

Wolf Print

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Issue 53 Autumn Winter 2014

Mesopredators
and the vital qualities
of danger – **why**
predators
matter

Eastern Delight:

*how one project
aims to save the
beautiful but
endangered
Indian wolf*

Shepherding the Future

Research into the efficiency of
Livestock Guardian Dogs in the Alps

Way of the Wolf

An interview with artist and
conservationist Pollyanna Pickering

■ NEWS ■ EVENTS ■ RESEARCH ■ MEDIA AND ARTS



Tala and Julia by Veda Kavanagh

Editor's Letter

conflict the wolf might create in communities, has never been more pertinent. We have in this issue some geographically diverse studies: From livestock guardian dogs in the Swiss Alps to measures

positive piece of information under the 'Education and Protection' heading, which should have read:

"Conservation groups like Greenpeace, Forest Ethics Solutions, Sierra Club of British Columbia, Raincoast Conservation Foundation and Pacific Wild have been fighting for a number of years to get this unique corner of the world and its inhabitants protected. In 2006, a protection package was established to ban logging in 33% of the Great Bear Rainforest and also to bring in ecosystem-based forestry management for the rest of the area by 2009. Today five years later the promises made the British Columbian Government still have not been delivered, although they have recently stated that they are still set to deliver by the end of 2014. Valerie Lange of Forest Ethic Solutions says her organisation is committed to seeing this through."

83 is a small and mathematically unexciting number but sadly, according to reports, it is also the number of Mexican wolves now left in Arizona and New Mexico. Although there has been some good news – with cubs born in the Western Sierra Madre mountains (see Wolves of the World) – this endangered species is still struggling.

So what can we do? Wolf conservation is many things: reactive, proactive, protective and humanitarian. To help the Mexican wolf, we should be all these things. Firstly, *tell the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that Mexican wolves are essential and need more protection from shooting and trapping.*

Secondly, please challenge the USFWS's "experimental non-essential" classification: *Urge that USFWS classify Mexican wolves as "essential" and to give them full protections under the Endangered Species Act.*

The Mexican wolf is not the only species of wolf that is in trouble. This is our 'dangerous' edition. We can never ignore the fact that the wolf is a large predator, an opportunist hunter. Looking at non-lethal methods available to deal with any

taken in India to give animals an incentive to remain within the forest environment, rather than do damage beyond. We also have Pete Haswell's excellent piece on the role of mesopredators. The UKWCT is proud to support some of these intelligent and progressive measures, which will hopefully be the future.

There is some good news: Idaho – an extremely problematic area for the wolf – is beginning to release funds and consider non-lethal methods.

Yet when it comes to dangerous, man is most certainly the most dangerous and destructive animal of all.

On a local level, there is a lovely story concerning Game of Thrones author George R R Martin and a memorable little chap called Jack Bailey (see Trust news on page 7). As our wolves build up their winter coats and seem to stand taller as a result, we have had many other interesting visitors to the Trust, including artist Jackie Morris, fantasy writer Robin Hobb and some baby kestrels.

An apology, too. In Cammie Kavanagh's article on coastal wolves in our last issue (pages 13–15), we managed to repeat a paragraph rather than include a very

In this rich and varied issue there are interviews with Pollyanna Pickering and artist Jack Beaumont, plus a review of Steve Backshall's new children's book Wilds of the Wolf. Have a wonderful Christmas and a bright New Year.

Onwards and upwards!

Julia Bohanna

Julia Bohanna
Editor

Cover picture: Nuka, by Mike Collins

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Issue 53

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Aims of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

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

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Trust News



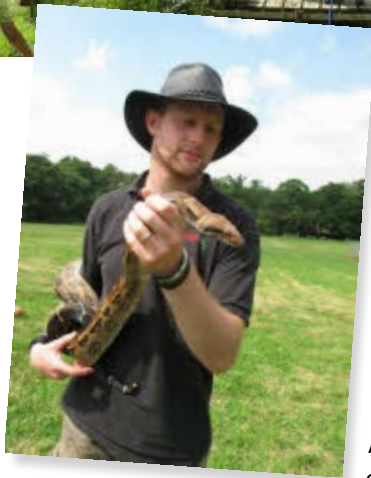
IN THE WONDERFULLY warm summer and autumn our wolves spent large parts of the day languishing in the sun. This meant lying on platforms soaking up all the rays of sunshine then moving to their favourite shady places at the edge of the trees. Most of the time they have one eye on the lookout for a cooling ice lolly, laced with tuna or meat, or on wolf keeper days, enjoying water melons or coconuts.

This relaxed scene has helped visitors on Visit Wednesdays to take some great photographs of the wolves, particularly when the wolves were fed at 2pm. There were delicate table manners, with no aggressive behaviour, when our wolves were given their portions of chicken, beef and deer. They could also be seen cooling off in their water troughs or dipping in the ponds. All very sublime.



VISIT WEDNESDAYS

Our open Wednesdays during the summer holidays attracted a good number of visitors: on average around 250. As well as watching the wolves, younger visitors could handle creepy crawlies, rabbits and a wide range of animals brought by Quirks' Animal



Roadshows, in a large tent in the bottom field. Luke (right, with boa constrictor Feather), who started the company around five years ago, gave two talks during each Wednesday called 'Rainforest' and 'Endangered Species'. Luke was originally a work experience

student at the Trust, where he met Hayley, a fellow Trust work experience student. Later, they were married and held their wedding reception in the very same tent in the field where the roadshow was housed. A lovely outcome for all concerned!

Visit Wednesdays – where we have frequent visitors in smaller numbers – benefits both wolves and public. By the end of 2014 we will have had 5,000+ visitors – approximately the same amount as we used to have over three large open days.

SUMMER CHILDREN'S EVENTS

As well as the ever-popular pond-dipping, children took part in nature quizzes and games, a wide range of activities in the Education Pole Barn organised by work experience students and we ran a children's walk with either Nuka, Tala or Mai every Thursday of the summer holidays.

Author Michelle Paver also held one of her eagerly anticipated creative writing workshops. Mai gave Michelle a very friendly greeting on our walk, demonstrating to the children what a great bond Michelle still has with the wolves, as she helped hand rear them.

In the long warm summer evenings we were able to enjoy four wolf viewing and bat walks with Bridget Parslow of the Bucks and South Berks Bat Group. There was a talk about UK bats and then a chance to use sonic detectors to hear and see our resident pipistrelle bats.

We have also had several Brownie, Guide and Scout groups on evening visits and it is particularly worthwhile now we have a specially designed wolf badge for them to work towards.



RESIDENT WILDLIFE AT THE TRUST



The wildlife in the surrounding fields to the wolves has had a bumper year:

Kestrel chicks were found in the kestrel box, two barn owl chicks in one box near the bottom pond and another immature barn owl in the box near the kestrel box. The latter is particularly good news as last year, after a cold spring, no barn owl chicks had fledged in West Berkshire at all.

In the summer we counted a total of 24 red kites, the most ever, circling over the wolf cages one August afternoon at feeding time. It was quite menacing for the wolves! We are endeavouring to feed the red kites daily.

A rather indignant kestrel chick about to be ringed



We have wildlife on a much smaller scale, too. See overleaf for a feature on the Trust's Bug Hotel.

AUTUMN AT THE TRUST

September brought autumn and a visit to the Royal Berkshire County Show (with some rather unusual wolves, as you can see below).



We also held our Wolfdog seminar, organised by Kirsty Peake and Sue Hull. This was well attended and stimulating for everyone who wanted to understand the wolfdog breed and behaviour.

In October half term author Piers Torday (pictured right, with Mai) walked with the wolves after his creative writing workshop.



There was a Howl and Hoot Open Day with a talk and demonstration with Halloween activities, including the Howloween Pumpkin Day where participating children carved and filled pumpkins with the wolves' favourite treats and then watched the wolves enjoy them.

Howl nights are very popular in winter. Holly Root-Gutteridge is assisting with our howling evening presentation but also with myths and legends, conservation and Arctic wolves' presentations.

We also have new slides of our current wolves and often have to update some of the scientific facts, as wolves keep being reclassified!



DONATIONS FROM THE TRUST TO WORLDWIDE CONSERVATION PRODUCTS

- £5,000 CanOvis Project, France (see page 16)
- £2,000 EnviroCare Welfare Society, India (see page 18)
- £4,000 Chisty Les Wolf Reintroduction Project, Russia
- £2,000 Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme

The £13,000 this autumn makes an overall total of £25,000 for the year.

2015

As the younger wolves will be four years old next year, we have made the decision not to have any walking events with them during the breeding season



of mid-February to mid-March. Instead, we have some wonderful new events such as willow workshops. See pages 34 to 36 for details of all our forthcoming events.

In 2015 we celebrate 20 years since we founded the Trust and for such a milestone there must be celebrations. We may hold a WOLF FEST during a summer weekend to celebrate the wolf in art, literature, music and media etc. There will also be a photographic display of the Trust's wolves past and present, plus information on projects we have supported, the seminars we have held and all we have achieved. A true celebration of Lupercalia!

PHOTO CREDITS

Opposite from top:

- The Beenhams by Sim Warren, Contrast Collective
- Pond dipping By Tsa Palmer
- Luke and Feather by Mike Collins

This page from top:

- Kestrel chicks by Mike Collins
- At the Newbury Show by Craig Jefferies
- Piers Torday with Mai by Suvi Hall
- Torak by Sim Warren, Contrast Collective
- Nuka, Tala and Tundra, by Matt Booth

It's a bug's life

Last year, some work experience students at the Trust made a bug hotel.

Bug hotels can come in a variety of designs and depend really on what you have lying around! They can be made from all sorts of recycled material. At the Trust we have many items simply lying around, waiting to be used. The main materials for the Bug Hotel were wooden pallets, which we regularly get from deliveries of food for the wolves, or for our Wolf Print magazine.

Simply by stacking these pallets on top of one another, the main structure of the hotel was created. Once we had the structure, we then pinpointed the good location near the pond in the bottom field, where we planted a wildflower meadow to attract as much wildlife as possible: not only frogs, toads etc but immediately above the pond, buzzards regularly nest and we

have bat boxes in the near vicinity.

After building the structure of pallets we needed to fill the rooms. The pallets, when stacked upside down provide individual spaces which we are calling 'rooms'. These rooms were made up of different materials to attract different types of wildlife, catering for each species' own preferences, in the hope that it brings in the guests!

What materials can be used? Anything that can be recycled, for example: old rope, old bottles, flower pots, leaf litter, hay, old tiles, piping and bamboo – to

name just a few tempting items for our little critters.

All species of animal require and enjoy different ways of living and even hedgehogs will enjoy tucking into old piping from time to time!

If you fill the rooms, wildlife will come to book in!

Tsa Palmer



The Power of Words: An interview with Jack 'a friend to the wolves' Bailey



'Wolves haven't destroyed our habitat; we have destroyed theirs.' – Jack, aged (just) thirteen, pictured with Tsa Palmer.

Earlier this year, a remarkable little boy wrote a sweet and impassioned letter to Game of Thrones' author George R R Martin, offering his pocket money for wolf conservation and requesting a 'grizzly death' in one of the author's books. Martin had asked for a donation for the Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary in New Mexico and in return, he would 'kill' the donor in his novel, *The Winds of Winter*. Jack loves *Game of Thrones*, although he is only allowed to watch an abridged version of the earthy series. Most of all, he loves wolves. In chatty, openhearted style, Jack also mentioned in his letter to Martin a place he loved in Beenham: The UK Wolf Conservation Trust. The response was remarkable: charmed by the words, the creator of direwolves sent the Trust a cheque for \$10,000.

For me, interviewing someone so young, who is clearly determined to be a wolf conservationist, was a pleasure. Jack lives with his family in Wotton Bassett, two Rhodesian Ridgebacks Inka and Zari, a black cat called Spook and four chickens. I quickly got a picture of a true child of nature as I talked to him and his parents. This is a boy with wolf wallpaper on his bedroom wall so that he can fall to sleep dreaming of forests, loping silhouettes and distant howls. But before he does, as the sun fades, every evening Jack climbs on top of his garden shed and like a wolf on a mountain, he surveys his kingdom to ensure that everything is as it should be. He also has a very prosaic attitude to life and a smile to melt the most cynical of hearts. Apart from wolves, he loves his guitar, magic, dragons and writing short stories. In his fluffy spirit hat and clutching his toy wolves, he looked remarkably like one of Peter Pan's Lost Boys. But he is the very opposite of someone lost. Jack is down to earth and focused. When the email came back from GRRM asking if he was the writer of the letter, Jack's response was typically down to earth and teenager cool: 'Yes, that's me.'

So why does Jack adore wolves so much? His answer was sincere and ethereally joyful: 'Why do I love wolves? There's just a spirit to them.' He was also thrilled to be told that the cheque for \$10,000 to use for wolf conservation, which translates to approximately £6,000, will be shared between Josip Kusak's Russian Project and £2,000 to the Ethiopian wolves. It's quite a gift and we would like to thank George R R Martin but also the one and only Jack Bailey. We at Wolf Print will be looking out for this budding conservationist in the future.

Julia Bohanna

DIRECTOR'S LETTER *from Tsa Palmer*

As I write this letter at the end of 2014, I have been dwelling on how much has changed since Roger and I acquired our first wolf cub "My Lady" from Kessingland Park in Norfolk in 1972, and how many changes have occurred to the legislation in keeping wild animals.

In 1972, no one needed any sort of licence or inspection from an official to keep a wild animal! Watching and enjoying the recent BBC series "Our Zoo" this autumn reminded me of some of the escapades both Roger's capuchin monkeys and our early wolves got away with! Like George Mottishead (who founded Chester Zoo), Roger developed an overwhelming passion for watching animal behaviour at an early age. His long-suffering parents had to use a farm lorry to transport all his pets back to his boarding school each term!

In addition to keeping over 100 rats and numerous hamsters (which frequently escaped and established a breeding colony under the school laboratory floorboards) Roger used to breed free-flying budgerigars and ornamental pheasants. At 16, Roger had two capuchin monkeys: Candy and Johnny, who used to go everywhere on his shoulders. They went to Cambridge University with him, living in his room, often running along the college rooftops, much to the college authorities' annoyance!

While working in America during winter, 1971, Roger saw some young wolves in St Louis Zoo. Their beauty and friendliness made a dramatic impression and fired his lifelong love of wolves.

In 1976, with a tightening in the law, we had to obtain a licence under the Dangerous Wild Animals act to keep monkeys and wolves (passed that same year). This was a necessary and welcomed change in the law, as some animals were not being properly housed or cared for in captivity. I remember visiting the Harrods' Pet Department in the 1970s, where one could purchase lion cubs and other exotic animals with no difficulty!

Since 2006, the UK Wolf Conservation Trust has operated under a zoo licence.

Under this legislation we have an annual informal inspection from West Berkshire Environmental Health and Licensing Services' team, who spend at least three hours checking the following:

- The stock list of wolves
- DEFRA paperwork for keeping wolves
- Insurance policies for wolves and volunteer Trust staff
- Health and safety protocols – annual accident/incident reports
- Vet visit log
- Medicine for wolves' log book
- Daily wolf log
- Record of wolf food (raw meat) for DEFRA
- Annual vaccination records
- Perimeter fences
- Annual fire practices/fire precaution records
- Wolf escape procedure and dates we have practised this with volunteers
- Volunteer CRB checks
- Volunteer training records and training days for volunteers, with paperwork trail
- Conditions under which we continue to walk wolves the public. (We are only permitted to walk in the area registered with the council around the Trust. Two handlers per wolf.)
- COSH sheets of any on-site chemicals
- Any overhanging branches on the wolf enclosures that could fall on the fences
- Rodent control measures
- PAT testing on all electrical equipment
- We have up-to-date first aid kits
- The wolf keeper and I have valid first aid training certificates

Every three years we have a more thorough inspection carried out with the West Berkshire Team and a DEFRA-appointed ministry vet.

Much has changed in the last 40 years! These vigorous inspections have much improved the welfare of animals in captivity but also safety. However, the necessary spending has forced smaller

establishments or those with limited income to close.

I have noticed another change since the 1970s: the wide choice of wolf merchandise available now. There were no cuddly furry wolf toys for sale in the 1970s! This was the era before wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone in 1995. Public perception of wolves was of vicious beasts. I often say to children who visit: 'Why do they think it is taken for granted and normal for teddy bears to be taken to bed with them for comfort and friendship?' Black and grizzly bears in America every year attack humans, some with fatal results. There are no recorded instances of healthy wolves attacking people in America, so why were bears chosen as children's soft cuddly bedmates and mascots?

I am glad to say that as the perception of wolves has changed there are a great many different-sized wolves available for purchase. We stock a large assortment of wolves in our shop, many of whom I am sure will be bought as Christmas presents this year. We recently attended The Berkshire Show with our Trust merchandise stand and many of our friendly wolves have found new homes. OVER 65,000 visitors came to the show and the hardworking volunteers on the stand gave away about 1500 leaflets and talked to visitors about the events we hold at the Trust, from Howl Nights, Walking with Wolves or our Visit Wednesdays. It's amazing how few people know of our existence, despite the fact that Beenham is only five miles from the Newbury Showground!

In 2015, we will be celebrating 20 years since the foundation of the Trust. In the next bumper edition of Wolf Print we will be looking back at all the wolves we have had during this time and all we have achieved. My ambition is by the end of 2015 to have given £250,000 to wolf conservation projects around the world, of which we can all be very proud.

I hope everyone has a very good Christmas and that the furry toy wolves and our other merchandise will be flying off the shelves at Christmas for presents for wolf lovers round the world!

Update on the Trust Wolves

MAI and MOTOMO

MAI AND MOTOMO have enjoyed a relatively tranquil summer together; the mound in their enclosure has been re-grassed, and they both love to sit or sprawl on it watching the world go by. Or, when it's too hot to be in the open, they will take sanctuary at the partially shaded edge of the woods at the top of the enclosure and sleep.

During the summer both wolves moulted down to just the guard-hairs, and looked remarkably slender – highlighting the wolf's underlying nature as a long-distance athlete. Now, in November, both have re-grown their winter coats and in the process have become noticeably lighter-coloured. Mai, in particular, has greyed a lot round her muzzle, legs and shoulders while Motomo's new coat (left) has come through with a predominant pale straw colour in place of his previous European wolf brown.

Mai (below) still likes to come out on enrichment walks round the farm with her favourite handlers; being unsocialised, Motomo stays behind and howls to her in a rather mournful way, often getting a reply. Motomo's temperament has changed somewhat since he no longer has Mosi and Torak in the adjoining enclosure, though he can still often be seen fence-running with the Arctic wolves, who are now his neighbours.

Report and photos by Pete Morgan-Lucas





MOSI and TORAK

Torak and Mosi on an enrichment walk, photo by Mike Collins

WINTER IS starting to make itself felt at the Trust – the days are getting shorter and the leaves are taking on their seasonal hue. This is the time when the wolves become more active as their hormones begin to rise in preparation for the breeding season ahead (although our wolves don't breed they still go through the cycle). This triggers the growth of their winter coats and the laying down of a thin layer of subcutaneous fat to keep them warm during the cold nights.

Mosi is always the last of our wolves to lose her winter coat; it seems just as the last of her old fur is shed, the new hair starts growing again! This year she has had a colour change and has developed an elegant silver sheen – quite a contrast to her boisterous personality. She and Torak are still occupying the top enclosure, which they like very much. Mosi doesn't have the nickname "Nosey Mosi" for nothing and will always turn up at the fence if she thinks something interesting is going on. Visitors can expect an immediate wolf sighting when they arrive on site; Mosi misses nothing. As one of our most vocal wolves she will treat them to a series of

inquisitive squeaks and whines and, more often than not, a good long howl. The Howl Nights have resumed after the summer hiatus and anyone who wants to hear a wolf call through the dark won't be disappointed as we can always guarantee a good performance from Mosi!

As our most adopted wolf, Torak continues to be a hit with our visitors. His aloof nature and good looks make him very popular. He makes a perfect model when he lies on top of the mound, surveying his territory. Living in the top enclosure obviously suits him, as he comes down to the front fence quite often now and will even feed in front of members of the public, if they are quiet. No doubt his rising hormones have made him bolder and, as he is such a magnificent-looking wolf, it's nice for people to be able to see him in his full glory. He is still picky about his handlers though and will drift away into the trees if he spots someone he's not sure about.

Once the breeding season is in full swing after Christmas, Mosi and Torak will no longer go on their enrichment walks, so they can concentrate on each other. In the meantime, they are

enjoying regular early morning walks with their favoured handlers. This is important for their welfare and they look disappointed if you walk past their enclosure with a lead and don't stop to take them out. The onset of autumn means there are lots of rich smells and new sights for them to experience. Mosi likes to eat blackberries and has even been known to wolf down a sloe without making a face! Handlers have to be alert with Torak as he is one of the few wolves on site who will go after prey if it's close enough and in the autumn, rut-crazed deer have a habit of springing out unexpectedly. Both wolves enjoy these outings very much, although Mosi seems to think they are sprints rather than leisurely ambles. It's been interesting to note on their walks that Torak, Mosi and Mai mark the entrance to fields and gateposts as if to leave the message, "you shall not pass!" It must be working, as we haven't seen any Balrogs!*

Nikki Davies

*Fearsome shadowy creatures from Lord of The Rings...

THE ARCTICS: MASSAK, PUKAK and SIKKO



BETWEEN GOING out on their ambles and enrichment walks, on occasion, handlers join the Arctics at home: their enclosure. In a practical sense, this helps with reinforcing the bond between wolf and handler but it can also be the most enjoyable time, for both sides, as there are less restrictions to adhere to than when on the outside and more freedom to interact with each other.

The Arctics love company and will always come up to greet you, each in their own special way. Pukak will sit in your lap given half the chance and Sikko is ever eager to greet you with a lick or ten! On the other hand, Massak as the alpha male will be more reserved in his approach, preferring to sidle up to you before 'deigning' to be stroked!

Being loose and more agile than all of us put together, these exuberant greetings could be quite intimidating but their experienced handlers are able to read their body language so know which is friendly fire and which is getting a bit too excitable, at which time we diffuse the situation by simply being boring and ignoring their antics. Hosting duties over, they'll sometimes ask us to join them again in play which we must discreetly decline.

Massak, for example, can drop his airs and graces in a moment and be positively kittenish. A torn piece of hessian rag at his feet, clearly being pointed out to you (and which is duly

ignored), brings on a few play bows. As this gets him nowhere, he hurls it high into the air, as he bounces and bounds away hoping you'll follow! They must think we are an extremely dull lot! They soon tire of us, as although it would be so tempting to join in with the fun we must remain wallflowers at the party.

Dusk is a wonderful time as wolves are at their most active. It's a joy to watch them playing games with each other: cat & mouse, hide & seek, tit for tat and tag. All played out in the arena while the wallflowers can only sit on the logs and stare in admiration at such beautiful lithe creatures.

To watch these whirling dervishes take full advantage of their 2.5 acre enclosure, going hell for leather, legs and limbs fully stretched, at such speed, you sometimes can't turn your head quick enough as they speed past us in full chase. It takes your breath away to see these magnificent athletes at their full potential.

However, the mood can change in an instant where some unseen 'crossing the line' has been taken. Such as occurred when Pukak, Massak's "flatmate", suddenly crouched down, sinking into the long grass to make himself as small as possible (which is no mean feat for Pukak if you know his size!). He was showing all the right submissive signs as if to say "OK OK! But what did I do?" Meanwhile, Massak towers over him

growling. Then whatever caused the hiccup is forgotten and order of play resumes.

It's all these subtle (and not so subtle) signals they constantly give to each other, which takes time to learn. Although for anybody who is interested in body language communication etc their time would be well spent here, as you can learn so much by simply watching.

Wolves rarely use their night quarters, with raised beds, decked with straw of course. So I am always surprised how their coats remain so clean and neat looking. At this time of year their coats look amazing and with the evening sunlight behind them and the blue sky above, it makes a beautiful scene. How lucky we are to have them. At three years old they should be white this year! All we need now is the snow!

During a recent health check/observation it was noticed that Sikko occasionally limped. Mike our wolf keeper and the work experience team observed this was due to a nail being too long causing it to cross over the toe next to it, and getting stuck. So they monitored the frequency and how long it took to correct itself, which was within two minutes. The beauty of having socialised wolves is you can also do close inspections, so she allowed Pat, one of her handlers, to check it wasn't painful to the touch or due to any open wound.

THE BEENHAMS: NUKA, TUNDRA AND TALA



The Arctics naturally have long nails because in the Arctic's harsh snow and ice conditions they need them. Although it was debated about having Sikko's nail trimmed, the vet ensured us it is normal for Arctic wolves to have longer nails and it will just grow to a point where it becomes brittle and snap back to a manageable length. So on their enrichment walks when just their handlers were present, at the beginning and end of these walks, we now walk them up and down the drive to give them more access to hard-wearing terrain to help prevent a reoccurrence of this problem. Mike and the work experience team also got straight to work on designing some enrichment ideas to help trim the claws down such as hiding food in trees and smells or food in deeply drilled holes in huge fallen logs, which they then have to scrape away at to gain access.

All their hard work is paying off as there are no more limps! Plus, next to their enclosure boundary fence, twenty paving slabs have been laid down for them to run over when they come up to greet us and the visitors. They now have a patio in their enclosure – where will it end?!

*Suzanne Fine
Photo by Sim Warren,
Contrast Collective*

Nuka and Tundra



AS OCTOBER CAME to an end, The Beenham Three (Tala, Tundra and Nuka), began to re-grow their coats in readiness for winter. Like their parents, Mai and Motomo, there have been some interesting colour changes.

Nuka's colour markings are rather reminiscent of his father Motomo's at the same age – though with less of the brownish 'European wolf' characteristic. His tail has filled out and looks particularly fine this year! Tala has gone noticeably greyer all over (though as yet nowhere near as grey as mum!) and Tundra's new fur is a fine light straw colour with black highlights – the dark 'collar' around her neck gives her a particularly elegant appearance when viewed from the front.

All three of the Beenhams are still taking part in walks with members – though sometimes it is difficult to get them ready for these walks – they can turn the whole process into a game of 'chase' and it's not unusual for one wolf to grab another wolf's tail and pull him/her away if he/she looks like she's in danger of being collared. We are trying out new ways of getting them ready for a walk which will hopefully reduce the delays we sometimes experience – time will tell if this works!

On walks, Nuka and Tala are still happy to mingle freely with visitors, doing their usual sniffing, rolling in disgusting smelly things they find and posing for photos. On occasions the

Tala



biggest problem has been stopping Nuka from falling over – he is a master at rolling over and soliciting belly rubs from anyone who looks easily persuaded.

Tundra still likes to keep her distance from groups of unfamiliar people but will sometimes summon up enough courage to intervene if she thinks Nuka and Tala have been the focus of attention for too long. In the same way, when out on a walk if Nuka and Tala start howling to the other wolves, Tundra can persuade them to stop just by giving them a stare of disapproval.

All three of the pack are still extremely playful when they are in their enclosure getting up to some rather impressive speeds when running at full tilt – though any handlers who are also in the enclosure need to take care not to allow the play to get out of hand. Being fully grown, the three Beenhams each have levels of speed and strength that could be dangerous to a person. We all have to remember that at heart they are still wild animals and treat them with respect and understanding.

*Pete Morgan-Lucas
(report and photos)*

wolves of the world

EXCELLENT NEWS FOR WOLVES IN IDAHO

KETCHUM, IDAHO: as of 15th September this year, a recommendation to adopt Resolution 14-022 in Support of Wildlife Co-Existence and Recognizing The Wood River Wolf Project has been approved by Mayor Nina Jonas and also been passed by the City Council.

Senator Michelle Stennett gave Wolf Print this response: "Thank you for the opportunity to comment on The Wood River Wolf Project.

I am proud of the project's accomplishments and its demonstration of a successful non-lethal alternative to standard lethal practices in Idaho. As the State Senator for this legislative district and as a member of the Senate Resources & Environment Committee, I have debated the merits of non-lethal wolf management and that it should

have equal consideration in our policymaking with little success. Instead, our efforts outside of legislative process are seeing better results.

As an example, the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation (OSC), working with the Idaho Department of Fish & Game, using applicable federal dollars, now includes compensating for the use of proactive wolf deterrents strategies in the field to help offset some of those costs. This is a separate pot of federal money earmarked for non-lethal, proactive deterrents. Producers will be able to apply to OSC for funding to cover the costs of those types of activities. OSC is about to begin accepting applications and it is my hope that The Wood River Wolf Project's methods will be embraced."

UNDERPASSES REDUCE WILDLIFE-VEHICLE COLLISIONS



AMAZINGLY LESS than a year after they were built, a pack of wolves is regularly using all three wildlife underpasses to cross Highway 93 South in Kootenay National Park (www.pc.gc.ca).

Remote cameras monitor the usage by wolves and other wildlife. Trevor Kinley, wildlife crossings project manager, has said that with new crossings you expect a learning curve. It takes some time for the animals to get used to the crossings and to start using them. This could take several years, but images show that a known wolf pack, believed to have about twelve members, has used the three crossings 14 times since they were built. Other

wildlife-vehicle collisions by 80% in Banff National Park but Kinley says it too early to say whether fewer animals have been hit on the busy Kootenay highway. Officials will continue to monitor the structures for other wildlife crossings. "We have been really encouraged by what we have seen so far," said Kinley. "We were pleased to see the rapid adaptation the wolves made to the underpasses, and to know that this ensured greater safety for them and for motorists, and allowed normal movements by the wolves across the park landscape."

(Photo: Parks Canada Agency)

First known litter of Mexican grey wolf cubs born in the wild for three decades

THE ASSOCIATED Press reports that the first known litter of Mexican grey wolves has been born in the wild in the Western Sierra Madre mountains, as part of a three-year effort to re-introduce the endangered subspecies to a habitat where it disappeared from three decades ago.

Mexico began re-introducing captive bred wolves in 2011, and the parents of this litter had been released in December 2013 with hopes that they would mate and produce cubs. The exact location of breeding pairs in recovery programmes is seldom revealed, ultimately to protect the endangered species. The cubs were sighted in June by a delighted team of researchers who said that the cubs appeared to be thriving.

Mexico's National Commission for Natural Protected Areas said in a statement to the press: "This first litter represents an important step in the recovery programme, because these will be individuals that have never had contact with human beings, as wolves bred in captivity inevitably do."

The Commission did not reveal how many wolves now live in the wild in Mexico. The Mexican grey wolf was almost wiped out in the US Southwest by the same factors that eliminated it in Mexico: hunting, trapping and poisoning. The last five survivors were captured between 1977 and 1980 and captive bred. The first re-introductions were into the Southwest beginning in 1998 – mainly in Arizona and New Mexico.

The Mexican grey wolf is still an endangered species in the US and New Mexico. However, US Fish and Wildlife Service annual survey released in January states that there are at least 83 wolves in Arizona and New Mexico. This shows that the population has increased for the fourth year in a row.

HOPE AND DETERMINATION WIN THE DAY

THREE-LEGGED WOLF RETURNED TO THE WILD AFTER BEING SNARED IN A TRAP LINE FOR 48–72 HOURS



Extracting a blood sample for DNA testing

LOCAL RESIDENTS skiing in the Almaguin region of Canada in January discovered a timber wolf caught in a trap line. Each attempt to escape had only pushed the wire deeper and deeper into the soft flesh of the wolf's leg. The snare had cut right through to the bone and the pitiful animal was severely injured, in pain and in shock.

He was taken to the Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (www.aspenvalley.ca) where the staff were not sure whether the poor animal would survive the cruelty of the trap. A veterinarian surgeon determined that the wolf could

the winter to protect the stump from frostbite. Once the weather got warmer the wolf was moved to an outside enclosure, to regain strength in preparation for release back into the wild. The release was a tense but exciting event even though the outcome was uncertain.

The wolf was lightly tranquilised to take blood samples and fit the expensive electronic collar the sanctuary had received financial assistance with. The collar sends regular GPS coordinates to a computer miles away so the wolf can be tracked. As the wolf woke, staff drove it

have been suffering in the trap for between 48 and 72 hours. He decided that the leg was too badly damaged and the only option was to amputate it.

The staff at the Aspen Sanctuary kept the wolf indoors for the rest of

to a northern release point, not too far from its original territory, but away from the inhumane trap line that had very nearly killed it.

After only two weeks the data collected showed that the amazing wolf had been capable of moving as far and quickly as any four-legged wolf, at times travelling as much as 17 kilometres a day along the Algonquin Park's northern boundaries. A member of the sanctuary's staff regularly goes out by air, paddle or even on foot to study the territory that the wolf passes through as indicated by the satellite information.

There are other examples of three-legged animals being seen in the wild, but the release of a three-legged rehabilitated wild animal would prove the value of reintroducing them into the wild. The Aspen Sanctuary staff hopes that they can determine the survival rate of a wild wolf that has not only been rehabilitated, but released back into the wild after a leg amputation. The data collected could help to decide the fate of wolves and other wild animals brought into rehabilitation centres in Ontario and beyond.

Photo: Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary

PATROLLING THE OUTSKIRTS OF YELLOWSTONE – HOW ONE GROUP HOPES TO HALT THE KILLING OF EX-YELLOWSTONE WOLVES

THE YELLOWSTONE Wolf Patrol is currently following hunters to try and stop killing of wolves that leave Yellowstone National Park. They state that: "Nine members of the Wolf Patrol are currently trailing hunters, who in the last two years, have killed wolves belonging to packs originating from YNP where hunting is prohibited. Wolf Patrol members are opposed to the sport hunting of wolves in Wolf Management Units (WMU) 313 and 316, and are asking Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) to immediately stop the hunt before more wolves are killed."

Although it is not illegal to follow the hunters, it would be illegal in Montana law to interfere with the hunt or harass the hunters in any way.

www.kxih.com/news/montana-wolf-hunt-season-underway-controversy-continues/



WOLVES AND WEATHER LORE

The wolf's howl, its most recognisable characteristic, has been noted by many cultures as resembling what we call the howl of the wind.

- The fable of the Three Little Pigs, where the wolf blows down their house, was born of the ancient connection between wolves and wind.
- "The wolves are among the grain" was a common German expression for the wind blowing the grain in the fields.
- Gases emanating from the ground were called 'wolf' by the people of Greece, who believed that such gases came from the supernatural world.
- Pacific Northwest Native American Tlingit people believe that Khanukh is a wolf that controls fog.
- Odin's wolves, Geri and Freki, represent storm and wind.
- Fenris, the wolf of Teutonic myth, is said to be a monster of storm and night whose jaws (clouds) touch both heaven and earth.
- According to some ancient myths, Apollo's mother, "the dark-robed Leto" arrived in a storm cloud as a she-wolf.
- A particularly harsh winter in Sweden is called a "wolf's winter".
- Kaput, the Iranian storm or wind demon, has the form of a wolf.
- Dakota tribal legend tells of a man who sought help from the wolf to conquer the enemy. The wolf taught the man a song. When he howled this song, a wind was created to confuse the enemy. When he howled again a fog rolled in and made the warriors invisible.
- In the Vedas, the four books of knowledge that constitute the essence of the Hindu religion, werewolves are associated with weather phenomena.
- In Ancient Greece and Argus, the wolf was a symbol of stormy winds in both text and art.
- It was once believed that Vila, eastern Slavonic spirits that appeared in the form of a wolf, were

- capable of calling forth whirlwinds, hailstorms and rain.
- An old European metaphor for a strong destructive wind is "the wolf". When the wind whistles, it is said that the wolf is sharpening its teeth. When the sun shines while the rain is falling, it is said to be "the wolves' wedding"
- In Snorri Sturlasson's Skaldskaparmal, c 1220 (from the Prose Edda, a collection of Viking poetry) the expression hunthr etha vargr vidar "the dog or the wolf blows" serves as a metaphor for wind.
- In Germany, "wolf" serves as a metaphor for mist or wind. Old German pictures portray wind as the head of a wolf from which gusts issue.

Tsa Palmer

Photo: Ben Earwicker

WHY IS CANADA'S WOLF POPULATION SPLITTING INTO TWO GROUPS?



Chester Starr of the Heiltsuk First Nation tribe has always known that the wolves of British Columbia come in two varieties: coastal wolves on the Islands and timber wolves on the mainland. The Tribe's folk knowledge has always taught him this. Now genetic research has at last confirmed what Starr's tribe has always known.

Starr's "traditional ecological knowledge" prompted scientists Erin Navid from the University of Calgary and researcher Astrid V Stronen of the Polish Academy of Sciences to take a closer

look at British Columbia's wolves, to determine whether the Heiltsuk Nation's folk knowledge was reflected in the wolves' genes.

The more they looked, the more puzzling it became. Wolves are capable of roaming over huge geographical distances, easily travelling more than 70km a day. They are capable of crossing valleys and mountains and swimming across rivers and narrow channels of sea, yet in an area of just 2000sq kilometres the researchers found stark genetic distinctions among the wolf groups who ought to be able to intermix.

Was it because, despite their ability to travel great distances, the wolves' behaviour had become so specialised because of the environment they were born into that they remained close to home? According to the researchers, it is all about what the wolves eat. ►

WOLVES AT THE GATES OF PARIS

Wolves have been spotted within 40 miles of Paris, in the first sighting so close to the capital since they crept back into France from Italy a decade ago. "They are probably young adults who have separated from the pack as they search for a territory," said wildlife expert Eric Bas. "A wolf can roam about 100 kilometres (60 miles) in a single night."

Forests just outside Paris form an ideal environment for wolves because they are well stocked with wild boar and deer.

The grey wolf was wiped out in France in the 1920s, but has made an astonishing comeback over the past decade. Wolves now numbering at least 300 across the country killed more than 6,000 sheep last year.

The environment minister, Segolene Royal, has authorised culls of wolves – against opposition from conservationists. However, the decision was welcomed by farmers.

Luc Smessaert, a livestock breeder near Beauvais, north of Paris, said: "Coexisting with wolves would be impossible in this area."

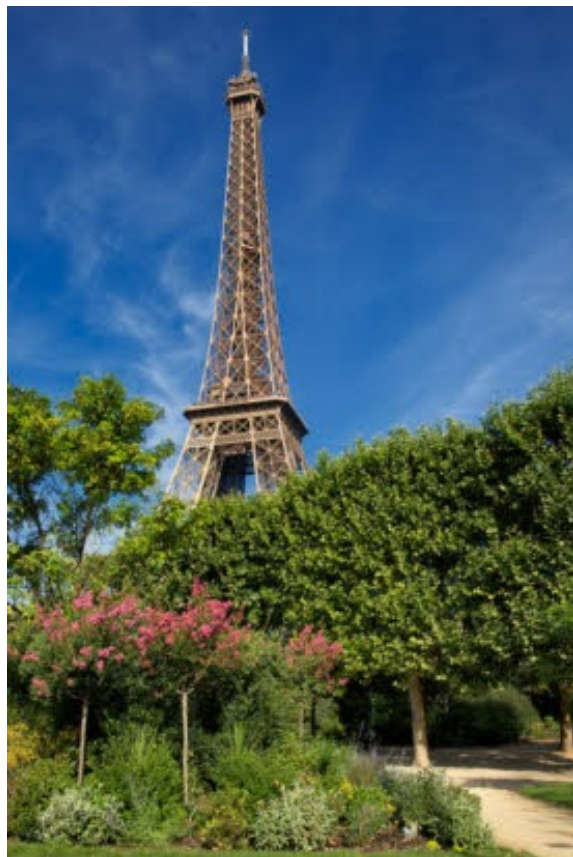
Special permission is required to kill wolves, which are a protected species under the Bern Convention and European law.

Mr Bas claims the wolf poses no danger to people, although there were reports of man-eating wolves terrorising people in the Paris area as late as the 18th century.

"Wolves never attack humans and they are part of the balance of nature," Mr Bas said. "It's flocks that have to be protected, to prevent the wolf becoming the scapegoat of farmers and hunters."

A dead wolf, probably shot by hunters, was found in Coole, a village about 100 miles east of Paris, in January, following attacks on sheep slightly further away from the capital.

Wolves are now expected to colonise areas north of Paris, according to Guy Harle d'Ophove, head of a hunters' association.



www.telegraph.co.uk
(<http://tiny.cc/6skaox>)

◀ CANADA'S WOLF POPULATION

Despite the small distances between the mainland and the islands – sometimes less than 1500 metres – there are tremendous ecological differences. The mainland is rugged and teems with a variety of wildlife, while the islands are less mountainous and are home to fewer species.

On the mainland, grizzly bears compete with the wolves, but on the islands the wolves reign supreme. On the mainland, wolves can feast on moose and mountain goats, while on the islands they rely mainly on marine resources like fish for 85% of their food.

The researchers began to look at other animals and how they diverged. It gradually became clear that diet, foraging and hunting styles can have a massive implication for the evolution of a group of animals.

Chimpanzees and bonobos only diverged some three million years ago

but today could not be more different. As with the wolves of British Columbia, the researchers concluded that the remarkable differences in chimpanzee and bonobo culture are due in part to their diets. Chimpanzees evolved in forests with fewer food resources than bonobos did. Fruits are much harder to find for chimps, which is probably why they are more competitive. Bonobos, on the other hand, evolved in a land of plenty, which led to reduced food competition and greater tolerance and cooperation towards each other.

In some ways the stark differences between the coastal and mainland wolves of British Columbia mirrors the distinction between grizzly and polar bears. It is thought that the two bears diverged because polar bears evolved in a region where they relied upon the sea to provide their food, while grizzly bears remained skilled at hunting on dry land.

It is immaterial whether an animal is physically capable of dispersing over vast distances. What matters more is if they can thrive in an environment distinct from the ones in which they learnt to survive. Like the polar bears, those wolves that found their way to the islands have simply become skilled at fishing, so they have remained in marine landscapes. Even one neighbourhood over, a wolf that was a master fisherman might starve if forced to hunt large game.

Will the wolves of British Columbia follow in the bears' footsteps and split into two distinct species? Only time will tell.

Source: Jason G Goldman

Photo (opposite): Vladimir Bologov



GUARDIANS

Livestock Guardian Dog/Wolf issues in the Alps
By Cat Urbigkit, Big Piney, Wyoming.

Reprinted from *The Shepherd*, June 2014

WOLF DAMAGE to livestock herds in the southern French Alps continues to be a chronic problem, with more than 2,400 head of livestock killed by wolves in 2013. Researchers have indicated that the region is facing the limit on the efficacy of the use of Livestock Guardian Dogs (LGDs) in that region.

Researchers
Preliminary results of the most recent detailed research project were published in the Spring 2014 *Carnivore Damage Prevention News*. The paper, "The CanOvis Project: Studying Internal and External Factors that May Influence Livestock Guardian Dogs' Efficiency Against Wolf Predation," was written by Jean-Marc Landry, Gerard Millischer, Jean-Luc Borelli, and Gus Lyon of the Institute for the Promotion and Research on Guarding Animals in Switzerland, and Parc National du Mercantour of France.

Methods
Researchers were equipped with a long-range infrared binocular with

recording capabilities. They were able to record night-time interactions between wolves and LGDs in the Maritime Alps. Research involved three flocks of sheep, two of which had high wolf pressure, including one grazing in an area where no wolf shooting permits are issued – not even to livestock producers experiencing wolf attacks on their herds. Flock sizes ranged from 1,750 to 2,500 sheep. One area had two flocks at the start of the grazing season, but these were combined at the end of the summer due to frequent wolf predation on one herd. All three flocks were protected by LGDs, mainly by Great Pyrenees dogs, or Great Pyrenees/Maremma crossbreeds. One flock had 11 LGDs, while the other two herds had four LGDs each. The LGDs were fitted with GPS collars each evening, and their movements were tracked until sunrise.

How did the LGDs react?

LGD reactions ranged from no reaction, to barking, social or close contacts (33% of the events), and chasing. Using the infrared binoculars, researchers were able to document wolves passing by the flock, feeding on freshly killed sheep, and attempting to attack sheep – despite the presence of LGDs. The researchers noted: "Wolves were apparently unafraid of LGDs. Although wolves were chased by LGDs or had antagonistic encounters, these experiences did not prevent them from returning the same or following nights. Moreover, we recorded several occurrences in which a single LGD faced a wolf and exaggerated its behaviors instead of attacking, allowing enough time for the wolf to escape. Thus, the LGDs observed (either naïve or experienced with wolf encounters) seemed to be very

Left and top right: Livestock guarding dogs surrounded by sheep

cautious around wolves.”

The researchers suggest that LGDs should be considered a primary repellent by disrupting a predator’s behavior, but they do not permanently modify that behavior. Wolves become habituated to the presence of LGDs, according to the researchers. They found that both LGDs and wolves seem to evaluate the risk of escalating confrontation.



Wolves become habituated to the presence of LGDs, according to the researchers. They found that both LGDs and wolves seem to evaluate the risk of escalating confrontation.

Aggression

Great Pyrenees LGDs are often selected for use in areas with a high degree of tourism, because they are known to be less aggressive to humans and other dogs. In fact, they are now bred and promoted for their docility. But LGDs that are expected to be effective guardians in wolf territory must have a higher level of aggression to predators. They must have a willingness to confront and fight the predator, as certain LGD breeds are known to do. Researchers pointed to the Karakachan from Bulgaria as a breed known its aggression to intruders.

Stepping away from the research paper for a moment, I would note that our family started with Great Pyrenees LGDs but found they were not aggressive enough for the predator challenges they faced. Thus we moved to Akbash, which have a higher level of aggression to predators while not posing a threat to humans; and to Central Asian Shepherds, which have a high level of canine-aggression. We have found them to be very effective in wolf-inhabited areas of western Wyoming.

Barking

The researchers found that LGD barks do not modify wolves’ ongoing behaviors, but these vocalizations do seem to transmit information. “Because barking is easy to pinpoint, they might give valuable information to the wolves about the LGDs’ location, the number of individuals, their distance and maybe

even temperament. Nevertheless, LGDs’ barks can attract other LGDs, even if they are not able to observe the scene.”

Marking

The LGDs in the study were often seen leaving the flock in the early mornings to defecate and urinate before returning. Some LGDs and wolves defecated on the same spot, so these “scent markings” did not serve to deter wolf presence.

Age and courtship

Just as wolves become more sedentary and their predatory performance declines with age, the same appears to be true with LGDs, especially as it pertains to a weakening physical condition that comes with age. Thus, the age structure of the LGD pack is a key factor in protecting skills.

The researchers also noted that female LGDs in heat poses a separate problem that needs managed by the herder or flock owner. “The energy to protect the flock is wasted on courting females and fighting males,” the researchers noted. “In our case, a strange male LGD managed to reach a female in heat in the middle of the flock despite the presence of three males, probably because they were wounded during a fight at the beginning of the evening.”

Young Wolves

Particular wolves were seen staying near the flocks, attempting (and failing) to attack, and interacting with LGDs. Researchers believe these were young wolves learning to hunt and testing the LGDs. “Consequently, if these first

encounters are not associated with negative consequences, we hypothesize they will learn that LGDs and shepherds are not a danger and will perceive sheep as an available resource. This knowledge may then be passed to the next generation through associative learning. Thus, more aggressive LGDs may be necessary to teach young wolves that encounters with LGDs have severe consequences.”

Shepherds aren’t a threat either

The researchers found that shepherds aren’t viewed as much of a threat to the wolves either. Since their only option is yelling and throwing rocks, the effect on wolves is negligible. The researchers found that the wolf flight distance when confronted by the shepherds was sometimes as short as 100 feet.

Recent wolf attacks on sheep herds are happening more often in daylight (52% of all attacks) and a shepherd reported being challenged by a wolf while trying to retrieve a wounded lamb.

The future

The CanOvis project research project will continue, with researchers continuing to observe how LGDs react to wolves and how wolves counter-respond. To read the full paper, download the PDF here: <http://tiny.cc/canovis>.

Footnote:

Cat Urbigit is the author of the book, Yellowstone Wolves: A Chronicle of the Animal, the People, and the Politics (2008, McDonald & Woodward Publishing Company)

Julia Bohanna recently talked to Jean-Marc Landry, a biologist studying the use and effectiveness of Livestock Guardian Dogs in the southern French Alps (Alpes Maritimes department):

Jean-Marc, what is your background and how did the CanOvis Project begin?

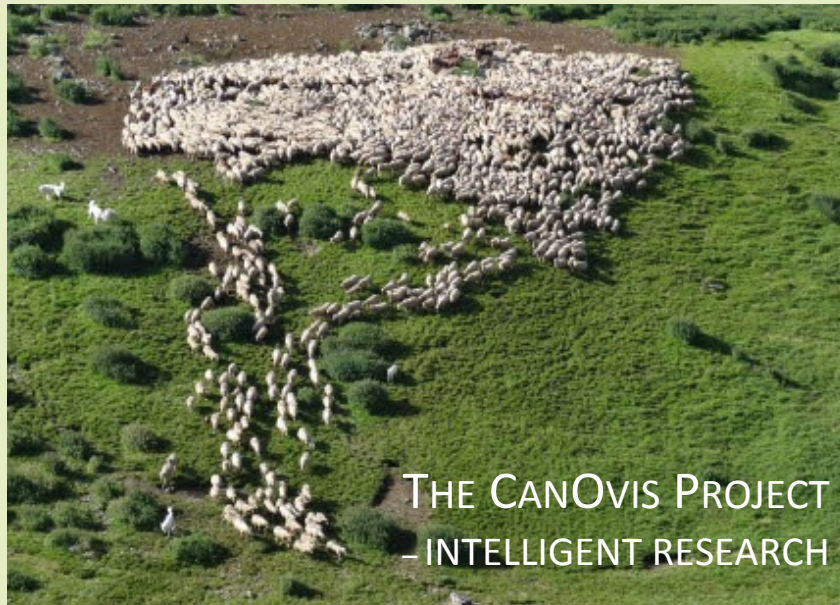
I am a biologist specialising in ethology. I worked previously at Swiss carnivore research group KORA as a Livestock Guardian Dog (LGD) expert. For ten years, I have worked independently, utilising my experience with wolf and sheep. My research project focuses mainly on how LGDs interact with their environment – namely hikers, predators and wildlife. This project began based on observations that despite sheep flocks being protected by LGDs, wolf attacks were still happening. Therefore, we wanted to understand what was going wrong. It is often stipulated that LGDs should be “protective” in theory – but what does that mean in practice? For example:

- How do LGDs react in front of wolves?
- How do wolves respond to LGDs’ protective behaviours?

Understanding nocturnal encounters between dogs and wolves was the first step towards improving the efficiency of the LGDs.

What is a shepherd’s relationship to his dog(s)?

It is different in each individual case. Some own their flock, breed their dogs and therefore know them. But usually, sheep owners hire a shepherd to take on both flock and dogs. Some hired shepherds have a good relationship with their animals and can easily deal with LGDs. However, some do not. There are many different kinds of shepherd-dog interactions and relationships. Not all shepherds like their dogs and the animals may present



What are the main problems you face in your work?

We lack funding and material (GPS, material to record LGDs’ vocalisations, etc.) We also lack sleep during the field sessions! Most of us must work full-time as well, which is time-consuming. We cannot dedicate all our time to the project (for example, to analyse the footage).

challenges and constraints: they need feeding or be problematic with hikers. The shepherd may lack understanding and knowledge about that particular breed of dog. Ultimately, we have lost the traditional method of protecting sheep with LGDs and we need time to learn...

How have local people reacted?

There is a lot of pressure from farmer-orientated associations to eradicate wolves. They are unhappy with a project that tries to improve LGDs’ efficiency and increase the chance for cohabitation. Sheep owners and shepherds with whom we are working are in favour of the project. More people (even sheep-farmer associations) are interested in the results of our project, which is encouraging.

You have studied stress in sheep but the study into stress on the actual LGD had to be stopped. Why is this?

I am working on a repellent collar for sheep, based on acute stress. It will directly measure stress through the heart rate variability (HRV). We hypothesised that HRV will react differently when a sheep is attacked by a wolf in comparison to other type of stress (e.g. seeing a dog, running, herded by a herding dogs, etc.) This year we have studied sheep displacement on alpine pasture and how wolf attack sheep. The project needs more time due to a need for solid scientific validation but also because of a lack of money.

What is your ultimate goal?

To improve flock protection and to sustain farmer activities in wolf territories. We also wish to share our experiences.

Do you really believe that education and prevention will completely avoid the need for culls?

Unfortunately not. Culling is a tool to mitigate wolf attacks on cattle. I believe that our project will help to decrease damage perpetrated by wolves and also the amount of compensation claimed, increasing the chance for cohabitation. Prevention measures are the only way to protect flocks in a long term. Culling may help in a short term but also, by deconstructing the pack, it may also increase damage by wolves.

How did the UK Wolf Conservation Trust become involved?

Two members contacted me directly after my talk at the Slovenia wolf conference in 2013. Six months later, I contacted the UKWCT to ask for help.

How can people help the project?

At present, many avenues are blocked in France. It’s difficult to obtain funding for any research on wolves and LGD. I lead a four person team of volunteers. We spend a lot of time in the field, working hard. If we could acquire some more funds, it would help enormously.

The report can be read in PDF format in full here: <http://tinyurl.com/pkqd7zd>



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The plan to help the king of the grasslands: the Indian wolf and its fight for survival



Anyone familiar with Lee Falk's comic books featuring The Phantom, will also know the superhero's loyal lupine companion: Devil. As a child, I was so impressed with the relationship demonstrated between the crime-busting duo that I named my first ever dog, a German shepherd: Devil. Ashwin Aghor, project manager of the EnviroCare Welfare Society, continues.

Although my Devil may have been lucky and deeply loved, his Indian cousins are currently not so fortunate. As kings of the grassland in India, wolves play a vital role in keeping the ecosystem healthy and thriving. Despite this, they are facing pressure and being pushed to the verge of extinction. Rampant habitat destruction and an acute scarcity of water in those grasslands pose a grave threat to their existence. These wolves need to catch the eye of policy makers and people who can ultimately ensure their survival.

Sadly, although many efforts are being made to save wolves across the world, especially in the USA and Europe, there is very little effort being made to protect the Indian wolves. As a result, they have been listed as endangered and we are rapidly running out of time to save this graceful predator. According to BBC News, DNA tests on an endangered variety of Indian wolf suggest it might be the most ancient representative of the animals anywhere in the world. Unlike tigers, wolves have received virtually

zero attention from the people who matter in protection of our natural world. As a result, this magnificent animal is struggling hard to survive in its own territory.

Maharashtra, like so many other states in the country, has very good grassland cover which is home to several species of mammals, reptiles, birds and insects. The three main inhabitants of the grassland: wolf, great Indian bustard, (Ardeotis nigriceps) pictured right and blackbuck (Antelope cervicapra), are at the receiving end of human greed and fury unleashed to fulfil the human race's unrealistic demands for dominance and territory. In Ahmednagar, Pune, Solapur, Aurangabad, Jalna and adjoining districts, there are

still considerable populations of wolf and blackbuck. However, the great Indian bustard is now critically endangered and if things are not addressed urgently, the wolf may soon follow in time.

Clearly, it is high time that we stepped forward to save the Indian wolf ruling the grasslands of Maharashtra. Everyone knows about tigers in India but few are aware of the wolf. There is hardly any



Great Indian bustard, by Parjwalkm

information available, such as population, habitat and the pockets of land where these animals have maximum concentration. Due to severe shortages, Indian wolves and blackbucks are increasingly forced to venture into human localities in search of water and food. The moment they come out of the forest, the problems begin. The first hurdle is the

agricultural land on the fringes of the forest. There are several places in the Ahmednagar district where people are illegally cultivating forest land and even dry river beds, for over eight months of the year. The desperation for food and water drives the blackbucks to these agricultural lands. Once out in the open, they are easy targets. The most vulnerable are killed by stray dogs or hit by speeding vehicles while crossing the highways.

Recently, the sense of desperation was very apparent when a dozen blackbucks drowned after they fell into wells while on the move in search of water. Since we are not aware of their exact population – or even an estimate, for that matter – it is difficult to assess the loss in terms of number of lives and the subsequent effect on the grassland ecosystem. Since blackbucks are the prey base for carnivores like wolves, hyena, jackal and leopard, the dwindling number forces these carnivores to resort to killing cattle or in some rare cases, attacking humans.

Clearly, the situation for the Indian wolf is grim, but certainly presently not out of hand. Timely intervention could save the wolves, blackbucks, hyenas, buzzards and every single organism, bird, reptile, mammal in the grassland food chain. Intervention is important; it's not rocket science. Simple steps can improve their lives and create a heaven for both humans and animals. If we provide water and food for animals inside the forest, all the problems would be solved.

We at EnviroCare Welfare Society (ECWS) have formulated a project to save wolves in the Ahmednagar district. The project envisages creating a safe place for wolves, hyenas, jackals, buzzards and other wildlife to live in and thrive. At present we are doing our best to manage with the limited available resources. We appeal to wildlife lovers to extend help in monetary and logistical ways – to save the magnificent Indian wolf. After all, the German Shepherd or other breed of dog you love at home is a direct descendent of the wolf!

*Ashwin Aghor, Project Manager,
EnviroCare Welfare Society.*

Wolf photos by Raj Paradeshi



The UKWCT recently contributed £2,000 to EnviroCare Welfare Society to help the Indian wolf, but before doing so, had some questions for the society:

What methods will you be using to determine wolf populations?

Over a month, the 1,444 sq km of grassland will be initially surveyed, using random counts of wolf packs. This will serve as a baseline for determining further wolf populations. By dividing the whole area into quadrats, each quadrat will be studied using line transect; packs and individuals will be counted along the line. Abundance, population density and relative densities would be estimated. The distribution across the study area would be mapped to assess and understand spatial distribution.

Where are you getting most of your financial backing from for this project?

We have been working on this for the last two years, without any outside funding. Everything is self-funded.

What your project has achieved so far and what are your projections for the future?

A base assessment of the landscape has been done, assessing the mega- and avifauna of the region. However, this assessment has been a random one, due to lack of funds for systematic and dedicated studies.

Do you have any government support for the project?

Since the work involves interactions with wildlife and wolves in forest areas, permissions from the concerned government departments will be needed. We will undertake to secure those permissions before start working and before any release of funds. We do not anticipate any resistance or denials from the government for our research.

The Future: How the Indian wolf may be saved

Initially as a pilot study, the project area would be the Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra, India. The project involves identification and tracking of wolf packs in the district to get an idea about its distribution and movement pattern, as well as population density. Once the wolf distribution in the district is known, strategic locations could be identified to create waterholes for the animal. This will prevent migration of wildlife to human settlements. The project area is currently non-protected forest area. A dedicated wolf sanctuary or reserve can be created in the area under the due process prescribed in the Indian Wildlife Protection Act and the Forest Conservation Act. This would be the first of its kind project for the wolf in this part of India.

www.ranvata.in/taxonomy/term/100



FESTIVAL OF THE WOLF, 5-7TH SEPTEMBER 2014, VILLARDECIERVOS, ZAMORA, SPAIN

Margaret Hallowell and her husband, John, live full-time in the heart of the Sierra de la Culebra reserve surrounded by wolf pack territory, an area that boasts one of the highest densities of wild wolves in Europe. They are regularly involved in monitoring sightings and movements of the wildlife that inhabits this and the surrounding areas. Margaret reports for *Wolf Print* on a unique Spanish festival celebrating the wolf:

I review this festival as the village of Villardeciervos settles back to normal, after its influx of visitors and media crews last weekend. Hotels and hostels throughout the area have been “completo” (fully booked) and Roberto



in his little draper’s shop smiles broadly as he announces that he sold 50 t-shirts on Saturday. Taking into account his usual annual quota of 40, it is no wonder he wears a very broad smile. Even Lorenzo and Elena postponed the closure of their grocery shop for their annual holiday for one day to enjoy the extra trade.

The event was originally conceived as a grand, international festival, with John and I being the international contingent! However, the initial attraction of courting outside agencies to lead and dictate how the festival should shape up paled and as time progressed, a core of local people honed and created this excellent three day event. Territorio Lobo truly celebrated the very special qualities of this area of Northern Spain.

Naturalists and wolf enthusiasts gathered in Villardeciervos here in the heart of the Sierra de la Culebra to learn, listen, discuss and participate in tracking and watching for this ultimate European predator. Local businesses worked alongside the two main specialists in wolf eco-tourism, namely Aherca and Wild Wolf Experience, to show how this

area, which hosts the highest density of wild wolves in Europe, could benefit from sharing its abundant wildlife with interested parties who

are able to come here to watch for wolves, wild boar, red and roe deer. Not only that, but to appreciate the co-existence between locals and wolves in a lifestyle unchanged for generations.

A display and a lecture by the eminent Spanish biologist Carlos Sanz mentioned farming practices but also lauded the Iberian wolf as a “joy on our natural inheritance which must be observed, maintained but

not enclosed within artificial boundaries”. The use of Mastin dogs, as mentioned in the last *Wolf Print* magazine, is of course widespread here in the Sierra de la Culebra. Also, the added benefit of including a donkey amongst the flocks, for both its exceptional hearing and kicking ability, was expounded. Carlos Sanz was representing “Project Wolf: Wildlife and Farmers” which spearheads work done by eleven groups active in Spain, Portugal, Estonia and Romania, aiming to look for solutions to enable co-existence between farmers and the wolf.

The overwhelming impression of this three-day festival was of positivity, but also of the vision and vitality of the local 16-strong group, calling itself Interior Legendario. The group worked together to organise this festival to focus upon wolves and to take people free of charge on wolf watches. A large group of people were lucky to be on just such a watch on the Saturday morning. Modesty forbids me to say who first spotted the wolf, but indeed everyone was treated to an



Carlos Sanz (left) and John Hallowell

enthraling view of a fine example of this apex predator walking confidently down the firebreak, right in front of their viewpoint, only 500 metres away.

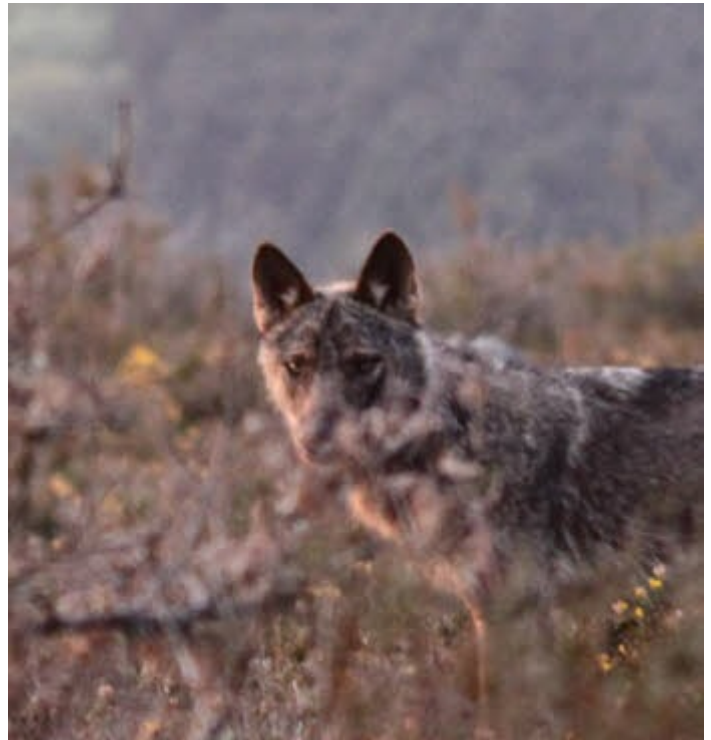
As well as the wildlife, the festival also hosted sporting activities organised by Zamora Natural

(zamorananatural.com) which included kayaking on the Rio Tera and a challenging 67km mountain bike trail, culminating in a gathering to enjoy the local dish of arroz a la zamorana. Less active visitors could enjoy an illustrated talk about traditional architecture of the area by Esther Isabel Prada Llorente from the University of Alcalá, or discuss the novel "Beatrice y la Loba" with the author Concha López.

It wouldn't be a Spanish festival without excellent music and the Saturday night of live music did not disappoint. The Portuguese singer Mafalda Veiga sang her own compositions for the first time in Spain, with a very versatile backing group, followed by a synthesis of musical talent called El Naán, who could even create exciting sound out of a kitchen table! On the Friday night, visitors were treated to a night of astronomy with Joaquin Tapioles after enjoying a theatrical performance by Candido de Castro challenging the roles of the wolf in traditional storytelling, "Cuentos de

Lobos" alongside a display of local pottery by "Numa".

This weekend in September was a wonderful occasion, where locals worked in harmony to try to display the essence of this vibrant and colourful country, with the wolf always at the forefront. We are already fielding questions about "Next year...?" but at the moment are happy to have raised awareness and to have engendered discussion, whilst certainly helping the hamlet of Villardeciervos. We hope that Territorio Lobo will become a flagship for the continued survival of the Iberian wolf in the wild.



Margaret Hallowell
Photos: John Hallowell



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Life and behaviour of wolves: Mesopredators in a scary world

There is little doubt that stable ecosystems, complete with top predators, are of value. It can, however, become difficult to untangle the web of ecological interactions that stem from predators, as identifying benefits or “ecosystem services” from apex predators can be problematic. It is relatively well known that predators like wolves can affect the behaviour of their prey species (Wolf Print issue 46). While there is some debate about the extent of their impact, top predators like wolves may also impact numbers, distribution and behaviour of other predators too. Particularly those smaller predators known as mesopredators, who are not at the top of the food web. Larger predators can consequently limit the impact of these smaller predators on their own prey in a trophic cascade.

Competitive killing between species, predation and harassment are common

Competitive killing between species, predation and harassment are common in a whole range of mammalian carnivores, particularly between species with elements of niche overlap, food sharing or habitat resources. Such competing species often have a similar body mass and are of the same family. For example, wolves have been observed to interact competitively with other canids such as the coyote and red fox.

The ultimate cost to fitness that an animal can experience is that of predation. Harassment and associated energetic loss can also impact overall fitness. Two main mechanisms offer explanation for the suppression of mesopredators by larger predators: direct lethal encounters and behavioural or distribution responses motivated by fear of direct encounters. Wolves can consume or kill other predators but more importantly they also scare them. Large carnivores can impact the habitat

use and the foraging efforts of smaller mesopredators. Harassment, competition for prey and kleptoparasitism (the stealing of food kills) can generate avoidance of larger carnivores through using different spaces or using the same spaces at different times, as well as investment in other anti-predator strategies like defence. Predation risk and disturbance create trade-offs between avoiding risk and other fitness enhancing activities (feeding, breeding), to the point that risk

avoidance carries costs in the form of missed opportunities.

Suppression of mesopredators by wolves can result in a reduction of population density or even exclusion from habitats or regions, either completely or at particular times. In the absence of larger more dominant predators; smaller predators and omnivore populations often explode, increasing abundance by up to ten times before release. The mesopredator release hypothesis predicts that a decrease in the abundance of top predators results in an increase in the abundance of mesopredators, due to a reduction in direct predation and competition. Mesopredator release can have detrimental impacts on the prey species of mesopredators and consequently economic and social costs. Whether this is through a decline in game birds or other mesopredator prey species utilised by people, a decline in seed dispersal services from rodents and birds, or even increased disease



European red fox – photo by Mario Massone

transmission to domestic animals from mesopredators. Interactions between predators that are induced by fear can have cascading effects on interactions between mesopredators and other species. This consequently can impact population dynamics and species composition further down the food chain. Because of fear from larger predators a mesopredator may respond to the risk associated with certain types of habitat where they are more vulnerable. This may include open spaces where mesopredators are more exposed. Woodlands may provide cover and reduce detection but they can also present obstacles. Woodlands with many fallen tree branches can carry a different risk, making escape more difficult. Vulnerable mesopredators may avoid areas highly used by wolves, or even times of day when they are more exposed, such as during the day or moonlit nights. As a consequence of aggression between carnivores, foraging decisions by mesopredators are also influenced by risk or fear from their own predators. It is quite likely that the significance of behavioural interactions between predators has been

underestimated. If smaller predators change their feeding behaviour then this may alter the species composition, behaviour, adaptive evolution or population dynamics of their prey and perhaps other competitors as well.

Mesopredators have been reported using peripheries of larger predator territories, presumably reducing encounters with larger predators and increasing fitness. Distribution of predators over large spatial scales may be dependent on competitive interactions. The presence of wolves in North America is thought to be strongly linked with the distribution of coyotes, with wolves limiting habitat use by coyotes. This is something that humans could consider beneficial, considering coyotes generally have higher predation rates upon livestock. However, those interested in large game animals may prefer coyote presence to that of wolves.

The removal of wolves and the range expansion of smaller predators can effectively throw the balance out of whack. Coyotes, due to their smaller size, cannot easily prey upon adult deer, which are a prey species for wolves. Therefore deer are released to forage more freely. An increase in coyotes however, may mean that young deer become more heavily predated. Coyote prey species and smaller competing predators such as kit or red fox as well as their prey species may also be more heavily affected by both predation and fear from Coyotes in the absence of wolves. Fearful interactions between predators may be part of what permits the co-existence of multiple prey species, with certain prey species prospering in places or at times where dominant predators limit the presence of subordinate predators. Rodents, important seed dispersers, are often more abundant where wolf presence limits rodent predators.

There is great debate about the strength of impact apex predators have upon mesopredators. Rarity and inconsistency of agonistic interactions and or behavioural avoidance of encounters may permit co-existence between predators. The extent to which mesopredators are impacted by larger carnivores and consequently the effects

of mesopredators on other species is likely to be highly variable. Larger predators may competitively suppress smaller predators but also provide scavenging opportunities, and sometimes have negligible impact. The degree to which mesopredators have to adjust their foraging efforts, activity patterns, vigilance and risk taking is likely to vary depending on the predators involved, habitat complexity and food availability but particularly with human influences.

Additional fear from humans could further limit foraging opportunities for mesopredators and human interference with larger predators could potentially reduce mesopredator suppression.

In trying to manage predator communities it is not only difficult to please all the people concerned but also to predict the outcomes of human interference. Caution must be expressed when interfering with ecological interactions. The addition of alien predators such as free roaming dogs and cats can interfere with interactions between predator communities. Predator eradication can also have unforeseen consequences, even with conservation in mind. Invasive species removal can have undesired effects through mesopredator release. The removal of invasive predators such as the domestic cat have in some cases actually increased predation pressure upon native bird species through the release of pressure on invasive rats, who also prey upon bird nests.

As the most dominant landscape user on the planet, humans have the potential to influence ecosystems and the organisms that inhabit them in a



Raccoon – photo by Dave Menke

myriad of ways. Human disturbance could interfere with the competitive interactions between species, ultimately affecting spatial occupancy and foraging, with consequences for ecosystem services and trophic cascades. Humans modify the landscape in many ways through roads, fencing, urbanisation, logging nature reserves and agriculture, to name but a few. We provide competition for resources through hunting (so removing potential food sources), livestock grazing (competing with wild prey species), and provide food supplements (discarded waste or feeding stations for hunting). Humans also implement predator control or conservation measures. All of these actions can cause changes to species composition and change the interactions between predators and consequently their prey. Benefits derived from the presence of apex predators could be very much dependent on the human context, so it is important to understand the many different interactions that large predators have with other species and how human action may change this, for the worse or for the better.

Pete Haswell

Pete Haswell, BSc Hons Environmental Science (Biodiversity and Conservation), works at Bangor University <http://conservation.bangor.ac.uk/PeteHaswell.php.en> and is collaborating with Professor Josip Kusak on a project the UKWCT supports in Croatia. You can read more about his work on his website <http://petehaswellwolfresearch.wordpress.com/> or follow updates on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PeteHaswellWolfResearch

Making Tracks

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

WAY OF THE WOLF

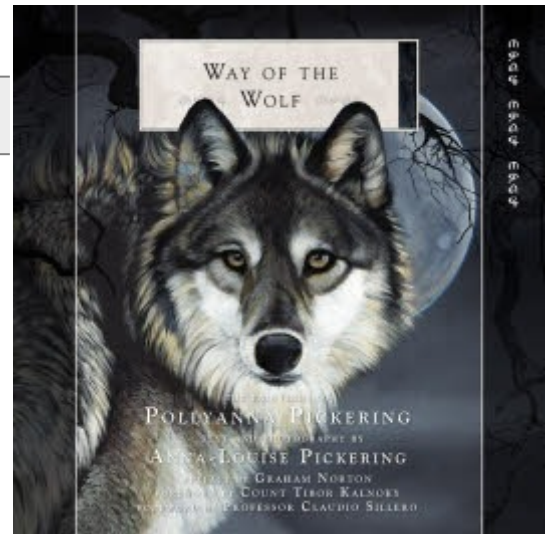
Illustrations by Pollyanna Pickering, text and photography by Anna-Louise Pickering.
HB, 25cm x 25cm, 244pp, Otter House, RRP £29.99, ISBN: 978-0-9529369-4-7

POLLYANNA PICKERING IS a woman of considerable accomplishment. *Way of the Wolf* is quite an undertaking: a book of two halves that is part travel memoir and part artistic record of journeys through Romania and then Ethiopia, with her daughter complementing the work with text and photographs.

An artist will always record a journey differently from anyone else – their sensibilities will always be more attuned to the world around them, both visually but also empathetically. This is no exception: in Romania we travel with the Pickering family to the wonders of sulphur caves, forests, mountains and lakeside. The myth of Dracula is discussed and in part, deconstructed. Romania is so much more: a world of wolves and bears but also fascinating people. Pollyanna meets (and draws) rescued wolves Crai and Poiana at the Large Carpathian Project and meets a farmer with a missing finger

nicknamed Dino, so named for his dinosaur handprint. It's great narrative, complemented well by elegant images and warm, well-told stories and snippets of history.

There is much to learn in *Way of the Wolf*. For example, in Europe a loophole was originally a loup hole, a spyhole for travellers to check for wolves. In Ethiopia, in search of the flame-furred Ethiopian wolf, we switch to Pollyanna's very respectful and passionate account of this rare and stunningly photogenic creature. She visits Claudio Sillero at the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP) and also documents interactions with the local human population, their culture and rich history. Pollyanna reveals weaknesses that make us warm to her further – such as serious terror of crane flies (daddy long legs). She even sketches



them. From wolves, monkeys, tortoises, hyenas to the colour and flavours of a unique continent, we see, feel, smell and taste as we travel alongside her.

Wonderfully detailed, with photographs and a generous quantity of beautiful images – particularly of wolves – this is a book that will be loved and perused, rather than simply left on a coffee table.

Reviewed by Julia Bohanna

Ten things we asked Pollyanna Pickering – an interview

1 You grew up in the North of England – clearly not an area rife with cheetahs and wolves. Was wildlife always an interest?

When I was a child I lived in a small village in Yorkshire. Our house was



surrounded by fields, and beyond the fields were woodlands, full of bluebells in the early summer. I saw squirrels, rabbits, deer, birds, I picked blackberries, wild strawberries and mushrooms, and it was here that my lifelong love of wildlife began. At night when my mum had tucked me safely into bed as soon as I heard the bedroom door close I was straight back out of bed at my window watching for the barn owl that nightly quartered our fields!

2 You had some early knockbacks – including an unappreciative art teacher and a bank manager unwilling to fund you. What advice might you give to struggling artists today?

It can be very difficult to forge a career in any branch of the arts – but you just need to keep pushing ahead, even when no-one else seems to believe you can do it! Always meet deadlines and hopefully publishers and galleries

will keep coming back to you. Confucius said 'Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life.' But I do believe that I have been very fortunate to earn my living through my passion for both art and wildlife.

3 Your daughter Anna-Louise is also your business partner and companion when you travel. Was she always a child of nature?

It was a surprise to both Anna-Louise and me that we ended up working together – although of course she grew up surrounded by animals, and has always loved wildlife. The work has also enabled her to express her own creativity – particularly through her wildlife photography, and also in writing text for the books about our journeys.

4 You have travelled to some hard-to-reach places. What do you consider was the most challenging or the most gorgeous? Have you ever felt in danger? ▶

Each journey presents its own challenges! We have to be reasonably physically fit as there is often a fair amount of hiking and camping involved. Before going to the high Arctic we had to buy very serious cold weather clothing and sleeping bags as we were travelling by dog sled and camping out on the ice in tents and igloos. One of the most beautiful places we have visited was the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan – the biggest challenge was the altitude – our first few nights were spent camping just above 4,000m and we really felt the effects very strongly. Some things you can't really prepare for – 98% humidity in the rainforests of central America just saps your energy – and it would have been very useful to know that 'Sanetti' the name of the plateau in Ethiopia where you can find wolves translates as 'Where the strong winds blow'!

The hardest environment to sketch in was the High Arctic. I had to wear three layers of gloves – thin silk gloves, thermal gloves and the thick padded mittens – and could peel down to the inner layer for just a few moments before my fingers started to go numb and I would have to wrap up again. Frostbite is of course a very real danger and that is the last thing

I need in my right hand! I could only work in pencil as of course watercolours are frozen solid at temperatures of -30 degrees.

Helping to care for a baby panda on the borderlands of Tibet was a once in a life time experience.

When I was volunteering in a sanctuary for big cats in the USA, a tiger decided to possess my feet! I just had to stand complexly still for over an hour until he finally became bored and moved away...

5 'The only way to learn is to sit there with a pencil and a piece of paper.' The vow to only draw/paint creatures you have seen in the wild seems a very ethical decision. Why not from a photograph?

The level of observation required to capture the form of the animal on a blank piece of paper leads to a focus and concentration which you do not experience looking through a camera lens. These quick pencil studies form the

basis of most of the paintings I complete on my return to my studio.

6 How did the injured raptors' rehabilitation centre you ran from your home come about?

When I very first began to realise the importance of sketching my subjects from life I visited wildlife rescue centres to sketch and paint the birds and animals being cared for. Inevitably I became very interested in the work they were doing, and in the 1980s set up my own small sanctuary, initially to care for birds of prey.

7 What does the wolf mean to you and how did you first hear about the UK Wolf Conservation Trust? I have also heard you talk about the Ethiopian wolf in interview.



A friend who had enjoyed the experience of walking with the wolves was the first to tell me about the Trust! Ethiopian wolves are amazing – the rarest wolves in the world – an elegant, long-legged species of wolf of only a handful (500) scattered around remote mountains in Ethiopia. Threatened by loss of highland habitats, disease, persecution and in 2004, rabies nearly wiped out this fragile population. Through my charitable foundation I raised £5,660.00 to support a vaccination programme organised by the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation project, which tranquillises, inoculates and re-releases the wolves. I am so far am the only wildlife artist to have visited their natural habitat and painted them from life – there are none in captivity anywhere in the world.

8 Not many people may know about the painted dogs in Africa. What measures are being taken to help with their conservation?

Painted Dogs or African Wild Dogs, are unique to Africa – endangered and highly persecuted. Less than 7,000 remain in the wild.

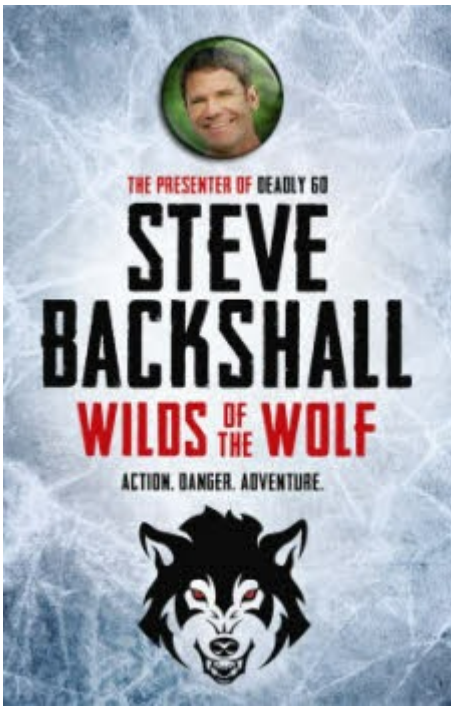
The Pollyanna Pickering Foundation paid £8,700.00 to build an 8-hectare enclosure at the N/a'an ku sê Wildlife Sanctuary in Namibia for 14 orphaned painted dog pups – which would otherwise have faced certain death – and will eventually allow their re-introduction into former areas of residence such as Etosha National Park. Only between 200 and 400 wild dogs remain in Namibia so this litter represents approximately 3% of the entire population.

9 You do seem to be a very positive and measured soul, with a lovely sense of humour. There seems to be so much madness in the world, particularly when it comes to animals. How do you keep so balanced and sane? What makes you angry?

Thank you! Any cruelty to animals makes me incredibly angry – and especially bear bile farming. Across Asia up to 20,000 bears are forced to endure a lifetime in cruel captivity, 'milked' daily through open wounds in the abdomens for their bile – an

ingredient used in some traditional Asian medicine. My foundation has funded the rescue of a beautiful bear 'Polly' from a bile farm – he now lives in the wonderful Animals Asia sanctuary in Vietnam. One of next big fundraising projects will be to try to raise £8,000 to fund an education programme – Peace by Piece – the largest and most ambitious rescue of bears from the unspeakably cruel bile trade ever undertaken. We hope to rescue and rehabilitate over 130 moon bears in Nanning, China kept in horrendous conditions – many trapped in tiny cages from birth – and farmed for their bile. This will be the largest rescue of its kind in the world.

We will create a sanctuary and education centre by uniquely working with the Chinese Government, providing meaningful jobs to the nine existing farm workers. The funds provided by the Pollyanna Pickering Foundation will retrain these workers to become skilled bear carers. Pollyanna's foundation is



WILDS OF THE WOLF

Steve Backshall. Published by Orion Children's Books
 HB 13.5cm x 20.4cm, 224pp. RRP £10.99, ISBN: 978-1-4440-0440-3. Also available as e-book

for oil in particular, the black gold that is capable of so much destruction and despoiling of landscape and life. Add in a sinister clan and a ruthless clan member called Wolf – there is clearly trouble and adventure ahead.

When Sinter and Saker are separated by an avalanche, it's not certain if they will ever see one another again, let alone successfully sabotage an illegal oil pipeline. There is also a heroic husky called Yantar and many other animals, described by someone who has clearly interacted with them in the wild.

This adventure story rips along at a great pace, as conflicting interests cause tension, destruction and violence. There is no escaping from the cruelty of man, but there are also tenderness and lessons in life. A hunter who has looked into the eyes of a wolf, describes a truly Aldo Leopold moment of spirituality and awakening:

“Man sees his own past in the eyes of the wolf...over time, humans have taken all the qualities they despise in themselves and given them form in the wolf.”

We also learn that a wounded creature in the Arctic can experience suspended

animation in the double digit minus temperatures. It might even extend their life:

“No casualty in the frozen north is dead, until they are warm and dead.”

Part James Bond, part Jack London – there is a true sense of conservation at the core of the book, as well as a clear loathing of the dark poison of oil on any landscape. Technology also plays its part: to track, to infiltrate and ultimately to help. But it is the wolves that are so incredibly evoked – you can feel their wildness and know that they will always keep running.

NEXT TIME IN WOLF PRINT...

Wolf Print has been given a sneak preview of *Wolves on the Hunt, The Behavior of Wolves Hunting Wild Prey* by L. David Mech, Douglas W. Smith, and Daniel R. MacNulty (The University of Chicago Press). Due to be published in May 2015, this is an extremely visceral and psychologically fascinating insight into the wolf as predator, living a life of feast and famine. We will be reviewing it fully in our next edition.

The brutal reality of life in a freezing Siberian landscape is evoked with a deft hand in Backshall's pacy adventure story, the third in his *Falcon Chronicles* series.

A hungry wolf, the leader of his pack, needs food to feed his family. A polar bear, equally ravenous, wants warm flesh of any description. Human teenagers Sinter and Saker need to foil the dangerous aspirations of the Russian-American RAMCorp, who see profit where others see wilderness and glorious silence. Animals are an inconvenience and RAM Corp's hunger is

◀ An interview with artist Pollyanna Pickering

committed to providing carefully targeted education programmes around the world as a major part of our work – a vital way of ensuring the long term survival of wildlife as well as the welfare of individual animals.

I do try to keep a positive outlook – inspired by some of the many amazing individuals I have been fortunate enough to meet through my work, dedicating their lives to conservation and animal welfare: Virginia McKenna, the Founder of Born Free who has become a good friend over the years, Claudio Sillero-Zuberi who founded the Ethiopian Conservation Programme is another inspirational figure and Jane Goodall, one of my conservation heroines. There are also countless lesser-known people working tirelessly on behalf of wildlife

and conservation worldwide, and I think that should fill us all with hope.

10 Please tell us about the Pollyanna Pickering Foundation.

The Foundation is a small but effective non-profit organisation campaigning internationally to prevent the exploitation of wildlife, raising funds to support animal welfare and conservation projects worldwide. For fifteen years I ran my wildlife sanctuary from my home in the Peak District, but had to scale down the sanctuary – my increasing success in the art world was taking me away from home for ever longer periods of time, and I was unable to secure permanent expert help to care for my patients. To carry on my conservation and rescue work with wildlife, the Pollyanna Pickering Foundation was

established. Initially we aimed to raise funds for British wildlife rescue and conservation – but we help fund projects and campaigns all over the world! The Foundation also makes occasional grants to other causes close to my heart – such as supporting an orphanage in Ethiopia.



Pollyanna Pickering was speaking to Julia Bohanna

We have Pollyanna Pickering card-making kits for you to buy. See page 31

THE DANCINGCROW

An Interview with Jack Michael Beaumont
(aka The Dancingcrow), artist and storyteller

"When I tell stories, I want people to experience fear, laughter, sadness, adventure, to feel the breath of a wolf on the back of their necks, to stand under the moon beneath the branches of a dark forest and then hear the wolf cry in the darkness and shiver with anticipation."

As a child, did you grow up in a household where storytelling was important?

I come from a long line of storytellers...maternal aunts/uncles and grandmother; I remember sitting on the ground at my mother's feet listening to my aunts and grandmother telling tales about family, One of my uncles ran away from home as a boy and got adopted by a gypsy family. This led to him becoming a traveller in a horse drawn vardo. As a child I would go and stay with him and with the canvas roof rolled back we would lie on the double bed watching the stars. He would tell me tales about the road and animals.

What did you want to be when you were a child? Did wolves or large predators play any part in your world?

As a child of ten or eleven on a school trip to a wildlife park, I had a small camera. We came to the wolf enclosure: a simple single depth, chainlink fence separating the enclosure from the public space – no double protection and the public could get very close to the wolves, although that day it was very quiet and there was one wolf dozing very close to the fence – I got very close and dropped down to take a picture of the wolf – and then it turned, and looked at me, looked right into my soul, deep, and touched me spiritually,

Can you remember the first story you told and to whom?

It would have involved Vikings, as I loved all those Henry Treece books; I have an old battered copy of his 'The Horned Helmet' lying around my studio somewhere.

Tell us a little about your background.

I grew up in East Anglia, on one of those council estates they built in the 1950s/60s when kids played in the streets and had dens in the woods...a stick was a ray gun or a spear and a

cardboard box could be a castle or a space ship. I went to art school in the mid-1970s and studied illustration, worked as a designer and maker as well as a teacher in FE and HE until I became ill with CFS/ME and had to retire – now I'm rebuilding my career as a designer and maker of narrative pieces of work made from recycled material and working on several collections of short stories.

Why the name Dancingcrow?

As member of the BBC online community for pagans, to ensure anonymity the members needed a username. I looked out of the window to see a jackdaw, tangling with a piece of spaghetti – the bird had managed to get the strand wrapped around one leg while still trying to eat the other end, which resulted in a comical dance – and it just stuck!

How did you first find the Trust?

I have a very bad neck injury. I almost broke my spine at the C1 section – normally fatal, yet it left me very stiff in my neck and unable to move my neck to the right. My friends all know my love of wolves – and two dear friends sponsored Alba (the dear late Alba, who broke his neck) in my name for my birthday. I was lucky to meet Alba (from a distance) before he passed over. There was that same shared spirit that I had discovered as a child. I fell in love with the Trust and the wolves there, and have been many times and have been lucky to walk with Torak, Mai, Mosi and the others.

What do you hope to achieve with storytelling events?

I want to allow adults to rekindle their imagination, to fire up their power to create scenes in their mind's eye, to get them to become part of a group of fellow travellers on a great story journey. When I tell stories, I want people to experience fear, laughter,



Illustration for 'At the gates of the wolf'

sadness, adventure, to feel the breath of a wolf on the back of their necks, to stand under the moon beneath the branches of a dark forest and then hear the wolf cry in the darkness and shiver with anticipation.

Do you feel, with the advent of technology, that many traditional skills have been lost and that many people are seeking life in the slow lane, as an antidote?

When I went to art school, we had to learn to make paper and brushes, to grind pigment for colour, with the belief that if we knew how to make our own tools and materials then all the better to learn how to use them properly, I still know those skills, but as an illustrator I now use digital technology to draw, making use of a large screen Apple Mac combined with a digital drawing tablet and pen to 'draw' on screen, I combine my own digital photography with my drawing skill to create images – the skill as an artist is still there, and the new technology allows me greater freedom to explore different avenues. I make use of gold leaf gilding in a lot of my artefacts, and I follow a traditional approach to this technique – I might not use rabbit skin glue anymore (mainly because of the smell) and use an acrylic glue to adhere the gold leaf, and I might not use insect carapace shellac (I don't think it's environmentally sound) and instead, favour an acrylic substitute to seal the work – but the skill and the technique is the same as those used by ▶

Christmas gifts and wolfy souvenirs

EXCLUSIVE



'STRENGTH OF THE WOLF' T-SHIRT £16.00

T shirt designed exclusively for the Trust using words by Rudyard Kipling: "For the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack." Available in military green, indigo blue and Black. 100% pre-shrunk cotton. Wash inside out.

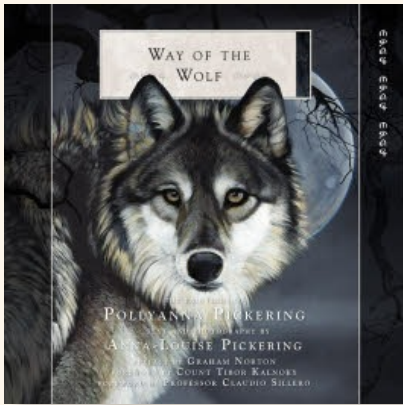
Do not iron.

Kipling 'Strength of the Wolf' T-shirt

Sizes: S – 34"/36", M – 38"/40", L – 42"/44", XL – 46"/ 48"



WAY OF THE WOLF £29.99



An illustrated journal of discovery and thought-provoking observation by Pollyanna and Anna-Louise Pickering as they seek out the threatened European wolf in Romania and the critically endangered Ethiopian Wolf. Hardback, 244 pages, 25cm x 25cm.



WOLF HOOD WITH PAWS & SCARF £19.99

A wolfy hat with your very own ears and paws! Wear the paws as a scarf or tuck your hands into the mittens at the end. The hood is covered in a thick faux-fur with a velvety faux-fur lining. The mittens have paw print detail on the insides and both mittens and hood are large enough to fit most adult sizes. There is also a zip pocket half way down to carry your phone or cards.



UKWCT Thinsulate® BEANIE

£11.60

Keep warm and cosy this winter with

our navy blue ribbed beanie embroidered with the Wolf Trust Logo on the rim of hat. Lined with Thinsulate® insulation that traps and holds body heat. One size.

◀ THE DANCINGCROW

medieval monks illuminating manuscripts. I like to think that my work combines traditional practices with emergent technologies and skills, a synthesis that combines the best of best spheres.

How do you source your materials for your artworks?

I am a magpie, a hoarder, a squirrel; my studio is full of bits and pieces of 'interesting things' there are peacock feathers in one jar, boxes of driftwood scavenged from beaches for casket handles, jars of rusty nails to decorate work (rusty nails are a strong symbol of

protective magic). Timbers from old pallets, and discarded furniture, beams from 17th century buildings to make my artefacts, In one corner is a box containing vertebrae and ribs from a skeleton of a dolphin that I found on a beach in the west coast of Ireland waiting to be cut and polished and applied to a piece of work, sheets of old copper from scrapyards to be used to make wolves and hares for mirrors and candleholders sit in another, in another jar, lumps of raw amber picked from a Suffolk beach await their turn.

We would love to hear about The Wolf That Ate The Moon.

It features a prince seeking allies to recover his kingdom from his wicked uncle, a dark mysterious forest, a brave horse called 'Fleetfoot', a talking stag, various badgers and foxes, a moon and a wolf, a VERY BIG wolf!



info@thedancingcrow.co.uk
www.thedancingcrow.co.uk

Jack will be visiting the Trust in February and reading some of his stories – see page 33 for more information and details of how to book.

EXCLUSIVE

Lead-free pewter jewellery from Marek Woźnica



A

Marek Woźnica, featured in the last edition of Wolf Print, has designed an exclusive range of jewellery for the Trust:

A – Bracelet. Internal diameter 6.8cm.

£20.00

B – Pendant. 5.5cm x 2.5cm. Chain not supplied. **£15.00**



B

C – Ring. Available in two sizes: 20mm and 18mm. **£10.00**

D – Lapel Pin. Length 3.8cm **£5.99**

E – Car Badge. Jewellery for your car! Supplied with fixing plate and bolt. 10cm x 4cm. **£20.00**



C



D



E



F

3D KEY RINGS

£2.00 each

Double-sided 3D key rings featuring artwork by Lisa Parker.

F – Loyal Companions

G – Quiet Reflection

H – The Wild One



H



G

NOTELETS **£4.00**

Pack of 10 notelets, blank inside and supplied with envelopes. Artwork by Onnie of our wolves: Motomo, Mai, Nuka, Tala, Tundra, Torak and Mosi. Size: 10.5cm x 14.5cm (A4 folded to A6).



CARD-MAKING KITS BY POLLYANNA PICKERING

J – Moonlight – **£5.99**

K – Look Into My Eyes – **£5.99**

Each set includes 2 x A4 die cut sheets including toppers, border, sentiments & embellishment, 3 x A4 complementary background papers, 2 x A4 sheets black card, 4 6" x 6" cards & envelopes, 4 8" x 8" cards & envelopes, 1 Inspiration sheet.



J

K

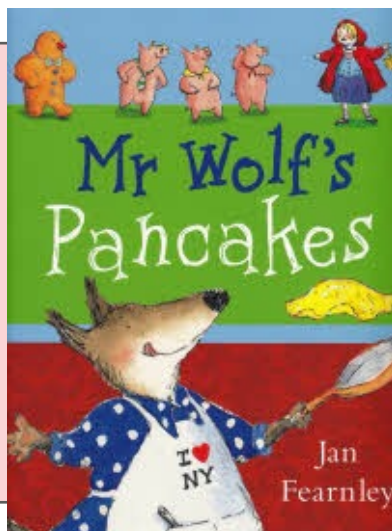


TEA TOWEL

£6.00

Designed by Onnie Burford Roe and featuring her exquisite pencil drawings of Motomo, Mai, Tala, Tundra, Nuka, Torak and Mosi. Finished with a border of wolf paw prints and the Trust's logo in each corner. Colourfast print in black and white on 100% cotton.

47.5cm x 75cm. Wash at max 40°C.



MR WOLF'S PANCAKES **£6.99**

by Jan Fearnley

Mr Wolf fancies some tasty pancakes but he doesn't know how to make them. Asking his neighbours is no use – they're a mean and horrible lot who refuse to help. Poor Mr Wolf. He has to work it out, all by himself. So what happens when these nasty neighbours want to help Mr Wolf eat his delicious pancakes...? Beautifully illustrated by Jan Fearnley in colour throughout. Paperback, 28pp, 30cm x 23cm.

'THE WILD ONE' PENDANT WATCH £18.00



Enamel pendant watch designed to look like a stopwatch and featuring Lisa Parker's 'The Wild One' on the front cover. Includes 78cm length chain and black velvet drawstring gift bag. Supplied with spare battery.



WOLF DUVET SET FROM £14.99

Now you can be in the company of wolves every night! This eye-catching photograph has been printed onto easy-care poly-cotton fabric using the latest digital printing technology.

Single duvet – 135cm x 200cm with one pillowcase – **£14.99**
 Double duvet – 200cm x 200cm with two pillow cases – **£17.99**
 King size duvet – 230cm x 220cm with two pillow cases – **£23.99**

52% polyester, 48% cotton.
 Machine washable at 40°C. Can be tumble dried.



'WINTER WOLF' CHRISTMAS CARDS

£5.00

Pack of 6 Christmas cards and envelopes designed by Pollyanna Pickering featuring a wolf in a snowy scene.

Message inside reads
*With Best Wishes
 for Christmas
 and the New Year*
 Size 10cm x 19.5cm.

'HUNGRY LIKE THE WOLVES' GREETINGS CARD £2.00

Single greetings card designed by Pollyanna Pickering. Blank inside. Supplied with envelope. 19.8cm x 14cm.



GREETINGS CARDS

£2.00 each

Single greetings cards designed by Pollyanna Pickering. Blank inside. Supplied with envelope. 19.8cm x 10cm.

- A** – Company of Wolves
- B** – Snow Queen
- C** – On the Lookout



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.

OPEN

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. *Please note that we will be closed on Wednesday 24th December (Christmas Eve).*

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

There will be additional children's activities on 31st December and 18th February, including lino printing, quizzes and colouring.

ADMISSION: Adults—£8; Members, children (age 3–12) & OAPs—£5; Children under 3—FREE.

Tickets on the gate only. Sorry: no dogs on site.

Arctic Ambles

29th November

20th December

4th & 24th January

8th February

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 wolfy souvenir!

Maximum 16 people.

Booking essential.

£60 per person, age 18+

NEW FOR 2015

WATCH, LISTEN AND BE SPELLBOUND: HOWLS AND STORIES

SATURDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY, 4pm to 8pm

Visit the wolves in the peak of the breeding season and watch their courtship behaviour. Torak & Mosi and Motomo & Mai, our paired wolves, will be extremely affectionate to each other at this time of the year, providing a great opportunity for spectacular photographs.

Hear the wolves howl; perhaps the most evocative sound in all of nature. Our fear of the wolf often comes when their howl makes our backbones tingle. The resonance surrounding wolves howling is legendary. During the breeding season, there is a great deal of howling behaviour.

As darkness descends, Jack Beaumont, a storyteller of great renown, will narrate in our warm education room:

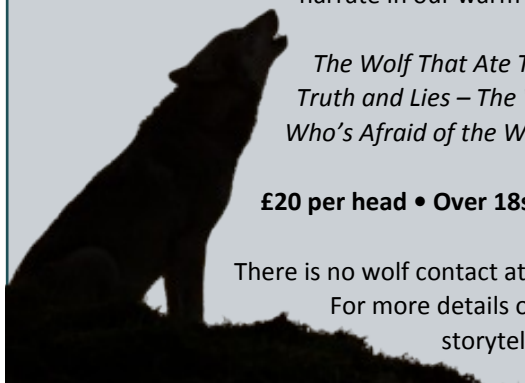
The Wolf That Ate The Moon and Other Tales
Truth and Lies – The Wolf in Folklore and Myth
Who's Afraid of the Wolves

£20 per head • Over 18s only

There is no wolf contact at this event.

For more details of Jack Beaumont and his storytelling visit

www.thedancingcrow.co.uk



THE ULTIMATE WOLF DAY: a magical lupine experience

Sunday 21st December, Saturday 17th January & Sunday 1st February – 10am to 3.30pm

NEW

- Spend an amazing day at the UKWCT in the company of our ten wolves •
- Walk with **both** the Arctic and Canadian wolves •

The day involves **two** walks, allowing you to get up really close and watch the wolves investigate the countryside around the Wolf Trust.

- * Photograph them as they interact with each other, investigate various scents, paddle in the pond or stream and howl to the wolves left behind.
- * Together with our experts, you will then feed the wolves and get involved with our wolf enrichment programme.
- * See close up how we care for these magnificent animals.
- * Learn about the support the UKWCT has given to worldwide wolf conservation in the last 20 years.

£175 per person, £300 for 2 people • limited spaces • for adults 18 years and over



WILLOW WORKSHOP WEEKEND

SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY + SUNDAY 1 MARCH

10.00 AM – 4.30 PM

**NEW
FOR 2015**



PLACES LIMITED TO 8 PEOPLE PER DAY
Book early to avoid disappointment

£100 ONE DAY, £175 FOR BOTH DAYS

- Participants attending one day will be able to learn how to create a bird or small animal
- Participants attending both days will have the opportunity with the added time to make a larger four-legged animal (even a wolf). All materials will be provided
- There will be opportunities during the weekend to take photographs of all our resident ten wolves and spend time watching them.

Run by Caroline Gregson, a well-known and experienced willow artist, who has created animals – including our wolf, above – and other living forms in willow. Caroline has been teaching workshops at the Trust since 2010.



Valentine Walk

Saturday, 14th February at 11am



What could be a more romantic gift for an animal lover than the chance to walk with wolves?

Spend your special time at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust in the company of one of the most family-oriented species. It's breeding season for the wolves so you will see them behaving very affectionately towards each other at this special time of year.

£90 for two people.

Comes with a gift

Booking essential.



As an extra treat, why not book lunch at the Six Bells pub in Beenham village after your walk. They have a special rate for Trust visitors.

thesixbells.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS WITH BOB BRIND-SURCH

- Just bought a digital SLR and not sure how to use it?
- Do you rely on the built-in automatic modes?
- Do you want to achieve better results but are confused by all the different settings?
- Do you want to take control of your camera but are not sure where to start?
- Would you like to take some excellent photos of wolves in natural settings?

If so, then this workshop is for you!

On this course you will learn how to control aperture, shutter speed and ISO to produce more creative images. You will learn how to blur backgrounds to accentuate the main subjects of your photographs, as well as managing ISO and shutter speed to freeze fast action.

The March workshops are timed to be held during the breeding when the wolves are most active and still look their best in their thick winter coats. Their large, landscaped enclosures with their natural mounds, trees and ponds provide the perfect backdrops for your photos. As the wolves at the trust are socialised the handlers can coax them into good positions for photos.

With a healthy mixture of classroom and practical sessions, the aim on this workshop is to provide a relaxing and comfortable setting. This is a full day workshop, from 10am to 4pm, with a break in the middle for lunch (not provided). A session on camera practicalities in the morning will be followed up with a tutored practical session in the afternoon, where you will be able to take some stunning photos of the Trust's wolves.

Bob Brind-Surch is a professional wildlife photographer and retired teacher with 40 years' experience of wildlife photography. He regularly runs practical wildlife photography workshops and African safaris, as well as tutoring groups and individuals on how to improve their photography.

Suitable for DSLR, Bridge and Superzoom. An additional long telephoto lens would be an advantage.

Suitable for complete beginners and there will be a maximum of 15 students per workshop.

**Saturday 7th
Sunday 8th
March**

Photography
Workshops
with Bob
Brind-Surch
(no wolf
walk)

**£120 per
person**

Places strictly
limited
**Booking
essential**

**Saturday
25th
January
includes
wolf walk
£150 per
person**

PHOTOGRAPHY DAY

- Held in the winter months when the wolves look their best in their thick winter coats the day starts with a brief presentation about the history of the Trust, the worldwide wolf conservation projects we support and the stories of our ten resident wolves.
- Each of the four wolf packs can be photographed from an adjoining enclosure where there are specially made holes for cameras, giving great results. Expert handlers will encourage the wolves to stand in the best position in their enclosures. You will also be able to use our special raised photography platform.
- You will be taken on a walk with the wolves in the fields surrounding the Trust, which includes some wooded areas, a small pond and a stream for some natural shots.
- 10am to 4pm (refreshments but not lunch included, so please bring your own)
- Suitable for all abilities. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

RECYCLING WORKSHOP WITH JILL NICHOLAS

Friday, 20th February – 11am to 1pm

- Would you like to make wolf sock puppets and masks?
- Want to make some unique treasure in a green and fun way?

This is your chance and we will provide everything you might need. There is also a tour of the Trust and an opportunity to take photos from a raised platform area at one of the wolf enclosures.

Suitable for ages 6 to 12.

Maximum of 1 accompanying adult per child. £15 per person. Booking through the Trust on 0118 971 3330.

(Please note there is no walk on this event)

Further info about Jill can be found at: www.greentheme.org.uk



Pancake Fun

TUESDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY – 10.00 AM TO 12.30 PM

On Shrove Tuesday – 17th February – the wolves will each be given a pancake stuffed with their favourite treats! These will be made by the children visiting the Trust on the day from eggs and other wolftastic ingredients.

Watch how the wolves gobble up the pancakes – great photographic opportunities!

There is no wolf walk at this event as the wolves are in their breeding season.

Only one adult to accompany per child/children

£15 per person • Ages: 6 to 12 years old • **booking essential**

NEW
FOR 2015

CHILDREN'S EASTER EVENTS

CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT AND WALK Monday, 6th April 11am

Maximum 1 accompanying
adult per child/children.

£17 per person.

Booking essential

CHILDREN'S WOLF WALKS

Saturday, 4th April at 12.30pm

Thursday, 9th April at 11am

Tuesday, 14th April at 11am

Take a walk with a wolf.

This event includes a short talk
on wolves and a tour of the
centre.

Maximum 1 accompanying adult
per child/children.

6 years + **Booking Essential.**

£15 per person.

ALL OUR EVENTS ARE
VERY POPULAR AND
USUALLY SELL OUT
VERY EARLY, SO
PLEASE BOOK SOON*
TO AVOID
DISAPPOINTMENT AND
KEEP CHECKING OUR
WEBSITE FOR
ADDITIONAL DATES
AND EVENTS.

*Booking not required
for Visit Wednesdays



Wolf Keeper Experience Days

Thursdays

16th, 23rd and 30th April

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. Learn more about the Trust and the worldwide wolf conservation projects it supports. Get involved in our wolf enrichment programme, walk with wolves, snap up great photo opportunities, watch our resident kites circling overhead at feeding time and receive a souvenir event certificate of your day. **£150pp – booking essential.**

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

9th January, 20th February, 20th March, 17th April – 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).

The event usually finishes from around 9 to 9.30pm



Gift Certificates

Can't decide on or don't know which particular day to choose? No problem! You can give a certificate for an experience with the wolves and the recipient can choose their own.

~ £5, £10, £20 ~