them. We found a strong negative correlation between humans and animals crossing. Human activity at green bridges should be at least minimized by enforcing existing legislation.

In Croatia we have a bylaw on wild animal crossings. Regulations should be publicly posted and enforced. To make an effective wolf management plan for wolves that would be accepted and implemented we workshopped with representatives from the interest groups. They were invited to discuss the future of the wolf in Croatia.

Research was presented to participants and used as the foundation for the discussion. Initially, we all agreed that we wanted to save the wolves for future generations. The rest of the time (seven two-day workshops), we were discussing in small mixed groups, pinning ideas and comments on flip-chart sheets that eventually covered the walls. Human dimension professionals moderated the wolf workshops, to ensure that we did not get off-track. By the end of 2005 we had a new plan that was immediately implemented.

Currently, we have a program to help farmers by donating guard dogs and electric fencing. Every year our 'damage inspectors' undergo training from LC researchers so that they can distinguish types of predator attack on prey. We also have a 'large carnivores' emergency team.' This team acts where there is any unusual behavior of large carnivores (repeatedly appearing close to people, not being afraid, or suspected of rabies etc.) or when the animal is in trouble (wounded, trapped etc.).

Monitoring of wolf population numbers and trend is done continuously. Monitoring methods were developed by wolf researchers and are based on research results. Hunters even participate: they agreed during workshops to do snow track counting once per year, after the first snow. As a trade-off, hunters are permitted to legally shoot certain number of wolves. Subsequently they are now part of the management process; we have no more disagreement on how many wolves are in Croatia. All wolf mortality (legal quota and all other causes) is recorded to ensure it does not exceed 15% of the population size. Recent challenges to this system are that some hunters ask to be



Josip gave many talks at schools inside and outside the wolves' range.

paid for the snow track counting. They are still willing to shoot quota approved wolves but the same hunters would also like to sell hunting rights. These issues will have to be addressed in the future. It is much easier to count wolves than to count their prey. Hunters always complain that there is not enough deer for both wolves and hunters, that they are competing for the same prey. An objective, reliable, acceptable and applicable method for counting of deer is needed: a new challenge for researchers.

The wolf population grew from about 50 individuals in the early 1990s to over 220 wolves in 2010. Their range was also expanding. During the last five years, we had to travel to different sides of the edges of wolf range in Croatia. We gave presentations, answered questions and explained wolf and conservation facts, calming down people's concerns about wolves that suddenly showed up in the area. I hope to travel to more and more areas of Croatia for this purpose and to give more wolf presentations, particularly in schools.

Josip Kusak

Josip works for the Biology Department of the University of Zagreb Veterinary Facility. He specialises in large carnivores, looking at habitat analysis, predation, attacks on livestock and animal mortality through the use of GIS and radio-telemetry. He was responsible for the development of the carnivore management plan in Croatia and works to develop legislative framework for the conservation and management of large carnivores at domestic and EU level. He is also involved in the development of methodology for the monitoring of large carnivores in NATURA 2000 sites.



Vladimir Bologov, Chisty Les Biological Station, Russia.

wolves of the world

news from
around the
world

Protection sought for rare Alaskan Wolf

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS are again seeking protection for the Alexander Archipelago wolf (*Canis lupus ligoni*) which is a rare subspecies of the gray wolf with a limited worldwide range confined to the old-growth forests of Southeast Alaska. "This unique wolf is a symbol of America's rapidly dwindling wilderness" said Greenpeace forest campaigner Larry Edwards of Sitka. "We've got clear evidence that the Alexander Archipelago wolf is in trouble. This wonderful creature is a key part of Alaska's natural environment and it deserves official protection."

Heavily reliant on old-growth forests, the Alexander Archipelago wolf dens in the root systems of very large trees and primarily hunts Sitka black-tailed deer, which are dependent on high-quality, old-growth forests of the region, in particular for winter survival. A long history of unsustainable clearcut logging on the Tongass National Forest and private and state-owned lands has devastated much of the wolf's old-growth habitat on the islands of Southeast Alaska. The ongoing scale of old-growth logging imperils the wolf by further reducing and fragmenting the remaining forest stands, to the detriment of the wolf and its deer prey. Petitioners say logging operations on the Tongass also result in more road-building, which makes wolves vulnerable to hunting and trapping. They also say that as many as half the wolves killed on the Tongass are killed illegally, and hunting and trapping are occurring at

unsustainable levels in many parts of the region. Despite scientific evidence showing that Alexander Archipelago wolf populations cannot survive in areas with high road density, the petitioners say the Forest Service continues to build new logging roads in the Tongass National Forest. Road density is especially a concern to the Center for Biological Diversity and Greenpeace on heavily fragmented Prince of Wales Island and neighboring islands, home to an important population of Alexander Archipelago wolves.

"We already know what it will take to save Alexander Archipelago wolves: It's a simple matter of not building new logging roads in areas where wolves are already getting hammered and of ending unsustainable logging practices," said Rebecca Noblin, Alaska director of the Center for Biological Diversity. "Unfortunately, the Forest Service seems more interested in kowtowing to the timber industry than in preserving our forests for future generations."

In August 2011, the Court of Appeal overturned four decisions by the US Forest Service to allow logging in Alaska's Tongass National Forest, the nation's largest national forest. At issue was the assessment of deer habitat, the primary prey of the rare Alexander Archipelago wolf, or "Islands Wolf."

www.sitnews.us/0811News/081211/081211_petition_wolf.html

Commission suspends Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Program

THE NEW MEXICO STATE State Game Commission voted unanimously at a meeting in June to suspend the Mexican Wolf Reintroduction program in the state. "I would like to suspend it for a while; let's see how it lays out," said Commissioner Thomas 'Dick' Salopek. "Both sides have been unhappy about the wolf recovery program. We have been keeping peace between all people. So, you know what, if both sides are unhappy, then let's suspend it and let the federal government do it. I am frustrated at both sides, especially with the federal government."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department - following the requirements of the federal Endangered Species Act - looks for partners throughout the state to protect endangered species, like the Mexican wolf. The New Mexico State Game Commission has been a partner to protect the Mexican wolf since 1999. The meeting, which for the first time this year was held in Las Cruces, sought to gather public opinion to help guide the state's wolf protection policy.

About 50 Mexican wolves are spread over New Mexico and Arizona.

Dan Williams, public information officer for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish - a partner in coordinating the Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Program - said it was a "balanced" public comment session. "But we will no longer be participating in the Mexican Wolf reintroduction program," he said. "It's an argument that's been going on since 1999." June 30 will be last day the New Mexico Game and Fish Department participates.

The sentiment expressed at the meeting was passionate. "Hunting is under fire from every front," said Tom Klunker, director of the Southwest New Mexico Outfitters. He said the federal Endangered Species Act was used as a way to further a hidden agenda. "It's not about the endangered wolf, or the spotted owl," he said. Environmentalists "use that, very successfully, as a tool to remove humans from the land. They view the wilderness as something aesthetic, like a utopian playground. They want humans out of those areas."



Gary Borland California Wolf Center

Michael J. Robinson, a conservation advocate with the Center for Biological Diversity, bristled at that characterization.

"That's paranoid ranting," he said. "Animals, like the Mexican wolf, that are on the brink of extinction play an important role in the balance of nature. New Mexicans - both urban and rural - support the recovery of this beautiful, intelligent and social animal. These animals have been gravely persecuted." Carol Fugagli, of Cliff, N.M., said she and her son were recently camping in the

Gila Hot Springs when they "heard the mysterious and beautiful" howl of a wolf.

"I instantly got chills of excitement and was stunned and filled with the beauty of the sound," she said. "Unfortunately I have not heard the wolf cry again, but I don't want this to be a distant memory for my son. I want him to grow in an environment where there is a full spectrum of biological diversity so he can share similar experiences with his children. "I feel the wolves are a highly valued and needed element of nature. My family does not feel that wolves are a threat to our safety in any way. I don't think humans can pick and choose which animals should or should not be in the wilderness."

Las Cruces Sun-News, 9th June 2011, archive article ID 18242175, <http://www.lcsun-news.com/archivesearch>

Has the wolf returned to the Netherlands?

There have been several reported sightings recently of wolves in the Netherlands close to the border with Germany. This return has been expected for some time and if confirmed these will be the first sightings in more than a century.

Swedish wolves threatened by under-reported poaching

ILLEGAL POACHING accounts for over half of all deaths of Swedish wolves, suggests a new study.

Basing their estimates on long-term wolf counts, the researchers reveal that two-thirds of poaching goes undetected. The study suggests that without the past decade of persecution Swedish wolves would be four times more abundant than they are today. The study's findings are reported in Proceedings of the Royal Society B. (tiny.cc/k2r10).

"Many have speculated that poaching levels are high for many threatened species of carnivores," said Chris Carbone from the Zoological Society of London. "This study presents an important step in trying to quantify this hidden threat," he added. The new study predicts the size of the wolf Swedish population each year based on counts from the previous year. These counts are based on radio-tracked wolves and the more traditional 'footprint count', used in Sweden for over 10 years to estimate wolf numbers. The researchers' estimates took account of confirmed cases of wolf mortality - such as when a wolf is killed on the road, dies from disease or is found killed. However, when the team, based at Grimso Wildlife Research Station in Sweden, compared the expected numbers produced by their models to the actual number of wolves in the wild, they found they were over estimating the size of the population. Conservation biologist Guillaume Chapron, and one of the team, suspects that 'cryptic poaching', poaching that goes undetected, accounts for this difference. The poaching we see is the "tip of the iceberg," he said. The researchers predict that without the last decade of poaching, wolves would have numbered around a thousand by 2009, four times the number reported that year.



Wolves of the World: Wolf makes a comeback in France



IN THE SUMMER MONTHS high on the French Alps the sheep graze on rich pastures. In the Hautes Alpes, they are currently feeding beneath ski lifts on slopes that will soon be covered by a thick layer of snow. But this year the freedom to roam has been curtailed. Somewhere in the dark, dense forests a grey wolf is on the prowl. The wolf was hunted almost to extinction in France in the 1930s but, protected as an endangered species, it is making a surprising comeback.

Some 200 wolves have colonised the southern regions of France, divided into around 20 packs. They are believed to have crossed from Italy in the mid-1990s and they are moving ever further north. Lionel Serres has 250 sheep on the mountainside this summer. Each night he pens them in behind electric fences. But the wolf is a cunning predator and so far it has killed 17 of his ewes, while 10 more are missing.

And so costly are these losses that in recent weeks Mr Serres has been forced to hire another shepherd, who will sleep alongside the sheep at night.

He is not the only one with concerns. So angry are the farmers in this region, that on the road to Hautes Alpes, in south-eastern France, on the border with Italy, there are huge signs painted on the road - "NO to the wolf". Two hundred wolves

might not sound like a huge problem, but this year there have been almost 600 attacks, in which more than 2,000 sheep have been killed. That constitutes a rise of 20% on the same period last year.

So, under pressure from farmers, and faced with an increasing number of attacks, the local prefect has finally ordered a hunt for one individual wolf thought to be doing much of the damage. Since an anti-hunting code was agreed in 2004, only four wolves have been killed in France. Under the present rules, the wolf can only be shot legally by government marksmen or by shepherds trained and licensed to defend their flocks.

Remy Saunier, the chief wolf-catcher for the area, is now sending small, nightly patrols into the mountains. "The wolf will always take the easiest prey," he said. "If it's easy he comes back, and that's what he's done here, every other night. We have tried to scare it with lights and noise but it returns. It is only our presence in these mountains that are limiting the wolf attacks. "Most people in France have welcomed the return of the wolf," he added. "It is a beautiful, mystical animal. But if these people woke in the morning to find their flock decimated, they might change their opinion."

Critics say there is no evidence wolf attacks are out of control and they blame

some of these sheep deaths on wild dogs. Moreover, as farmers receive 130 euros (£115; \$190) in compensation for every sheep killed by a wolf, critics claim there is an incentive to exaggerate the problem. Jean-Francois Darmstaedter, the secretary general of Ferus, a French wolf protection agency, says the shepherds need to work harder to protect their sheep - though some shepherds, he points out, are wolf supporters. "Remember there are eight million dogs in France and 200 wolves," he said. "And I would bet there are more dog attacks in these mountains than wolf attacks. In this small region here we have a pack of 15 wolves, and something like 8,000 wild dogs. They aren't always in the mountains, but when they are, they cause a real mess."

Mr Darmstaedter questions why the wolf has inspired such opposition in France. In neighbouring Italy, he says, pack numbers are three or four times as big. But then, the wolf has always provoked fear. In the 17th Century, so afraid were they of wolves, mostly rabid wolves, they were cursed in Gallic folklore by the story of Little Red Riding Hood. At a fair in Marvejols, further to the west, wolf expert Jean-Marc Moriceau is plugging his latest book, titled *Man Against the Wolf*. "The wolf is a successful predator," he said. "It can move huge distances in search of food. And we can safely assume that in 15 or 20 years' time, if no measures are put in place, then it's possible we will see one or two wolves hunting in the forests 80km to 100km [50-60 miles] south of Paris." Some say the expanding nature of the wolf's habitat will require that more controls are implemented - in France they are calling for a "wolf parliament", in which farmers, supporters and politicians can all have their say. But the forests south of Paris are probably the grey wolf's limit. Western and northern France are no longer wooded or wild enough to sustain them - which means those who live in Paris, at least, can sleep easily in their beds. www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-14637701

◀ Wolves are known to kill the dogs that many Swedes use to hunt moose, and despite up to four year prison sentence if caught poaching, a few people do not hesitate to take a shot at a wolf. Poaching is not the only threat to the Swedish wolf. These large carnivores

went extinct in Sweden in the 1970s, and the population has since re-established itself after a handful of migratory Finnish wolves took over the empty territories. Today, all 250 or so Swedish wolves have descended from these few founding individuals. And so the population is

highly inbred and suffers from skeletal abnormalities and problems reproducing. Further reducing the number of wolves by poaching leaves this population very vulnerable to further inbreeding, explained Dr Chapron. BBC 17/08/2011 - tiny.cc/24dcr

Making Tracks

wolves in the media and the arts

DREAMING OF WOLVES

Adventures in the Carpathian Mountains of Transylvania

By Alan E Sparks

Paperback, 256pp including two 16-page colour inset sections, 21.6 x 14cm.
£14.00 from the UKWCT shop.

In 2001 and at 45 years of age, Alan Sparks had what some people might superficially call a mid-life crisis. But this was not a man in search of gratification from a red sports car or having his ear pierced. He was a thoughtful and compassionate person tired of being 'defined by his career.' Like so many of us, he needed to find some kind of connectedness, a purpose. But he also wanted to unwind, to unknot himself from routine.

After frustrating attempts to relax into the banalities of retail or to join the Peace Corps, Sparks looked inward. What were the defining passions of his life? His trilogy of wants would lead him to the Carpathian Mountains in Romania, a place that offered him the joy of mountains, cold weather and wolves.

This is a multi-layered book. Written in part as a diary, it mixes past and present tense so that the reader gets a sense of immediacy but also is allowed to look into the heart of the writer and understand a journey that is as much an emotional and intellectual one as it is physical.

There is clearly a level of research, intellect and careful note-taking in *Dreaming of Wolves*, encompassing biology, history, politics, economics, animal conservation, philosophy and human relationships. There are also some beautifully glossy photographs which complement the book well and give the reader a vivid sense of the area.

Yes, it really is that rich.

Sparks initially wrote to Christoph and Barbara Promberger, the facilitators of the now-defunct Carpathian Large Carnivore Project (CLCP), offering his services as a volunteer. He wrote with sincerity, promising that he was fit and

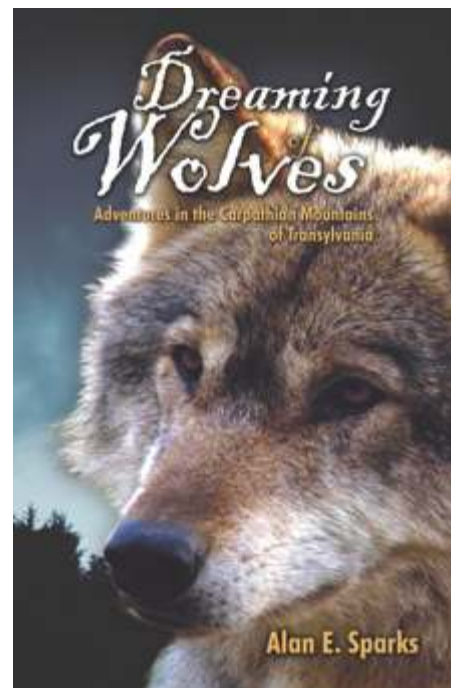
useful. He was accepted but immediately expected to leap in and muck in without much of a fuss. Rabies shots? Don't bother. Visa? If you need one, we will get one. Truly in at the deep end. Much later in his journey, he realised that the very fact he was 'working for nothing' made many poor struggling Romanians suspicious and resentful. It is a complex country, as he discovers continually.

There is the visceral and often brutal reality of living in large open spaces with large carnivores such as bears and wolves. There is folklore, long ingrained, which can work against any conservationist trying to dispel myths and fears. The country has over half a million Roma (gypsies) who fiercely defend their right to roam and graze their animals, in a



wildlife-rich wilderness where life is relatively simple, but hard. The wolf in particular can be seen not only as an enemy but as a supernatural presence; amber eyes in the darkness.

Sparks' adventures include border wars with fiery locals, language problems and the ever-present spectre of human greed that pushes the desperate farmer into cruel and cunning behaviour. One incident in particular is not for the squeamish, or the sensitive. It is a difficult job, trying to communicate the larger picture, the long-term aim: large carnivores will attract tourists and ultimately generate money



and work for local people. Sparks, although he avoids sentimentality and romanticised clichés, can still write with elegiac passion about his incredible surroundings and the people who populate it:

'...women in flowery dark dresses and wide-brimmed hats....little girls trailing at the end in purple and white dresses....'

Romania is a place of peculiar contrast, at once thick with religious devotion but also ruled by much dark superstition. The shadow of Dracula and all things Gothic, cannot be shaken from the region. Sparks sees a cart carrying a dead man and cannot help but give himself a moment of pure whimsical reflection about the man being a vampire. He sees:

'...a man's large nose sticking up from a thick bed of flowers.'

Death is not hidden away and whispered about in Romania. It is everywhere. A large part of volunteer work is to track wolf kills in daylight, to read and record what they find after the lupines have completed their nocturnal activities and their bellies are full enough to let them sleep.

Decapitated bears, foxes and deer are common finds. 'Find the head' becomes something of an ominous mantra, but that is not the extent of the gruesome duties expected of him. There is wolf scat ►



to analyse. There is also meat to hack – mainly dead horses – then to store until it grows so putrid it has to be burned. Scavengers of all descriptions have to be driven away.

At CLCP, there are two socialised wolves to feed who, like the wolves at the Trust, are ambassadors for *canis lupus*. But Crai and Poiana are not the only animals around the wolf cabin. Coexistence with animals is compulsory and that includes leeches, mice, snakes and flies.

I was actually most impressed and moved by Sparks' deep and respectful bond with animals; first with his own beloved dogs and then later with the shepherd dogs that are around him, in particular a dog called Guardian, who disappears. His fate is only discovered near the end. Sparks always keeps emotions in check and never resorts to anthromorphism in his writing – so that sense of quiet love is all the more powerful.

When the scientists are observing wolf behaviour and to some extent other animals, there are interesting observations that come to the fore, such as wolves seemingly using a slide repeatedly. For fun? It certainly appears that way. Or one wolf removing an irritating parasite from the other, in a way that is generally more common in apes and monkeys. Logic and rational science does not always explain away such behaviours. It is a reminder that information we analyse from observing wolf behaviour in particular is still evolving, challenging us and our previously held beliefs. Sparks always gives us a calm and measured account, quoting from experts like David Mech. There is a lot of pertinent information in the book, such as how and why wolves vocalise.

Sparks could have very easily remained in Romania. He was certainly sad to leave. But he makes it very clear 'I didn't come here as a tourist.'

His final exit from the country made me cry. Mainly because he appeared so changed and moved by his experiences. It was clearly something that would stay with him forever.

This is indeed the book written by an incredible observer of character and landscape, a sensitive listener and ultimately a passionate conservationist. 25% of the author's royalties goes toward various wildlife conservation projects. To quote more from the book, although tempting, would seem like giving away treasures. Buy it, read it carefully. It's a book I will not be letting anyone borrow. It has a heart and a very powerful one.

Alan E Sparks makes an incredible statement of future intent that we should all, as conservationists, as human beings, take as our own:

'I seek to be aware. I seek to notice.'

Exquisitely said.

Julia Bohanna

Photos: Vladimir Bologov

Nick Dudman got his start working in 1980 on the Jedi master "Yoda" as a trainee to famed British make-up artist Stuart Freeborn, on Star Wars: Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back. After apprenticing with Freeborn for four years, Dudman was asked to head up the English make-up laboratory for Ridley Scott's *Legend*. He subsequently worked on the make-up and prosthetics for such films as *Mona Lisa* and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

In 1995, Dudman's career path widened into animatronics and large-scale creature effects when he was asked to oversee the 55-man creature department for the Luc Besson film *The Fifth Element*, for which he won a BAFTA Award for Visual Effects. Since then, he has lead the creatures/make-up effects departments on several blockbusters including *Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace*, *The Mummy* and *The Mummy Returns*, and consulted on the costume effects for *Batman Begins*.

In 2007, he was awarded a special achievement Genie by the Canadian Academy for Make-up on *Beowulf & Grendel* (2005).

NICK DUDMAN; firstly thank you for agreeing to chat to the readers of Wolf Print. What is your official job title?

Make-up Effects Designer, or sometimes Creature Effects Designer.

You have done some astonishing work on films like Star Wars and most recently been involved in the Harry Potter franchise. How many of the films have you worked on and which creatures have you developed?

I worked on The Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi, in the first cycle of Star Wars and then The Phantom Menace in the later series. I did make-up for the Bib Fortuna and The Emperor. I have worked on Jabba the Hutt, the Ewoks, Yoda, Chewbacca and all the creatures in The Phantom Menace.

Nick Dudman

The award-winning make-up effects artist speaks to Julia Bohanna

I have been on all of the Harry Potter films, producing all the live action creatures but also the digital ones.

So, in creating a werewolf - where do you look for source materials? Do you look at natural wolves, at pictures of mythical beasts? What is the process?

Firstly, I look at werewolves that have been created before, to eliminate the possibility of copying. I then study the actor, as it all has to link to that actor's physiognomy. Finally I observe real wolves, photographing them for details and videoing them for movement.

Is there collaboration with the animal department on any of the films?

Yes, constantly.

Do they come up with any good (or bad ideas)?

They often come up with very good ones; they really understand animal behaviour.

Do you go to zoos or in the technologically advanced age with Internet information, would that be unnecessary and time-consuming?

I always go to see the real thing! That might mean zoos or wildlife parks, with the Internet as a backup!

So, to create the rather terrifying Greyback in Potter: how long does it take to create him and is he simply one character or an amalgamation of several?

It takes months. Firstly, there is the design process, where we eliminate any ideas or designs that have been done before. Then we begin drawing and sculpting concepts. It is important to really study the actor constantly, so that we don't 'lose' him. Only then can we apply changes to his face.

Greyback has astonishing eyes. Clearly a werewolf and a wolf share certain characteristics anatomically. So what is the process with the eyes?

I study a wolf's natural eyes and then have contact lens made that mirror them,

but are also tinged with human elements. All the time I am attempting to make something that is an amalgam of wolf and person.

Fur is also an interesting element. I would guess that it is never wolf fur, so what do you use? Why do you choose that type of animal fur? How is it used to give such a tactile effect on film? How is it applied and how long does that take?

Sadly, you could probably obtain wolf fur... but we do not! Most of our fur is goat, which is brindled, easily dyed and readily obtainable. On Greyback the goat fur was mixed with human hair in places. Each separate hair is individually pushed into the silicon skin, using a needle. It takes forever!

Are the teeth of a werewolf an exaggerated version of those on a real wolf? How is the colour achieved?

Yes, up to a point. Teeth are very adaptable, so they will generally fit to an actor's own dentition and colour. Then they are just painted, using dental acrylics and stains.

Movement in wolves is very unique - they have a long-legged lope. A werewolf clearly can stand up on two legs without support. Of course a magical creature has more scope. But do you study 'real' wolves to get the correct movement and the length of legs etc?

Yes, an actor will look at real sources for reference. I always advise them to look at natural animal movement first.

Do you have a particular animal with which you feel the most affinity? Or is there any creature you have not tackled in your career that you would love to work on?

Oh, bears!

Thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to answer our questions.

Julia Bohanna



The Wolves are here... ...and they're not going to go away!

"Americans, as a people, seem to always want to do things the hard way and our wildlife issues, particularly those in the west, are a good case in point."

Expert trapper, Carter Niemeyer, explains.

If you follow the rollercoaster of wolf issues in the United States you know that the animal has a lot of people hot under the collar, especially in the west. Anti-wolf bullies and politicians spin wild-eyed tales about how wolves will cause the destruction of life as we know it. When that doesn't work, they resort to outright lies hoping to get what they want: the governmental nod for another wolf extermination campaign.

It's easy for people who like wolves to get upset and wring their hands about all of this, except for one thing: wolves are here legally, and they're never going away. Never. I try to remind people of this as often as possible. Sometimes I have to remind myself as well.

It's frustrating to see something in which I was so intimately involved - the restoration of wolves to the Northern Rocky Mountains - ripped to shreds by warring interests, the government included. I spent a good portion of my professional life working with wolves and the people who were directly affected by them in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. I was there when the first wolves made their way south out of Canada and tried their best to recolonize northwest Montana - and were usually shot. I could see why an orchestrated reintroduction was going to be the only way to help them regain their footing in America, even if it was only in a slice of their former range. Somehow, reintroduction happened, as incredible as it seems now. The hardest part is done. Now it's up to everyone who supports wild wolves to be their stewards.

If nothing else, Americans' waste and extermination of native wildlife gave way to better ideas and the eventual creation of one particularly gargantuan law called the Endangered Species Act. I used to think that no one could circumvent this law, but things changed when Congress, convinced that the wolf issue can't be trusted to go away by itself, swept wolves from the list in a "rider" that had been carefully piggybacked onto the federal budget. I think we're all still in shock over that one. What's next? Salmon and other inconvenient (and much more critically endangered) species, I suspect.

In the more than 15 years since I was involved with wolf reintroduction in Yellowstone National Park and Idaho the wolves are only now reaching what I believe is their maximum carrying capacity, and would have begun to drop slightly in number, even without a hunting season. They also are venturing into adjacent states like Oregon and Washington and causing the jitters in people who haven't had to think about this iconic creature for more than two generations.

I try not to worry too much about whether wolves will persist in the American West. They'll never be in all the places they used to roam, but the terrain in Idaho, and Montana, and the relative safety of Yellowstone National Park, will protect them. If nothing else, my memoir, *Wolfer*, shows that a lot of time can go by, but the relationship between people and wild wolves really



never changes. This animal will always engender a strange mix of fear and fascination mixed with wild stories. We can't bring ourselves to just leave the wolf alone.

In the meantime, if you want to see wolves in the wild, you're going to have to be more patient than ever and walk up and down a few more hills. But never fear, they're out there - even if you don't see or hear them. And that ought to give people who love wild creatures and wild places a bit of peace.

*Expert trapper Carter Niemeyer was the U.S. wolf recovery coordinator for Idaho before retiring in 2006. He published his memoir, *Wolfer*, (available at £14.45 from the UKWCT shop) in December 2010.*



*"When Carter began gathering material for his memoir, **Wolfer**, it wasn't pretty."*

Jenny Niemeyer, pictured here with her husband, Carter, spent a year editing the award-winning memoir.

He sat staring at the computer screen. Nothing. What was this vapor-locked feeling? Writers block, I told him. Very common. No cure. He was relieved to hear that it wasn't necessarily fatal. "Forget writing," I said one day. "Just type." So he did. Shortly after that his fingers flew. He's a tenacious person, so once he put his mind to this writing business he got pretty good at it.

Using nearly 30 years' worth of notes and journals, Carter typed day and night, it seemed, for two winters. When I printed out the results in January 2010 his manuscript totaled more than 1,000 double-sided pages. I panicked. I wanted to help him, but how would I begin to pare this down? To Carter, every story was a pearl and none could possibly be omitted, not even the twenty-two about grizzly bears and the one about a constipated porcupine.

I realized one day as I fought off the notion that I was, by default, about to



become a book editor, that I was the only one who could help put this thing together. I'd heard almost every one of Carter's stories at least five times. Now here they were on paper. It was like realizing I was the only one with the combination to the safe. I was the only one who knew which stories were the most important to Carter, where the turning points were, what made him tick, and why he continues to stay involved in all this wolf stuff. This wasn't just a bunch of hearkening back to the good old days, like some washed-up field general. This was important stuff. It was historic. I'd discovered, upon seeing it in black and white, that I was married to a legacy. I had to help him. If only he would stop asking, "How's it going?" every twenty minutes.

I spent a year reading and sorting and trying to line out a narrative. I bought a laptop so I didn't have to interrupt Carter at his keyboard, and did all the work at our dining room table - a good portion of it while he was away trapping for the summer. The story seemed to write itself. All I did was keep its nose pointed into the wind. It seemed natural to begin and end the memoir with a certain wolf pack, called the Whitehawks. It seemed natural to tell things chronologically. So I let the story go that way. We ended up with a gem, according to readers and

reviewers. **Wolfer** even won two book awards in 2011.

Although several influential people tried to talk us out of using the photo on the cover, we did it anyway. Too gross, they said. Too shocking. Too graphic. Make it smaller. Use the photo on the back cover instead. Our graphic designer knew we'd dug our heels in, however, and she stepped in, making changes that were basically subliminal. She changed the cover from almost black to almost white, which seemed to evoke redemption. I thought the combination worked well. Every question that comes to mind when you look at that photograph summarizes what Carter did for a living for so many years. It wouldn't have been fair to the reader to make it seem pleasant. You learn about Carter beginning with the cover of his book and only when you've finished do you really get it.

So many of the people in **Wolfer** - and the wolves, too - seemed to have been created because someday someone would write about them. Carter didn't have an epiphany that made him want to write about his experiences, he just thought he should. Lots of people have this idea, I suppose. The difference with **Wolfer**, as one reader put it, is that Carter is the real deal.

*Jenny Niemeyer is the editor of BottleFly Press, publisher of **Wolfer**.*



Wolf Gifts and Trust Souvenirs



Large Arctic Wolves Dreamcatcher £6.00

A stylish dreamcatcher featuring two Arctic wolves. The outer ring is covered in beige suedette, decorated with two pieces of faux fur and has suedette thongs adorned with beads and real feathers. 33cm diameter.



3D Bookmarks

Wolf in Snow £2.99

Wolf Pack £1.25

15cm x 6cm excluding tassel.



Wolf Jug

Small £7.50

Large £9.00

Ceramic jug from Quail Pottery where the liquid pours out through the wolf's mouth. The large jug is 14cm high x 19cm long and holds approx 300ml/½ pint. The small jug is 12.5cm high x 16cm long and holds approx 150ml/¼ pint.



Plush Wolf Hat £8.50

Join the pack with this cosy plush hat from Wild Republic! Suitable for a child's or small adult's head.



Pack of six greetings cards **£6.00**

Gloss finish cards featuring Massak, Pukak and Sikko, the Arctic wolves, and Tala, Tundra and Nuka, the Beenhams Pack. Blank inside for your own message. Size 13.5cm x 11.5cm. Supplied with envelopes.

Arctic Wolves Clock

£8.99

29.5cm diameter,
Printed MDF clock
featuring moonlit
Arctic wolves.
Includes slot for
wall-hanging.
Supplied in a
shrink-wrapped
card tray.

Requires
1 x AA battery
(not included).



Pack of five 'Torak' Christmas cards **£3.50**

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

Wolf Slippers **£11.99**

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

XS: shoe size 10 – 1

S: shoe size 1½ – 4

M: shoe size 4½ – 7

L: shoe size 8 – 11



Wolf Spirit Shield Travel Mug

£9.99

Eco-friendly mug to keep your drink hot or cool on your journey. Stainless steel lining and rim. The push-on lid has an easy-to-open and close drink hole.

The Wolf Spirit Shield design is encased in a protective acrylic wrap.

Handwash in warm, soapy water. Not suitable for microwave or dishwasher.

Size: 17.5cm high.

Holds 350ml/12floz approx.

Wolf Gifts and Trust Souvenirs

Playing Cards in Tin

Bark at the Moon

(pictured left) **£6.50**

Wolf Spirit Shield

(right) **£6.50**

From Tree-Free Designs, each contains 54 cards with a UV coating to the face. The cards are 50% recycled card stock, 15% post-consumer waste and printed with soy-based inks. The tins are made from recycled steel, size approx. 10cm x 7cm, weight approx



Magnets

Wolf Paw £3.50

Wolf Spirit Shield £3.50

9cm x 6.5cm.

Ceramic Tile Top Box

£7.99

Handy wooden box for jewellery, trinkets or coins. The hinged lid is inset with a 10cm square ceramic tile featuring Arctic wolves and the box has a protective coating of matt varnish and is lined with black velour. Size: 12cm square x 5cm high.

Mounted Ceramic Tile

£3.55

This wood-backed tile makes a great ornament for your desk or mantelpiece. The screw-in post supplied enables it to be free-standing. 10cm square.



Wolf's Head Egg Cup £4.50

Enjoy your breakfast egg from this unusual egg cup from Quail Pottery. From the same range as the jugs on the previous page. 9cm high x 9.5cm length.

3D Wolf in Snow

Keyring

£3.49

The fob features a stunning back-to-back 3D picture of a wolf in snow and is attached with a revolving link to a sturdy keyring. Fob size 7cm x 3cm.



To view and order these and our other stationery, clothing, gifts and souvenirs, visit our online shop at 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.

Forthcoming events at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

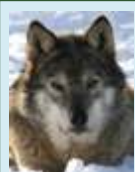
Wolf Walk and Talk

with Jim and Jamie Dutcher – 28th January 2012 at 1pm

The Dutchers are internationally recognised experts on wolves and are visiting the UK Wolf Conservation Trust for the first time. As documentary filmmakers for National Geographic and Discovery, they lived in a tented camp among a wolf pack for six years in the Sawtooth wilderness of Idaho, America, filming wolves and observing intimate pack behaviour never before seen. To this day, they are the only human beings to have shared this unparalleled and lengthy experience with wolves; elusive animals who avoid human contact whenever possible and are rarely observed, even at a distance. Jim's cinematography and Jamie's sound recordings produce an intimate portrait of highly intelligent animals: caring, playful and, above all, devoted to family. www.livingwithwolves.org



Walk and talk: £70 per person. Talk only: £25 per person. Booking essential at www.ukwolf.org or telephone 0118 971 3330



Predator to Pet Workshop

Saturday 15th October at 10am

£50 per person.

Places limited – booking essential



A walk with ambassador wolves is included, allowing you to see first-hand the wild ancestor of today's dogs.

Join us for an exciting and fast-moving workshop developed in association with Wolf Park of Indiana when as well as walking with wolves, you will also:

- examine the genetic evidence of the relationship between dogs and wolves
- look at domestication vs socialisation
- learn about the taxonomy of canids
- 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.

Photography Days

**Sunday 22nd January and Saturday 4th February
10am – 4pm**

Your first opportunity to photograph all 12 of the Trust's wolves, including our amazing Arctic trio.



Held in the winter when the wolves are at their most charismatic our photography workshop starts with a brief presentation setting the scene and giving you some background information of the wolves and the centre. You will then have time to photograph the wolves either in their enclosures or out on a walk.

Open to photographers of all abilities and standards of equipment. Participants must be 18 years or older. Full details on the website.

Spaces are limited – so book early. **£100 per person**

Why not give a photographic day voucher for Christmas?



Valentine Walks

Sunday, 12th February at 10am and 2pm

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 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 year for lovers.

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

**Friday
Night
is
Howl
Night!**

**21st October, 18th November, 13th January,
10th February & 9th March at 6.30pm**

If you've ever dreamed of standing near a wolf and hearing it howl, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to feel your backbone tingle and your ears vibrate with the sound. The evening will start with a presentation on wolf communication; you will then go on a tour of the centre and have the opportunity to let out a howl and see if the wolves respond! You will also see them feeding.

Night is the best time to see the wolves as they are at their most active.

(Don't forget to dress up warmly for an evening under the stars).

Cost £10 per person - Booking required

Children's events at the Trust

Children's Wolf Walk 26th October, 11am – 1pm

Take a walk with a UKWCT wolf. This event includes a short talk and a tour of the centre. **£13.00 per person, 6 years +.** Booking essential. Limited parent spaces.

Howl'oween Pumpkin Party 27th 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 the wolves' favourite treats. Watch the wolves enjoy working out how to get the treats out of the pumpkins – they love it! **£15.00 per person, 6 years+.** Booking essential.

Children's Wolf Walk 22nd December, 10.00am – 12noon

Take a walk with a UKWCT wolf. This event includes a short talk and a tour of the centre. **£13.00 per person, 6 years +.** Booking essential. Limited parent spaces.

Christmas Cracker! Thursday 22nd December, 1pm – 3pm

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 trees. See how long it takes them to unwrap and eat their presents! The event also includes a walk with wolves. **£15.00 per person, 6 years+.** Booking essential.



Further details at www.ukwolf.org or to book call 0118 971 3330

Wolf Awareness Week

15th - 21st October 2011 Booking: www.ukwolf.org

SATURDAY 15th: Predator-to-Pet Workshop (see page 31)

SUNDAY 16th:

The Annual UKWCT Seminar

– £50 per person

This is the second year that the Annual Wolf Trust Seminar has been held during Wolf Awareness Week. This year **speakers include** renowned wolf experts **Carter Neimeyer, Vladimir Bologov, Gary Marvin, Troy Bennett and Claudio Sillero**. 11am – 4.30pm.

Advance booking only. Full details available online.

MONDAY 17th:

STUDENT SEMINAR – £20 per delegate

This is the first ever seminar to be held at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust especially for college and university students. Speakers include Carter Niemeyer, Vladimir Bologov, Pete Haswell, Gary Marvin and Troy Bennett. 11am – 4pm. **Advance booking only.** Full details online.

Delegates will be required to show their Student ID cards.

WEDNESDAY 19th:

SCHOOLS DAY – £3 per pupil.

Accompanying teachers free.

See the wolves and speak to the handlers.

11am – 3pm.

Schools must book in advance.

Activity pack also available to do on site or back in the class (£15). Caroline Gregson (see below) will be creating our new Willow Wolf.

THURSDAY 20th:

OPEN DAY – 11am to 5pm

Admission: £5 non-members; £4.00 members, senior citizens and children up to 12 years of age; children under three – free. Booking not required.

JANE ABSOLOM PASTEL WORKSHOP

– £25 per person

Run by well-known wildlife artist Jane Pascoe-Absolom this workshop will run from 10.30am to 4.00pm and those involved will receive expert tuition and guidance from Jane throughout the day. This year the star of the workshop will be Nuka whose photo you will be drawing. Nuka is our male cub born this year at the Trust to Mai and Motomo. The cost does not include art materials which you need to bring with you; an equipment list will be provided. Hot and cold drinks will be provided but you will need to bring a packed lunch with you. **Advance booking is essential.**

CAROLINE GREGSON WILLOW SCULPTURE WORKSHOP

– £60 per person (maximum 6 people)

A day workshop on Thursday 20th suitable for complete beginners and those with some experience of willow weaving. Caroline will show you the methods she uses in all her willow animal sculptures and will help you make your own bird sculpture to take away. Previous workshops have produced herons, pheasants, hens and all manner of ducks and geese. Feel free to be creative with your ideas. You can have a look at some of Caroline's work on her website www.carolinegregson.com. Caroline created the UKWCT's willow wolf during Wolf Awareness Week last year and will be creating a second member to the willow pack this year. **Booking required.**

FRIDAY 21st: Howl Night – £10 per person (see page 31)