

# Wolf Print

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Issue 47 Autumn/Winter 2012

**Predators, Prey  
and People**  
**THE 2012  
ANNUAL  
SEMINAR**

## **Wolf-like canids in the Horn of Africa**

Claudio Sillero unravels the  
biogeography of these elusive animals

**FEATURE:**  
**Following in the  
footsteps of  
Albanian wolves**

**LIFE AND BEHAVIOUR  
OF WOLVES:**  
Pete Haswell reports  
on an activity study  
in Croatia

■ NEWS ■ EVENTS ■ MEDIA AND ARTS ■ REVIEWS





## Editor's Letter

Summer has been and gone if you had the opportunity to see it! The weather has been equally confusing to the wolves this year as it has been to us humans; some of our wolves didn't finish moulting until the end of July due to the cooler weather. Despite the rain we have still been having fun, with picnics and walks and watermelons and ice lollies for all at times. Catch up on all our wolf news on pages 7 to 9.

Now we are heading swiftly towards the darker nights of autumn and winter and it won't be long before the wolves are growing their amazingly thick undercoats; it's a dense soft fur (much like a sheep's fleece) which grows under their guard hairs to insulate their bodies and will keep them snug down to -40°C. It also makes them double in size to the impressive creatures so often captured on film.

My thoughts have turned to our upcoming events which include Wolf Awareness Week and our annual seminar; we have some fantastic speakers attending again this year with the added option of a lunchtime wolf walk if you book quickly enough! Full details about all our speakers and how to book your seat see page 32.

We have loads of half term and Halloween fun planned with pumpkins for all our wolves. Halloween has also had an impact on Wolf Print this time with an interview with author Glen Duncan in Making Tracks on page 22 and reviews of his last two books featuring that most mythical of creatures, the werewolf.

Two open days have now taken place this year already and we have two more to go, both happening in October. The next is for World Animal Day on October 7th and as usual we are having a variety of visiting animals including birds of prey, reptiles and some British native species with plenty for the whole family to get involved in. Our last Open Day of the year is on Thursday October 18th during our Wolf Awareness Week celebrations; this is usually quieter with less activities but an ideal opportunity for photographers or families to have a tour of the Trust and watch the wolves enjoying their enclosures.

Don't forget... with Christmas on the way, we have gift ideas and stocking fillers in this edition on pages 28 to 30. Why not treat a loved one to an experience they will never forget either on a Predator Day or on our new Arctic Encounters event? For full details see page 31.

I hope you all have an enjoyable autumn and a Merry Christmas; the next edition of Wolf Print is out in early 2013.

*Vicky Allison-Hughes*

Education Officer / Assistant Senior Wolf Handler / Wolf Print Editor

# 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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# Trust News 2012 Open Days



*Tala enjoys some birthday cake (photo Tara Armstrong)*

*Visitors browse the Trust's shop*

*The huskies got some cake, too! (photo Tristan Findlay)*



**WE** HAVE HAD a fantastic turnout so far for our open days in 2012.



enrichment allows the visitors to watch the wolves' natural behaviour as they play, tug, roll on and run around with the sacks, which leads to some interesting photo opportunities.

Our six, now juvenile, wolves – Nuka, Tala, Tundra, Massak, Pukak and Sikko – have become used to the public attention and the rows of cameras waiting to take their photos

**IN MAY** – when the wolves celebrated their combined birthdays with a special wolfy cake – we had a lovely sunny open day with an attendance of approximately 1,600 people to see the wolves. It was the Arctic wolves' first open day out of quarantine giving visitors the opportunity to get a little closer to these fantastic animals. They took it all in their stride posing for a few photos before heading off to sleep in the sun. Then on our August open day, which was a little bit damp, we had a further 1,750 people attend; 80% of these visitors visiting the Trust and seeing our wolves for the first time. The children's activities had a slight

sporting theme to them this time with us running our own 'Wolf Games'. Lots of different wolf-based activities to get involved in.

All 12 wolves were on show and happy to welcome our visitors and as usual people flocked from far and wide to see them.

Torak, as has become his habit, welcomes the first groups through the gates before disappearing off to sleep and only comes out as the last of the guests are leaving. Mosi kept the lines of visitors waiting to get in very amused by

over the last year and very much enjoyed the open days.

The huskies and small animals were very popular with visitors who wanted an opportunity to hug a husky or pet a python. We also had pond-dipping for the children and stalls and stands selling everything from cakes and plants (see below left) to Native American goods. ▶



welcoming them with her usual happy squeaks. Duma and Lunca are now old hands at open days. Motomo as always was a star, posing for photos all day while Mai slept in the sun. Each of the groups of wolves was given a hessian sack – filled with scented straw – to play with during the day. This form of







# Diamond Jubilee celebrations at the Trust

In celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee staff and volunteers at the Trust had a fun day with a mammoth wolf walk involving all 11 socialised wolves heading out on their own pack walks and then a photo shoot strategically ensuring safe distances between the wolves that aren't so keen on each other. Once the wolves were safely back in their enclosures we were all treated to a hog roast and buffet in the education barn... the wolves stuck with their usual diet of uncooked meat. A good day was had by all.

## 2012 Donations

During 2012 a total of £20,500 has been donated to projects the Trust supports, all of which are working to keep wolves in the wild. Thank you to all of you for supporting the work of the Trust and in turn helping us to continue our ability to support these worthwhile projects.

Russia – Chisty Les Biological Station – £5,000

USA – Red Wolf Coalition – £2,000

Portugal – Grupo Lobo – £2,000

Bulgaria – Large Carnivore Centre – £3,000

Croatia – Josip Kusak field research – £4,500

Ethiopia – Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Project – £4,000

## 2012 Seminar:

### *Predators, Prey and People*

We have four inspiring speakers at this year's seminar which will run on Sunday 14th October. It is being held in conjunction with the international event *Wolf Awareness Week*. Full details and ticket prices are available on the back page.

### Prestigious win for Wolf Print author

Freelance writer Julia Bohanna, Wolf Print's assistant editor and author of several of its articles, has won the Bradt/Independent on Sunday Travel Writing Competition 2012. Her piece entitled 'A Wolf in the Mountains' was published in the travel section of the national newspaper on Sunday, 9th September. Well done Julia! Read her story here: [tiny.cc/gmrqkw](http://tiny.cc/gmrqkw)

◀ **AT THE AUGUST** Bank Holiday Monday Open Day we also welcomed for



*Pond-dipping is always a popular activity at our open days.*

the first time the team promoting the Ethiopian Wolf Project selling images of these amazing animals as well as their Ethiopian wolf cuddly toys. They will be back for our October open day. The birds of prey were also in attendance again taking part in the flying displays and talks; this is the team that takes part in our new event *Predator Days* (see details on page 31).

**A HUGE** thank you to all those that have attended our open days so far this year.

**OUR NEXT** Open Day is Sunday October 7th for *World Animal Day* and the final



one for 2012 is during *Wolf Awareness Week* on Thursday, October 18th.

Full details of all our events can be found on pages 30 to 32 or on our website, [www.ukwolf.org](http://www.ukwolf.org)

*Vicky Allison-Hughes*



# DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Since the Trust's inception over 15 years ago our most important aims have been to provide a fantastic educational facility and to help our socialised wolves' wild cousins by supporting many worthwhile projects both in Europe and worldwide. All of the projects we support are close to our hearts and we are delighted that we have managed to send over £150,000 to these projects during the last 17 years.

When selecting the projects to be supported we evaluate based on three criteria: critical funding, educational funding and scientific funding.

## **Critical Funding – Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Project**

This type of funding is available when an immediate threat exists such as the serious rabies outbreak some years ago which affected the already critically endangered Ethiopian wolf. A rabies outbreak could wipe out entire populations and with less than 450 Ethiopian wolves in the wild any disease could have a devastating effect on the wolf population.

IEWCP is acknowledged as being the longest running conservation

programme in Ethiopia, and the only programme that is concerned with saving the Ethiopian wolf from extinction. Based out of the Bale Mountains National Park in south-eastern Ethiopia, it promotes sustainable solutions for the conservation of Ethiopian wolves by addressing the most serious threats affecting their populations.

We are delighted to provide continued support to the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme and continue to this day working with Professor Claudio Sillero who is also a regular visitor to our own facility in Beenham.

*Project website: [www.ethiopianwolf.org](http://www.ethiopianwolf.org)*

UKWCT donations: £12,300 since 2007

## **Educational Funding – Balkani Wildlife Society**

The UKWCT has supported the Balkani Wildlife Society over a number of years by providing much-needed funds to purchase livestock guarding dogs, as well as funding research and equipment. This project is also the first to accept students from the UKWCT hoping to work in conservation. The students provide much-needed assistance to the project and the project provides invaluable experience for students looking to go into this field in the future.

On 3rd May 2007, the Balkani Wildlife Society opened their newly built Large Carnivore Education Centre in the village of Vlahi. The Centre is the

culmination of many years' work on large carnivore research and education.

*Project website: [www.balkani.org](http://www.balkani.org)*

UKWCT donations: £36,200 since 2006

## **Scientific Funding – Croatian Wolf Research Project**

The study of large carnivores in Croatia was started by Professor Djuro Huber as a bear research project by the biology department of the veterinary faculty in 1981. Josip Kusak joined the project as a volunteer student in 1988 and was employed after graduation in 1992. The project was extended to wolves in 1993, first as a public campaign for the protection of wolves in Croatia. Critically low number of wolves urged them to establish the "Croatian Wolf Group", an NGO which carried a wolf conservation campaign. 1994 was the "Year of the wolf" in Croatia, resulting in the change of the legal status of wolves from being pest species to being fully protected in 1995.

*Project website: [www.life-vuk.hr](http://www.life-vuk.hr)*

UKWCT donations: £17,421 since 2006

We are all very much aware that the UKWCT does not exist in isolation and we are very proud to work with and support as many wolf conservation projects as we can.

You can find information about all of our projects on our website [ukwct.org.uk](http://ukwct.org.uk)

*Linda Malliff, Director, Senior Handler*

## **DONATE TO SUPPORT THE TRUST'S WORK – at [ukwolf.org](http://ukwolf.org)**

In order to maintain this level of assistance we manage a large number of events at our facility in Beenham. The success of these events is critical to the projects we support and to the management and care of our own socialised wolves.

In the current economic climate donating to any good cause can be difficult but even the smallest of contributions can help greatly. With this in mind, some of our members and regular visitors to our website may have

noticed we now have a facility to donate on our website. Every donation is extremely important to us and all your donations go towards the research and welfare of these magnificent animals together with education programmes that will ultimately enhance wolf conservation in the years ahead.

The directors, staff and volunteers of the UKWCT thank you for your support and hope to see you at one of our many events soon.

# UPDATE ON THE TRUST WOLVES

Summer arrived... then it went again. Thoughts of building Arks to rival Noah's were on many people's minds and mud was an unavoidable feature in the wolves' enclosures. They didn't seem to mind and took everything in their soggy strides.



Duma

Our two venerable old ladies, Duma and Lunca, are generally well in themselves but both are showing signs of age. This is not surprising, Duma is 14 and Lunca is 13.

Duma gave us a bit of a scare a while ago when she briefly collapsed on a

## DUMA AND LUNCA

walk. She was soon up again and went on to enjoy herself but of course we were worried. The vet was consulted and said that if she was well in herself then we should not intervene. Although both girls are officially retired, they still enjoy walks with their handlers and are always eager to come out.

Lunca continues to enjoy her food, her walks and lying in the sun – when it comes out. She was getting very stiff so the vet prescribed an anti-inflammatory medicine for her which has made a real difference. Lunca now moves much more easily and even breaks into a trot on her walks. The problem lies in getting her to take her



Lunca by Jason Siddall

daily tablet. With their exceptional sense of smell wolves know exactly when there is an addition to their food and Lunca is no different. All sorts of different foodstuffs have been tried to persuade her to take her meds and currently Spam is her favourite! We push the tablet in a piece of the meat and she's happy to eat it. No doubt she will soon have us racking our brains to find a new and irresistible carrier for the meds that make her life easier.

## THE ARCTIC PACK

The Arctics very much enjoyed a thunderstorm that rattled around the Trust for quite a time, with attendant lightning and torrential rain. Massak, Pukak and Sikko thought this great fun and chased each other around, jumping over logs and generally being a little crazy. The Arctics are 18 months old now and maturing into astonishingly beautiful animals. They have shed their fluffy puppy coat and are now streamlined; slim and fit as wolves can be. Their characters are also developing...

Massak is still the aloof, wary one who will not come near you until he knows and trusts you. However, he's gaining in confidence and instead of standing half way across the enclosure and observing you; he will now approach right up to the fence to examine you intently. To look into Massak's eyes is to realise with

a shock how very intelligent that gaze is. If he sees his brother or sister being fussed by the handlers he will rush over and push them out of the way so that he can receive the adulation he believes he deserves.

Pukak is the bravest of all and loves to have a fuss from his handlers. He is getting a bit cheeky though. When on an enrichment walk he will sometimes find a dead creature which, naturally, he wants to have. We can't allow our wolves to pick up things like this because we have no knowledge of how they died and if poison may be involved. When he realises he won't be able to do what he wants he throws a real tantrum, just like a toddler, and gives his handler a hard time for a few minutes. It is soon over and he can be persuaded to carry on and enjoy his walk.



Pukak and Massak



## The Arctic Pack continued

**Sikko** is a little princess but is tougher than she would have you believe. Being smaller than her two brothers she has to stand up for herself and give as good as she gets. She is very affectionate if she trusts you and loves nothing more than to lick your face until it feels as though it has been sandpapered. Being small has its advantages and she can weave and dodge when playing so that the boys have a job to catch her. Sikko is quite a submissive wolf to her handlers but this is all part of her plan to make you believe that she is no threat; she soon regains her confidence and demands affection.

The Arctics will not be walking with the public but are having lots of training and enrichment walks. Because of their six months' quarantine they are wary of large groups of people. We are having special Arctic events soon; they enjoy and are relaxed about having small groups of people in their enclosure with handlers they trust. See the events on page 31 for further details.



## THE BEENHAM PACK

**T**he Beenham Pack are now 16 months old and looking good. Their characters are becoming more defined and they are full of fun.

**Nuka** is a typical boy, mischievous but friendly, confident but still sometimes needing reassurance. He is a big, strong wolf with the good looks of his father, Motomo. Nuka has a beautifully marked, expressive face and the most enormous feet. He probably won't grow any taller now but will start to fill out as he matures. He has a lovely disposition and is always happy to meet people on a walk. Nuka and his sisters love to play in their enclosure pond, dragging out logs that obliging handlers throw in or galloping round the edge making a great splash. Nuka is usually the instigator of a good game of chase or water-bombing and the girls are happy to join in.

**Tala** has the same colouring as her mother, Mai. Tala is a stunning looking

wolf with her black coat and beautiful amber eyes. She is finer in face and build than her brother as befits a female wolf. Tala is a wolf who likes to think about things before she rushes in, unlike her brother. There is a quiet confidence in Tala, she will happily mingle with a large group of people, weighing things up and getting all the information that she needs. Tala is a very intelligent wolf and it is fascinating to see her working things out methodically. She is happy to meet people but is a little more reserved about things.

**Tundra** is the most wary of the Beenhams. With her handlers she is affectionate and playful but in large groups of people she likes to keep a distance and observe what's going on from the sidelines. This is natural behaviour for a wolf; she won't commit herself unless she is absolutely sure of her safety. Tundra will sometimes make her own decision to meet a member of

the public and that person should feel very honoured because as a general rule she does not do meet-and-greets. Tundra is quite happy playing in the stream or sitting and waiting while her brother and sister do all the work of an ambassador wolf. Tundra broke a toe when she was a young cub and had to wear a cast for a few weeks. Although she is fully healed now she will always have a very slight limp, but this does not interfere in any way at all with her enjoyment of rough and tumble games with her siblings and she is a very happy wolf. Tundra has inherited the colouring of her father but the face markings are not as prominent as Nuka's and she has a much finer, more delicate face.

The Beenhams are a delight to the public and handlers alike and are growing up to be exceptional wolves.

*The Beenhams on the mound,  
by Danny Kidby Hunter*





## MAI AND MOTOMO

**M**ai and Motomo have a great life together and are very attached to each other.

Mai is a changed wolf from the one who was deposed as alpha by her sister Mosi some years ago. Mai now has enormous confidence which reflects in the way she behaves with her handlers. She still loves interaction with people and going for a walk but she does it on her own terms. Her special friends will get a cursory lick hello and then Mai wants to be off, motoring round the field, over-marking



*Mai*

all the scents of the other wolves that have been there earlier. The change has, of course, come about through her having a partner and giving birth to a litter of cubs. When fence-running with Mosi, Mai's tail is up in the air like a flag, signifying dominance. It is perhaps a very good thing that these two will never get together again! Sometimes on a walk Mai will suddenly decide that she wants to go back to Motomo and will make this very clear to the handlers. This could be after 10 minutes or 30 minutes, but Mai's decision is final.

Motomo is gaining confidence all the time. When he first arrived at the Trust he would hide behind the mound, only poking his head out occasionally if there was food about. Now he will come right down to the fence line, not just for food but to see what is going on. His favourite game is to



*Motomo*

hide in the undergrowth and then suddenly pounce at other wolves who are being walked past his enclosure, or he will fence-run the whole length of the enclosure trying to intimidate these same wolves as they dare to walk past him. It worked at first but the other wolves are now wise to the fact that he can't actually get at them! Motomo is not too keen on Mai going out for a walk; sometimes he will howl mournfully until she gets the message and comes back to him. Being our only unsocialised wolf he can't be taken out for walks but he is more than happy in his wonderful enclosure with his partner Mai.

## MOSI AND TORAK

**M**osi and Torak are still happy in their partnership and are well and content. These two do not do public walks because Torak made it quite clear he didn't like them. As always, welfare of our wolves is the priority so they have been retired. They still go out regularly on enrichment walks with their favourite handlers and enjoy them immensely.

**Torak** is looking magnificent and very handsome in his summer coat. People seem to prefer to see the wolves in their profuse winter coats but wolves very sensibly shed these for the warmer

weather. Also, they will lose weight for the warmer months so that they do not have excess to carry around in the heat. Torak looks lean and very fit; when he is in motion you can see the muscles move under his coat, propelling him forward like well oiled machinery.

**Mosi** has not lost quite so much coat as Torak and still has the lovely black, grey and brown markings, highlighted with just a touch of auburn. She is always eager to go on her walk and sniffs and marks every available piece of grass! At the moment, Mosi and Torak are in the enclosure next to Mosi's sister Mai. The two girls get a lot of exercise running up and down the fence line together, uttering dire threats and



*Torak and Mosi*

trying to outdo each other in their speed and the ferocity of their growls. Sometimes their male partners will join in but the boys generally prefer an easy life. Mosi is still full of character and makes people laugh with her antics. Torak is not so amused by his partner when she pesters him for attention.

*Angela Barrow*

*All photos by Vicky Hughes unless otherwise specified*



*Mosi*



# Unravelling the Biogeography

We tend to think of wolves as a Northern Hemisphere species but new genetic evidence shows that members of the wolf lineage reached Africa about three million years ago... before they spread throughout the Northern Hemisphere.

*Professor Claudio Sillero-Zubiri, UKWCT Specialist Advisor, reports.*

This evidence has revealed a new species of wolf living in Africa, formerly confused with golden jackals and thought to be an Egyptian subspecies of jackal. The only other wolf on the African continent is the Arabian wolf, *Canis lupus arabs*, in the Sinai Peninsula, where a scatter of sightings has been recorded throughout the years.

## SEARCH FOR EVOLUTIONARY LINKS

Having worked for many years on Ethiopian wolves (*Canis simensis*), a close relative of grey wolves, I have always been intrigued by their evolutionary links. I have often pondered what might have been the routes and associated land bridges that enabled Ethiopian wolf ancestors to reach the highlands of Ethiopia in the heartlands of the Horn of Africa.

Scientists have consistently placed Ethiopian wolves close to grey wolves and coyotes, with a common ancestor that might have lived a mere 100,000 years ago. Huddling by the fireplace under African skies, my associates and I have often had long conversations trying to undo that long winding road and wished-for fossil finds that might proffer the missing link we longed for. Sadly, such fossils are not abundant in North Africa, and at any rate genetics might arguably be a better approach to answer this kind of question today.

Having read the few accounts of large canids in North Africa that I could find in Oxford's libraries, I targeted a population of golden jackals in southern Egypt described as *Canis aureus lupaster* as a potential

candidate to resolve the puzzle. As long ago as 1880, the great evolutionary biologist Thomas Huxley commented that golden jackals in Ethiopia looked suspiciously like grey wolves. The same observation was made by several 20th century biologists studying skulls. Nonetheless, the conventional scientific classification has not been changed, and *lupaster*—the golden jackal of southern Egypt—continued to be regarded as a subspecies of the golden jackal, albeit with a hovering question mark.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

A few years ago, Yugal Tiwari, a young Indian biologist who was working in Eritrea, sent me a grainy picture, captured from a video he had filmed from the road while travelling in Eritrea's Danakil (see photo above). My interest was piqued, since it showed a young, lanky canid with large paws that could easily be a desert-dwelling wolf. The evidence was modest, but we published a short note in the hope that we could attract similar reports. Unfortunately, no additional information has turned up.

Fast forward a few years to a collaborative effort among biologists from the universities of Addis Ababa and Oslo to study the relationship between isolated Ethiopian wolf populations in the Highlands of Ethiopia, using DNA extracted from scat specimens. The specimens, including some from sympatric golden jackals,



were shipped to a lab in Oslo for analysis. A while later, Eli Rueness, the scientist responsible for the analyses, contacted me with breathless excitement, saying that some of the samples looked like wolf DNA, but did not match anything in GenBank, the world's largest repository of genetic sequences. Unwittingly, we had uncovered genetic evidence of a cryptic canid species that looked like a golden jackal but whose genetic code expressed something else. A cryptic species complex is a group of species that satisfies the biological definition of species—that is, they are reproductively isolated from each other—but whose physical traits are very similar (in some cases virtually identical). The species in a cryptic complex are typically very close relatives and in many cases cannot be easily distinguished by genetic studies. Further analysis at Rueness' lab linked our cryptic "wolf" specimens in the highlands of Ethiopia to the sequencing of *lupaster*, 2,500 km (1,553 miles) to the north in Egypt. This finding unambiguously placed the ill-fitting Egyptian jackal and its close relatives from Ethiopia within the wolf species complex.



# of the African wolf

## WOLVES IN JACKAL CLOTHING

It transpires that *lupaster* and its Ethiopian Highlands' relatives are not jackals but wolves in jackal clothing. Taxonomically these African canids are grouped with the Northern Hemisphere's grey wolf, Indian wolf and Himalayan wolf. Recent genetic evidence suggests that the Indian and Himalayan wolves evolved separately within the modern wolf cluster, even before the grey wolf radiated throughout the Northern Hemisphere. Furthermore, not only did these two types of wolves originate before grey wolves radiated in northern latitudes, but the wolf's colonisation of Africa also took place before the grey wolf radiation.

The colonisation of Africa by the ancestral wolf stock took place about three million years ago and is today embodied by the animal that has hitherto been called the Egyptian jackal. It was not the missing link for Ethiopian wolves that I had hoped for, but something just as intriguing. For me personally, this study showed the strengths of modern genetic techniques, demonstrating that old puzzles may be solved, and hidden biodiversity may be exposed in relatively unexplored regions.

## DISCOVERY GOES VIRAL

The news of a wolf in Africa, which went viral once our paper\* in PLoS ONE was published, raised fascinating biological questions about how the new African wolf evolved and lived alongside not only the real golden jackals but also the vanishingly rare Ethiopian wolf. The latter is a very different species, of more recent



origin, with which the new discovery should not be confused. But the African wolf discovery contributes to our understanding of the biogeography of Afroalpine fauna, an assemblage of species with African and Eurasian ancestry that evolved in the relative isolation of the highlands of the Horn of Africa. The news of this new African wolf also raised issues of conservation importance. Golden jackals are regarded by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a species of "least concern" – i.e., not threatened – but the newly discovered African wolf may be much rarer. Certainly, it has become a priority for both canid conservation and science to discover its whereabouts and numbers. It seems that the Egyptian jackal is urgently set for a name change, and its unique status as the only member of the wolf complex in Africa destines it to be renamed the African wolf.

*Professor Claudio Sillero-Zubiri*

## Acknowledgements

\* Rueness E.K., Asmyhr M.G., SilleroZubiri C., Macdonald D.W., Bekele A., Atickem A. Stenseth N. (2011) "The Cryptic African Wolf: *Canis aureus lupaster* is Not a Golden Jackal and Is Not Endemic to Egypt." PLoS ONE 6(1): e16385. [tiny.cc/ee7hfw](http://tiny.cc/ee7hfw)

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# Into the Valley of the Wolves

Yellowstone – in the early morning gloom just before the sun breaks over the skyline. The air is cold, crisp, and very still. Sound travels under these conditions. The sound that reached me on that cold, murky morning has thrilled or chilled for centuries. It was the spine-tingling call of the wild: the howl of a wolf.

Freelance photographer, Doug Breakwell, reports

I first visited Yellowstone in 2009 and my, how things have changed, wolf-wise. The famed and much loved Druid Peak Pack was long gone. It disintegrated at the beginning of 2010 due to disease and the death of the breeding female. All its members are now dead with the possible exception of “Dull Bar” who may be still alive but outside the park.

What would I find on the Northern Range without the Druids? Would there be any wolves? Would they be as tolerant and visible as the Druids? I needn't have worried; I was in for eight days of almost nonstop photo opportunities, incident, action and behaviour; a wildlife photographer's paradise.

The pack territories from the northern park entrance along the Gardner-to-Cooke City road (the only road in the park that's open in the winter and does not sound like much, but it's sixty-five miles long) ran like this in 2012: Quadrant Mountain, Eight-mile (whose territory is mostly outside the park), Canyon, Blacktail, Agate and Lamar Canyon. However, there were strangers on the northern range.

## THE MOLLIE'S PACK

When I set out, one of my hoped-for objectives was to get a glimpse of and photograph the members of Mollie's Pack. The ancestors of this pack were the first to be reintroduced into Yellowstone in 1995 as the Crystal Creek Pack. They were renamed Mollie's Pack in 2000 after Mollie Beattie, the late director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, who helped carry the first wolves into their release pens. The wolves for the reintroduction project were chosen from certain areas of Canada for their elk-hunting prowess, but because there are no elk in the valley during the winter months,



Bald eagle

the Mollie's Pack has learnt how to hunt bison. They run the herd into deep snow making the weaker individuals easier to spot and kill. A bison, however – even a sick one – in deep snow is a formidable adversary and to cope, the Mollie's wolves got bigger. The pack now contains some of the biggest wolves in Yellowstone.

I was in luck. The Mollie's had come north following their new leader 686F. They may have left home to find an easier living than their usual winter prey in Yellowstone's harsh snow bound interior, or they may have just followed the dominant female, who may be on the lookout for a new mate. The Mollie's Pack contains some big beautiful wolves. They provided me with some excellent views and enabled me to fulfil another trip ambition: to photograph a hunt, although it was at long range, about a mile, and not pushed to its ultimate conclusion. The wolves backed off, perhaps deciding that the bison were too strong and dangerous. I did manage to photograph the behaviour, both from the wolves and bison, which I had hoped for.



Main picture: Lamar Canyon Pack alpha female



## THE LAMAR CANYON PACK

Then it was the turn of the Lamar Canyon Pack, an eleven-strong pack, to provide the photo opportunities. I spent an entire day with the Lamars. Even wading through the snow and climbing up to a saddle half way up Druid Peak to get a closer view. In doing this you have to keep in mind the park regulations: stay at least twenty-five yards away from bison and elk and one hundred yards from wolves, bears and mountain lions. There is another rule that states you must not engage in any activity that causes an animal to change its behaviour. For example, if a bison is lying down and you approach it and it stands up, that is against the rules. If you were to prevent a wolf from crossing the road by standing too close, that too, is against the rules and the law enforcement Rangers are not shy in telling off transgressors.

I was about two hundred yards away when a female, complete with shiny new GPS collar, stared straight at me; a rather unnerving experience to put it mildly. It then occurred to me that the pack could run me down in a matter of seconds if they wanted to. However, that thought passed quickly. Was I in any danger? Of course not!

The wolf's smaller cousin, the coyote also provided some memorable shots. Taking a terrible chance scavenging at a Mollie's kill was one. However, the better behavioural shots came when a pack was scavenging a Canyon Pack Elk kill near to Chinese Gardens, close to the park entrance and only twenty-five yards from the road. One dominant Coyote was keeping all comers – other coyotes, ravens, magpies and both Bald and Golden eagles – at bay.

Although the wolves were the stars of the show, there were plenty of other things happening and things to see: bison, elk, White-tailed and Mule deer, both types of eagle, dippers, Golden Eye ducks, the diminutive Red fox (tiny, compared with the other dogs) and the American badger. There were otters, too – I knew they were about by their tracks along the banks of the



Coyote



Bison bulls fight for dominance

Lamar River – but I never saw them, although others did.

The best time to see the wolves is in the winter. Their prey has come lower down in the valleys and the tree cover is minimal. February is a particularly good month as the breeding season is at its height and the wolves are very active. However, be warned that winter in Yellowstone is not for the faint-hearted and it can catch out the unwary. The conditions are tough and very cold with deep snow. The weather can change from bright sunny days to snow and freezing blizzards sometimes in a matter of hours. A warm winter's day in Yellowstone is around -6°C. On one day the temperature dropped to -31°C. It was so cold my breath froze on the back of the camera and it began to affect the camera's operation.

## SPOTTING WOLVES THE EASY WAY

Finding a wolf In Yellowstone is fairly simple. You can use the natural history method: pull into a likely pullout [lay-by?] and scan the surrounding hills and woods with binoculars and telescope, looking for any sign of movement or ravens, and maybe you'll get lucky. Why ravens? The wolf and raven have an interesting relationship and where there are ravens you usually find wolves. Or the Yellowstone method: you can cruise up and down the Gardiner-to-Cooke City road, keeping an eye open for park biologist Rick McIntyre's car; it's easy to spot – a bright yellow Nissan with the roof covered in aerials. Rick has radio tracking equipment and can pinpoint the wolves very quickly even if you cannot see them. He has been called the pied piper of the Lamar Valley, leading convoys of wolfers searching for wolves.

## PHOTOGRAPHER'S TRACKING TIPS

Do not try to bring your own radio tracking gear, it is against the law to have radio tracking equipment tuned to wolves' frequencies. Yellowstone also has a dedicated corps of wolf watchers who are in radio contact with each other and Rick. They are a very generous and welcoming bunch, always willing and eager to help you find a wolf, tell you what's happening or let you have a peek through their telescopes. I have made a number of friends amongst them.

You are also going to need some powerful optics – binoculars are a necessity for any wildlife photographer – but in Yellowstone you will also need a spotting scope because of the distances involved. Don't worry if you don't have them, there are numerous places around the park that will hire them to you, or if you go on an organised tour – and there are plenty to choose from – they will have scopes for you to use.

This really is the realm of the long telephoto lens and SLR camera; I was primarily using a 500mm prime lens. You cannot take wildlife photos here with your point and shoot compact unless you have a digi-scoping set-up. One of the wolfers I met, an American called Bill, had an interesting set-up. He had a jig set up on his spotting scope to take pictures with his iPhone. Photographs taken using these methods are generally for your own enjoyment and memories.

Yellowstone in the winter will challenge the visitor: venture out of – or sit back in – a warm SUV and you will not be disappointed; work a bit harder and you will be amazed.

Doug Breakwell

[www.dougbreakwellphotography.com](http://www.dougbreakwellphotography.com)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/Doug\\_Breakwell](http://www.flickr.com/photos/Doug_Breakwell)



# Life and behaviour of wolves:

## Activity Study in Croatia

Activity patterns of large mammals in both time and space are complex. They are driven by the necessity to achieve biological requirements and affected by a number of environmental factors. The main aim of my research is to explore the inter-relationship of wolf activity patterns with climate, prey species and humans. This knowledge will be used to evaluate the influence of environmental factors and inform management procedures.

Pete Haswell reports on this UKWCT-sponsored research project.

**B**ack in 2011 ideas for the research began to be formed and initial data collection began. The work centres around two main sets of data collection: activity counter data from wolves wearing GPS collars fitted with a motion sensor and camera trap videos/photos.

In 2011 I travelled to Croatia to calibrate the data produced by tracking collars and identify three levels of activity type: resting, walking and running. These behaviours cover most major wolf behaviour and give more information about wolf activity than was previously possible. In short, the

data collection involved fitting tracking collars to wolf-sized dogs and lots of running, walking and resting to collect data outputs. We then examined and analysed how the scores obtained matched up to the different types of activity being performed. The work was relatively successful and we

now have a method of identifying wolf activity type from the data sets collected from wolves wearing tracking collars in Croatia. We have large datasets from the past 14 years and we also endeavour to keep collars on wolves in Croatia each year if possible to collect more information.

### CAMERA MONITORING

2011 also saw the beginnings of motion-activated camera monitoring in the Gorski Kotar (North West) region of Croatia.

The cameras provided a wealth of data, more than we were expecting. It became clear that camera monitoring could provide information about the activity of a variety of animal species as well as human land use. Thanks to

generous donations from the Trust we have now managed to expand camera monitoring to the Velebit Mountains in central Croatia. For my research interests the cameras will be providing data on ungulate activity patterns and those of people in the local area as well as information about habitat-use by wolves and their ungulate prey species. Preliminary analysis is beginning to suggest that deer are active throughout the day in Gorski Kotar but are selective about what types of areas they use dependent on human activity. They will use the same areas that people use but at different times. This data will also permit me to examine the influence of human and prey activity on that of wolves when combined with the information from tracking collar motion sensors.

### NEW CAMERA TRAPS

In May this year (2012) I returned to Croatia to assist Professor Kusak with establishing our new camera traps and to support the year's most intensive fieldwork period coinciding with the wolf denning season. The denning season is one of the most pivotal times of year for tracking wolves and gathering social information, den

locations and even genetic samples.

After some brief work at the University in Zagreb my fieldwork began in the Velebit Mountains. I spent some days at a bear sanctuary attending a training event for the

large carnivore emergency response team and wildlife researchers from many of the surrounding countries. We were based out of a town called Krasno which in English means beautiful and indeed it was.



*Collecting a DNA sample*

### MODERN TECHNOLOGY

In the past, monitoring animal activity using VHF telemetry collars was very time-consuming and it was hard to obtain good volumes of data that wasn't daytime biased. I have previously spent time monitoring activity this way and I can tell you that listening every 15 minutes during the night is pretty tiring. It was also only previously possible to know if the animal was active or inactive. With the progressions of modern technology a huge amount of data is now available from modern tracking collars with motion sensors. Not only do modern collars produce a data output for activity every five minutes but the output is also an incremental score (0-255) dependent on the amount of movement the collar experiences in either a forward or side-to-side motion depending on what you want to look at.



*Suho wolf taken by automatic camera*



## BREATHTAKING FORESTS

Croatia has escaped a lot of the industrial development that much of Europe has experienced and really has some breathtaking forest that stretches for miles on end. The forests are dense and the forestry seems pretty sustainable. Only those trees of suitable age are selectively harvested in a ten-year rotation system which maintains continuous forest cover as well as pockets of disturbance-free refuge habitat for wildlife. The major highways also offer a great amount of habitat connectivity and safety for animals from road traffic accidents through fencing and green bridges and crossings.

We stayed in the region for a few more days and began our search for information on local wolf packs. There are approximately 1,000 brown bears in Croatia and we constantly stumbled across their signs and even saw one, along with other wildlife like red and roe deer as well as a wildcat and badgers. There are around 200 wolves at a much lower density than the bears and, as we all know, wolves can range over vast areas. We searched hundreds of kilometres of forest roads looking for signs of wolves and focal areas of activity. During these first days in the Krasno pack territory the only canine signs we found were those of foxes and, interestingly, potential tracks from a golden jackal. We travelled to Gorski Kotar to investigate a fresh lynx predation searching for signs of wolves along the way. We spent the rest of my trip between Krasno and a remote forest cabin in Gorski Kotar.

We spotted our first wolf tracks in the territory of the Snježnik pack, a place full of memories for Josip and very close to his heart after many years of monitoring the activity of Hilda there. We found a few tracks in the area and some evidence of scent-marking but nothing substantial to indicate a pack of wolves breeding in the area. We are still waiting to learn if a complete breeding pack is still present in the area after the disappearance of Hilda last summer.



*Examining wolf tracks*

## SEARCHING FOR SCAT

We travelled north-west and further towards the Slovenian border in order to search the territory of the Suho Pack. As disgusting as it sounds, what we were really hoping to find was wolf poo, more politely called scat. Finding scat is sadly like finding treasure for a field biologist who has just spent days or weeks searching for signs of elusive mammals. Scat is used to mark out territory boundaries and advertise wolf presence and particularly during the denning season, if found on a continuous basis, is an indication of a den site or later on in the summer a place where wolves are keeping pups at a rendezvous site.

We began finding wolf scats at a secluded location in the Suho territory and were not disappointed with continuous finds over the coming weeks. We also take samples from the scats to send for DNA analysis which will reveal the numbers of individuals we discovered in the area and their relatedness to other wolves in the country and even further afield. This helps to shed light on wolf dispersal, survival success in various locations and core strongholds of stable populations amongst many other avenues of exploration.

For the remainder of my time we searched numerous pack territories with varying success but managed to gather some great information on the



Krasno pack as well as a lot of DNA samples. Whilst searching, we mapped habitat features such as forestry activity, new road developments and plotted all of the wolf data we collected. This offers us valuable information on habitat use, human disturbance and assists with population estimation and territory identification.

## THE RESEARCH CONTINUES

Over the next few years I will be combining all of our data past and future to piece together the picture of how humans, wolves and ungulates interact in the Croatian forests, to explore how management effects the actions of large mammals and how an understanding of the intricacies of these patterns can be used to inform management procedures.

*Pete Haswell*

Pete Haswell, BSc Hons Environmental Science (Biodiversity and Conservation), is collaborating with Josip Kusak on a project the UKWCT supports in Croatia. You can read more about his work on his website: <http://petehaswellwolfresearch.wordpress.com>



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# wolves of the world

news from  
around the  
world

Photo: Vladimír Bologov



## Sheep to warn shepherds via SMS of wolf attacks



**USING SHEEP** to alert shepherds by text message of an imminent wolf attack might sound fanciful, but testing is already under way in Switzerland where the predator appears to be back. "It's the first time that such a system has been

tried outdoors," said biologist Jean-Marc Landry, who took part in testing on a Swiss meadow this week. In the trial, reported by the country's news agency ATS, around ten sheep were each equipped with a heart monitor before being targeted by a pair of Wolfdogs – both of which were muzzled. During the experiment, the change in the flock's heartbeat was found to be significant enough to imagine a system whereby the sheep could be fitted with a collar that releases a repellent to drive the wolf away, while also sending an SMS to the shepherd.

The device is aimed at owners of small flocks who lack the funds to keep a sheepdog and it could also be used in tourist areas where guard dogs are not popular. A prototype collar is expected in the autumn and testing is planned in Switzerland and France in 2013. Other countries including Norway are said to be interested. The issue of wolves is a divisive one in Switzerland where the animals appear to be back after a 100-year absence. On July 27 a wolf killed two sheep in St Gall, the first such attack in the eastern canton.

[tiny.cc/onzjjw](http://tiny.cc/onzjjw)

## Busch Gardens adopts Idaho wolf pup

**BUSCH GARDENS** recently adopted an eight-week-old gray wolf pup named Boise found on an Idaho roadside. Idaho state officials transported the male pup by airplane to the Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport on June 20, where a team of wolf experts from Busch Gardens met their new charge. According to the park, Boise is being slowly introduced to his new pack mates and will one day become part of the park's animal ambassador team that helps teach people the important role wolves play in the wild. Once he's acclimated, he will be introduced to park guests.

The pup was found by campers in May near the resort town of Ketchum, Idaho. They believed he was a lost domestic puppy and contacted a local veterinarian, who then contacted Idaho Fish and Game officials. "Boise has been given a second chance at life thanks to the leadership and support of Idaho Fish and Game, Zoo Boise and the Virginia Department of

Game and Inland Fisheries," said Jay Tacey, zoological manager for Busch Gardens. The officials worked with a local zoo and confirmed through DNA testing that the pup was a gray wolf. After unsuccessful attempts to locate the pup's pack, Idaho officials began looking for a suitable home for the rescued animal, Busch Gardens reports. Officials in Idaho chose Busch Gardens as Boise's new home because of the park's extensive experience with wolf training, husbandry and education programs. The park has 10 wolves in three different packs, including a pair of six-week-old pups the park bought from a Montana breeder.

"Because of our 12-year experience with wolves and the fact that we already had two wolf pups at the park played a major role in the decision by Idaho state officials to choose Busch Gardens for the pup's new home," said Tacey. Tacey reports that Boise took to his new pack, which consists of the two other pups and Mia, a German short-haired pointer



serving as their surrogate mother. Mia is the pack leader and will make sure the pups stay submissive.

The three young ones will one day be introduced into one of the park's mature packs. [tiny.cc/030jjw](http://tiny.cc/030jjw)

For the full story on the search for Boise's natural family follow this link: [tiny.cc/340jjw](http://tiny.cc/340jjw)



# nibbles

## Controversial wolf hunt for Wisconsin

**THE WISCONSIN** Department of Natural Resources' objectives for its first wolf hunt is to begin to reduce the state-wide wolf population, provide hunting and trapping opportunities and monitor, learn and adapt for future seasons. The state's population goal as set in its 1999 wolf management plan is 350 wolves outside of tribal reservation lands.

The current Wisconsin wolf population is estimated at 815-880. A proposed quota of 143-233 wolves has been set with licences available for up to 500 hunters. [tiny.cc/3syjjw](http://tiny.cc/3syjjw)

## European grey wolf pups are first to be born in the Highlands in 12 years

**WOLVES IN** the wild in Scotland were thought to have been hunted to extinction in the 1700s. Douglas Richardson, animal collection manager at the Highland Wildlife Park, said wolves had been an 'iconic' animal at the park since 1972. On the births of the five grey wolf pups at the park Mr Richardson said on the park's Facebook page: "We have made a number of changes to how we manage the species over recent years and it is personally very rewarding to watch this litter being reared." [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-18714002](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-18714002)

## Wolf surprised by early morning walkers

**WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY** enthusiasts, Fabienne and Pascal Cordier of Mulhouse, were holidaying in the Haute Savoie in France where they hoped to shoot chamois near Lake Tardevant. They saw an animal running in the meadow at the foot of the valley of the Grand Cret, a hundred metres from the two hikers. Pascal looked through the powerful 400mm zoom lens of his camera and realised it was a wolf. "I only had time to take two decent pictures, the light at 6:30 am was very low and in the excitement of the moment, I forgot to change my settings" he said. Moments later, the wolf disappeared towards the Paccaly chalets. *Translated from [tiny.cc/vka3iw](http://tiny.cc/vka3iw)*

## Rebirth of the wolf sees French Greens at each other's throats – environmental battle ignites as predators begin to encroach on sheep farming land

**THE LIGHTNING** re-conquest of France by the wolf has provoked a civil war within French Greens, pitting one of the country's most renowned campaigners against environmentalists, some of whom are demanding his ousting from the movement.

Wolves have been seen this summer for the first time since the 1920s in the sheep-rearing area in Lozère in the southern Auvergne, the home of Roquefort cheese.

José Bové, sheep farmer-turned-environmental campaigner, has called publicly for the wolves to be shot, provoking protest from other French Greens, who point out that the grey wolf is a protected by European law. One wildlife protection group has filed a legal complaint against Mr Bové for "inciting the destruction of an endangered species."

Pierre Athanase, president of the Association pour la Protection des Animaux Sauvages (ASPAS), said: "Ecology means biodiversity. If Mr Bové can't understand that, he should leave [the Green movement]."

Mr Bové, 59, became a hero to the anti-globalist and ecological movement when he drove a bulldozer through a half-built McDonalds' restaurant in Millau, in Lozère, in 1999. He has since served several prison terms for cutting down genetically modified crops. Mr Bové insists that the grey wolf is not a green issue. "We ecologists have to stop the double-talk," he said. "We can't be

against the depopulation of the countryside and, at the same time, create areas of the country in which farmers cannot make a living. We should shoot wolves... the priority should be to protect small farmers in mountainous areas."

A handful of Italian wolves, which re-colonised the French Alps around 1993, are estimated to have multiplied to about 200 animals in 20 packs, ranging as far west as the Auvergne and as far north as the Vosges on the Alsace-Lorraine border.

Experts have predicted that they could reach the large forests just south of Paris by the end of this decade. Under a 'wolf code' established in 2004, the animals can be shot legally only by government marksmen or by shepherds trained and licensed to defend their flocks from an actual wolf attack. In areas where wolves are present, shepherds are expected to invest in guard dogs, lighting and electric fences.

These measures are controversial, but reasonably effective in the high sheep pastures of the Alps.

Shepherds in Lozère say that the cost of protection from wolf attack for their smaller farms would be ruinous. Their flocks – up to 200, compared to several thousand in the Alps – are used to grazing unprotected at night on warm summer evenings.



Photo: Vladimiar Bologov

André Baret, sheep farmer and mayor of the village of Hure-la-Parade, said: "Our farms are already threatened... That's not the fault of the wolves, but they could push us over the precipice."

Defenders of the wolf say that co-habitation between man, sheep and wolf is possible. There are 200 wolves in France but over 1,000 in Italy and 2,000 in Spain, where sheep farms still thrive. Until the late 18th century, long after the last wolf was shot in Britain, wolves lived just across the Channel in the Pas de Calais.

However, *canis lupus* is not expected to knock on Britain's door any time soon. Western and northern France is no longer wooded or wild enough to sustain them.

*The Independent, [tiny.cc/v5v2iw](http://tiny.cc/v5v2iw)*



## Deeper digging needed to decode a best friend's genetic roots

As scientific puzzles go, the origin of dogs may not be as important as the origin of the universe. But it strikes closer to home, and it almost seems harder to answer.

Cosmologists seem to have settled on the idea that 13.7 billion years ago the universe appeared with a bang (the big one) from nothing – albeit a kind of nothing that included the laws of physics. With dogs, the consensus is that they came from wolves. Beyond that, there are varying claims. It seems dogs appeared sometime between 15,000 and 100,000 years ago, in Asia or Africa or multiple times in multiple places.

There is a reason for this confusion, according to Greger Larson at the University of Durham in England. In a new research paper he argues that the DNA of modern dogs is so mixed up that it is useless in figuring out when and where dogs originated. “With the amount of DNA we’ve sequenced so far,” Dr. Larson said, “we’re lucky to get back a hundred years, max.” He says that only with the analysis of DNA from fossil dogs, now being done, will answers along this line emerge.

Dr. Larson, the first of 20 authors on a paper about the origin of dogs published Monday in The Proceedings of the National

Academy of Sciences, argues



Shar-pei

that

genetic study of modern breeds does not “get us any closer to understanding where and when and how dogs were domesticated.”

Adam Boyko of Cornell University, who has worked in the field of dog genetics but was not involved in the study, said that Dr. Larson’s group had a “fantastic data set,” and laid out clearly the current difficulties in nailing down the details of dog domestication. Dr. Larson and his colleagues analyzed 49,024 locations on dog DNA where the genetic code varies, so-called SNPs (pronounced snips, for single nucleotide polymorphisms). They took the DNA from 1,375 dogs of 121 breeds and 19 wolves.

What they found was that all the so-called modern breeds had been so mixed that their deep genetic history was obscured. They also found six breeds that they called basal, meaning that their DNA was less mixed – the basenji, shar-pei (pictured below), saluki, akita, Finnish spitz and eurasier.

When they added these to eight breeds deemed ancient (older than 500 years) in other studies, what they found was that the dogs that were most genetically distinct were not from the places where the oldest archaeological and fossil evidence had been found. Dr. Larson said that the expectation was that if these breeds were closer genetically to the first domesticated dogs, they would be geographically closer as well, more likely to be found near the sites of early dog fossils, or archaeological records of ancient breeds.

Instead, the more genetically distinct dogs had been geographically isolated relatively recently in the history of domestication. For example, dingoes,



Tala by Danny Kidby Hunter

basenjis and New Guinea singing dogs came from Southeast Asia and southern Africa, where dogs did not arrive until 3,500 and 1,400 years ago, respectively. Their distinctive genes were indications of relatively recent isolation.

But, he said, all is not lost. Humans have buried their dogs for a long time, and as a result there are fossils of truly ancient dogs, in the neighborhood of 15,000 years old, from which DNA can be extracted. Just as DNA from Neanderthals has helped illuminate the origins of modern humans, DNA from ancient dog fossils should help illuminate the story of early dog domestication in the next few years.

“Let’s step back,” he said. “Let’s take a breath. We’re not a million miles away” from figuring out when and where dogs appeared. “We’re close.”

The New York Times – [tiny.cc/011jjw](http://tiny.cc/011jjw)

## Wyoming wolves could lose endangered-species protection

The estimated 330 wolves roaming northwestern Wyoming could lose their protection as an endangered species.

The Department of the Interior is currently reviewing the final delisting rule, says Diane Katzenberger, a spokesman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If approved, the long-anticipated rule will end protections for wolves and enable annual wolf hunting.

The FWS first proposed delisting Wyoming wolves last October. Following delisting, the state will take over management of the wolf population, guided by a management plan they developed. The plan requires that Wyoming maintain a minimum of ten breeding pairs and a minimum of 100 individuals outside of Yellowstone National Park and the Wind River Indian Reservation.

Wyoming is not the only western state proposing a change in existing wolf regulations. Last week [mid-August 2012] Montana’s Fish, Wildlife, and Parks division (FWP) released a draft proposal that would allow Wildlife Services to kill problem wolves without permission from the state.

Read the full story at: [tiny.cc/nwuwjw](http://tiny.cc/nwuwjw)



# Introducing Dr Nathan Varley

When I learnt that Nathan and his wife Linda Thurston were coming over to speak at the *Wolf Awareness Week* conference I was delighted. Nathan introduced Alan and me to Yellowstone and its ecosystem and I cannot think of a better person to come and introduce all of you to it as well.

Nathan Varley grew up in Mammoth Hot Springs (MHS). From the North Entrance it is the staging post for travelling out into the Park. Nathan was not a 'home-based' child, unlike his brother. His mother was always wondering where he was but she knew what he would be doing – discovering some animal or feature somewhere in the environs of MHS and Yellowstone. He was never home and always

herd needed to move on to the next green patch and this meant moving through some deep snow. This is when the wolves would attack. There would be a flurry of activity as the herd made the 'dash' across the snow. It is difficult to dash through deep snow and try as they might the herd normally ended up being spaced out between the green patches. It took ten days for the wolf pack to finally bring down one of the bison. Nathan had been with them every day.

On our first trip with Nathan into Yellowstone we were fortunate enough to see the famous Druid Pack in all its glory – 37 members. Nathan had found them for us off in the distance and made sure we all got

a good look at this magnificent pack. He talked about the pack, how it was formed and why it was so big.

exploring. This has given him such a solid foundation in knowledge of how everything works in Yellowstone.

When the wolves were reintroduced in 1995 and 1996 he was involved and in the thick of it. He had found his calling. He went on to do his PhD on wolf predation on the Yellowstone elk herd. His knowledge of the ecosystem is extremely impressive.

Several times I have emailed Nathan asking for advice or querying something that I've read. Normally he emailed back quite quickly. On one occasion I heard nothing from him for some time. Then came an email and an apology. He had been camping out in the back country (late winter!) and had spent time following a wolf pack as they tried to bring down a bison. Nathan explained that the bison were fine as long as they were on a green patch; however, the

Yellowstone doesn't always co-operate and I joined Nathan and others on a wolf course. For four days we saw no wolves but we did see lots of bears and Nathan was just as knowledgeable about them; though it was disappointing not to see the wolves, we had a wonderful time learning about bears.



*Nathan and Linda*

I have, however, kept our best experience with Nathan until last: The Yellowstone Association decided to try and run an autumn course based at Slough Creek Camp Ground (after it was shut to the public) and in tents. This is not like a camp site in the UK – there was one 'field toilet' and that was it! We were keen to join this as Nathan was running it. As we were travelling out from the UK we got special permission to have a 'recreational vehicle' – a small one – rather than hiring camping equipment! The dates were in October so we bought sleeping bags good to -12°C. I have to tell you that the first night was -14°C and even in the RV it was cold! It was the most amazing four days camping in the Park and being out before dawn. We watched and learnt much about the wolves at close hand. We would have great hikes during the day. In the evenings Nathan would know a place where we could all sit and watch life in Yellowstone. We saw wolves testing elk and nipping their back legs; this in the hope that as the winter wore on these bites would slow them down. It was great that we could just sit and watch but to have Nathan explaining events as they occurred and pointing out events that we were missing was just magical. Last thing at night we would sit around the campfire and listen to tales of Yellowstone.

To be able to listen to Nathan on his first visit to the UK is a unique opportunity and I look forward to joining all of you at the conference on 14th October.

*Kirsty Peake*

*All images except of Nathan and Linda  
by Kirsty Peake*





# Talking werewolves with Glen Duncan



*'Wolves aren't scary. They're dangerous, yes, but so are geese, in the wrong mood.'*

Julia Bohanna talks madness, myth and the lure of lycanthropy, with writer Glen Duncan.

**O**n a buttery hot July afternoon the author of *The Last Werewolf* and *Talulla Rising* (reviewed on pages 24 to 25) came to the Trust to walk with wolves. Glen Duncan is currently finishing a trilogy – an adeptly twisted werewolf family saga. His aim, after the frustrations of publishing literary novels with a small readership, was to produce a 'commercial page-turner.'

A writer who writes about werewolves? At the UK Wolf Conservation Trust? Really? It may superficially seem an uneasy marriage, if not destined for an angry annulment. The Trust works hard and with passion to dispel myths – so surely anything that portrays the wolf as monster should be ignored, or even reviled?

But the reasons I engineered the meeting with his publicist is threefold:

*It is crucial to learn about mythology and folklore...*

Firstly, in order to fight for the future of the lupine, we need to understand the history of *canis lupus*, not simply what is happening now. It is crucial to learn about mythology and folklore so that we can fully understand attitudes and then debate them from a position of knowledge.

Secondly, Duncan's books are not slasher-horror anti-wolf pulp fiction. They are bloody, sexy and most definitely not a good present for a maiden aunt. Bravely, he has refused to compromise his literary standards in the descriptive power, characterisation and story, despite stepping into genre. It makes a difference. Written with intellect, sharp humour and wit – they should receive a parallel brand of readership. He uses the werewolf as a starting point for human preoccupations that are both everyday and monumental. Who am I? What is life for? Where am I going?

Finally, at the risk of sounding patronising, we should be here to educate and debate, not ignore the 'uglier' side of wolf conservation. When

recent films like *The Grey* portray natural wolves in the wild in an inaccurate and hysterical way, we should stand up and shout, decry the whole thing. But the werewolf is a purely fictional beast, as is a mermaid, a troll or a unicorn. The rules of its creation, appetite and demise are already written. Surely we can allow that distinction, while maintaining our remit.

The history of the werewolf stretches back centuries. In 1865, Sabine Baring-Gould wrote *The Story of Werewolves*. Clearly, fear of such a hirsute beast is primal and ancient, present in many diverse cultures. Baring-Gould's approach is academic and surprisingly modern – I would suggest that we take the same approach to anything that might be perceived as anti-wolf. Most of all, we need to spark debate.

So back to that warm summer's day. It is always a vicarious thrill to introduce visitors to our animals. It was not

only Duncan's first wolf contact but actually, as far as he could remember, the first time he had ever seen a wolf in the flesh. A perfect opportunity for education. He was surprised at the size of our Arctics, but then admonished himself for being surprised. Initially he thought that Tala, because of her dark coat, looked quite demonic. '*Something in the eyes*,' was a comment – but it is one we all have heard before. A wolf's marble-exquisite stare is one of the reasons the species is reviled and revered in equal measure. Later in our discussion we would agree on the mesmeric quality of those orbs.

Handlers may well smile. Tala may be trouble at times – as with all wolves testing their friends – but she certainly is not demonic.

The visit itself went better than expected. It was a real family day out with handlers and wolves Tala, Tundra and Nuka. Walking across stubbly Berkshire cornfields that held straw bales like alien parcels, we had a chance to chat informally but also appreciate the incredible sight of wolves against a



backdrop of trees and blue sky. 'This is clearly not the field to be chased by a psychopath,' said Duncan, referring to the short leftover stubble. His writerly imagination was clearly doing cartwheels. But it was also apparent that he was calm, thoughtful and moved by the experience.

The wolves certainly wanted to avoid the spiky jabs to their feet, but were curious about smells within the bales – most probably mice. It brought out their inquisitive, playful side and Wolf Print editor Vicky explained that the cubs, not quite fully grown, are still learning about the world around them.

At one point Duncan made a fist for 'demonic' Tala for our traditional 'member of the pack' greeting. Tala refused to acknowledge her evil stereotype and indeed looked fairly bored by the whole affair. Nuka was more interested; his muzzle up to take in the breath smells. Duncan admitted to a lunch of buffalo wings – so it was clearly a carnivore-to-carnivore approval.

At one point early in the walk, the wolves left behind at the Trust began to howl, which was reciprocated by at least one of the walking wolves. Someone mentioned that it was a beautiful sound and Duncan looked rapt. 'It certainly is,' he said quietly. It was, he observed, strange to hear in daylight – connected as it often is with darkness and dense forest.

In our later interview, I mentioned I had read that Duncan had been scared of wolves as a child. He was quick to make the distinction that it was actually werewolves, not wolves, who had haunted his dreams: 'I did dream – a recurring dream of a werewolf-like creature attacking my mother... steady, Freudian analysts!'

I asked him too about any research he might have done – but he was honest and owned up to being lazy about research. His only terms of reference was to 'drag up from memory the Hammer House movies of the 60s and 70s and the horror films that I grew up watching.'

The question I was bursting to ask (and did) was 'After today, has anything changed your opinion of the wolf?'

His answer was firm and unequivocal: 'I have always thought that the wolf is a magnificent creature – nothing has changed.'

I asked many other questions, not all I can share with you here as I am trying to keep it mainly wolf-related. But one important one:

*'There has been and is now an inherent problem with the wolf being perceived as a monster. Centuries of religious iconography, folklore and tall tales have not helped. So why do you think man feels the need to create monsters?'*

As throughout, his response was carefully thought out and elegantly phrased: 'In ages past, the beast was a receptor for human horror. That despite the fact that man is capable – with the evidence of Auschwitz and other monstrosities – of much evil himself, on a massive scale. There is also now a resurrection of the monster as a literary device. Fundamentally it's all about monsters and telling stories that are deep within the human psyche. That fear of the beast.'

Duncan had indeed pre-empted my next question, which was to ask whether the perceived evil in a werewolf – which is half-man, half-wolf – is in fact more a man's than a wolf's. The 'wolf within' (as Jacob Marlowe, the werewolf protagonist of *The Last Werewolf*, calls it) may supply the strength to facilitate murder, but man is always there, making choices.

This is a writer who does something very interesting with the werewolf genre. A werewolf female is rare enough – but he has also refused to use the over-worn filmic device of the creature blacking out and taking no responsibility for their actions. He wanted to explore instead the dilemma of having a core moral sensibility, battling within against a need to perpetuate evil. 'You kill or you die' being the principle conundrum.

Duncan also pointed out that one of the reasons why wildlife programmes are so popular is that whatever animals do, they can be forgiven – because animals are ruled by id. Simple urges drive their behaviour: hunger, the urge to

reproduce, etc. They do not have existentialist choice or, as Freud might observe, the super-ego of man who weighs decisions for a long time or takes Hamlet-like care over analysing situations. That is not to demean an animal's intelligence, but more to point out that mankind has more of a moral responsibility to be 'good.'

Duncan has long admitted his preoccupations with love, sex and death. The werewolf was a perfect outlet for all three. But why? So I asked: 'Wolves are no more sexually active than any other creatures – why do you think they are tied so powerfully to predatory sexual behaviour? Professor Marvin, an anthropologist, pointed out at one of our seminars that Red Riding Hood is lured by the wolf who is sitting in bed. The positioning is no accident.'

'Some animals are just sexually totemic,' he stated. 'There is simply an aesthetic to some of them. The wolf – rightly or wrongly – is linked to the moon. The moon has always been used romantically – connected with love and eros – but also with a loss of control, the tides and mostly prominently, madness. Luna – lunatic. So it all slots together.'

Duncan was enigmatic about the third instalment of his saga. He does reveal that in *By Blood We Live* there will be multiple narrators and interestingly, human violence and capacity for evil will play more of a role than that perpetuated by mythical beasts.

It will be interesting to see how wolves, which finally made an appearance as guardians of Talulla and her family in *Talulla Rising*, are presented now that Glen Duncan has met our ambassador animals. But I feel that he has already made a strong distinction in his novels between the fictional and the flesh. In a short time with him, I got the sense that he has a lot of soul and intelligence. I am also proud that I resisted the urge to say 'Werewolf? There wolf!' but I sense that he may have laughed. Politely.

Julia Bohanna

Glen Duncan is the author of seven previous novels, including *I*, *Lucifer* and *Hope*.

*a recurring dream of a werewolf-like creature*

*...a core moral sensibility, battling within against a need to perpetuate evil.*



# Making Tracks

wolves in the media and the arts

## THE LAST WEREWOLF

Glen Duncan

Canongate Books, paperback, 346pp, 19.6 x 12.4cm  
RRP £7.99 ISBN 978 1 84767 946 8

Glen Duncan's book stinks. In a world where it is customary to disguise the unpleasant smells of mankind with a *'fresh, bright tang of lemon'*, our werewolf protagonist Jacob/Jake Marlowe exists at quite another level. He lives beneath the sweet, neat glossy world of advertising perfection. Deep into the world of the lupine, the canine, the beast, Marlowe is very much in the natural world, as well as the supernatural. But he can also appreciate the sophisticated when he is human.

In the very first chapter, he sits in a room that smells of *'tangerines and leather and the fire's pine logs.'* Later he will describe a female vampire as *'a beautiful woman exuding a smell of decomposing meat.'* And the *'meat stink'* of someone's breath.

He may be alive to the olfactory universe, but Marlowe is far from happy. Firstly, the World Organisation for the Control of Occult Phenomena is seeking to destroy him. In two centuries, there are a number of things that he has exhausted: people, philosophies, and positivity. Even his name seems to be a double nod to the weary Jacob Marley in A Christmas Carol, who Dickens described as *'captive, bound and double-ironed'* and the enigmatic playwright Marlowe. *'One by one I've exhausted the modes... hedonism, asceticism, spontaneity, reflection, everything from miserable Socrates to the happy pig.'*

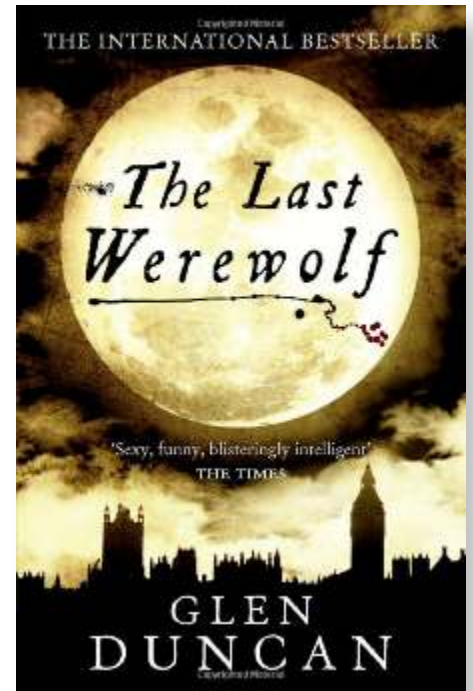
Secondly, loneliness bites Jacob's soul – he is the last werewolf standing but also a dead man walking. But stand he does – being wolf-man hybrid. The Curse is also very much that – when the conscience of man has to be submerged to comfort and feed a werewolf's id: hunger, lust and pure survival.

We get an interesting perspective, a convincing voice, of a creature in a primal state, who is haunted by monstrous memories: *'An inner stink comes up at times of all the meat and blood that's passed down my gullet, the offal I've buried my snout in...'*

Duncan has taken a brave step with his visceral tale. He has used the werewolf to truly examine the human condition. It is not simply about murder, fear, bones and blood. Once the man is transformed into the creature, it has no ability to communicate – but it can think and to some extent, makes choices.

The humour and sexiness of *The Last Werewolf* is very powerful, accompanied as it is by an overarching melancholy. The mood was even subtle at times – it reminded me of the delicious sadness I might get from reading Evelyn Waugh's *A Handful of Dust*. We follow and pity this stagnant soul, this weary nihilist. But Jacob is also quick-witted, educated and in some ways looking down on lesser-cultured souls. Hence the humour, sarcasm and closely observed pathos. He looks at depictions of other werewolves and calls them *'pug-faced lollopers.'*

It is not all about ruminatory exposition – although I might have been content with that because I am a sucker for good syntax and elegant prose. There is action, story and a Raymond Chandleresque nod at description: *'...the long white calves of a moody brunette'* being a prime example. You will feel, see and most definitely smell Jacob's predicament. His life is ultimately strange. One moment he is regretful: *'My life, I thought, is a list of people I've failed.'* He mulls over the *'inner dead'* he has murdered. Next he might be drolly observing an attack: *'One finds oneself flying through the air. That's quite something.'*



It is when Jacob finally falls in love (and I cannot give too much away) that he finds a purpose. Sensuality and connectedness mend his tired soul: *'Here we were on the bed together, warm as a pot of sunlit honey.'*

His plight is touching and the fact that tender moments are rare makes them more resonant. But there are always distinctions between the werewolf, the man and the inner wolf. There are so many extraordinary leaps of language that create a filmic quality, such as describing a body *'fairytaleishly too big for the bed.'*

Jacob is clearly trapped. But there is at the core of him, a creature that wants to be more natural, less monstrous: *'In my dreams a small wolf slept inside me...it was dreaming of being born...sometimes its legs were in my legs...its paws in my hands. Other times it was barely the size of a kitten, heartburn hot and fidgety under my sternum.'*

Duncan has taken the werewolf genre and slashed at your preconceptions. His words dance in the brain; they make you wince and wonder in equal measure. Characters are solid, real, even when they are hairy by moonlight. They make you feel and care for them. Murder is more murderous than you can ever imagine and the whole novel burns with intelligence. But that strange tender image of the wolf inside stayed with me for a very long time after I finished reading.

Julia Bohanna



# TALULLA RISING

Glen Duncan

Canongate, hardback, 425pp, 23.6 x 16.0cm  
RRP £16.99 ISBN: 978 1 84767 947 5

In the second of Duncan's trilogy Talulla, newly werewolf and even more recently pregnant, imagines the child to be '*...a little werewolf boy...a leftover eyeball in his lunchbox, a human tongue flopping out of his blazer pocket.*'

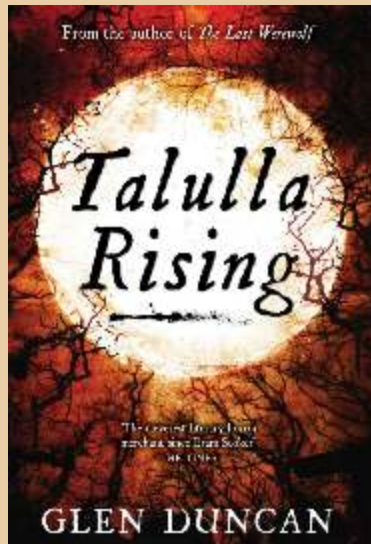
Rate that, Jamie Oliver! Later she considers the reality of bringing werewolf juniors into the world: '*My children would change, crave flesh and blood, young as they were.*'

So we have it – the female of the species. Pregnant, vulnerable but with all the feisty genetics handed down by her tough mother, Talulla has now decided that she wants to live, she wants to perpetuate the life within. Her mother taught her never to indulge in self-pity '*I never saw a wild thing sorry for itself.*' and so she lives her life as best she can. I became fascinated with some of the peripheral characters and was not surprised that Duncan had much more of Talulla's mother that had to be cut.

Talulla is undoubtedly a feisty feminist heroine, as befits her sassy name. Locked in with a young vampire? No problem. Attacked by a sadist. Bring it on. She makes *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* look wispy. Ultimately she is afraid, as all new mothers are, of not looking after her offspring. But there is a difference – she is afraid of eating her young, of being unable to control the lascivious urges when the change happens. Her post-natal obsession. Will she love them or will she love them with gravy?

The pocket eyeball is not the only time that eyes are used in a graphic way – there is a lot that will make you wince in that department. It is very graphic Greek tragedy, coupled with modern humour and a bit of *King Lear* thrown in – especially the latter when one character is referred to as Nuncle by another. It's a visceral soup with dollops of literary knowledge and wit.

But there is always that distinction – of the real wolf and the fantastic wolf-man hybrid: '*Wolves are not known for killing the things they love – that's werewolves, honey.*'



In fact the real wolves that appear here are heroic, the cavalry. They are protectors. Hoorah for that!

Ultimately, this about motherhood, family, the need to find meaning. But between the bloody action and the sadomasochistic relationships there are moments of sensitivity and tenderness: '*...my dad used to take my mom's hand and make her press it on his face because he loved the feel and smell of her palm and because he was one of those men who was always ultimately looking to dissolve himself into a woman.*'

Yes, it made me cry. It says so much about what it is to be human but also our responsibility to the world – both in the microcosm of family life and in the world at large.

Talulla may not be quite as deep-thinking as Jacob. Yet. She's young still, finding her (hairy, clawed) feet. But this is a single mother with a difference.

As with *The Last Werewolf*, it might not be one to read if you are squeamish or blush easily. It's graphic, brutal – but nevertheless intelligent. It makes all the difference.

Julia Bohanna

# IF WE COULD SPEAK LIKE WOLVES

Kim Moore

Smith/Doorstop Books, pamphlet, 26pp  
RRP £5.00 ISBN 978 1 906613 75 4

This gorgeous little poetry pamphlet is a joy. I found myself carrying it from room to room like a zealot with a hymn book, picking at bits of carefully crafted language and dwelling on the lives hinted within. Two poems are lupine – but others explore subjects as diverse as sexual attraction at Wetherspoons, spiritualism and even a poet who abandons his work and then imagines '*the footprints of the tube mice, sooty on his words.*' Insects and animals make various and fascinating appearances, sometimes in their vulnerability '*like a dog that's been stepped on.*'

Moore has a fine vivid sense of imagery that is both sensual and resonant: '*the moths would hit the walls with a sound like fingers tapping.*'

One of the poems—*The Wolf*—can be read many times and each time I found a different explanation for who the wolf and the mysterious 'she' was and where the narrative was leading me. The poem plays delicately on sayings like 'wolf in sheep's clothing' and hints at deception, seduction and betrayal.

But it is the title poem which most held my attention. An interesting premise – the idea that we might communicate like wolves in our romantic relationships – the very epitome of tough love: '*if I could rub my scent along your shins to make you mine.*' It is the brutality but realism of the observations that makes it most powerful – a bond made in response to '*our lonely howls.*'

I will keep it confined to the wolfy aspects, but her poems are worth your effort. She makes you work as a reader but all her exquisite pieces are stitched together with real meaning and depth. Characters breathe and intrigue. Her landscapes may colour your dreams: '*if we journeyed each night for miles, taking it in turns to lead....*'

Julia Bohanna

Kim appears in Salt's Best British Poetry 2012 and was a Young Poet-in-Residence at the 2012 Ledbury Poetry Festival.



# Following in the Footsteps of Albanian Wolves, Bear and Lynx

*'There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,  
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,  
There is society, where none intrudes,  
By the deep Sea, and music in its roar:  
I love not Man the less, but Nature more'*

Lord Byron, who visited Albania

**H**ave you ever considered spending eight days in a remote unspoiled region of the little known country of Albania, trekking and following in the footsteps of wolves?

**FOR 15** years International Community Assist (ICA) has been working to help the needy with education and capacity building in Albania. The work involves giving support to the destitute, those with learning difficulties, the disabled, minorities and mountain tourism. In the very remote rural areas unemployment is high and the UK Wolf Conservation Trust is helping ICA to provide livestock guard dogs in the sub-Alpine south eastern historical 'lost city' of Voskopoja, near Korce. At present, the villagers only have small dogs that are unable to confront the wolves effectively.

**FEW FOREIGNERS** have visited this remote part of Albania: there are no official maps of the south east available! Albania has only very recently opened up to tourists since the fall of the communist dictatorship in the 1990s. The area around Voskopoja is a pristine wilderness and the perfect home to around 60 wolves (*canis lupus*), 30 bears (*ursus arctos*) and Europe's most endangered mammal, the Balkan lynx (*lynx lynx*), which has also very recently been spotted in the area. These magnificent beasts are very elusive, so though it is relatively easy to see signs of their presence, it is only the very lucky few who ever get to see the actual animals for themselves.

architecture and Orthodox churches, some of which still have noteworthy 18th century frescoes; now it is a small village. Life in this remote area is very tough for the local population as there is very little work and making a living from the land is difficult. Through funds raised by mountain tours to the area, the local people are being helped to diversify and earn a sustainable living year round. The food and accommodation is simple, but excellent, and the local people are very welcoming.

## THE DINARIC ALPS

stretch from Croatia down to Greece and

Albania is therefore an important link at the southern end of the corridors for wildlife. Hence, at international, national and local level the conservation of such wildlife is important. In Albania there are believed to be about 1,700 wolves, 300 brown bears and only 30 of the endangered Balkan lynx remaining in the wild. It is not known whether the whole of the mountainous areas of Albania is interspersed with these mammals or whether their population is fragmented. Albania provides an important link with the bears of Greece, which are at the southern end of the chain of wildlife. At the end of

Voskopoja was once an ancient city rich in history with remarkable Romanesque

communism in 1991 the border electric fences to keep the people in were taken down and the wolf and bear population grew as they spread back from neighbouring countries. This was spurred on by the very difficult economic conditions and depopulation to the cities and other countries in search of work. The lack of suitable livestock guard dogs is due to the use of poisoning in the communist period to keep wolf numbers down.



**HABITAT LOSS** has impacted on the numbers of wild animals, although with population decline from the mountainous villages this has enhanced the prospect for both bears and wolves. However, illegal shooting is decimating the hare population which for lynx is their main source of food. This is a major problem as they are on the verge of extinction. The bears too are a problem as they are a threat to grass for cows – which the local people rely heavily on – fruit trees, strawberries, maize crops, beehives, and the killing of cows and horses. The use of livestock guard dogs will help.





**WOLVES HELP** maintain the balance of wildlife and keep down diseases – they ‘clean’ the forest – but they also frequent rubbish areas and can attack flocks of sheep, guard dogs, domestic dogs and donkeys. If they get into a poorly protected stall they can kill all of the sheep. There are about five to six wolves per pack but groups of up to ten to twelve have been seen.

**OTHER MAMMALS** in the region include marten – whose skin is valued – wildcat, foxes – which are bigger than the ones found in UK – and otters. The loss of birds and hares due to illegal over-hunting by outsiders means that local poor people do not have the ability to supplement their livelihoods with traditional foods.

**SHEPHERDS** are being helped with specially bred livestock guard dogs to protect their sheep from wolves, and this in turn helps the wolf population, which have in the past been illegally shot. The local environs are also being protected through conservation education and advocacy work through local national and governmental organisations.

We have provided six Sharra puppies from Kosovo that arrived in Voskopoja, southeast Albania in November 2011. One has died, leaving one male and five females. The plan is to get two more males to go to Voskopoja and three males and five females to either nearby Voskopoja or to the north of the county

around Valbona in the Albanian Alps in early summer of 2013.

The livestock guard dogs are distributed so they can work as a group to protect a flock of 300 sheep. It will be interesting to see how the wolf predation will be affected against livestock domestic animals and the hoped-for ending of the village rubbish tip in 2013 which the wolves frequent in winter. It is hoped that this can be assessed with visitors from the UK doing tracking in January 2013. Please see our appeal for volunteers below.

*David James, ICA Director*



## Summer Mountain Tours

### MOUNTAIN TREKKING • WILDLIFE WATCHING • HISTORIC CULTURE • EXPERT ENGLISH-SPEAKING GUIDE

The Summer Mountain Tours are run twice a year in May and September. In May the spring flowers are out and September is the best time to see the mountains in their autumnal splendour. The tours include trekking through the countryside following in the footsteps of bears. There are also opportunities to visit some of the intriguing Orthodox churches to see the frescoes and to learn more about life in this remote community. Each group consists of ten to twelve participants who are guided by an English-speaking expert.

The cost for an eight-day tour is £525 – summer and winter walking – following the footsteps of the local wildlife and seeing some of the beautiful churches. This covers full board, excluding flights which are daily from Gatwick with BA. Return flights range from £150 to £210.

The tours for 2013 will take place from 4th to 11th May and 21st to 28th September 2013. There are still some places remaining on both tours.

Winter research on the wildlife in this area is also very welcome, particularly on the local population of wolves, and International Community Assist would welcome up to 15 volunteers to come and visit the area from 19th to 26th January 2013 and in 2014/15 to find out more of the movements of the wolf population in the region, by tracking their movements through the snow.

For more information on all tours please visit [www.albanianwalking.com](http://www.albanianwalking.com) and [www.ica-uk.co.uk](http://www.ica-uk.co.uk), tel: 01380 840990, email: [icauk@btopenworld.com](mailto:icauk@btopenworld.com).



# Wolf Gifts and Merchandise



## UKWCT 2013 Calendar £8.50

Brighten up your home or office over the coming year with this A4 calendar. It opens up to A3 in size providing plenty of space for planning events. Each month features a stunning picture of one of our twelve wolves. More details on pages 16-17.



## 1000-piece Pukak Jigsaw £12.99

Bespoke jigsaw featuring our very own Arctic wolf Pukak in the snow. Completed size 48cm x 69cm.



**EXCLUSIVE**

## UKWCT Wristband £2.00

A marbled lime green and white slightly stretchy wristband. Embossed with 'UK WOLF CONSERVATION TRUST', two paw prints and our website address. 12mm width x 205mm circumference approx. Also available in marbled grey.



## Mai and Motomo Card

**50p each**

Plain inside and perfect for any occasion. Supplied with envelope. Size A6.



## Massak & Sikko Christmas Card 70p each

Printed with *Happy Christmas* and supplied with envelope. Size A5.



## Crystal Paperweight £9.50

A hemisphere crystal glass paperweight entitled 'Wild One' designed by Lisa Parker and supplied in an embossed and padded presentation box. Size 8cm diameter. Boxed weight 365g.

## iPhone cover

**£12.50**

Livlife 3D protective phone case suitable for iPhone 4 and iPhone 4S.



## Crystal Glass Keyring £3.00

Double-sided keyring (same image both sides) mounted into a stainless steel ring with chain and fob attached. Featuring 'The Wild One' design by Lisa Parker. 3.2cm diameter, 10cm long.





### Wolf Zooflipz £2.90

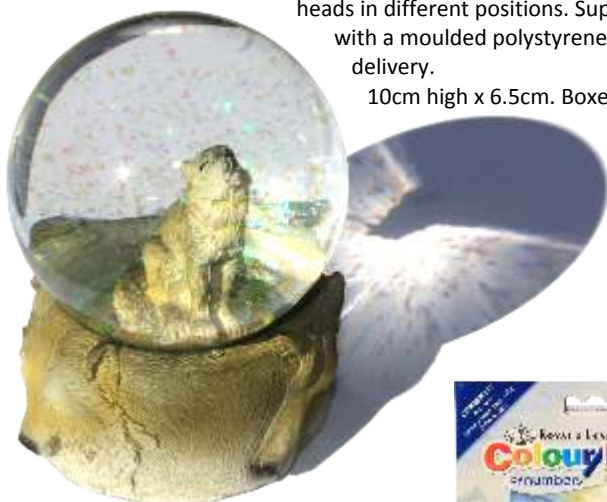
Flip the book one way and see two wolves walking in snow. Turn it around and flip the other way and see another wolf in action! Over 50 scientific facts, including species survival status. Paperback. 96pp. 10cm x 6cm approx.



### Wolf Snow Globe £5.50

Adults and children alike will love this traditional globe with a twist! Simply shake for a glittering 'snow' storm. The resin base features three wolves' heads in different positions. Supplied boxed with a moulded polystyrene inner for safe delivery.

10cm high x 6.5cm. Boxed weight 300g.



### Colour Pencil by Numbers £2.10

Beautiful design from Royal Langnickel: The set includes ten numbered colour pencils, pre-printed colouring board (size 127mm x 178mm), one numbered transparency overlay and easy-to-understand instructions. Great stocking filler!



### Red Wolf Webkinz £13.99

Red Wolf by Webkinz is a stuffed animal that comes alive online in Webkinz World – an interactive and customisable website. You need a secret, unique code to enter Webkinz World Website. You name your pet, pick its clothes, feed and decorate its room.

Adopting a Webkinz pet gives you access to over 50 games and many assorted daily activities. Invite your friends to play with you and their own Webkinz animal. Code valid for one year... and you get to keep the cuddly toy!

Size 26cm high. Age 3+.

### Wolves Scaper Foil Engraving Art

Stunning designs from Royal Langnickel:



*Wolves in Trees* silver foil engraving art is available in two sizes – standard and mini – and *Howling Wolves* in stunning rainbow colours is available in standard size. Each set includes one pre-printed board, one scrape-cutter, one practice board and easy-to-understand instructions.

#### Wolves in Trees silver foil

Mini size (board 127mm x 178mm)

£2.10

Standard size (board 203mm x 254mm)

£4.75

#### Howling Wolves rainbow

Standard size (board 203mm x 254mm)

£4.75

To view and order these and our other stationery, clothing, gifts and souvenirs, visit our online shop at [www.ukwolf.org](http://www.ukwolf.org) or call 0118 971 3330.

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



# Forthcoming events at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

## NEW! Arctic Encounter — a unique gift for a loved one this Christmas

**Saturday  
8th December**

**Sunday 23rd  
December**

**Saturday  
12th January**

**Sunday  
27th January**

**Sunday  
24th February**

**10am to 2pm**

**Ever wanted to spend time with an Arctic wolf? A half day in Berkshire includes:**

- A presentation on Arctic wolves
- Photographic opportunities
- The chance to get up close and personal with our Arctic wolves in their enclosure
- Watch the wolves being fed
- A memento of your visit
- Lunch included

**£120pp – must be 18 or over – booking essential**



## Valentine Walks

**Sunday, 17th February at 10am and 2pm**

What could be a more romantic gift for an animal lover than the chance 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 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. Booking essential.

## Photography Days

**Tuesday 16th October, Wednesday 28th November,  
Thursday 13th December, Sunday 20th January and  
Saturday 16th February – all 10am to 4pm**

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.**



## Children's Events



- **Children's Wolf Walks – Thursday 1st November 10am and 1.30pm  
Thursday 3rd January 11am**

Take a walk with the UKWCT wolves. This event includes a short talk and tour of the centre. **£13 per person, 6 years +** Booking essential. Limited parent spaces.

- **Spooky Halloween Pumpkin Party – Wednesday 31st October, 11am**

Come and help us celebrate 'Howl'oween'. Walk with the wolves and listen to them howl. Carve and stuff pumpkins with the wolves' favourite treats. Watch the wolves enjoy working out how to get the treats out of the pumpkins... they love it! **£15 per person, 6 years +** Booking essential. Limited parent spaces.





# World Animal Day – Sunday, 7th October, 11am to 5pm



- Look around the Trust
- See our wolves
- Photographic opportunities
- Ask the experts about living with wolves
- Listen to the wolves howling
- Birds of prey flying demonstrations
- Quirks' Animal Roadshows
- Ferret racing • Dog agility displays
- Children's activities incl. face-painting
- Nature trail • Pond dipping
- Bouncy castle
- Refreshments
- Picnic tables available
- Booking not required
- **Sorry: no dogs on site**



**ADMISSION:** Family ticket (2 adults & 2 children up to age 12) – **Advanced: £18, On the day: £25.** Adult ticket – **Advanced: £8, On the day: £10.** Member, child (3-11) or senior citizen ticket – **Advanced: £5, On the day: £5.** Child under 3 – **FREE.**

**Next open day:** Thursday 18th October from 11am to 5pm during **Wolf Awareness Week**. £5 non-members, £4 members, senior citizens and children up to 12 years. Children under three free. Booking not required.



## Last one to be held of our popular

## **PREDATOR** to **PET Workshop**

**Saturday 13th October 10am to 2pm**



A walk with ambassador wolves is included, allowing you to see first-hand the wild ancestor of today's dogs. You'll also receive a gift as a memento of the day.

**£50 per person – places limited – booking essential**

**Members' special offer: 10% off this final event**

## Wolf Keeper Experience Days

**£100 per person, age 16 or over. Booking Essential.**

**Check our website for dates in 2013**

## Friday Night is Howl Night!

**19th October, 16th November, 14th December and 18th January – all 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!

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**

## **NEW! PREDATOR DAY**

**28th October, 10th February, 17th March, 13th April, 10am to 4pm**

**The ultimate experience for animal and wildlife enthusiasts!** Spend a whole day with the world's most powerful and enthralling predators... wolves and raptors.

the magnificent birds of prey that you will be handling and flying. These include Harris hawks and owls, and you will also witness the queen of the skies – the falcon – fly in a demonstration.

**THIS UNIQUE** experience gives our guests the chance to get up close and personal with not just predators on four legs but those that hunt from the skies as well! Take a walk with some of the Trust's ambassador wolves then meet



**The Wolf Trust Predator Day** is a truly unique experience and a memorable day out that will be remembered for years to come.

**£120 per person Minimum age 16**

**Booking essential** Please bring a packed lunch.

Further details at [www.ukwolf.org](http://www.ukwolf.org) or to book call 0118 971 3330



Wolf Awareness Week - 13th to 19th October 2012

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust presents:

# "Predators, Prey and People"

The annual UKWCT seminar, Sunday 14th October, 11am to 5pm

Non-members £20, members and students £15

(students must show a valid ID card)

Why not book a lunchtime wolf walk and stretch your legs for £20 per person?

(limited availability so book as soon as possible - please call 0118 971 3330)

## SEMINAR SPEAKERS



Dr Nathan Varley has spent his whole life in and around the wildlife of Yellowstone National park and has seen first-hand how the reintroduction of the wolves has changed the park. This is his first visit to the UK.



Dr Garry Marvin is a UK-based anthropologist and author of 'Wolf'. Garry will explore the myths, legends and perceptions surrounding the wolf and encourage a discussion of the audience's beliefs and thoughts.

Professor Josip Kusak from Croatia has 14 years' experience in large carnivore research and management with a special focus on wolves. He manages a UKWCT-supported project in Croatia.



Jim McNeill, Ice Warrior, has 28 years' experience working in a polar environment and trains ordinary people to become competent, safe modern-day explorers. Jim worked closely with the BBC's natural history unit whilst they were filming wild Arctic wolves.

