

Wolf Print

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Issue 52 Summer 2014



The rise of canis lupus in Europe

Wolves return to Denmark after two centuries of absence

The Iberian wolf

How the work of Grupo Lobo is helping this small, distinct species

African adventure

An unforgettable wolf encounter in Ethiopia

■ NEWS ■ EVENTS ■ RESEARCH ■ MEDIA AND ARTS

Editor's Letter



In May this year, Europe was very much a major discussion point in the field of human politics. It will of course be on our agenda

one way or the other for the foreseeable future. Wolves may not read, vote or elect politicians, but they have made huge inroads into parts of Europe, particularly in places where they have not been seen for many years. Our piece on wolves now populating Denmark (pages 18–19) in particular shows an exciting development; we will follow this news at Wolf Print with great interest. Technology and human patience – recording lupine noises – eventually solved a mystery and gave confirmation of a new wolf family in Denmark. The feature on wolves (and other wildlife) thriving in the troubled and tragic Chernobyl continues the theme of animal resilience and determination.

Further afield, it has been encouraging to follow the progress of California's wandering wolf, OR7. Not only has he now a mate, there are cubs on board. It has been a great saga and hopefully will now continue successfully.

As always, it is not all good news in our push forward to present canis lupus in a positive light in this slippery world of conservation snakes and ladders. Animal Planet came under fire recently for their absurd portrayal of 'Man-eating Super Wolves' for their Monster Week. Understandably, such a sensationalist approach made a number of people extremely angry. So much so that Animal Planet eventually had to back down under the pressure of strong protestations. In fact, they did not show the intended programmes – a great result for those who lobby to maintain reason and science in animal documentaries. As friend to the wolf, Marc Berkoff succinctly said: 'Blood and lies should not sell.'

It was sad, too, to see that Farley Mowatt, author of *Never Cry Wolf*, died recently. Our tribute to him is on page 19.

Our own wolves grow in maturity and character. We hope you enjoy our updates, as well as the incredible pictures of our enrichment programme for them, which intends always to offer something new so that our animals can indulge in problem-solving and to be frank, have fun. Tala also allowed me to have a photoshoot with her for my updated editor photograph. Nuka was also part of the proceedings but decided that I must have a very dirty face and proceeded to spend the whole time trying to clean it for me, which produced some hilarious 'yuck' faces from me! He is known as a very loving and sweet wolf and it was a privilege to spend time with him and Tala, where Tundra – always the shy girl – hung back to watch it all going on. It was a windy day and so I look windswept, while clear-eyed Tala is composed, calm and staring out boldly at onlookers.

I must also welcome Mike Collins, our new Site Manager at the Trust. Mike introduces himself on page 7.

Onwards and upwards!

Julia Bohanna

Julia Bohanna
Editor

WOLF PRINT Issue 52

Editor

Julia Bohanna
Tel: 0118 971 3330 Email: editor@ukwolf.org

Editorial Team

Wendy Brooker
Nikki Davies
Pete Haswell
Cammie Kavanagh
Lynn Kent
Pete Morgan-Lucas
Tsa Palmer
Denise Taylor

Patrons

Martin 'Wolfie' Adams
David Clement-Davies
Cornelia 'Neil' Hutt
Desmond Morris
Marco Musiani
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Tsa Palmer

Specialist Advisors

Alistair Bath
Garry Marvin
Kirsty Peake
Claudio Sillero
Denise Taylor

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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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Cover picture: Motomo, by Chris Lofty



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Trust News

Enrichment



Photo: Torak, by Eve King

ENRICHMENT PLAYS a huge part in keeping animals content in a captive situation and is implemented by all good animal collections, including the UKWCT. Enrichment is a term used to describe objects/situations/activities created to encourage an animal to show a natural behaviour such as problem solving, climbing, swimming or social interactions.

Wolves are incredibly intelligent, whether they are in an enclosure, in

a captive situation or in the wild; it is part of how they survive. In the wild, wolves use their intelligence to solve problems which involve getting a decent feed or escaping a possible threat. In captivity we can use this problem solving capability to keep wolves occupied and mentally stimulated.

Enrichment comes in many different forms, usually grouped into the following six categories:

- sensory
- environmental
- social
- feeding
- training
- puzzle/problem-solving

Most enrichment activities include elements of more than one of these types of enrichment.

Here are some examples of each type being used at the Trust:

Sensory

At the UKWCT, we often target the wolves' sense of smell in our enrichment activities, as this is the sense that wolves rely on the most. To stimulate this sense we tend to fill hessian sacks with straw and then add a strong smell to it before tying it back up again. Some of the scents we have used include old perfumes, essential oils, citric juices, straw from other wolves' beds in other enclosures and straw that our pygmy goats have rolled around in. Once the bag is tied up and smelling of the desired scent, we throw them in to the enclosures. Usually this sensory stimulation also encourages social interaction with the wolves showing dominance and submissive positions, whilst investigating the new smell.

Social

At the Trust, we understand that wolves are social creatures that do not do well on their own. Grey wolves in the wild are rarely solitary; when they are, it is usually whilst they look for a mate. We don't keep any wolves alone; each enclosure has at least two wolves in it. This provides for them the company they would naturally have, which allows them to show playing behaviours, hierarchical interactions and breeding behaviours with Mosi and Torak, and also Mai and Motomo. The wolves' enclosures are sometimes switched around too, which increases the social interaction between groups of wolves. For example: Massak, Sikko and Pukak have all recently been moved next to Mai and Motomo. Motomo has seen this as a brilliant excuse to start running at the two new males next to him to show them he means business.

Environmental

Environmental enrichment is the process of tailoring an animal's captive enclosure to target its natural behaviour and allow them to show behaviours such as climbing and swimming. At the UKWCT, we took careful consideration when creating the enclosures for the wolves and included everything a wolf wants/needs in a natural territory. This ranges from hill top vantage points, tree cover, water sources and suitable den sites through the breeding season. The wolves have plenty of space to play, socially interact and also show the natural behaviours that have been recorded in the wild, for example climbing high to see what is going on around the territory.



Tala, by Tsa Palmer

Feeding

Wolves like to eat, hence the expression “wolfing it down” (look at Pukak). If we fed our wolves at the same time, using the same method each day, they would soon start to expect it and show stereotypical behaviours (behaviours associated with stress in a captive environment), such as pacing and fur pulling. To get around this at the Trust, we sometimes carcass feed, which involves depositing a large carcass in an enclosure for the wolves to eat, much like a wild wolf pack would feed. We sometimes hand feed, as all of our wolves are socialised apart from

Motomo, and they will readily take food from the hand. This has the added advantage of hand feeding medication when needed. We lay scent trails with their food; this involves dragging food around the enclosure, whilst the wolves are in their holding pens, then letting them out to find their food, using their sense of smell (also sensory enrichment). Occasionally we will also load up treats in a container, for example recently we have given the wolves melons, filling them with the wolves’ favourite treats and placing



Pukak trying to eat a bubble, by Mike Collins

them in the enclosures. This kind of enrichment encourages the wolves to use all of their teeth, paws and intellect to try and work out ways to get the food out of the melon, whilst being surprisingly gentle. We also do this at Halloween with pumpkins, carved and hollowed for each of the wolves.

Training

We haven’t trained our wolves to react to stimuli, such as clicker trainers, as we like our wolves to act like they would naturally. We have, however, conditioned our wolves from a young age to certain situations and items. The main items the wolves at the Trust have been conditioned to are leads and collars which we use to walk them. Using this conditioning has allowed us to introduce walks to the wolves. We walk them not for exercise, but for sensory enrichment for the wolves, experiencing new sights, smells and sounds with every walk.

Problem solving

This is the kind of enrichment that can keep an animal busy for hours. Wolves are intelligent animals and their life quality is greatly increased if they are allowed to exercise this. We hide food in boxes, encouraging them to work out where the food is and how to get to it. We recently did this with coconuts, drilling holes in the coconut, emptying the liquid and filling it full of the wolves’ favourite treats, keeping them busy for hours. Some of the wolves, like Motomo and Tala, sat with the coconut between their paws for a while licking at it trying to roll the treats out of the hole. Other wolves, like Nuka, attempted and succeeded in biting and cracking the coconut open to get what was inside after they realised rolling the coconut didn’t help much.

At certain times of the year, when we are all celebrating events we often tailor the wolves’ enrichment so children and adults can celebrate with them. At Christmas, we usually wrap up parcels for the wolves with special food treats inside, which the animals have to rip open to get at. The wolves get a Christmas tree in each enclosure too, with special hanging decorations to keep them entertained during this period. This Easter we gave them eggs as enrichment treats. The eggs ranged from goose eggs, rhea eggs and all the way up to ostrich eggs! It was incredible to see an ostrich egg which I had to crack with a hammer, be so easily and gently teased apart by Torak as he skilfully found the yolk, his favourite part of the eggs.

On 5th May this year we had a wolf birthday party, as the wolves all have birthdays in spring. Tala, Nuka and Tundra had all just turned three, two days before. During this event, the wolves had special cakes made up for them and every wolf at the Trust got to celebrate their birthday period with a

cake decorated with treats. As the summer months can be particularly hot in the UK, we do give the wolves ice lollies as treats and to cool them down. We tend to use different foods for the ice lollies, some containing fruit such as water melon and others containing blood, drained off from their natural food. The wolves love these ice lollies and will usually be seen rolling in them before licking them down to nothing. Finally, comes Halloween. Each Halloween, when we are decorating our own pumpkins with carved faces of ghosts and ghouls, we like to do the same for the wolves. Each gets a carved pumpkin, filled with their favourite treats.

As a whole, enrichment is a crucial part of keeping any animal in captivity and in my opinion it is a highlight of working with such incredible creatures. There is something really special about watching an animal show natural behaviour in a captive environment that is incredibly rewarding. Wolves wouldn’t show these natural behaviours through

enrichment, or otherwise, unless they were content in their surroundings and their day to day experiences.

To end this article I would like to mention how we try and encourage all of our students on work experience to invent new enrichment ideas. A special note must be made to Hannah Serna and Corey Swanson, who introduced the wolves to bubbles! It was a treat watching the wolves react to something they possibly might never have seen before. The Arctics all acted differently: Massak ran backwards across the enclosure wanting to the play with the strange object, whilst being wary. Pukak tried to eat every bubble that ventured close enough (typical of Pukak!) Lastly, Sikko just watched them float down and pop on the ground before sniffing the ground where the bubble popped.

With the constant influx of new students, I am sure will come new ideas to help keep our wolves busy and content for the future.

Mike Collins, Site Manager

DIRECTOR'S LETTER



MUCH TO my amazement, it is now over ten years since Roger (pictured above, with Kodiak and Kenai) passed away, in March 2004. I am delighted that the Trust, his legacy, has flourished in the past decade. It has broadened its educational programme with the new facilities and in those ten years, I estimate that around 75,000 people have visited. It is astonishing that so many people are interested and drawn to wolves. Since the Trust started under Roger's direction in 1995 we must have had well over 100,000 visitors getting close to our wolves, all of whom have helped us give nearly £200,000 to overseas wolf projects around the world.

Public perception of the wolf has shifted hugely and we are slowly beginning to understand and respect this maligned animal. Ecologically, the time is ripe for wolves to return to the habitats that can still sustain them. Wolves regulate the prey population and as a result guard the land from being overgrazed; environments that once supported the wolf are healthier when wolves are present. In addition to their role in the natural order, wolves also serve as a political 'umbrella' species. The preservation of their expansive habitat benefits equally endangered but less prominent species.

Although the ecological need for wolves is clear, the issue of reintroducing them into their former habitat is complex. The costs of reintroduction are both financial and ethical; under current reintroduction and management programmes, wolves are heavily monitored and are usually killed when humans deem necessary. The question is: is a heavily managed wolf still a wolf?

In this edition of Wolf Print, we have details of wolves returning to Denmark and also to within 120 miles of Paris.

Wolves travel more frequently and for greater distances than any other terrestrial animal, except perhaps the caribou. Researchers estimate that wolves spend an average of eight to ten hours per day on the move. For example, in the summer, when the pups are still in the den, tundra wolves have been known to travel forty miles round trip on hunting forays. Wolves travel even further in the winter when the pups are grown. However, the longest straight-line distances are travelled when wolves disperse. Lone wolves have been known to show up in odd places, presumably in search of a new territory or mate. In Sweden for example, a wild wolf appeared in the nation's capital, hundreds of miles away from any other wolves. It is unknown whether wolves that disperse have a destination in mind when they travel.

Interestingly, wolves most often travel single file and share the duty of cutting the trail at the front. In areas where snow accumulates to several feet, the lead wolf has to leap and sink down into the snow or plough through to cut the trail. Travelling as a pack may be necessary in deep snows, when a single wolf would expend an exorbitant

amount of energy breaking the trail. Packs also follow deer, moose and caribou trails (sometimes even migrating with the herds) in order to utilise previously established roads. Wolves use game trails, windswept frozen waterways, foot trails, country roads, ridges and even highways to avoid cutting new trails. They use the same trails over and over again for decades, passing the knowledge from generation to generation.

Who knows if these are lone wolves or packs in Denmark and near Paris. Hopefully, through the research carried out by students like Holly Root-Gutteridge on howling (see page 34) we will get some definitive answers.

So home and away, we are all fascinated by the ways wolves howl and with that in mind, our students are busy helping us with wolf communication research. We are very happy to welcome Mike Collins, our new site manager, to our team of volunteers and staff. It's a strong team and ensures that the wolves are looked after to a very high standard of welfare. We now look forward to the busy summer holidays with Visit Wednesdays and children's walks every Thursday.

Tsa Palmer, Director

OUR NEW BRIDGE

13th May: 15 hardworking volunteers organised by Jay Eagle from HSBC Wiltshire painted the Education Centre and put together a new bridge. Mai

inspected and happily walked over the bridge, much to everyone's enjoyment and relief. Wolves and people now



traverse the stream on their regular walks.

We are extremely grateful to HSBC for helping us.

I know they enjoyed being out of the office on a sunny day, being serenaded by howling wolves.

NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Trust needs two categories of volunteers in September:

Wolf Handlers: committing to two days a month to build up the important relationship with our animals.

'Friends of the Trust' Volunteers: to be trained as guides (e.g. on Visit

Wednesdays). Not as much time commitment required.

Anyone is welcome to apply to start the training programme. Please email the Trust: ukwct@ukwolf.org and Tsa Palmer will meet with you all in September.

Meet Mike: a word from our new site manager

MY NAME is Mike Collins, I am 27 and I have recently been made Site Manager at the Trust. To me this is the job of my dreams. I have had a lot of experience working with animals and studying animal behaviour over the past decade, at least. I started my studies at Sparsholt College, studying Animal Management, where academic learning was balanced with practical skills such as building enclosures and work experience at Marwell Zoo. After graduating from Sparsholt College, I decided to study animal behaviour, a subject which had really interested me during my college years. This led me to successfully applying for a place at Aberystwyth University and I graduated three years later.

After university my first job was two years working for an aquarium. During my time there I first heard about the UKWCT and applied for work experience. I have always wanted to

work with wolves and have read many books, journals and papers about how they behave. Wolves I feel strike a chord in many people for many different reasons: some are attracted to their power, others for their intelligence. I think what has always drawn me to wolves more than anything, is just the injustice in the way they are portrayed. I have a complete respect for wolves as creatures and just how successful they are at populating the world. To hear countless stories, nursery rhymes and common misconceptions about wolves being murderous monsters has always annoyed me.

During my time with the wolves, it made me realise just how special the Trust is, having given away nearly two hundred thousand pounds worth of



funding to the charities which work to keep wolves in the wild. This just blew me away. I decided to stay on helping out as an unofficial volunteer on every spare day I could. I was then accepted as a volunteer in October and offered the job as Site Manager in January. Working somewhere that you truly admire is an incredible feeling. I look forward to my working days, even if I do have to travel one hundred and twenty miles a day!

Photo: Mike and Tala, by Pat Melton

Tripadvisor award and reviews

SOME RECENT reviews on TripAdvisor have made us all at the Trust extremely happy. For example: "An excellent experience!", reviewed 18th May 2014

"We experienced the Howl Night, and then a Walk with Wolves the following day. From the moment we arrived, the staff were so friendly, helpful and very informative. We were greeted with free teas, coffees and biscuits before being given a presentation about wolves and their behaviour. The presenter (one of the many volunteers) was very knowledgeable and extremely eager to pass on his knowledge and experiences of wolves. We then proceeded outside to see all of the various wolves, again with more information and discussion given. The howling was really fun, and, yes, the wolves howled back! At the end of the session, we were not rushed to leave, and we could spend some more time taking photos of these wonderful animals, plus more tea and biscuits!

"The Walking with Wolves experience was truly unique. To have the opportunity to be so close to the wolves is really fantastic. Again all of the

volunteers/staff were great, their enthusiasm, passion and love for the wolves is very obvious to see. There was plenty of opportunity for taking photos/video, and for asking questions. Although the wolves are on leashes, they can walk around the designated areas in the fields at their own pace. We were lucky enough to see a small deer, which jumped out from some bushes before bounding off down the field. There are other wildlife to see too, red kites, owls etc. The Beenham Pack are such a delight, and I even got a little friendly lick off Nuka!

"Again, at the end of the walk we were not rushed to leave, and were able to have a good browse at the goods in the shop, with some good buys taken home.

"The centre contains some very good information displays and CDs to watch, and it was good to hear about the educational aspect, with schools visiting and college student projects.

"This has been a magical experience, never to be forgotten! We will definitely be returning soon.

"Huge thanks go to all of the staff and

2014 Certificate of Excellence

THE TRUST is delighted to announce that we have achieved a 2014 Certificate of Excellence Award from TripAdvisor.

army of volunteers who make this such a special and unique place, but more importantly, for providing a safe haven for these majestic animals, and providing the education, information and resources needed to help protect wolves all over the world."

(Visitor, May 2014)

DONATIONS

Further to the 6,000 donated earlier in 2014, the Trust has also donated:

£4,000 to Zagreb Veterinary Institute in Croatia, c/o Josip Kusak.

£2,000 to Grupo Lobo.

You can read about Grupo Lobo's work in an article by James Rowe on page 16–17 and also visit the English version of Grupo Lobo's website at <http://lobo.fc.ul.pt/UK/>

Amazing adaptable frogs!

Visitors are walking with the wolves near the bottom pond of the Trust. Suddenly, the grass stirs and a frog hops by. It has woken from its winter hibernation and is heading for the pond to find a mate. Wendy Brooker, The Trust's education officer and editor of the junior members' magazine Wolf Chronicle, continues:



Like all amphibians, frogs are cold-blooded, meaning their temperatures change to suit their environment. They have been around for 190 million years thanks to their amazing ability to adapt. In the winter they hibernate in burrows, under rotting leaves, in wood piles or in the mud at the bottom of a pond scarcely breathing until February or March depending on the weather. The Trust has several ponds and shallow watery areas and they are all used by frogs for breeding in the spring. Even the ponds in the wolves' enclosures have frogs and toads in at times! (Frogs secrete a nasty tasting fluid onto their skins when frightened so that the wolves don't like eating them).

The very brave frogs and toads in the Beenham pack's pond had a bit of excitement earlier in the year! The heaps of frog and toad spawn in their pond caught Nuka, Tala and Tundra's eyes and they waded in to investigate. Then they noticed the pond liner under the mud and spent a happy time ripping some of it to pieces. The water in the pond sunk rapidly and the handlers had to go in and move the mischievous wolves to the side enclosure. The pack was moved to the bottom enclosure and the calmer more well behaved Arctic wolves were put in the top enclosure. The spawn was rescued and put into tanks. Some was relocated to a safer environment and

territorial animals.

Contrary to popular myth, frogs are mainly land animals and usually only go into water for long periods at breeding times. They meet up in shallow water and ponds around February to March when the males compete for the females. The familiar croaking goes on all day and little heads pop out of the water to look around. Spawning usually takes place after dark and 1,000s of jelly coated eggs are laid which float to the surface of the water and cling to a weed or the bank. After about four weeks the wriggly black tadpoles emerge. They are at the mercy of predators such as fish, water fowl, dragonfly larvae etc. The tadpoles are vegetarians at birth and breathe through gills which are absorbed after four weeks. They soon become carnivores as they grow older. (Try floating a piece of beef amongst them – it is scary.) At 12 weeks old they are miniature versions of their parents, all too often victims of lawnmowers or the wolves on walks! It is amazing to watch the tiny froglets hopping amongst the long grass around all the ponds and streams.

Frogs are at the mercy of a variety of predators such as crows, ducks, cars and even our wolves! Frogs eat insects, slugs, snails and worms so are great to have in a garden. They have transparent inner

some was left in the big tanks so that visiting children could study it and watch the tadpoles develop into frogs. No doubt the frogs will still return to the wolves' pond next year to lay their eggs! They are very

eyelids to protect their eyes under water and a webbed foot in each of two worlds. Hungry predators on land? Dive into the water. Not enough to eat in the pond? Hop out and forage on shore.

Frogs can leap 20 times their body length. That would be about 100 feet for us! Their long back legs have tremendous strength. Their smooth skin has a moist feel and can be anything from greeny brown to dark brown covered with dark blotches. The under belly is white or yellowish. Their beautiful prominent eyes are brown with horizontal pupils.

Sadly, because of changes to our environment, the use of insecticides which depletes their food and loss of habitat, the common frog is becoming rarer. Frogs play an important part in the eco-system and act as little bio-indicators. This is where we at the Trust do our best to help by creating amphibian friendly habitats and providing places for the frogs to hibernate.

Information sheets for school visits are proposed for this year.

The Trust's work experience students have made frog "houses" by sinking two bricks into earth and putting a slate or slab on top. An upturned large clay flower pot makes a safe environment for hibernation and there are plenty of wood piles nearby. All our ponds have shelved edges and plant-covered banks so that the frogs can climb out easily.

Most of the ponds have water plants in—and the wolves "help" to keep them under control when they go in the ponds on their walks!!

Conservation and education are at the top of the Trust's list of priorities, whether it is wolves in the wild or our own humble frogs on site. Every animal has an important role to play in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

Wendy Brooker

Update on the Trust Wolves

MOSI and TORAK



PRIVATE
NO ADMITTANCE
WOLF
EXERCISE AREA

MOSI and TORAK celebrated their eighth birthdays in late April and continue to live happily together. Now that the breeding season is over and their hormones are settling down, they are starting their enrichment walks again. They both really enjoy these and although they are retired from public life, it's important for their welfare that they continue to go out to explore the world beyond their enclosure. In spring there are lots of new sights and smells, which the wolves revel in – they especially appreciate strong scents that they can roll in. The spot where the tractor was parked in the top field has proved a big hit – who knew wolves were into diesel and rubber as a fragrance?



Torak (above) was quite vocal this breeding season and took to howling from the enclosure mound and regularly patrolling the boundary fence. Once Mosi came into season they mated and tied several times, after which Mosi busied herself digging a den and caching food even though she wasn't carrying pups. This cycle of behavior is very interesting to observe and one of the reasons our wolves make such good study animals. However, the aggression Mosi was showing to Mai through the fence that separates them escalated to a point that it was becoming dangerous for both animals (particularly their teeth as they tried to get at each other by biting the wire) so Mosi and Torak were moved to the top enclosure in March to allow things to settle down.

The move to the new enclosure brought out the pup in Torak! He was thrilled to be somewhere new and charged around the perimeter at great

speed, jumping up and down over the platforms and ending up splashing in the pond. He also discovered a loose corner of pond liner and did his best to dig it up before being seen – wolves don't miss an opportunity for mischief! He obviously enjoys the relative peace of the top enclosure and is relaxing into the coming summer season when hormones are low and he won't be pestered so much by Mosi. He is starting to shed his coat and he always looks magnificent in his summer attire when you can really see his lean, muscular form. Torak is now in the prime of his life and continues to be extremely popular with our visitors. In fact, he is our most adopted wolf!

Mosi (bottom left) has also benefited from the enclosure move. Now that she feels she doesn't have to constantly harass her sister, she has taken it upon herself to greet everyone who comes on site, as she is the first wolf people will see when they arrive at the Trust. Mosi is a gregarious animal and likes to know what is going on at all times. She is very vocal and anyone who wants to hear a wolf howl is not going to be disappointed when Mosi is around. We can always rely on her to give a performance! She is also extremely defensive of her food or enrichment, which is fascinating to watch. For Easter, she and Torak were given a special treat – one of the volunteers brought them some hard-boiled ostrich eggs. These are the equivalent of 24 hens' eggs each and Mosi did her best to hang on to both of them. Unfortunately for her Torak wasn't going to let her keep something that good to herself and made off quickly with his egg. It took them a while to get into and eat them but they thoroughly enjoyed this unusual snack. Torak wasn't so lucky when the pair were given special wolf birthday "cakes" (made of liver and chicken) recently – Mosi made sure she had her fill before he could take a nibble!

Nikki Davies

*Photos: Mosi, by Suvi Hall
Torak, by Francesca Macilroy*

THE ARCTICS: MASSAK, PUKAK and SIKKO

*Pukak (left) and Sikko on an Arctic Amble,
by Francesca Macilroy*

OUR ARCTIC wolves love coming out for their walkabouts, suitably called Arctic Ambles. They are sweet-natured critters but can be nervous of certain obstacles, i.e. gates and although socialised, they are, as all wolves, inherently wary of new things. Their intelligence never lets them get complacent. However with their experienced handlers, who have built up a good bond over a long period of time they have developed that all important Trust and respect for each other so they are willing to 'give it a go' through these occasional bottlenecks. At these points we remind the visitors to hold back, so allowing for as smooth a transition as possible from one field into another.

Initially our visitors are (as with all our wolves) given a brief talk, before even seeing the Arctics, on how to behave around them etc. So that when the wolves enter the meeting field from another gate about half a field away, both visitors and wolves can assess and see each other well before the wolves approach. We ask visitors to stand in a loose group so that the wolves may meander amongst them while at the same time giving the visitors their first close up view of them before setting off on the amble which takes approximately an hour. Our role as handlers is primarily to guide the wolves safely round in the general direction we want to go, they aren't trained animals but wander within and without of the group as they please.

As with all families they all have their different personalities, **Massak** is the boss who tends to keep back watching all that is going on around him, keeping an eye on not only his pack but the visitors as well. **Pukak** the subordinate male doesn't have that responsibility and therefore has the luxury of

*Massak, enjoying
birthday cake,
by Suvi Hall*



investigating all aspects the walk has to offer and taking full advantage of his carefree position. He is a young mature male finding out like any youngster how far he can push the boundaries and sees what he can get away with. His exuberance sometimes can make him a bit of a handful if he starts jumping up etc but with calm handling, including diversion tactics onto something more interesting, for such a young lad he pretty much behaves himself! **Sikko** the female on the other hand is a gentle soul and happy to leave these antics to her brother and enjoy a quiet walk.

The other Sunday on a rare sunny day, having passed through a couple of gates with relative ease they hadn't seen before, they were rewarded with a paddle! We took them down to our fields at the bottom of the Trust where there is a stream and pond – both full with recent rain. And boy, are they water babies! I don't know whether it was the newness of the experience that appealed to them so much or that they

just like water! Pukak, the subordinate male, even managed a few doggy paddle strokes in the stream with his handler Andy (longer legs – but not swimming!) coming up at the rear! It also made for a lovely photo opportunity for our visitors to see them in the pond amongst the reeds drinking, wading and generally exploring. I worried at first as I thought they might be after tadpoles or frogs but they were just happy to paddle and have a short drink and would have stayed there longer had time permitted – but there is always next time!

Although they get out regularly for an 'amble' Mike, our Wolf Keeper, and his team of students are constantly coming up with new ideas for their entertainment which is officially called 'enrichment.' Not so long ago, they tried out a carcass feed for the Arctics with a 15 kilo roe deer. Pukak was in first and guarded the carcass. Massak tried to show dominance but decided against a fight while Skikko kept nearby waiting for an opportunity to get some food and managed to snatch a piece of the carcass while the boys were having a

THE BEENHAM PACK: NUKA, TUNDRA AND TALA



Left to right: Tundra, Tala and Nuka,
by Darren Prescott

◀ stand-off. Later, Massak was seen with the piece that Sikko had and Pukak was still guarding the main piece even though he had seemed to have eaten his fill. No surprise there as he loves his food and although we monitor all the wolves' food intake it's never more pertinent than for Pukak. Next day there was only skin and bone left, hence the expression 'wolfing it down'.

Although the wolves are usually fed six days a week with one starve day a week, in this instance an extra starve day was added, which was also a chance for them to sleep it off! Luckily, they can burn off this food with some territorial interaction with their neighbours, Mai and Motomo, running up and down their adjoining boundary fence and general antics playing tag with each other at dawn and dusk, this being the prime time of the day when wolves are at their most active.

Not a bad life eh!

Suzanne Fine

THE BEENHAM pack have been displaying their mischievous tendencies – while hunting for frogs in the pond of the top enclosure they found the pond liner which they then comprehensively destroyed – the top enclosure pond is now no longer a pond and the Beenham Three have been moved to the bottom enclosure.

Nuka – now fully mature at three years old – remains friendly and inquisitive and always ready to meet new handlers or volunteers, especially if he thinks they might be persuaded to give him a belly rub. On recent walks he has been fascinated by people working on the local allotments, particularly the wearer of fluorescent pink gardening gloves and the person who was carrying a brightly coloured plastic bucket – I suspect he thought feeding time had come early!

Tala is the first of the Beenhams to start moulting this year – by the end of April little tufts of underfur were coming loose from her hips and the base of her tail; now in mid-May she is

looking rather moth-eaten and the fur is coming out in handfuls. It must be terribly itchy as Tala is only too happy to solicit a prolonged plucking session from any convenient handler. In pack position, Tala is generally accepting of her 'beta female' rank though she still engages in feisty and at first sight rather aggressive 'wolf-piles' with her brother and sister.

Tundra retains her dominant female rank and has also recently shown increasing confidence around unfamiliar people – on visitor-walks she will – if she's in the mood – sometimes come and join the group with her siblings, but she still generally prefers to watch what's going on from a safe distance. When she is in the enclosure, her demeanour is totally different – she easily holds her own against Tala and Nuka, and will steal their food at feeding time. She also really enjoys an intensive rubbing and scratching session with those handlers she considers part of her inner circle of trusted friends.

Pete Morgan-Lucas



MAI AND MOTOMO

MAI and MOTOMO now have new neighbours, Mosi and Torak having been replaced by Massak, Pukak and Sikko as part of one of the regular “pack shuffles”.

Without her ‘evil twin sister’ next door to growl at through the fence, **Mai** has been rather more relaxed. She has excavated an interesting series of dens into the mound in her enclosure – we think this is probably because her hormones and the day-length changes are reminding her that it would be the time of year for cubs (if she hadn’t been sterilised). These dens are large enough for even Motomo to climb down into and be completely invisible from the outside. On a couple of occasions Mai has been seen to defend a den against Motomo, she’s also driven him off with a curled-lip snarl when he’s tried to steal her food.

Motomo now regularly indulges in staring contests with the two Arctic males and will often do a ‘bounce’ at them through the wire – running up quickly with his tail raised, then going into a semi-crouched position as if ready to spring at them if the fence

wasn’t there. He will do this with some handlers too – so we have to be extra-careful when for any reason we are behind the outer safety-fence. At other times, Motomo reveals his softer side – he is still extremely devoted to Mai, and the two can often be seen quietly nuzzling each other or indulging in gentle muzzle-mouthing.

Pete Morgan-Lucas



Photos:

*Top: Motomo and Mai,
by Patrick Melton*

*Bottom: Motomo,
by Pete Morgan-Lucas*



Coastal Wolves of the Great Bear Rainforest

THE GREY wolf is still found in a good part of Canada's historical range, although it is rare in areas of high human populations. However, on the Pacific Northwest coast there is a distinctive subspecies known as the Coastal Wolf; they are one of the least studied on the North American continent. In the past, any indigenous wolves have been largely unaffected by people, as much of the wolves' terrain is inaccessible.

The Pacific Northwest is also home to one of the largest remaining temperate rainforests in the world. This rainforest once covered the area from Alaska to Northern California but today much of it has already been destroyed by human encroachment and logging. Therefore very little remains south of the Canadian border but the area that is left contains ancient old growth cedars, Western hemlocks, Douglas firs and Sitka spruce trees. Some of the cedars are up to 1,500 years old. The area also has very biologically diverse ecosystem. In 1997 the central and northern British Columbia coastal regions were renamed the Great Bear Rainforest by various environmental groups, who were starting a campaign for its protection.

The nourishing power of salmon

Life here is dominated by the Pacific Ocean and the subsequent rainfall the ocean brings. Wolves that have survived here are very much adapted to this ecosystem. Some of their behaviour is different to their inland relatives and is believed to have been shaped by the uniqueness of their environment.

All wolves can swim, but coastal wolves often swim up to nine miles in extremely cold water with strong tidal currents, to hunt in the intertidal zones. It is here that they can catch seals, otters and mink. They also dig in the soft ground for clams and crabs but also crunch on barnacles from the side of rocks. Like other wolves, they will

eat carrion but this could include washed up whales, seals and even squid. In common with other wolves, once they find a good meal they often have to share with grizzlies, black bears and the ever-present ravens and eagles. They also participate in the area's annual gift from the sea in the form of the salmon. Interestingly,

◀ Coastal Wolves of the Great Bear Rainforest

wolves only eat the head of the salmon – which is the most nutritious part of the fish containing omega 3 fatty acids. This also reduces the chance of the wolves catching a potentially fatal parasite the salmon can carry. They will generally catch the spawning salmon in the water and take it to the side of the river to eat. However, some they will take into the forest thus returning vital nutrients to the soil. Salmon being taken into the forests account for 80% of the forest growth's nitrogen.

Similarly to their inland cousins, coastal wolves will also catch ungulates. However, according to the Rainforest Conservation Foundation, some wolves here receive up to 75% of their diet from fish, depending on where they live. Although salmon is a seasonal food they have a 30% kill rate, which is higher than the average kill rate for ungulates. This is thought to account for a better than average pup survival rate as they have a good supply of food at a time of the year which is traditionally hard for wolves.

Even wolves with quite severe disabilities e.g. a leg missing, have been witnessed to survive a number of years. Coastal wolves are generally smaller than their inland relatives and can be black, white or a mixture of colours. They often have a large amount of red in their coat that blends in perfectly with their surroundings. Their fur is generally shorter and coarser than other wolves. Whilst these wolves have survived well in the past due to their distance from man they are now facing increasing threats:

THREATS TO THE COASTAL WOLVES

Hunting

In parts of British Columbia wolves are falling victim to extremists who want to eradicate predators to increase elk and other big game for profitable hunting sprees. Snares are baited with road-killed elk or mule deer; snares designed to kill the wolves in a most inhumane way. Animals are also being poisoned, trapped and shot from helicopters. Many local websites offer wolf hunting packages. Shockingly, some are marketed for families and even show photographs of small children hunting alongside their parents.

Environmental Pollution

A new pipeline has been proposed, intended to carry crude oil 700 miles from Alberta to Kitimat in British Columbia. Ultimately, oil would then be loaded onto tankers for export to Asia and supertankers carrying condensate would come back. These would expose the area to potential catastrophic oil spills. An oil spill would not only affect the salmon run but would pollute all other food sources and make it impossible for the wolves to swim safely in the waters.

There are also proposed wind farm projects which could impact on the environmentally sensitive areas.

Logging

Close to 60% of the world's original coastal temperate rainforests have already been destroyed by logging and development. Clear cut logging has had a hugely negative impact. Recently, a logging truck ran over the alpha female

of a wolf pack. Less forest means less ungulate food source but also, areas that are completely devoid of trees are also subject to mud slides which can carry high levels of silt into the river, thus affecting the salmon runs.

Salmon Farming

Large scale 'open net' pen farming in this area has resulted in the spread of sea lice to some forms of wild salmon. Sea lice are a natural parasite and can be tolerated by adult salmon in small numbers. However, the cramped conditions of some farms making them ideal breeding grounds for parasites and the problem burgeons. Older salmon pass the parasite to younger and more vulnerable. Chemicals can be used to control the lice but this also has a negative impact on the sea quality.

Disease

Industrial activity has brought humans and dogs to the area, causing concern that this may increase natural cycle diseases or bring new ones. Ultimately, this may threaten the health of wolves and other wildlife. To assess the potential problems, the Raincoast Conservation Foundation has recently started analysing animal scat for evidence of parasites. They are then planning to develop a spatially explicit model of parasite distribution in dogs and wolves across coastal landscapes. Blood samples taken from dogs will enable a listing of diseases carried or exposed to and will give a baseline for the future monitoring of diseases.





EDUCATION AND PROTECTION

In parts of British Columbia wolves are falling victim to extremists who want to eradicate predators to increase elk and other big game for profitable hunting sprees. Snares are baited with road-killed elk or mule deer; snares designed to kill the wolves in a most inhumane way. Animals are also being poisoned, trapped and shot from helicopters. Many local websites offer wolf hunting packages. Shockingly, some are marketed for families and even show photographs of small children hunting alongside their parents.

Whilst this is good news there is still work to be done. Trophy hunting of wolves is reported to be at an all time high and is happening even in conservancy areas. Pacific Wild is a locally based conservation group that work with the local people to monitor the threats facing this area. They also do presentations to audiences both in the US, Canada and Europe but also have crew in the field talking to the people in boats or cruise ships in the area to raise awareness. They are asking the Government to implement a number of ideas to help reduce the amount of wolves being killed each year. These include:

- Banning leg-hold traps, snares and baiting
- Stopping helicopter killing and sterilisation
- Returning to licences, quotas and restricted seasons
- Setting aside a large area for multiple wolf packs and their prey, which would provide a benchmark for scientific research

Pacific Wild also raise awareness through their website www.PacificWild.org. Here, they have established webcams both above and below the water (available to watch during local daylight hours). Most recently viewers have been able to watch wolves catch herring in the spring spawn.

On April 17th this year, the British Columbian Government released their new wolf management scheme. They have estimated that the number of wolves in the province as between 5,300 and 11,600. All is based on information mostly from hunters and trappers as there is no official data. They also state that 1,400 wolves were reported killed by humans last year but admit it could have been more as there is no compulsory reporting or inspection. The scheme is problematic largely due to this lack of vital data. Nevertheless, they have forged ahead with a new plan which still does very little to offer the wolf any protection. In most of British Columbia, hunters can still have unlimited killing rights on wolves of any age or sex. No licence is required for wolves, although you will need a licence if you want to kill geese or deer.

CONCLUSION

Having already lost so many different sub-species of wolf it is of the utmost importance that we do not lose this unique wolf. The British Columbian Government really does need to ensure that they get accurate data and that they bring in plans that address the concerns of the environmentalists, rather than just the ranchers. The measures that are being asked for by the environmental groups will not only help the wolf but numerous other species which call this land home. In protecting the forest it will also help humans and the impacts of global warming. It is urgent now that they look at the bigger picture to protect this beautiful land and its inhabitants before it is too late.

Cammie Kavanagh is an assistant senior handler at the UKWCT and has been a supporter of the Trust's projects since 1997, both as a member and volunteer.

Both photos by Cammie Kavanagh

Living with the Iberian Wolf:

farmers and hunters have their say

'I'll never put poison down, because I don't like it. You should respect animals. I don't believe in killing wolves.'
Luis Calcada, Farmer.

IN 1896, when Spanish railway workers gouged a narrow trench through the Sierra Atapuerca to join the mines of Sierra de la Demanda with Bilbao's steel mills, they found more than limestone. Unwittingly, they stumbled upon one of the most astounding archaeological sites of all time: a labyrinth of caves filled with the bones, tools and paintings of our earliest ancestors. Amid the bones of primitive man were those of hyenas, European jaguars, lions, and wolves. 850,000 years later, just one of these remains: the Iberian wolf.

The Iberian wolf faces a very different world to the snowy wastelands of Alaska, or the magnificent rocky peaks of Yellowstone National Park. They make their dens in cornfields and use flyovers to cross congested national highways. They eat sheep. They brawl with stray farm dogs and wander into villages from time to time. Yet despite having gotten under the skin of human beings for countless generations, Iberian wolves have not merely managed to keep a claw hold on the Iberian Peninsula; they're actually increasing in number. Almost completely extirpated in the '50s and '60s, their population size has more than quadrupled, from 400 individuals in 1970 to the present 2,500.

Packs have started recolonising their former territory, spreading from the north-west of the Iberian Peninsula towards Basque in the east and Madrid in the south. And everywhere they go they ignite the fear, love and hatred of humans, as only a wolf knows how.



Photo: by James Howe

A predator in the mountains

Luis Calcada works in the rugged Cabreira Mountains near the Portuguese village of Formigueiro. Each day he accompanies his goats on their long decent to the irrigated grazing pastures at the foot of the mountain. Asked how many animals he has lost to wolves, Calcada replies: "As many as I have now". He currently has 150 goats. Calcada vividly describes the attacks he has witnessed in broad daylight and explains how a wolf will patiently tail a herd, waiting for its opportunity to cut out a straggler. He also tells of a close neighbour who had lost seven goats in one killing spree just a fortnight prior to our conversation. Although such wolf damage is government-compensated, the paperwork can be drawn out for as long as a year and compensation doesn't taking into account the future economic impact of losses. As a result, farmers are

inclined to take the law in their own hands and solve their wolf problems with strychnine-laced baits.

In a drive to protect the wolves against such vigilante justice, Portuguese wolf conservation association Grupo Lobo is working with shepherds to revive an ancient custom: the use of massive guarding dogs to protect livestock. This practice originated on the Iberian Peninsula as far back as 3000BC. Now, with the recent spike in wolf numbers, farmers are once again turning to these ancient breeds in an effort to keep the predators at bay. Placed with the livestock shortly after birth, the dogs form their primary bond with the animals and will go to any length to protect them. Three years ago, Grupo Lobo gave Calcada a pair of the giant breed *Cão de Castro Laboreiro*. Calcada hasn't lost a single goat since. So pleased has he been with the efficacy of the dogs, he decided to keep a pup from their first litter and now takes the whole family as the herd makes its daily journey to the pastures.

'It's really beautiful to have them,' he says. 'They're a big help – they just go along with the goats and you don't need to worry about them. Before I got the dogs I would lose up to 15 goats a year. People told me "You should take care of the wolf," but I said "no". I'll never put



Photo: by John Hallowell of Wild Wolf Experience

poison down, because I don't like it. You should respect animals. I don't believe in killing wolves.'

Biologist Silvia Ribeiro, who heads Grupo Lobo's livestock guarding dog program, spends most days driving in northern Portugal's remote, mountainous wolf country. Although it had shaky beginnings, the program rapidly became more successful as herdsmen witnessed for themselves the dogs' power to prevent wolf attacks. Today as Ribeiro travels from village to village to monitor the guarding dogs, she receives a steady stream of requests from shepherds.

'At the beginning I think the shepherds were suspicious,' she says. 'Every time we tried to speak to them about their wolf damage and their dogs, they'd say "no I have enough dogs – my dogs are perfect". But when we could convince them to take the livestock guarding dogs, they could tell the difference between their own dogs and the ones we were giving them. In some places where we've introduced the dogs, the attacks have just stopped – there are no more damages. And in other places they have stopped in 75 percent of the cases.'

Grupo Lobo hopes to reduce the attacks to the point where wolves and farmers can live together with some degree of harmony. Livestock protection is an absolutely crucial ingredient in any effective wolf conservation strategy. A study on northern Portugal's Peneda-Gerês National Park, where domestic animals constitute 90% of the resident wolves' diet, found that almost half known wolf deaths come as a result of illegal shooting and poisoning. In areas where livestock predation is low, such as in the Montesinho Natural Park, wolves suffer almost no direct persecution from humans.

'In this area, the wolf has always lived here so the people are used to wolves,' says Ribeiro. 'Even if the shepherds are not that happy, they expect to have some damage.'

Hunting for the Iberian wolf

Alvaro Villegas, owner of Spanish hunting company Eurohunt, has been offering the Iberian wolf for ten years to hunt. During that time, only three of his clients have managed to bag one. With many hunts ending in failure (permits

are non-refundable) Villegas believes the benefits outweigh the costs.

"I think it's a good system," he says. "The game keepers on the national game reserves control and keep a good wolf population and we have very, very few permits to hunt wolves every year.

During the winter when we do the driven hunt, we have one permit in one big area. We have the possibility to shoot just one wolf, but sometimes we see one, sometimes we see nothing. So it's not a guaranteed hunt."

Wolf biologist and Grupo Lobo director Francisco Fonseca believes wolf hunting takes a higher toll on wolves than is immediately evident. He says the removal of alpha animals disturbs packs' complex social structure and worries about the impact feeding stations – used by rangers to encourage wolves to frequent certain locations – have on natural processes.

"I do not believe that hunting a species can help to protect it," he says. "To me, it's very difficult to understand that."

Julian Sykes of Oliva Rama Tours, who runs wolf-watching trips to Sierra de la Culebra, believes properly managed wolf tourism could readily replace hunting as a means of funding the reserves. It's estimated that wolf tourism in Sierra de la Culebra brings in €500,000 each year; more than three times the yield of wolf hunting.

"If the local governments that run these reserves thought about it long-term, they could do some good to both the wolf and people wanting to see it," says Sykes. "They could make so much more money from this type of tourism."

The road ahead

The fate of the Iberian wolf is inextricably tied to the willingness of humans to tolerate its existence. Throughout its range, this animal is routinely shot, poisoned, snared, run over, displaced by forest fires, new highways and wind farms. Wolves living south the Duero River in Portugal scavenge most of their sustenance from garbage dumps. But attitudes are beginning to shift. In regions where as



Photo: by James Howe

recently as 40 years ago it was customary to drive wolves into giant stone-walled pits, then parade them proudly dead or alive through the village, towns are starting to build high-budget wolf tourism centres.

According to Grupo Lobo director Francisco Fonseca, even the shepherds are mellowing in their hatred towards the wolf.

"From the conversations I've had with the shepherds, they seem to be becoming more open to accepting the wolf – they're changing the way they see the wolf," he says.

Figueruela de Arriba, a cattle herder, personifies this newfound tolerance. He speaks animatedly, almost affectionately, of an enchanting encounter he had with a wolf which trotted right into the midst of his cows without harming or panicking the herd. He seems surprised when I ask if he bears any ill-feeling towards the wolves.

"The wolf is not a problem for us," he says. "Here, they have many deer to feed on – they don't bother the cows."

He circles on a map the best places for me to go to scope for wolves. "I very much like to see the wolf," he says. He gives me a telephone number and email address, and asks me to send him a photo if I manage to have any luck.

James Howe

James Howe is a freelance magazine journalist and photographer. He covers issues ranging from human rights violations in Africa to cheese making. He has written articles and photographed in such places as Botswana, Spain, England and Lord Howe Island, specialising in off-the-beaten-track style stories. He currently resides in Adelaide, Australia with his wife and two children.

Nordic Noir

A Nordic Detective Story: How the wolf may have returned to Denmark after two centuries of absence

'All of Denmark was holding its breath.'

Mogens Trolle, wildlife biologist/mammalogist from the Natural History Museum of Denmark.

It is a perfect setting for a mystery: across the cool dark forests and open heath of Denmark; something is stirring. But this is not Nordic noir and there is no convoluted subtitled plot. However, this is a detective story, finding evidence to confirm the return of the wolf to the Danish landscape.

Mogens Trolle gives us the timeline:

In 1813, the last known wild Danish grey wolf was killed in Jutland.

6 and 14 October 2012: A wolf-like canid was photographed on two occasions in Thy National Park in the very north of Jutland. The quality of the photos did not allow a firm conclusion as to whether or not it was indeed a wolf. All of Denmark was holding its breath. This was one of the biggest news stories.

16 November 2012: A dead male wolf-like canid was found in Thy National Park – most likely the same individual photographed. The subsequent autopsy revealed that it had died from natural causes – a tumour in the chest cavity. But again, due to its decayed state it was not possible to conclude with 100% certainty that it was a wild wolf.

7 December 2012: The results of the DNA analysis of the Thy Wolf were finally published (the analyses were conducted by Aarhus University). The Thy Wolf was indeed a true wild wolf. By comparing with the comprehensive German DNA register of their wolves, it was possible to establish that the male had been born in 2009 to a known wolf pack in the Lausitz region of Eastern Germany – the region in Germany with the largest wolf population. The male had been about three and a half years old at the time of death. The distance from its birthplace to Thy National Park in straight lines is around 800km which, although far, is well within the known dispersal distances of young wolves looking for a territory and mate of their own.

26 December 2012: A new wolf was photographed in Jutland near the town of Dejbjerg (between Skjern and Ringkøbing).

February 2013: Camera-trap photos of wolf were published monthly or so from Central Jutland. Always single individuals. However, we still did not know how many individuals we had or what sex they were.

30 May 2013: Results of DNA analyses of saliva samples from killed deer and livestock, as well as from faeces collected in Central Jutland, were published. To most people's great surprise, DNA had been found from three new male wolves after the Thy Wolf. One was a younger brother of the Thy Wolf, i.e. from the same pack in Eastern Germany. The additional two were thought to come from Poland. Wolves had also killed several sheep and a calf.

August 2013: A group of enthusiastic amateurs looking for signs of wolves – Wolf Tracking Denmark (Ulvetracking.dk) – published three recordings of canid howls. PhD graduate researcher from Nottingham Trent University, Holly Root-Gutteridge, evaluated the recordings using her specially developed software for analyzing and individually recognising wolf calls and concluded that at least one of the howls was indeed most likely from a wolf.

Remainder of 2013: There were many rumours but only a few substantial wolf records, e.g. a couple of camera-trap photos. It was feared that the lack of records was due to some or all of the wolves having been killed illegally by hunters.

21 January 2014: Wolf Tracking Denmark recorded howling from a whole pack of canids (<http://ulvetracking.dk/index.php/ulvehylen.html>). Again, Holly Root-Gutteridge was asked to analyse the recordings. She identified at least three and maybe four individuals in the howling choir, including most likely an adult male and female. The third individual could theoretically be a yearling. Holly concluded that the howling chorus most likely came from wolves. If this indeed the case it would be a breeding couple plus one or two offspring from 2013. The fact that we already might have our first wolf pack came as a huge surprise for most.

April 2014: Two new camera-trap photos of single wolf individuals from Central Jutland.

24 April 2014: Results from the latest DNA analyses were published, showing seven new DNA proofs of wolf in Central Jutland from July to December 2013. ►

A Tribute to Farley Mowat, Friend to the Wolf

'Somewhere to the eastward a wolf howled; lightly, questioningly. I knew the voice, for I had heard it many times before. It was George, sounding the wasteland for an echo from the missing members of his family. But for me it was a voice which spoke of the lost world which once was ours before we chose the alien role; a world which I had glimpsed and almost entered...only to be excluded, at the end, by my own self.'
— Farley Mowat, *Never Cry Wolf*

ONLY A few days before his 93rd birthday, that would have fallen on 12th May, Canadian Naturalist Farley Mowat died. Mowat was the author of over 40 books and he was never afraid to speak out about things he felt passionately about, whether it was aboriginal rights, the horrors of seal and whale hunting.

His most famous work was “*Never Cry Wolf*” (1963) where he wrote in fictionalised first person about observing the Arctic wolf. It’s a book that most of us in the lupine world have on our bookshelves. He was also showered with awards in his lifetime: the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal and the Governor General’s Award for “*Lost in the Barrens*” in 1956 and the Leacock Medal for Humour for “*The Boat Who Wouldn’t Float*” in 1970. He also received the Order of Canada in 1981 and a Lifetime Achievement Award



from the International Fund for Animal Welfare in 2003; he was inducted into the Canada Walk of Fame in 2010.

So many people expressed sadness at his passing: *‘Mr Mowat was obviously a passionate Canadian who shaped a lot of my generation, growing up, with his books. He*

will be sorely missed,’ said [Canada’s] Liberal leader Justin Trudeau.

‘So sorry to hear that Mr Mowat has died. Wonderful colleague & friend of many years,’ author, Margaret Atwood.



Nordic Noir

- ◀ Two of these records came from a wolf-killed goat and calf, respectively.

29 April 2014: An article gathering all of the evidence for wolf so far, i.e. from the *Thy Wolf* in 2012 to 2014 was published. This included all of 23 pieces of DNA-evidence.

In conclusion, what do we know about the Danish wolves so far?

- Roe deer and red deer seem to be the staple of the wolves in Jutland. In Germany, roe deer is the most important prey species and red deer the second most important.
- Wolves have taken several sheep, one goat and two calves. In Germany, livestock only make up 0.6% of the diet of the wolves, with sheep being the livestock species mostly attacked, and it seems we have the same pattern in Denmark.
- Jutland is characterized by what we call a “culture landscape”, i.e. a landscape highly affected by human activity and without big, unpopulated wilderness areas.

Many wolf sceptics in Denmark argue that Denmark is too small for wolves, too densely populated and too affected by humans, for the wolf to be able to thrive. But in modern Europe, around 10,000 wolves live in human-affected landscapes and share landscapes with humans. The principal thing that wolves need to be able to thrive in a place is plenty of natural prey and in Jutland we have large populations of roe deer and red deer. So biologically speaking, Jutland is undoubtedly a fine place to settle for the wolf.

- The reason why we have so far only been able to photograph single wolves is that wolf packs usually don’t spread far, whereas single individuals do. Almost all young wolves of both sexes leave their parents’ territory at typically one to three years old to find a place to establish a territory themselves. Some of these young wolves become “distant dispersers”, i.e.

they spread very long distances. For example, in 2009 a radio-collared one-year old male from Eastern Germany dispersed more than 1550 km in 47 active days of migration and ended up in Belarus. Both males and females can become distant dispersers. Some of these move far into areas not inhabited by other wolves; I call these “pioneer wolves”. It is such pioneers that we are getting to Jutland these years. Eventually, couples will be formed and cubs born – which may, evidently, already have happened.

Editor, Julia Bohanna: I would like to thank Mogens for this fascinating insight into an ongoing investigation. It’s an exciting development and one we at Wolf Print will follow with keen interest. There is a Danish saying ‘Edre sent end aldrig,’ which translates as ‘Delayed is preferable to never’ or as we know it in English: ‘Better late than never’. It’s extremely apt in this case.

Making Tracks

wolves in the media and the arts, brought to you by Julia Bohanna



THE DARK WILD

Piers Torday, HB, 341pp, Quercus, RRP £9.99, ISBN: 978-1-78206-485-5

'The sky's tears filled the great wet. And those waters spilled out over the earth.'

IN THIS second book of the Wild trilogy, a cocktail of animal adventure continues, with our hero Kester at the head. The world is still in disarray, held to ransom by an evil corporation, Factorium. Kester is the Wildness – the goodness – and so much hinges on his ensuring that the world does not fall to *The Dark Wild* instead. *The Dark Wild* has turned bad and is set on revenge against humans. Things need to be solved and pieces of the puzzle regarding the cure to the plague that has affected mankind, need to be found. With that in mind, we have our heroic stag, a wolf cub with an angry mother, an eccentric mouse, a lonely rat and who could forget The General, a cockroach of enormous distinction and a true brave heart.

There are helicopters, chases and danger aplenty in this action-packed book, which never shies away from the brutal realities, such as cullers out to destroy animalkind, or the evil taxidermy-loving Selwyn Stone. In *The Dark Wild* now too we have large mutant spiders that have grown that way eating the horrible pink industrial food that is doled out to the population. They, in their own words, have grown fat by so many years in the dark tunnels.

The Dark Wild runs at an enviable pace and there is humour and another interesting character around every corner. The mouse is an adorable and eccentric addition to the cast, full of quirky behaviour and mischief. Humans have very much become the villains of the piece, as they continue to use the earth and its creatures for their own ends. As the toothless dog says, 'Their own interests will always trump ours'. The villains are gritty, wonderfully named and we have already invested our hatred in Captain Skuldiss but there is now the masochistic Littleman with his

electric prod. Most tellingly, Poor Kester is weary of his human reaction to events – particularly when he succumbs to cowardice and puts his friends in danger. He talks about being more like an animal: presumably basic, decent and honourable.

Most honourable of all is The General, a cockroach of wisdom and undeniable courage. He is also droll at times, particularly when he is asked to work with starlings and remarks sadly that cockroaches do not have a good history with starlings. Certainly the animals have the most pithy lines – they are brutally honest in many of the dangerous situations, as Kester goes in search of the answer that lies in the Iris. What is the Iris and why is it so crucial? But it's not going to be easy. As one of the animals says 'Oh, bless my heart I don't fancy your chances much.' It does indeed seem like Mission Impossible. Will our hero succeed when he is stuck in a tunnel in unbelievably claustrophobic conditions, in a fight or having to face his arachnophobia in the worst way imaginable?

The wolf too – in the guise of a wolf cub who is growing up with our hero, plays a large role in the action. He has his own issues, such as a mother who hates him for what she sees as betrayal. Can their bond be mended?

I won't spoil any plot details here but *The Dark Wild* is a fantastic ride and I am already excited for the last in the trilogy, which I hope arrives soon!

www.pierstorday.co.uk/

Piers Torday was born in Northumberland and has worked as a producer and writer in theatre, live comedy and TV. Recent TV writing includes Boomtown and Southside, both for BBC Three. The previous novel 'The Last Wild' was nominated for over ten awards, including the CILIP Carnegie Medal and the Branford-Boase. It was also shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2014.

Reviewed by Julia Bohanna

Wolf, by Vladimir Bologov

Ten things we want to know about *The Dark Wild*

– an interview with Piers Torday, author

1 Your books are very clearly about how mankind is despoiling the environment in multifarious ways but you avoid preaching throughout. How difficult was it to adhere to that *show but don't tell* element – especially if you feel strongly about environmental issues?

I do feel strongly, like any sane and rational person, about environmental issues but I am in no position to preach. From power to water, housing to food, the massive growth in human population from our beginnings in 200,000 BC – when it was around 10,000 – to the seven billion (and growing) of today, presents us, the 2.5million species we still share the planet with and the biosphere itself with some big challenges.

I don't think any one person or organisation has realistic solutions to the crisis of dramatic climate change and competition for natural resources coming down the tracks. It's about a little more than putting out the recycling, and as ever, we left it all too late.

But for younger readers, in whose hands the planet's future resides, all I can do is ask questions. Do animals have an equal right to share this planet with us? What is greater within us, the power for consumption and destruction or the ability to manage and conserve? And I always think rather than scaremongering developing minds with totally bleak catastrophe scenarios (although there is no denying their power) as a writer of fiction you can offer hope. Because, believe it or not, what I really feel is that human beings – through our curiosity, ingenuity and humanity – do have the ability to overcome those challenges and still make Earth a pleasant place to be. If we choose.

2 There are two meaningful father-son relationships in the trilogy. I was very sad to hear that your own father (Paul Torday, author of *Salmon Fishing in The Yemen*) died late last year. How much input and guidance did he give you with this book and in the trilogy as a whole?

Thank you. Dad was a great help, certainly in terms of the first book, just

in giving a few notes and a lot of support, which was what meant the most. He was very unwell while I was writing the second, but I'm so pleased he got a chance to read it before he died, and he enjoyed that a lot too. He was very careful to support me without trying to influence how I wrote, he wanted me to develop my own voice. Having a writer as a father gave me huge confidence in my own work, and he's left a legacy which makes me very proud, so for me at least – it was a wonderful gift.

3 We see our heroic narrator Kester grow in terms of maturity and purpose during this second book. Is he based on anyone you know or is he simply a creation, an ideal hero?

All characters writers create, from heroes to villains, have something of the author in them – otherwise we wouldn't be able to write them. And in first person narration, perhaps a hero like Kester has more of me. But only in his anxieties, doubts and fears (including, yes, of spiders). His heroic qualities and his bravery are pure fantasy as far as this writer is concerned, although I hope they emerge authentically out of his character's development rather than just being archetypally bolted on.

4 You have chosen a number of animals in *The Dark Wild* that are the antithesis of cuddly. Any one of them might make people cringe: rats, cockroaches and spiders in particular. What reaction do you get from children when you read excerpts?

I would no more like a rat in my kitchen or a cockroach/spider in my bed than anyone else. But in their own worlds, these creatures are wonderful. Rats are the only animals which show empathy – in experiments, given a choice of rescuing another rat or going for free chocolate, a rat will always free the other rat first before going for the chocolate. Cockroaches are not only nature's recyclers, but models of social cohesion in how they live – and is there anything more miraculous and beautiful than a simple spider's web?

But our primal fear of things dark and crawling kicks in before we appreciate them. We all project characteristics onto creatures that don't share our

consciousness ('noble' lions and 'smug' cats etc.) and children are still developing this facility. In fact, I've met lots of children with pet spiders and rats. When I tell them about the cockroach army, the first reaction is humour. If I can help one child develop a more rounded view of these creatures' role in our ecology, rather than just fearing them as pests to be exterminated, I'd be delighted.

5 There is an interesting device I noticed in your characterisation – animals' habits, which we may find repugnant or annoying, are used to progress the plot or add strength to the narrative. Without giving too much away, mice like to nibble things and it is in nibbling something that the mouse draws Kester's eye to a hugely vital piece of information. Was this deliberate?

It was deliberate. Clearly, alas, talking animals are a fantasy. Our communication with even the most intelligent ones is limited to simple signals and conditioned responses. And I really do care about the real species in this story, and I wanted readers to see them as real creatures, not just human characters in cartoon animal garb. So everything any animal does in these stories (as far as I am aware) is based on research. Mice nibble and store things in their pouches, wolves can hear howls from a long distance, deer use their noses more than any other sensory organ and – believe it or not – squirrels are known to have destroyed power lines by chewing through them. I may stretch a capability to breaking point, but that's the joy of storytelling!

6 The wolf-cub is more central in *The Dark Wild* than he was in *The Last Wild*. What characteristics did you consider most important when forming the wolves in the story?

Having extensively discussed the environmental themes, and my desire to keep the animals 'real' as possible, these stories are also about other things too. And one of those is friendship, and how that can change. At first the wolf-cub hates Kester for (accidentally) helping the stag kill his father. But as so often happens, the most unlikely of people

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD?

John Wilhelm is a Swiss photographer who enjoys playing with Photoshop® to produce fantastical elements, where animals and people exist in situations that would not be possible in real life. We asked John for a little information behind the hyper-real image of his daughter in the woods with a howling wolf:



It's a classic composite. I shot the single elements (forest, girl, wolf) separately and put it all together in Photoshop. Edit process took about 2.3 hours.

What is the wolf made of?

The wolf is a stuffed animal standing in the Museum of Nature Frauenfeld.

I love the mirroring of the girl and wolf – their expression and body language. Also that she is

It's a wonderful, striking image, but also a joyful and positive one. We suffer a lot in wolf conservation at the hands of the Red Riding Hood fairytale – it seems to reinforce such negative stereotypes. Can you tell us something of the technical process behind the photograph?

barefoot and ultimately, very relaxed. What did your little girl think of the finished shot?

She likes it a lot but couldn't find a link to the fairytale "Red Riding Hood" :-)

<http://johnwilhelm.ch/>

◀ an interview with Piers Torday, author

become great friends. Then, of course, they grow older and change, which tests the connection – as often happens to school friendships around this age. So that's what I was exploring in the Dark Wild.

Using wolves in the story I wanted to show this animal which so often features in fiction (including parts of my own) as predatory, cunning, and savage.

7 The Wild books lay open the idea of vast and corrupt corporations despoiling our land for profit and 'progress'. For example, there is Waste Mountain, a funeral pyre to consumerism. Culling will always be controversial and we in the wolf world know all too well, it is used as an animal management technique across the world. Suddenly your fictional 'cullers' must feel a little too real, a tad too close?

I did want to create a dystopia that actually wasn't a million miles away from reality, and rather than invent loads of futuristic elements that may or may not happen, like robot guards or something. We do live in a world of globalised multinational corporations that control vast amounts of our food production. From astronauts to athletes, formula food already exists, and the first fake

meat is being developed. And of course culling can be a legitimate tool to manage disease in animal populations. None of these things are intrinsically bad by themselves, but I wanted to explore for younger readers the idea of how easily the everyday can become something more sinister – when we choose to look the other way. I hope they might discuss, perhaps in class, whether culling (for example) can ever be justified?

8 There is humour and sweetness in The Dark Wild, particularly the mouse who at one point does the 'Dance of Mousey Concern'. It's a charming portrayal, but never disneyesque. To illustrate the seriousness of the message, you also do not shy away from death, cruelty and darkness. What feedback have you had from your young readers? How do they respond to the animals being hurt or killed?

You have to be really careful. I still feel bad about Sidney from the first book, and I've had a few responses from American readers who are horrified that any animals are killed in a book for children. Death is simply a natural part of life and we shouldn't hide from it. And I can't really tell the story of animals who

face extinction without some mortality. Like the culling, I hope it provokes debate. Many children in school want to share with me stories of loved pets who have died, and I hope that Polly shows them it is possible to survive and grow from such loss, however sad.

9 The General, that wonderful cockroach, should have his own spinoff book – he is such a little trooper. Are you working for cockroach PR?

Now that is an idea...

10 Where next for Kester? Also, where next for you as a writer? When is the last book in the trilogy to be published?

I am currently writing the third book in the trilogy, called THE WILD BEYOND (out next spring). Kester has saved the last animals, the humans in the last great city, and now he faces his greatest challenge yet. Can he and his wild save the failing planet itself? Expect some ocean and jungle action as well as the final resolution of everyone's story.

Then after that, a totally different book, but I can't talk about that yet!

*Piers Torday was speaking to
Julia Bohanna*

AMONG WOLVES

Gordon Haber's Insights into Alaska's Most Misunderstood Animal

Dr Gordon Haber and Marybeth Holleman, PB, 310pp, University of Alaska Press, RRP £21.00, ISBN: 978-1602232181

ON 14TH October 2009, the wolf lost one of its fiercest and dedicated advocates when Dr Gordon Haber died in a plane crash in Denali National Park. As a keen outdoors man, Haber was never satisfied with simply tracking wolves with radio collars. He had to be out in the wild with them, often battling temperatures of up to minus fifty degrees. No matter how cold it was outside, it never seemed to bother him.



ecosystem as a whole. Furthermore, Dr Haber's continuous research into Denali's wolves over a long period of time enabled us to see family traditions develop, just like they might do in human families.

The book chronicles an extraordinary journey, where

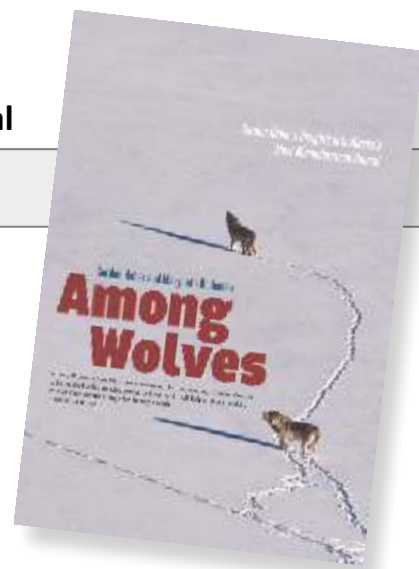


Among Wolves was written using Haber's extensive and detailed field notes and journals, as well as stories from friends who had worked closely with him. I found it an enchanting and captivating read, as if Dr Gordon Haber was sitting next to me telling me about his experiences and many adventures.

So what do we learn? The fundamental driving question, extracted from Haber's research, is twofold: Firstly, how do wolves and their prey behave and interact without having human interference? Secondly, what effect does human interference have on wolves' social systems as well as on the ecosystems they inhabit? Dr Haber was able to collect information on interactions between wolves and bears and analyse the dynamics of the

the reader discovers wolves as they go about their daily lives: family bonds, the raising of cubs and preparing dens for their arrival and the devastating effects that trapping, hunting and predator control management can have on these strong family units. Some of the dens in particular are complex in their structure and some ancient den sites that have been inhabited by both wolves and humans at different periods.

Not only does this book enhance our knowledge of wolves and their behaviours but also complements it with some astonishing images that Dr Haber managed to capture while observing Denali's wolves. For example, there is a beautiful image of an adult wolf



watching carefully three Toklat wolf cubs crossing a river. At one point the adult wolves are on one side of the riverbank and the cubs on the other. To encourage the cubs, one young female gets into the river and paws playfully. At one stage one cub seems to lose its nerve and starts to go back, but with further encouragement, tries again. One cub has managed to reach the other side but where the water is deep struggles to get on the bank. The cub is helped to safety by a female wolf and within an instant she darts back to help the other cub to safety. She achieves this by not only jumping into the water and steadying the cub against the current, but by using the young female's body to climb on to reach the bank. This captured behaviour allows us to witness just how attentive and caring members of the wolves are towards cubs, but is also an excellent demonstration of lupine levels of intelligence.

Overall, this book was not only a fascinating read, but more of an emotional journey, where the reader shares Dr Gordon Haber's passion and love for these wolves. It will inspire,

captivate and possibly anger you in places – particularly when you discover the disastrous impact that man can have on lupine family structure and survival. Most of all, it will give you a greater insight and understanding of wolves.

Review by
Francesca Macilroy

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A visit to the studio of Marek Woźnica

metal sculptor and jeweller

Julia Bohanna reports



Wolf bangle



Wolf ring

ON A WARM day heavy with the threat of rain, I visited the Project Workshops in Quarley, near Andover, which is not generally open to the public. I peeked in on stonemason Robyn Golden-Hann, glassblowers Mark Taylor and David Hill who specialise in Roman and Georgian glass and the Talos Art Foundry. So much talent! I was at the workshops to see Marek Woźnica, a metal sculptor who is producing designs for a wolfy ring and bangle, exclusively for the Trust.

Marek was working with his father in metalworking before he was even a teen, so he has the industry 'soldered' to his heart. Pewter is now his favourite medium and it's such a lovely thing to handle, you can understand why. Like many creatives, Marek spent time earning a living in various roles: milking cows and training as an engineer – before finding a way to devote time to something he truly loves. In fact, he utilises the engineering side in his production of work, such as the rubber moulds which are available to withstand temperatures of up to 400°C. Marek

specialises in animals and has done a great deal of work for various greyhound rescue charities. The elegance of the greyhound lends itself beautifully to

the medium of metal, as do his owls, various other breeds of dog and eagles. I was fascinated how in each piece, there is the finest of detail – such as delineation of the paws and even the marking out of the ribs on the greyhound's stomach.

Marek has given us something unique and wonderful for the Trust – a pewter wolf bangle and ring. He talked me through the whole process: the choosing of a non-toxic unleaded alloy of pewter that contains tin and copper, the organic rubber for the mould – to the artistic beginning of the piece, taken from drawings, to the imprint into a rubber mould and near the finale, the careful pouring of molten pewter in the mould. "You have to be careful not to pour it on your shoes," he told me, with an expression which revealed that yes, it had happened and it was painful!

What emerges from the cooled pewter inside the mould is initially dull but after an abrasive wash where it is polished in a tumbler, it comes up to looking very

similar to silver, but with a satisfyingly chunky and almost medieval look. Marek was also working on larger works of art – some of which I saw at the workshop, such as a pewter rose arbour – every rose is layered and tweaked to be original. A great feat of patience.

Marek is genuinely passionate about wolves and when he first came into contact with the wolves up at the Trust, he was not expecting to 'fall to his knees' in awe. He is producing something of great beauty for us and with enormous love. A gentle man, who is extremely excited about having a lasting connection through his work, with animals he adores. These are exclusive designs for us at the Trust and, as such, we should also be very excited.

www.metalstorm-uk.com
www.project-workshop.co.uk

Julia Bohanna



Wolf brooch

You will soon be able to buy Marek's wolf bangle, ring and other items from the Trust. Keep an eye out on our website at ukwolf.org

wolves of the world

The Youth of Today: meet wolf OR7's new pups, as California moves to protect species

"WOLF PUPS do tend to gravitate toward clearings. It's like your pet dog: They like to sit in the sun and warm themselves," he said. "I got lucky, actually. I had been sitting there for a while and I just happened to see some movement. They heard the sound of the camera waking up, and they ducked back in a little bit. They're pretty wary little buggers." –

John Stephenson, US Fish and Wildlife Biologist.



least biologically speaking. He estimates the pups are about 5 to 6 weeks old. They probably were conceived sometime in February and born in mid-April. The biologists did not approach or handle the pups or the two adult wolves, but merely observed them.

A mystery still surrounds OR7's mate: wildlife officials don't know where she came from. It's possible she has been traveling with OR7 for some time. On Monday, when biologists first observed the pups, they collected wolf scat from the area, and they hope some of it is from the female. The scat will yield DNA results that could reveal where she came from, based on comparisons with DNA from other wolves. "In time, we'll learn quite a bit more about her," said Stephenson. "But I suspect she's a long-distance disperser like OR7 was. I was surprised one made it all the way down and they found each other, but it happens."

OR7 was born into northeast Oregon's Imnaha wolf pack in April 2009 and collared by ODFW on Feb. 25, 2011. He left the pack in September 2011, travelled across Oregon and into California on Dec. 28, 2011, becoming the first known wolf in that state since 1924. Other wolves have travelled further, and other uncollared wolves may have made it to California. But OR7's GPS collar, which transmits his location data several times a day, enabled wildlife managers to track him closely. Since March 2013, OR7 has spent the majority of his time in the southwest Cascades in an area mapped on ODFW's website.

Source:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

How the wolf is thriving in Europe: wild wolf populations across the continent

- The number of wolves in Switzerland is uncertain, estimated at one or two.
- In 2011, wolves were spotted in Belgium and the Netherlands in several locations.
- In Denmark in 2013, three different lone wolves have been observed. Based on sound recordings, one pair has had cubs (see page 18).
- The Czech Republic has a stable and protected population of 20 wolves.
- Greenland has a population of 20–100.
- In France the wolf population is around 40–50 individuals and growing.
- Slovenia has an increasing population of 70–100 wolves.
- Finland has an almost stable population of 97–106 wolves.
- Germany: there are around 150 wolves in 26 packs.
- Estonia and Croatia: each has a stable population of around 200 wolves.
- Greece and Portugal: both have a stable population of 200–300 wolves
- Hungary has a stable population of 250 wolves.
- Albania has a protected and increasing population of 250 wolves.
- The Scandinavian Peninsula has a population of over 300 wolves (official number in 2012/2013 was 350–410), shared between Sweden and Norway. The Norwegian population is located in the south-east, close to the Swedish border, and consists of c. 30 wolves. Sweden has a protected population of around 300 wolves.
- Lithuania has a population of 300–400 which are increasing in number.
- Slovakia has a stable population of 350–400 wolves.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina is thought to have a population of 400 wolves.
- Serbia and Montenegro has a stable population of 500 wolves.
- In Italy, wolves are protected, with estimates at 500–700 wolves (or up to 800, according to other sources)
- Latvia has an unprotected population of 600 wolves.
- Poland has an increasing population of 700–800 wolves.

He may only have letters and a number to his name, like R2D2 in Star Wars, but it has been officially confirmed that the wandering wolf [OR7] in California now has family! The wild gray wolf that famously roamed California in search of a mate is raising a litter of pups just over the state line in Oregon, wildlife officials have confirmed. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the US Fish and Wildlife Service homed in on the signal from OR7's tracking collar, photographing two fuzzy wolf pups peeking out of a hollow log somewhere in the Rogue River–Siskiyou National Forest. There may be more pups in the family, officials said, because wolves typically produce a litter of four to six.

"If this pack persists and keeps cranking out pups in coming years, sure, that puts a lot more potential dispersers a lot closer to California," John Stephenson, who captured photos of the pups.

Even better news: at a meeting the same day in Fortuna, the California Fish and Game Commission voted 3–1 to protect any future Golden State wolf residents under the state Endangered Species Act – even though there are none currently residing in the state.

"There is no species more iconic in the American West than this one, the gray wolf," said commission president Michael Sutton. "We owe it to them to do everything we can to help them re-colonize their historic range in this state."

Stephenson said OR7's family can officially be considered a new "pack," at

Has New Hampshire become a ‘Dumping Ground’ for Wolfdogs?

NEW HAMPSHIRE wildlife officials are wrestling with a proposal that would put them in charge of wolf-hybrids; those are wolves that have been bred with domesticated dogs.

These sometimes dangerous animals are often abandoned because they can be unmanageable as pets. And a population of abandoned wolfdogs prompted New Hampshire officials to take another look at an animal that falls squarely in the grey area between wild and tame.

Most dogs have many generations of domestication in between them and their wild roots. Wolf-dogs have just a few.

“They have that wildness to them, that’s just hard to get out of them,” says Tanner Brewer, who manages the state’s biggest wolfdog sanctuary in Chatham, up on the Maine–New Hampshire border, near Conway.

He’ll tell you that many wolfdogs act just like dogs, whimpering and begging for attention, but they can be huge –

some weighing more than 200 pounds – and that wildness sometimes is right on the surface. “We have one wolfdog over here named Rosie who has really taken a



liking to me and Matthew,” he says during a tour of the paddocks, “but yet one of the other guys can’t even go in the cage. He had been in there three of four times and she got his boot one day... just bit his boot.”

Brewer, a big guy and an army vet, works for the New England Wolf Advocacy and Rescue Center, or NEWARC. He says the 69 animals here

have all been spayed or neutered and vaccinated, which the law requires, and are all kept in large pens, with 8-foot chain-link fences. Basically, right now, they are treated like domestic dogs: they have to be licensed with local authorities. The Department of Agriculture has rules that require wolf-hybrid owners to neuter, vaccinate, and keep them in pens with tall fences. But Ag says it has never enforced these rules, because it doesn’t have the resources to do so.

“We don’t have the manpower or the money to be going around confirming that somebody’s wolf hybrid is neutered or to look to see

what kind of pens people have for these animals,” Fish and Game Director Glenn Normandeau told lawmakers, “I mean that’s not what our department Whatever lawmakers decide, there are 69 wolfdogs on the Maine–New Hampshire border, where they will live out their lives.

“It’s our responsibility, we made them this way. We made them this way so they have a right to live just like anything else,” opined Tanner, listening to the wolfdogs howl behind him, “And as long as there’s places that are available, than it makes no sense to even think about putting them down.”

So for now, NEWARC will be there for wolfdog owners who find they’ve bitten off more than they can chew.

Original Source: New Hampshire Public Radio (www.nhpr.org/post)

This edited article: By Sam Evans-Brown, TWIN Observer.

Read the full article here: <http://www.timberwolfinformation.org/nh-has-new-hampshire-become-a-dumping-ground-for-wolf-dogs/>

Editor’s note: The issue of wolfdogs is raised on pages 32–33 and a seminar at the Trust in September will discuss it further.

Photo: Wolfdog, by Kirsty Peake

◀ wild wolf populations in Europe

- The Republic of Macedonia has an increasing, yet unprotected population of 1,000 wolves.
- Bulgaria has a stable population of 1,000–1,200 wolves.
- Belarus is home to a population of 1,500–2,000 wolves.
- Ukraine has an unprotected, yet stable population of 2,000 wolves.
- Spain’s wolf population is estimated at 2,000 and growing.
- Romania has an increasing population of 2,500 wolves.
- Turkey has population of about 7,000 wolves.
- Although wolves in Russia have no legal protection, they number 25,000–30,000.

Three new wolf litters born in Norway

THREE NEW wolf litters were born in Norway last year: two in Hedmark and one in Østmarka outside Oslo. The Norwegian Parliament’s objective is that the Norwegian wolf population will produce three new wolf litters each year, but it is treated as such by the court.

The goal has been achieved in the past four years, reports NRK Hedmark. It is Rovdata and University of Hedmark collaborating with tracking and mapping the wolf with the help of DNA analysis of faeces and hair.

Source: www.sverigesradio.se (and translated by TWIN Observer)

RADIOACTIVE WOLVES THRIVING IN AFTERMATH OF CHERNOBYL

IN 1986, possibly the worst disaster in living memory happened when the nuclear power plant at Chernobyl exploded with the force of 400 Hiroshima bombs. The explosion caused total devastation to 100 square miles around the reactor and radioactive dust to fall thousands of miles away. Years later, survivors who lived outside the 100 square mile exclusion zone near the reactor are still suffering the after-effects of the radioactivity. Scientists can only remain in the zone for a very brief period of time wearing protective clothing. Shells of cities, houses and factories have been left as a terrible reminder for future generations of the horror of a nuclear disaster.

Miraculously, nature has triumphed over adversity and created a lush wilderness – a modern Garden of Eden – safe from human intervention! Plants and trees now occupy the ruined buildings. The bison and wild horses once again roam the contaminated landscape. Beavers have returned to the forests, restoring marshes for wildlife; finally birds and insects are populating the wilderness toxic to humans. Most importantly, the final link for an ideally balanced ecosystem has returned: the apex predator, the grey wolf. Once more haunting howls echo

throughout the forests. The indigenous population is thriving in a habitat where no humans can survive. Abnormalities have declined and the overall density and health of the lupine population is surprisingly better than in clean areas.

This is a unique ecosystem thriving normally, in fact more successfully than outside the exclusion zone, despite the lurking danger of the radioactive fallout. The soil is heavily contaminated, which in turn contaminates plants, trees, insects, birds, and anything that predated on them. The whole food chain is affected and radioactivity is demonstrated in the 50-times normal deposits in the bones and fur of animals tested by scientists conducting “near to reactor” research. This idyllic habitat has been solely created by nature.

Prior to the disaster the grey wolves were plentiful but ruthlessly hunted, with the alpha females specifically targeted. Now scientists are monitoring 17 packs with a population of about 120 wolves. The wolves utilise old abandoned buildings to build safe dens for their cubs. Scientists have studied cubs in the dens and taken fur samples to determine the level of radioactivity and some wolves are radio-collared to monitor whether they ever move into clean areas outside the zone.

For humans this land is lost, but the wolves and other wildlife can survive in safety and peace in the shadow of the nuclear disaster.

Wendy Brooker

Source: Amazing World, January 2014

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S LIFELINE CHARITY

This charity (see www.ccll.org.uk), which was founded in 1991, focuses mainly on the Belarus area of Russia which received 70% of the radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear explosion in 1986. As a result of the radioactivity thousands of children born every year go on to develop thyroid cancer, bone cancer and leukaemia.

On Wednesday, May 14th, ten children from the region visited the Wolf Trust and had a fantastic time watching the wolves and learning all about them. They were so thrilled to be so close to wolves. Any time spent in a clean air environment is extremely beneficial to the children's health.

Conservationists rally outside Yellowstone to protest wolf hunting

A RALLY to protest sport hunting and trapping of wolves in the United States drew about 150 participants on Saturday [28th June] outside the gates of Yellowstone National Park, an organiser said. Demonstrators at the event in Gardiner, Montana, at the northwest entrance to the park called for an overhaul of government wildlife management policies for the animals.

Thousands of wolves have been legally hunted, trapped or snared in the three years since the predators were removed from the federal endangered and threatened species list in the Northern Rockies and western Great Lakes.

“We need some places out West where wolves can be wolves without fear of being shot, trapped, strangled or

beaten to death,” rally organizer Brett Haverstick said in a telephone interview.

Haverstick said roughly 150 people attended the rally, with participants coming from a range of US states such as Idaho, Montana, California and Florida.

Wolves neared extinction in the Lower 48 states before coming under US Endangered Species Act protections in the 1970s. Federal wildlife managers two decades ago released fewer than 100 wolves in the Yellowstone area over the objections of ranchers and hunters, who complained wolves would prey on livestock and big-game animals like elk.

Wolves in the park and its border states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming were estimated at nearly 2,000 at the time of delisting and now number about

1,700 due to liberal hunting and trapping seasons and population control measures by states such as Idaho.

Ranchers and sportsmen say wolf numbers must be kept in check to reduce conflicts.

“Livestock producers have made many concessions to accommodate wolves on the landscape and the result is we have a healthy wolf population and yet a decrease in cattle depredations,” said Jay Bodner, natural resource director for the Montana Stockgrowers Association.

Reporting by Laura Zuckerman in Salmon, Idaho,

Editing by Alex Dobuzinskis, Bernard Orr

The Ethiopian Wolf – An Encounter

As long as I can remember I have been interested in wildlife conservation and travelling. I decided to take a break from the rat race for six months, striving for hands on work with animals. Because of my profession in IT, I knew I couldn't get the dream job of raising wild tiger cubs in the Bengal jungle but instead I decided to use my skills to try to make a difference.

AFTER SPENDING three months in Sierra Leone developing the IT systems and website for the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary (www.tacugama.com), I decided to visit the Bale Mountains in pursuit of a glimpse of the rarest canid in the world – and arguably the rarest carnivore in Africa – the Ethiopian Wolf (*Canis simensis*). There are estimated to be fewer than 500 individuals surviving in seven isolated mountain pockets of the Ethiopian highlands. These wolves are precision, solitary hunters that prefer diurnal rodents, most of which are also endemic to the Afro-Alpine. Their primary prey is the giant molerat (*Tachyoryctes macrocephalus*) which are marmot-like creatures unique to Bale. The molerat weighs around 900g and provides a handsome meal. Other prey of the wolves includes grass rats *Arvicanthis blicki*, *Lophuromys melanonyx*, and Starck's hare *Lepus starcki*.

Ethiopian wolves will also hunt hares, hyrax and small ungulates.

My objective was to observe these wonderful rare wolves whilst trekking in the Bale Mountains National Park (which is also famous for animals such as Menlik's bushback, mountain Nyala and Bale monkeys). The park encompasses an area of approximately 2,150 km² and was nominated in 2009 for the World Heritage Tentative List.

Once in Bale I met with Zegeye, the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP) local education coordinator. I felt optimistic about my chances of seeing a wolf after I was informed that the wolves had had one of their best breeding seasons in recent years. Zegeye understood my budget constraints and organised a guide for a budget two-day trek. Zegeye was clearly an experienced wolf tracker who knew the vast landscape like the back of his hand. With some help from his colleagues, Zegeye mapped a route and even arranged for me to sleep overnight at the EWCP camp where the wolf trackers spend every night when on duty.

I met with my guide, Mohammed, at 8am, when clear skies and a cool breeze made for ideal trekking conditions. Most of the eight-hour walk on the first day was relatively flat with a slight incline. We crossed a river and scrambled onto a plateau, now on the Sanetti plateau, renowned for having a healthy population of Ethiopian wolves. The Afro-Alpine moorlands of the Sanetti Plateau are the largest continuous area of its altitude on the entire continent of Africa.

The plan was to get to the camp and leave at first light the next morning to give ourselves the best chance to see the wolves in their packs before they

went hunting. After an arduous trek we arrived at our destination. The trackers arrived on horseback from their daily job of monitoring the behaviour and movement patterns of the wolves. We all settled in a typical Ethiopian Tikulu hut where we quickly started preparing the local cuisine of injera bread and beans, to exchange tales of encounters with wolves. The trackers can identify most of the wolves individually and are familiar with their behaviour and personality. It quickly became apparent just how important this knowledge of the wolves' relationship within the ecosystem and their movements was for carrying out surveys or inoculations.

We set off at first light next morning. After trekking at a slight uphill for an hour we reached another plateau from where we could see on one side uninterrupted Afro-Alpine moorland for over several kilometres and on the other side lush rolling green hills. To the south east, around three kilometres away, we could see a pack of wolves already checking us out: ears upright and tails half raised. We were downwind and our scent had reached the wolves before we could even get to the high point. As soon as we stopped walking and turned in their direction, they started to nudge away from us looking back disgruntled. It was a pack of eight healthy wolves and I didn't see

any young. We stood there admiring the wolves as they disappeared out of sight.

A wolf appeared from behind some dense vegetation no more than 300 metres from us. We froze. The wolf looked at us and jogged cautiously in a semicircle around our position, not once breaking his eye contact with us. He now started to bark, howl and yelp – a curious sound after listening to wolves'

howls at the UKWCT. We were now turning on our heels to ensure we don't lose sight of the wolf. The wolf then started coming back on itself before disappearing behind a ridge. We had clear view of an Ethiopian Wolf for over 45 seconds.

Adrenaline-fuelled, we cautiously approached the ridge to try and see where the wolf was going, but by the time we got there we could not see anything; it had gone back into the dense vegetation from where it emerged. We waited to see if it would remerge but to no avail.

As we started our trek home, we noticed the lone wolf sitting in the same spot from where it had first emerged with its ears upright watching our every move. Mohammad and I decided to not get too close to the wolf or consciously make it uncomfortable by our presence, so we slowly started heading back to the EWCP centre. We kept looking back at the wolf that appeared to be



support of the UKWCT, the EWCP has seven wolf monitors in the field at all times. These monitors follow the wolves collecting data on their behaviour, breeding success and health. In addition, two vet teams from UKWCT work hard to vaccinate over 6,000 domestic dogs against rabies each year in villages surrounding the wolf populations.

patiently observing us, making sure we did not return. Needless to say, the entire experience was surreal and exhilarating. It is by far the closest I have come to a wild animal of this size in its natural environment. I will carry this rare glimpse of the endangered wolf to the grave and I would like to thank the EWCP and UKWCT for facilitating a truly unforgettable experience.

Ethiopia currently has the fastest-growing human population in Africa. The increasing presence of humans in the Ethiopian highlands creates complex challenges for the wolves. The most serious threat is posed by contact with domestic dogs that carry diseases such as rabies. The Ethiopian wolves are still classified as critically endangered and their struggle to revive their numbers continues.

However, there is still hope, with 75% of the Ethiopian wolf Afro-Alpine habitat now protected and with the

The ongoing education programme works with local schoolchildren, teaching them the value of conservation and instilling a sense of pride and ownership in the Afro-Alpine in general and, in particular, in the Ethiopian wolves. EWCP, along with UKWCT, also conduct outreach work within the local communities to teach them about the dangers of rabies and encourage them to get their dogs vaccinated.

It was extremely satisfying to see all the hard work carried out locally in aid of saving the Ethiopian wolf. The donations from UKWCT being put to worthy use. Long may this relationship continue as the wolves need all the support they can get.

Since 2007 UKWCT and has donated over £23,000 to EWCP and supported them to conserve this endangered wolf and its Afro-Alpine habitat.

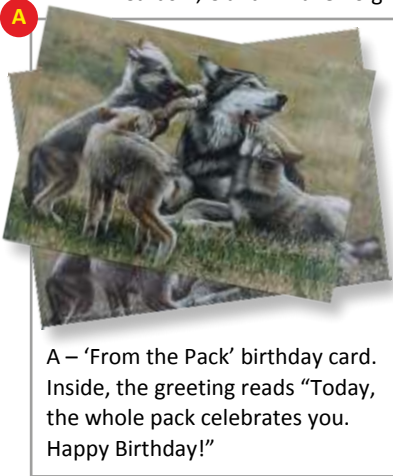
Rohit Wadhvani

Wolfy gifts and souvenirs

ECO-FRIENDLY GREETINGS CARDS AND ENVELOPES £2.20

Vibrant colours and top quality art are features of Tree Free greeting cards. The cards are made from 50% recycled paper, the envelopes from 100% post-consumer recycled paper and both are printed with soy-based inks. Inside, all the cards have a tinted version of the front and the envelopes are also printed front and back with coordinating designs. Card size: 17.5cm x 12.5cm.

Cards B, C and D have no greeting.



C – Wolf Sunset



REEVES SCRAPERFOIL £4.49

Engrave this beautiful picture in silver. Just scrape away the printed lines with the tool provided to reveal your own engraving.

The kit contains 1 pre-printed board, 1 scrapecutter and handle, 1 practice piece and full instructions. You will also need a duster to brush away the scraped-off ink.
Size: 21cm x 31cm.
Recommended for ages 8 and up.

UKWCT HOWLING WOLF KEY RING FOB £3.00

A 4cm keyring fob inset with a howling wolf silhouetted against a full moon and surrounded by red and blue pawprint motifs and the words “U.K. Wolf Conservation Trust”.
Shown actual size, 4cm x 3.3cm.



EMBROIDERED BADGE £3.75

Designed exclusively for the Trust, this badge features a howling wolf silhouetted against the moon with “The UK Wolf Conservation Trust” around the upper part of moon and the Trust’s website address underneath. Great for rucksacks and cycle bags.
Size: 7cm x 5cm.



3D COVER NOTEBOOKS £2.60 EACH

Choice of four different covers for this spiral-bound notebook. 60 blank white sheets. Size 9cm wide x 14cm height. Back cover blank.
E – Four-wolf family
F – Seven wolves
G – The wild one
H – Wolf howling

DUFFLE BAGS £4.25 EACH



Large black, pull-string fabric duffle bag available in three different designs. One side is printed in full colour, the other in white on black. Size 52cm x 39cm.

- J – Blue moon
- K – Green eyes
- L – Watery moon

HOWLING WOLF JUNIOR

T-SHIRT £12.00

A Navy blue Gildan T-shirt designed exclusively for the Trust. It features a howling wolf's head silhouetted against the moon with "The UK Wolf Conservation Trust" around the upper part of moon and the Trust's website address underneath. The design, which is printed in a metallic, silvery-white ink, is completed with a scattering of stars. Printed on front of t-shirt only. 100% pre-shrunk cotton. Wash inside out at 40°C.

Do not tumble dry. Iron inside out. Sizes: XS (age 3–4) chest size 26", S (age 5–6) chest 30", M (age 7–8) chest 32", L (age 9–11) chest 34", XL (age 12–13) chest 36"



SUMA WOLF £9.00

A supersoft plush wolf toy by Suma Collection. Not suitable for children under 36 months. Wipe-clean surface. 21cm.

WOODEN CARVED WOLF

PEN £2.60

Length 18cm. Each pen is carved individually so minor variations from the image shown may occur.



WILD REPUBLIC 'CUDDLEKINS' WOLF £12.00

A plush wolf that can be moved into different poses. 30cm height and length. Wipe clean with damp sponge or cloth. Tag includes QR code for information about wolves. Not suitable for children under age 3.



ORDERING & DELIVERY

To view and order any of these items and our other stationery, clothing, books, gifts and souvenirs, visit our online shop at www.ukwolf.org or call 0118 971 3330.

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



Living in the World of Wolves, Wolfdogs and Wolf lookalikes: a CAPBT/UKWCT Seminar

THE FASCINATION with wolves and their behaviour has led to an increased interest in these majestic animals. Many people wish they could have a wolf – I was one of them! As a child I wanted a golden eagle and a wolf. I ended up with a bunch of terriers and a parrot!

Where there is a need there will be someone or something to fill it. This is what has happened in this case. A lot of people have gone for 'wolf lookalike' dogs such as a husky, Alaskan Malamute, Innuite or even a Tamaskan. Not easy dogs to fit into the modern day style of living but many have successfully achieved this.

Some have gone a step further and taken on a Czech Wolfdog or a Sarloos Wolfdog or even a wolfdog. DEFRA does lay down regulations regarding the breeding of these but there is no genetic test to show whether a particular animal is more wolf or more

dog. This then is the problem for some owners. The other challenge is that as these are not really domestic dogs, these breeds can be a huge step sideways into the unknown.

Over recent years members of CAPBT (COAPE Association of Pet Behaviourists and Trainers) have seen an increase in the number of puppies attending their classes that are either 'lookalikes' or wolfdogs. Sadly, members are also seeing these as behaviour referrals from veterinary practices with which they work.

In 2009 Jacqui Jones and I ran a very successful seminar covering this topic. In light of an apparent increase again in the number of these puppies we have decided to run it again. This time at the wonderful venue of the UKWCT, where delegates can study the wolves. Hopefully we will also have some lookalikes and some wolfdogs owned by UKWCT Director Sue Hull.



We feel that there are a lot of people wanting to ask a lot of questions about this. We have therefore decided to have a section of the day on theory but also a section



A CAPBT AND THE UKWCT
present a Seminar on
**LIVING IN A WORLD OF WOLVES,
WOLFDOGS AND WOLF LOOKALIKES**

to be held on
14th SEPTEMBER 2014 from 10am to 4pm
at
UKWCT, BEENHAM, READING RG7 5NT


This seminar will explore the background of wolves, wolfdogs and wolf lookalikes. Comparisons will be made to the evolution of the domestic dog. This will help prospective owners identify the needs of these dogs and understand whether or not they are the ideal pet for their circumstances and help current owners get a better understanding of their pet. It will also help trainers and behaviourists get the best out of these dogs and help their clients work in harmony with their pets.

The cost is £26
to include tea/coffee but please bring your own lunch
The UKWCT is offering a limited number of Wolf Walks at this event at the cost of £42 per person.

Booking essential for both seminar and wolf walks

Please click here for information on how to pay:
<http://capbt.org/UKWCT/>

All photos © Kirsty Peake



run as a question and answer session where delegates can ask questions not only of the panel but also of other delegates who will include members of the CAPBT.

Speakers:

Kirsty Peake – Specialist Advisor with the UKWCT, Chair of the CAPBT, Senior Behaviourist with Pet Matters www.petmattersdevon.co.uk. Kirsty spends approximately six months a year studying wolf behaviour in Yellowstone National Park. She has also spent some time with Czech Wolfdogs out in Bavaria and has worked with 'Lookalikes' and wolfdogs in the UK.

Jacqui Jones – Senior Behaviourist with Alpha Dog training based in the South West. Jacqui is an assessor with the APDT (Association of Pet Dog Trainers). She has had numerous wolfdog puppies attend her classes. She has also worked with 'Lookalikes'.

Sue Hull: Director of the UKWCT. Sue has a lifetime of working with dogs and owns huskies and two wolfdogs.

Answering the Call of the Wild: wolf howl project



Torak, by Pat Melton

THE WOLF'S howl is one of the most hauntingly lovely sounds in nature, familiar from dozens of Hollywood films and nature documentaries. Wolves howl for many reasons, including to bond their pack together, to gather individuals before a hunt and to stay in contact when they are separated. Research has shown that a wolf's howl is unique to that individual and that we can identify individuals by their howls. Rather as human voices quickly become familiar to us, so that we know it is our mother on the phone without seeing caller ID, wolves know the voices of their family. When they howl, they advertise who they are and to what pack they belong.

As scientists, we eavesdrop on these howls and, by analysing them using specialised software, we can examine how these differences arise and find what defines an individual's voice. By building up a collection of howls, we can tell what qualities are distinct to individuals and what is true of all wolves – so do male wolves howl deeper? Do different subspecies have different howls? Do wolves have regional accents, so Russian wolves sound different to Polish wolves and different again to Greek wolves? Are these differences inherited or learnt? And do they change with time?

There are so many questions yet to be answered. That's where the Call of the Wild Project comes in. We aim to collect wolf howls from as many places as possible to build up a picture of differences across individuals, subspecies and even around the world. The project has collected howls from Poland, Italy, Greece, Russia, Denmark, Canada and the USA. We have already analysed over 1500 wolf howls and we're always adding more.

UK Wolf Conservation Trust is helping us to do this by having volunteers record the wolves howling and then sending us the recordings. This is great news for the Call of the Wild Project. In particular, of the 1500 howls we already have, less than 50 are from Arctic wolves. Arctic wolves are rarely kept in captivity and Pukak, Sikko and Massak love to howl so we're hoping that will change soon.

...does Mosi still sound like other Canadian wolves or has she gained a European accent from being kept with Torak?

Also, because the Trust have different subspecies all howling to each other, it means we can explore whether wolves'

howls change when they hear other wolves howling. The human equivalent is a baby girl born in Britain but brought up in Australia will have an Australian accent, but as an adult, her ability to sing a high C (or not!) will be the same as it would have been in Britain. So we ask questions such as: does Mosi still sound like other Canadian wolves or has she gained a European accent from being kept with Torak? Do the packs all have their own unique sounds? And UK Wolf Trust is helping to answer them.

Finally, the Call of the Wild project aims to develop a means for recording wolf howls in the wild and then count how many wolves are howling and track individuals from one night to the next. Over time, we hope to have samples from every wolf subspecies and country where they are present. For now, we're delighted to have UK Wolf Trust howling for us!

Holly Root-Gutteridge

Holly Root-Gutteridge works at Nottingham Trent University and is building up as big a collection of wolf howls as she can. Using an ME-67 microphone – which is directional – along with a microphone cable, recorder box and video camera Holly records individual howls. She carefully notes the time of day, weather conditions and makes notes of anything that might explain the reason for the howl, for example, if Mai went on a walk and Motomo started to howl for her.

Monday 11th August, 11am to 3pm, with Michelle Paver, children's author

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS

Monday 27th October, 11am to 2pm, with children's author Piers Torday



These creative writing days include talks given by Michelle Paver (author of *The Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* series) on 11th August and Piers Torday (author of *The Dark Wild* – reviewed on page 20 – and its prequel *The Last Wild*) on 27th October on writing fictional stories and the best way to research characters.

You will then go on a wolf walk, followed by a tour of the Trust and a chance to watch the wolves in their enclosures. After writing your own short story Michelle (11th August) or Piers (27th October) will give you additional tips and advice. Children (minimum age 7) must be accompanied by an adult.



Booking essential. £23 per person per day.

Arctic Ambles



27th July, 9th and 24th August,
13th and 28th September,
11th and 26th October
9am to 11am

Enjoy a walk with our magnificent Arctic wolves and the wonderful photographic opportunities they provide.

View all of the Trust's wolves and spend time getting to know the handlers who work with these amazing animals.

Afterwards, there will be time to shop for a wolffy souvenir!

Maximum 12 people.
Booking essential.
£60 per person, age 18+

Photography Days

**Weekend – including Wolf Walk: Sunday, 12th October
10am to 4pm: £150pp**

**Weekday – without Wolf Walk: Thursday, 25th September
10am to 3pm: £80pp**

Photograph all ten of the Trust's wolves, including our amazing Arctic trio.

Our photography workshops are held when the wolves are at their most charismatic. We start with a brief presentation setting the scene and giving you background information about the wolves and the Trust. You will then have time to photograph the wolves either in their enclosures or – on weekend dates only – 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. **Check our website for full details and availability.**



WOLF VIEWING & BAT WALK

20th September at 6.00pm

• £15 • Booking essential

- Tour the Trust and see our wolves up close
- Wolf photography opportunities and howling session
- Presentation by an expert on the life of bats in the UK
- Walk round the Trust at dusk to see long-eared bats flying

The Trust is home to many bats, many of which live in nesting boxes on trees





UKWCT WOLF CENTRE 'VISIT WEDNESDAYS'

Open from 11am to 4pm

Visit Wednesdays give you the opportunity to come and see the Trust without pre-booking, unlike our other events.

You will be able to observe our ten very charismatic wolves – from our three Arctics with their amazing white coats, to our enigmatic black Canadian wolves – and have a guided tour with one of our knowledgeable volunteers. There will be fantastic photographic views of the wolves in their large, natural-looking enclosures and you'll have access to the raised photographic platform on site. If you're lucky you may even hear them howl!

We have picnic areas for warmer days, a gift shop for you to browse for books and souvenirs, and plenty of free parking.



Children's Activities

During the school holidays there will be additional children's activities on Visit Wednesdays, including:

- lino printing, quizzes and colouring.
- Quirks Animal Roadshows will be running a hands-on session with creepy crawlies and giving two talks during the day called Rainforest & Endangered Species.
- There will also be a number of seized items from customs on show, such as crocodile items etc.

ADMISSION: Adults—£8; Members, children (age 3–12) & OAPs—£5; Children under 3—FREE. Tickets on the gate only. Sorry: no dogs on site.

PREDATOR DAY

27th September, 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 morning includes a two-hour walk with wolves around the Trust in beautiful Berkshire countryside. There will be ample opportunities for photography on the walk as well as handling and flying the birds of prey in the afternoon. There will also be time to see and photograph all the wolves at the Trust including the UK's first Arctic wolves.

Our **Predator Day** is the only way in the UK to walk with wolves in the morning and fly a hawk in the afternoon.



£120 per person. Minimum age 16

Booking essential Please bring a packed lunch

Wolf Keeper Experience Days

**18th September and Thursday 2nd October
10am–4pm, maximum 8 people per day.**

See behind the scenes at the Trust and shadow the keeper in tasks including cleaning out the wolf enclosures, preparing food and feeding the wolves. Get involved in our wolf enrichment programme, walk with wolves, snap up great photo opportunities and receive a souvenir event certificate of your day. **£150pp – booking essential**

Check our website for other dates, full details and to book.

12th September, 10th October, 7th November & 5th December – at 7.00pm

Friday Night is Howl Night!

Feel your backbone tingle and your ears vibrate with the sound. The evening starts 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!

£10 per person. Booking essential. (Don't forget to dress up warmly for an evening under the stars).

