

# WOLF PRINT

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Issue 58 | Summer 2016



## The Young Ones

The Trust's little lupines

## Park Life

Biologist Rick McIntyre discusses Yellowstone

## Red for Danger

Why canis rufus needs our help

## The Appliance of Science

Could bionic sheep be the future?

NEWS



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MEDIA AND ARTS



Cover photograph of Arctic cub, Axel by Ann Rasberry/International Wolf Center

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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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Issue 58 | Summer 2016  
**Editor's Letter**

Julia and Nuka

In 2009, the conservationist Chris Packham made a controversial set of statements about the giant panda, bemoaning the large amount of funds allocated for its survival. He also said: 'Unfortunately, it's big and cute and it's a symbol of the World Wildlife Fund.' Whatever people think about the panda, it does indeed raise the question of 'cute' in conservation. Is exploiting this facet of an animal's appearance and sometimes behaviour, with the express purpose of soliciting help for that species, a necessary evil or a dumbing down to be avoided at all costs? Nature already often dictates we gravitate towards protecting soft, furry creatures with large eyes that look vulnerable and needy. The sleepy sloth for example, appears to be an animal we could take home and cuddle, despite the Nosferatu claws. But what of the creatures who do not seem as vulnerable, such as snakes, sharks and spiders? As 'uglybugs', they get more 'urgh' than 'aah' but they have just as much right to survive and thrive. Perhaps we need to temper our emotional response with education and logic, to ensure that the right balance in conservation is achieved.

So where does the wolf fit into 'cute', in this discussion? Anyone who has seen a large predator hunting down prey, ripping fur and flesh from bone, might not apply such a twee epithet. But this is a cub-themed issue, so have we softened in this stance? Not really. At Wolf Print we are still here to educate readers and the focus in this issue is on the development of young wolves, particularly out in a world where lupophobia is rife and hunters most certainly do not go weak at the knees at the sight of a cub. Cubs face a number of dangers but as they grow, play and interact

with the world, they also learn to be a wolf, with help from their pack. Many volunteers at the Trust have had the pleasure and privilege of raising cubs, bonding with them at this imprinting stage. Wendy Brooker explains the process, including the whys about having them at the Trust in the past. Cubs or not, many wolves in the wild still face the dangers that mankind can pose.

Ultimately the words we use often help us as conservationists to drum up emotional investment in a creature we are trying to protect. It is a means to an end, predominantly to educate. To show these animals, big and small, at such close quarters, helps their cause. Thinking about the smaller variety, we now also have bees ensconced at The Trust, under the care of our Wolfkeeper, now Beekeeper as well, Mike. You can read the latest buzz about them on page 5.

We have some fascinating reports from the projects we support worldwide in this issue too, including India and Iran. There is also an illuminating feature about wildlife photography. Cuddly or not, the wolf has some passionate advocates to balance the enemies and the species teaches us something new every day. Just read the Rick McIntyre interview and you can see how wonderful it might be to spend your life hunting truth and knowledge.

Enjoy the passage to autumn now and open your hearts to all manner of wildlife. You may not be able to hug a spider, even a wolf spider – but all species deserve respect.

*Julia Bohanna*

**Julia Bohanna**, Editor



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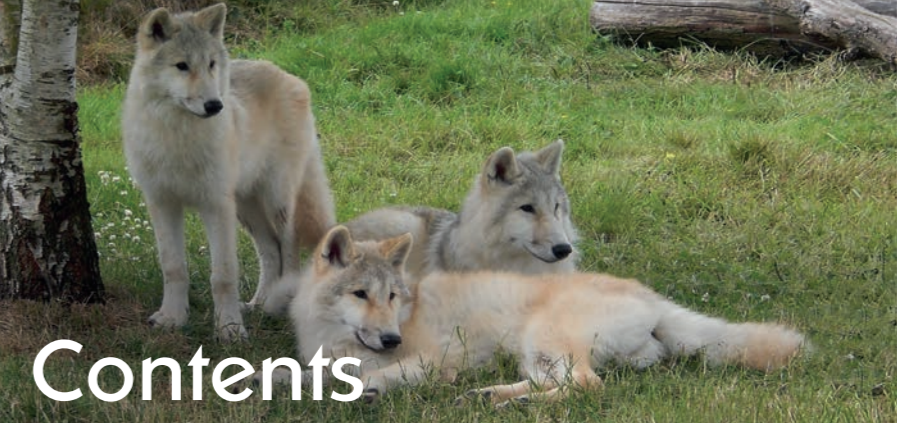
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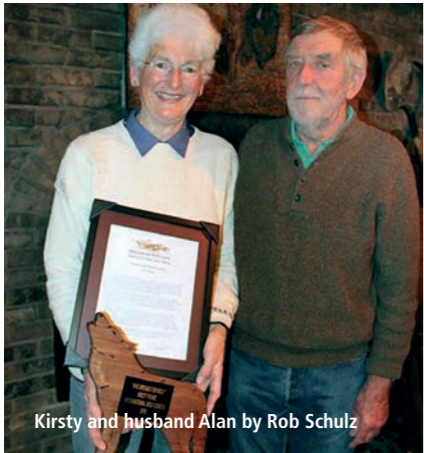


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# The Trust’s Kirsty Peake Gives a Voice To Wolves

In April, The International Wolf Center presented its *Who Speaks for Wolf* award to Kirsty Peake at Yellowstone National Park. The award is given annually to an individual who has made exceptional contributions to wolf education and recovery.



Kirsty and husband Alan by Rob Schulz



Photograph by Rob Schulz  
Left to Right: Debbie Hinchcliffe, I David Mesh, Nancy Jo Tubbs (Board Ch.), Kirsty Peake, Alan, Nancy Gibbons, Dick Thiel, Rob Schulz

‘Kirsty is highly respected as an international wolf advocate and animal behaviourist,’ said Rob Schultz, Executive Director. ‘Her work as a passionate wolf educator and lecturer has been an inspiration to people of all ages in the United Kingdom and throughout the world.’

Kirsty told the audience: ‘It is a great honour to be the first international recipient of this award. This helps highlight the global need for worldwide support for wolves in their natural habitat.’

The phrase “Who speaks for Wolf?”

comes from a fable about a Native American named Brother Wolf, who believed that his tribe could live alongside the wolves, instead of becoming a people who killed the wolves for their own convenience. Brother Wolf believed that someone should *speaks for the wolf* when his tribe made decisions that would affect wolves’ land or life. Here at the Trust we are extremely proud of Kirsty, who indeed always speaks eloquently and knowledgeably for our beloved canis lupus.

**Kirsty Peake** is the Trust’s Specialist Advisor

# A Tribute to Volunteer Paul Howell

Paul Howell first volunteered at the Trust in 2010. He was a very conscientious and likeable man. He offered to do any job and was incredibly unselfish, quietly cleaning or parking the visitor’s cars. Paul never looked for the limelight and was becoming an experienced assistant handler to the wolves.

Paul was passionate about all the wolves and this showed in his talks to the visitors, which he often did when asked by the senior of the day. He was extremely knowledgeable and a very talented photographer, taking many of the photos that we used in Wolf Print. Undoubtedly, Tala was his favourite

wolf. After his very shocking passing due to a short illness from cancer, some colleagues from his work visited the Trust and in his memory have adopted Tala for the next three years.

Paul always wore a wide-brimmed leather hat. Fellow volunteer Eve King, wrote: ‘Lately when I am volunteering at the Trust, I look for the hat, with Paul under it. Then with a start, I remember Paul is no longer with us. The hat was his trademark, always planted on his head come rain or shine.’ Several volunteers have mentioned how kind Paul was to them when they started at the Trust,



Paul’s Bench by Francesca Macilroy



Paul Howell with Tundra by Neil Connolly

going out of his way to show them cleaning and other necessary jobs.

In memory of Paul we have purchased a bench that sits on the grass at the centre of the Trust. We and the wolves miss him.

**Tsa Palmer and Eve King**

# Keeping Bees at the UKWCT

On Friday April 29th, the Trust excitedly welcomed a nucleus of Buckfast honey bees into one of two donated hives. Having recently been sent on a beekeeping course in the Cotswolds, long-time senior handler Pat Melton and I were eagerly waiting throughout the afternoon. When the bees arrived we instantly went from working with 14 animals (ten wolves, two tortoises and two pygmy goats), to working with a possible 5014 creatures!

As the name suggests, the Buckfast honey bees were originally bred at Buckfast Abbey, by Brother Adam, who took over the monastery’s bees in 1919. Brother Adam wanted hardy and disease resistant bees, so set out using crossbreeding to try and achieve this goal. During his many years of patient experimentation, breeding different bees from all over the world (travelling some 100,000 miles in search of the perfect bees in his lifespan!) he achieved the now famous Buckfast bee, which is kept by many beekeepers globally.

A nucleus of bees is a small group of up to around 5000 bees including a queen. They are usually sold by beekeepers and bee breeders specialising in certain characteristics.

Once the nucleus arrived on site and had rested for 30 minutes, it was time for Pat and I to don the bee suits for the first time, to move them into their new brood box (this is the larger box on a beehive at the bottom) and give them time to get used to their new home.

Watching the bees crawl in their hundreds on each removable frame, as we moved them from the box to the hive, was an incredible feeling. You instantly lose any feelings of nervousness or anxiety and are filled with curiosity and awe. The bee is as misunderstood as the wolf in many ways.



Source: Shutterstock

The Buckfast bee is a very docile breed of bee. Out of a possible 5000 stings, I have only received one and the fault lay squarely at my feet. Walking under the tree near the hives after checking their water supply, I felt something hit me on the head. I naturally assumed this was a stick from the tree and picked it up out of my hair, squashing the poor thing in the process. Looking down at the crushed bee and feeling a stinging nettle sensation in my finger, I realised the bee had stung me in an act of desperation and self-defence. If my giant fingers had not killed it, the act of stinging me would have done. A bee will only sting if it is threatened; people hear horror stories of bees stinging and killing people all the time but this fear is irrational, unless of course, you happen to have a reaction to the sting.

It has been known for some time now that honey bee numbers have been declining throughout the UK. The honey bee is one of the world’s leading pollinating species thought to be responsible for pollinating up to one third of the human diet alongside other pollinating insects.

It is no secret to say losing honey bees

could potentially be catastrophic to humankind. We don’t expect a huge amount of honey being made by the Trust’s bees over the next few months; however, we are very pleased to have given the bees a comfortable place to thrive on site.

**Mike Collins**  
Wolfkeeper

## DONATIONS

EnviroCare Welfare Society

**£4,000**

Balkani wildlife centre

**£2,000**

Jose Vicente Lopez-Bao – Iranian project (see page 17)

**£3,500**

DONATIONS GIVEN THIS LAST QUARTER

**£9,500**



# Wolf Children

One of the most memorable acting roles our late Trust wolves Duma and Dakota ever took on was performing in a live production of *The Jungle Book* at the Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke. However, their roles were static as they were held on leads throughout!

A new film adaptation of *The Jungle Book* released this April is a stunner, with its combination of live action in the form of the man-cub Mowgli and uncannily realistic CGI for the talking animals. The opening sequence, making use of a 3D jungly depth of field, has young Mowgli leaping from branch to branch, racing through luxuriant foliage alongside the wolf pack. You feel as if your eyes are deceiving you – can this all just be pixels? Mowgli is played by Neel Sethi, who won the part over thousands of others. However, as children now want impossible leaps and the spectacle of a computer game, the idea of using real wolves was short-lived! Khan's pursuit of Mowgli brings some of the most breathtaking scenes, the boy rushing in panic through the mighty, rumbling tonnage of a herd of bison, as a mudslide and rock avalanche begins on the cliffs below – this is event cinema and I urge you to see it.

Of course *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling was partly inspired by Sir William Henry Sleeman's (a young British colonial officer in India in 1852) obscure pamphlet *Wolves Nurturing Children in their Dens*. It described six cases in which feral wolf children had been rescued by Indian villagers after being raised in the wild. Many of these children died soon after returning to 'civilisation'. This obscure pamphlet had a profound impact on world culture. Here Mowgli, the hero in Kipling's tale, is found as a babe by wolves and adopted into the pack where he receives his education through the auspices of wolves, panthers and pythons. Later Mowgli comes to realise he is not really accepted in the pack and returns to

the world of man and though he finds man's perfidy puzzling, he is accepted into village life and soon becomes a useful and productive member of human society.

In reality, attempts to 'civilise' children supposedly reared by animals usually don't end well. *The Jungle Book* is really an exploration of how best to organise the human world to bring peace and comity to the man-made jungle. Legends of children raised by animals outside society's conventions stretch back to antiquity: twins Romulus and Remus, the sons of the war god Mars, were sentenced to drown by their uncle Amulius. They survived and were suckled by a she-wolf and fed by a woodpecker, both animals sacred to Mars. The boy twins would eventually found Rome and its Empire.

*The Jungle Book* was sewn into the fabric of British male culture in 1916 when Robert Baden-Powell created the cub scouts based on a Kipling short story where Mowgli first appeared, *Mowgli's Brothers*. The Scout Association had been founded in 1910. Baden-Powell asked his friend Kipling for permission to use *The Jungle Book* as the motivational framework for the cub scouts, with its themes of team spirit, codes of behaviour and obedience to the laws of the pack.

Wolves do indeed seem to be the most popular foster parents in legends. Indeed, there are few primary school children who could not relate the tale of Romulus and Remus. However any student of Latin would immediately see a loophole in this incredible tale, as

word *lupa*, which can be translated to she-wolf, was also used by Roman legionnaires to mean *prostitute*!

In 1845 a naked wolf-girl was found in the process of attacking sheep and goats in San Felipe, Mexico. At first, members of the local community doubted the shepherd's account, until a child's footprint was found among the wolves' which also engaged in the attack, prompting an enquiry. Two weeks later apache scouts reported having seen the child running with a family of red wolves (*canis rufus*) and a hunt for the child was planned. The girl was eventually helped (afterwards, her wolf companions were shot) and taken to a nearby ranch where she was kept in a closed room. She spat and bit at her captors and howled and bayed so piteously that she attracted several wolves to the ranch and the girl escaped in the ensuing melee. She seemed to disappear for a while but seven years later a surveying crew sighted the child cavorting and playing with a family of wolf cubs on a sandbar in the Rio Grande.

Victor, the Wild Boy of Aveyron, was yet another feral child. In his 10th edition of *Systema Naturae* in 1758, Botanist Carl Linnaeus actually labelled feral children as *Homo ferus*, as he believed they were a race apart from the rest of mankind. Victor, aged



There are now 150,000 boy and girl scout cubs in the UK. In May there were a series of adventure camps, which will culminate in a renewal of the Promise on 16th December. Wolves have played their part in celebrating 100 years of adventure, fun and friendship.



Magda Boreysza: sleeping with wolves

about 12, was found running in the wild in the forests of France, and though when he was captured every kindness was lavished on the child he failed to respond to treatment. He had not learnt to attack and savage strangers, however, but never acquired human speech. He died aged maybe 40, a scientific curiosity who never learned to assimilate into the world of man.

In 1920 Christian missionary Reverend J.A.L. Singh heard reports of two 'ghost' children in the jungle just outside the village of Godamuri, then a hamlet 75 miles from Calcutta. Singh set up a machine in a tree near the huge anthill to observe the children and saw two wolves leaving a lair in

the anthill closely followed by the two children; a child aged maybe 18 months and an older girl of maybe six or seven. Labourers were hired to dig out the lair but as soon as digging commenced two male wolves bolted and attempted to escape. Then a female wolf rushed out bristling with fury and attacked the diggers, eventually an underground chamber was revealed in which two human children were curled up in a 'monkey ball.'

The diggers were forced to shoot the female wolf which repeatedly attacked them. They then sold the children and the wolf cubs in the market place of Godamuri. The children went to Reverend Singh's orphanage 70 miles away in Midnapore and were named

Amala and Kamala. Singh attempted to civilise the children, with little success. Both tended to shun daylight, becoming active only at nightfall, running round on all fours, eating with the orphanage dog, biting, scratching and snarling when upset and devouring raw meat. Kamala survived to 17 but Amala died after a year of what must be called captivity.

Singh however, kept a carefully written diary of what could loosely be called 'progress' of his wards, although many scientists and students of child development are sceptical about his records and assumptions, in 1941 American professor Arnold Gesell at The Institute of Child Development (later The Gesell Institute of Child Development) at Yale stated in his work *Wolf Child and Human Child* that there can be no doubt whatsoever that both children were adopted and reared by a nursing wolf. Charles Maclean, novelist and adventurer, eventually carried out a lengthy research programme into the children, even interviewing adults who had been kept in the orphanage during Amala and Kamala's sojourn there. He also uncovered some interesting photographs of the children curled like sleeping dogs, which he published in his non-fiction book *The Wolf Children* in 1977.

There is however, considerable evidence to suggest that the curious behaviour of Amala and Kamala was not the result of the children copying the mannerisms of their lupine foster parents. Barry López, in *Of Wolves and Men* (1978), mentions an experiment conducted in treating certain disturbed children at the Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School in Chicago in the 1950s. At the institute, psychiatrists were concerned with children who behaved in exactly the same manner as Victor of Aveyron, the ill-fated Indian wolf children Amala and Kamala and other wolf-children; building wolf-like dens, eating raw flesh, scuffling about on all fours and being dog-like, biting anyone who opposed them.

Tsa Palmer



# Beenhams' Update

Tala, Tundra and Nuka celebrated their fifth birthdays on 3rd May. As fully-grown wolves, it's hard to imagine them as tiny wiggly cubs that demanded feeding every two hours (some of us remember doing the night shift, then working the following day!)

The cooler and wetter than usual spring delayed the wolves' moulting cycle. By the end of May all three were looking distinctly shaggy, shedding fur and happily standing (or laying down) while a friendly handler plucked away the itchy underfur.

Moult usually start on wolves' legs/belly and then move up onto the back/shoulders/neck. Nuka's belly fur shed rapidly - as over winter, from lying on and digging holes in the Trust's clay soil, muddy lumps had solidified in his fur. Tickling him was like stroking gravel. As with his sisters, we collect Nuka's moulted fur and safely store it. What colour changes will occur when

their otter-like fur regrows? They don't always get greyer.

Tala and Tundra are content with pack roles; a few handlers suggested that Tala might try to take over pack leadership - rank status changes have previously happened in the Trust's wolves - but this has not happened. Tundra has become more confident. On walks she can be persuaded to climb up on the big log in the bottom field and pose for photos with Nuka and Tala. Photographers need to be quick; if Tundra thinks Tala is receiving too much attention she will call an end to photos and firmly 'remind' Tala who's boss! Nuka is good at intervening to calm down squabbles

- then suffering the indignity of his sisters trying to regain his affections by intensively licking his muzzle.

On our regular walks, all three Beenhams love to roll on smelly things: tractor diesel oil drips, badger/fox poo, even a dead pigeon. The water trough in the top field is a regular attraction, holding two wolves at a squeeze. Nuka and Tala splash water over each other with front paws - very amusing.

Tundra loves the disgustingly green water in the bottom of a smaller trough, used for sheep-feeding in early spring. When wolves are in the troughs, handlers need to get reasonably close

Tala by Francesca Macilroy

Tundra by Mike Collins



Nuka by Mike Collins

to stop the wolves' chains catching on the metal of the trough - sudden noise can easily spook wolves. Handlers end up wet too, from splashing or from the wolves shaking themselves dry when 'bathtime' is over. A wolf's winter coat can hold a lot of water!

We have continued the weekday 'enrichment' activities - various hessian sacks with old straw from the goat stables, citrus fruit peel, coffee grounds - great smelly playthings to fight over or roll on. Wolfkeeper Mike and the work experience students attempted to blow bacon-scented bubbles recently. The wind was in the wrong direction and only a couple of bubbles made it into the enclosure. The wolves watched intently with very puzzled expressions - which no doubt provided some enrichment value even though it was not what was originally intended!

Pete Morgan-Lucas

# Mosi and Torak Update

Although it's been ten years now, it seems like only yesterday that Torak and Mosi, along with Mosi's sisters Mai and Mika, arrived at the Trust as tiny cubs.



Mosi howling by Mike Collins

Sadly Mika didn't make it due to complications but the other wolves are still going strong – Mai even having cubs of her own in 2011 (our current ambassadors, the Beenhams). Along the way, Mosi usurped Mai as dominant female of their pack and now lives a settled life with Torak as her mate. They enjoy the comings and goings from the top enclosure with Torak, having mellowed in middle age, taking as much of an interest in visitors as his more gregarious partner.

With summer approaching, the wolves are starting to shed their winter undercoats. This must make them itchy, as Mosi will rub herself along the fence in a kind of ecstasy and really appreciates a good scratch from her handlers at this time. Torak isn't as hands-on but you will see him rubbing against the trees in the enclosure or giving himself a vigorous scratch. If the wind is blowing the right way, visitors can sometimes get a furry souvenir to take home as the downy clumps of undercoat drift past. Many a bird's nest on site has a warm wolfy lining!

As the weather warms up and the wolves don't have to expend as much energy, their appetites can decrease. Their food intake is closely monitored so we can see when to give less or more

food and keep an eye on their health. Wolves will cache food if they're not hungry and ours are no exception. They will often return to it later and take great care burying and marking their stash. Recently Mosi wasn't in the mood for dinner and would take a piece of meat and cache it, before returning to take another from the person feeding her. What she didn't realise was that Torak was watching her carefully, and the moment she was distracted by a new piece of food, was digging up and scoffing the meat Mosi had just buried. Needless to say, he didn't have much of his own dinner that day! Mosi made up for her lack of appetite a few days later when she caught a pheasant

that had been daft enough to fly into the enclosure. She guarded her prize carefully, even sleeping with it tucked under her head before plucking and eating it. Torak was wise enough not to get too close to that meal.

Mosi and Torak's enrichment walks have resumed after the winter breeding season and they thoroughly enjoy them. On a recent walk they were taken on a different route which culminated in the stream that runs along the bottom of the valley behind the Trust. It was a muddy journey which the wolves didn't mind, although it was a challenge for the handlers who had to keep up with their charges while sinking ankle deep into the mire. It was worth it when we reached the stream as Torak dived straight in and went for a swim – luckily it was narrow enough that his handlers didn't have to go in with him! It's not often our wolves encounter water that is deep enough for them to have a proper swim and Torak really enjoyed it. Mosi wasn't tempted and watched from the bank although she eventually went for a ladylike paddle. Needless to say the wolves were a lot cleaner than the handlers by the time the walk was finished!

Nikki Davies



Torak by Samantha Gillis

# Mai and Motomo Updates

After an exceptionally wet winter and early spring Mai and Motomo's den roof caved in, hastened by both wolves standing/lying on the roof to get a better view around the site. From March onwards, both wolves re-excavated the den - sometimes we saw a tail and showers of soil being kicked out. Motomo is a particularly good digger!

This den excavation was a precursor to Mai having a repeat of the pseudo-pregnancy she underwent last year. Around mid-April, she would often not take food and was snacking on caught pigeons. In the light of her experience with pseudo-pregnancy last year, we again decided it would be less stressful for Mai if we suspended her enrichment walks and left her undisturbed. From the beginning of May, typically when cubs might have been born, she showed greater behavioural changes: nibbling at flank fur, sucking her hind legs, being aggressive towards Motomo if he approached - then taking to the den for long periods. As last year, she 'mothered' material as surrogate cubs such as the old hessian enrichment sacks stuffed with strong-smelling things. She was reluctant to approach the fence for food and we knew any food thrown over would be eaten by Motomo, or the local red kites.

By the first week of June, Mai spent longer periods out of the den, tolerated

Motomo, and approached the fence for food/human contact. If she had cubs, this time would correspond with weaning and cubs no longer needing a high level of constant maternal support. She even caught - and immediately ate - another pigeon, rather than mothering it like she did with a whole chicken carcass last year. Once we are sure she's happy, her enrichment walks start up again.

Motomo takes his mate's hormonal moods with detachment and has been fence-running to annoy the Arctic wolves in the adjoining enclosure. He loves winding Massak up; if he stops running along the fence Massak will sometimes continue for another 15-20 metres before realising and running back the other way. Motomo gets Massak to cover twice the distance and tire out that bit quicker.

Motomo's moulting started in mid-May and by early June his legs and lower body had moulted but his upper body, head, shoulders and tail still retained



Mai in summer by Mike Collins



Motomo by Trevor Goddard

the shaggy winter coat, with a distinct line along his flanks showing the difference. Interesting to see whether he will retain the light sandy-coloured band down his neck and back. Wolves usually get lighter-coloured with each successive moult (like grey-haired people) but not always, since coat colour is influenced by hormone/ stress-levels, weather conditions and nutritional status.

Mai started moulting later than Motomo, with very little fur loss until the end of May, probably because of the hormonal component of the pseudo-pregnancy. She lost belly fur - an aspect of pseudo-pregnancy to allow easier suckling by any cubs. Once Mai's enrichment walks start again she will have plenty of human friends to help her lose the itchy underfur by gentle plucking!

Pete Morgan-Lucas



Arctics in 2011 as cubs by Tsa Palmer

# The Early Lives of Our Arctic Wolves

As little 'uns, our Arctic wolves were brought up surrounded by squeaky toys, chew toys (including shoes!) like your average pup, having fun growing up whilst learning some manners along the way.

That's where the similarity ends though – they began life under very different circumstances. When they were born it was touch and go whether they'd survive at all, having been born to mum Roxy in the early hours of 8th March 2011 in a bitterly cold snowstorm at Parc Safari, Quebec, Canada.

By the time their keepers had hurriedly dug them all out of the snow, the cubs needed CPR – rubbing their chests and blowing into their lungs, they were then wrapped up in warmed blankets for insulation and ongoing intensive care. Although their introduction to life was a sharp shock, our cubs blossomed.

For the first six weeks of their lives they lived with their animal handler in a farmhouse with acreage. Their backyard was the remote Canadian wilderness, a 45 minute drive away from where they first came into the world.

From day one the cubs retired each night to a large puppy playpen to sleep off another fun-filled day running around, until their socialisation skills began all over again the next day. Those lessons, which began at four weeks old, included excursions down to the local cafe for breakfast – our young wolves, although not guide dogs, were always welcomed. Arriving often on foot (paw!) but sometimes by chauffeur-driven car.

We needed to accustom these cubs to the human world with all its smells and sounds, such as a vehicle passing them on the road or walking on tarmac. Back at the homestead, daytime play involved chasing after each other tails, playing hide-and-seek behind the sofa, going up and down stairs and even climbing and sitting on the cats' scratching post.

They also shared their environment with two mongrels, a Pyrenean mountain

dog and a visiting golden retriever, two parrots, one frog and seven cats with kittens! Our cubs had to find their place in the pecking order. A dominant cat called Minnie Lion, who certainly lived up to her name, would chase the wolves off the food bowls.

At six weeks old the cubs were returned to the park to further their education, including walks around the outside of the park's pens with two socialised female wolves called Akiak and Ruby, plus their handlers.

All too soon they had reached 12 weeks old where they were flown to Beenham to begin the next chapter in their lives.

Now five years on, the Arctics are doing well, although with the moulting season currently in full throttle they look more like the musk oxen they'd hunt in the wild with their shaggy winter coats coming off in clumps, making their enclosure look like a mini cotton field. However with the coming of summer I'm sure they'll be happier once it's all out and they return to looking trim, beautiful white wolves once again.

Suzanne Fine

# Cubs at the Trust



Tala, Nuka and Tundra by Jason Siddall

Since the late Roger Palmer started the Trust in 1995, we have successfully hand-reared many cubs, the majority of whom were donated to us from zoos and wildlife parks.

Exceptions to this include: Motomo, an adult wolf from Combe Martin in Devon; the Arctics, previously hand-reared at Park Safari in Quebec, Canada and the Beenhams, bred here. The Trust is very proud to have bred the first European wolves in the UK since 1680 and imported the first Arctic wolves seen in the UK in 2011.

## Naming cubs

Names are generally chosen related to a cub's place of origin or culture. Kodiak and Kenai were named after Alaskan places visited by Roger and Tsa Palmer. Dakota is an American

state and as no suitable city or state could be found for Dakota's sister, Tsa and Roger came up with Duma. Alba, Lunca and Latea were named after places in Romania and Torak was called after Michelle Paver's hero in her books. Mosi means 'cat' and Mai 'coyote' in Navajo.

The Arctic wolves were given Inuit names, with Massak's meaning 'soft snow', Pukak 'fine snow' and Sikko 'ice'. The Beenhams' names were chosen by volunteers, so Tundra is named after the tundra regions of America, Tala means 'stalking wolf' and Nuka 'younger sibling'.

## Rearing and socialising

There are plenty of positive arguments for captive hand-rearing and socialisation of wolves. Pat Goodman, Head of Wolf Research at Wolf Park in Indiana and the renowned wolf ethologist Eric Klinghammer, who had worked with wolves since 1974, have previously cited several reasons why it benefits both the wolves and the humans that nurture them:

1. Wolves are much less stressed at being kept in close proximity to humans. This enables students, who are strangers to the wolves, to study behaviour at close quarters. Trust wolves are termed 'Ambassador Wolves' and funds raised by visitors being able to see them up close are donated to conservation organisations worldwide to help wolves in the wild and educate people about them.
2. Delivering medical care often without sedation or unpleasant restraints is easier on wolves and keepers. Wolves are more likely to be cooperative with any follow up treatment. Our wolves have weekly recorded health checks.
3. Hand-reared wolves have an additional source of social interaction: their handlers. Wolves are naturally social animals and we humans can be a valuable source of interaction. Our wolves enjoy enrichment walks with their handlers around the Trust's fields.

Hand-rearing wolves and keeping them well-socialised is extremely labour intensive. Both male and female human foster parents are used during the cubs' first 3- 4 months; wolves only familiar with one sex will often avoid humans of the other sex. Wolves that are hand-reared from cubs are considered 'socialised' animals. They lose their instinctive fear of humans, but retain all other wolf instincts. In the wild, the period

of natural socialisation usually starts around three weeks old, when cubs leave the den to develop social behavioural patterns and emotional attachments to places and individuals. Captive hand-reared animals form emotional bonds with their humans, but this bond has to be constantly reinforced. Long periods of separation, over six months for example, weakens this attachment. Wild cubs are

never subjected to long periods of separation from pack members. From the Trust's experience, females remain friendly much longer than males, who as adults are more selective with whom they interact.

Socialised does not equal 'always safe and friendly'. These are still wild animals to be respected. Volunteers must learn the wolves' body language and never approach them when entering an enclosure, but allow the wolves to approach instead. As humans, we are entering the wolves' world and must behave according to their social rules. Wolves, like humans, have distinct personalities. They exhibit fears and phobias, likes and dislikes, bond with some people and fellow wolves but not others.

#### Hand-rearing cubs

During the cubs' neo-natal stage, teams of dedicated volunteers took over the three-hourly feeding for the tiny balls of dark fur with blue eyes, curled up ears, snub noses and razor sharp teeth and claws. This was reduced to five feeds a day at about four weeks old. Special formula was given using standard baby bottles and teats, during which the cubs paddled with their front paws, leaving scratches on any uncovered human

flesh. The cubs needed burping after feeds, just like human babies.

Tiny cubs do not urinate or defecate unless their mother licks the ano-genital region to stimulate sphincter muscle relaxation. This is thought to be the beginnings of an important adult behaviour pattern - that of passive submission. We mimicked this by dampening a wet cloth to emulate the mother's licking behaviour and dabbing their bottoms gently.

Initially we put them to bed after feeding, but as they grew older we weren't needed and they waddled off when tired, scrambled over the hay bales and plopped into bed all by themselves, snuggling together for warmth and comfort under their heat lamp.

Cubs were weighed and measured daily until they were gradually weaned, starting about four weeks old. Weaning is a gradual process initiated mostly by the cubs, starting with milk soaked rusks and puppy food - progressing to fine mince, chicken legs and bones. In the wild the mother will offer milk until 10-12 weeks old.

A diary was kept of the cubs' progress to note the first instinctive yelping



Nuka with Pat Melton by Wendy Brooker



Mai, Torak and Mosti by Darren Prescott



Nuka, Tala and Tundra by Wendy Brooker

howl (approximately two weeks), when the ears and eyes opened, when eyes changed from blue to amber, play behaviour and anything unusual that might indicate a problem. Faecal samples were collected to test for worms and they were treated accordingly. Most cubs have worms passed on through the placenta and mother's milk.

At six weeks old the cubs were taken to explore the outside world and put in an outside pen adjacent to the other wolves. The cubs would fearlessly explore their environment, but as they got older, new sights, sounds and smells produced anxieties. Wolves are naturally nervous of change and will risk assess every situation. A new bale of hay in a field could be a danger; a gate could lead to unseen problems.

During this juvenile period, cubs emulated adult wolf behaviour such as climbing, jumping, running, chewing and, most of all, play fighting to determine the dominant wolf. Play is important for learning about social interaction and hunting; however, play fighting can be quite rough. Cubs lack the strength and stamina of adult wolves, but are destructive. Human intervention is not needed here - the

behaviour is instinctive and includes hunting, howling, growling, food guarding and caching, eating wild fruit and food marking with urine.

By 2-3 months old the cubs were starting to exhibit adult behaviour such as dominance, submission, problem solving, stalking and answering other wolves' howls. At 6-7 months the cubs were virtually adults, pushing boundaries and testing their human friends. In the wild they would be ready to run with the pack and join hunts.

#### Training / conditioning

Training does not apply to wolves. Unlike dogs they will respond a couple of times and then decide that there is no advantage and refuse to do it again. They can be conditioned to accept things or situations. Our young cubs are conditioned to have health checks through play such as fondling ears, lifting feet and feeling all over the body for lumps or ticks. As they mature, they do not object to weekly checks or administration of necessary medicines. It takes a lot of patience, but it means the animals are confident and not stressed.

Lead training is a lifelong asset to a captive wolf, enabling them to have

enrichment walks and sparing the animal stress when being moved from one place to another. Getting them used to collars and leads takes time and effort. At around six weeks, soft collars are put on for a brief time and removed; this is repeated, allowing longer intervals before removing them. A soft lead is attached for a short walk in their enclosure and then for longer walks in the field to expose them to novel stimuli. Finally when they are adults, chain leads are used to prevent them chewing through the soft lead.

In the Trust's early days when wolves were taken to shows, schools, vets and walks in the woods, it was necessary to make them feel comfortable in the trailer, so an old horse box was adapted to accommodate three separate partitions. From an early age the cubs were put into the trailer for short periods. When they relaxed, the trailer was driven round the Trust grounds to get them used to motion and engine noise. Cubs needed to be exposed to different noises e.g. tractors, drills, lorries etc. and crowds of people, including people with walking sticks and in wheelchairs, so that on visitors' days they were relaxed and stress-free.

The Arctics were introduced to their air cargo crates at a few weeks old. They slept in them, played in them and ate in them, thus making the crates a comforting place. When they had a long flight from Canada they did not need to be sedated, which can cause problems with large mammals, but were quite happy in their crates. The staff at Heathrow's animal centre were most impressed with how relaxed they were.

It has been a joy and a privilege to be a part of the Trust's work with wolves for many years and to have watched the wolves grow confidently and stress free as hand-reared animals. They are definitely ambassadors for their less fortunate cousins trying to survive in the wild.

**Wendy Brooker**  
Volunteer

# Plecotus auritus and Pipistrellus pipistrellus (and more) at the Trust

The Berks & South Bucks Bat Group carried out an initial survey of the Trust site in the autumn of 2011. We found a single, female, brown long-eared bat in one of the wooden bat boxes near the visitor centre, but felt there was potential for many more bats on the site.

The following spring we erected several boxes around the edge of the large field behind the wolf enclosures and on a tree at the entrance to the overflow car park. These have been checked at least once every year since then. One or two pipistrelles have been found in the flat box on the tree by the pond at the base of the field, almost every year with some signs of bats visiting some of the other boxes. We also co-host several wolf and bat evenings each year, at which visitors get to see and hear about the wolves, listen to a talk about bats, usually meet a captive bat (Rose who is a noctule bat is often a great favourite with the members of the public) and use detectors to listen for bats on the main path.

We always hear at least two types of bat:

- Common pipistrelles, which echo locate at 45kHz.
- Soprano pipistrelles, which echo locate at 55kHz.

We have also sometimes heard:

- Noctules, which fly over quite fast (commuting!) and echo located at 25kHz
- Eight Myotis species (there are five possible species - all sound very similar on a detector)
- a possible *Natthusius pipistrelle* (echo located at 35-40kHz)



One year we surveyed around Tsa Palmer's house and saw brown long-eared bats, pipistrelles and a possible natterers bat (one of the *Myotis* species).

**Bridget Parslow**  
Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire Bat Group

[www.berksbats.org.uk](http://www.berksbats.org.uk)

All photographs of Rose the Noctule bat by Claire Andrews



## Understanding Human-Wolf conflicts in Iran

In rural areas of Iran, livestock activities are the main economic support for families. Shepherds guard their flocks continuously from dawn to dusk, and many use guarding dogs to help protect their animals.

This is a land where the scarcity of alternative prey makes livestock a highly attractive source of protein for predators, such as wolves. Wolves in Iran can be found in highly human-dominated landscapes characterised by extensive crop fields and rangelands where livestock graze. In such landscapes, wild prey populations are absent or not healthy enough to support existing wolf populations. As a consequence, wolves prey on livestock and feed on waste remains at dump sites or livestock carcasses abandoned by farmers.

Livestock depredation by wolves trigger an important human-wolf conflict, particularly in areas where livestock herding is the main economic activity for people. Additionally, food available for wolves seems to be distributed irregularly on the landscape. Wolves



frequently visit the surrounding villages to feed at dump sites and on carcasses. This spatial overlap between wolf and human activity, together with a scenario of wild prey scarcity, increases the probability of risky encounters with humans. Records of wolf attacks on people can be found in rural areas of Iran at much higher rates than expected. With the logistical support of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust, in 2016, research on wolf behaviour and human-wolf conflicts will be carried out in Hamedan province, Iran. We aim to understand wolf feeding ecology in this area and the use of human-related food sources in order to reduce human-wolf conflicts.

**José Vicente López-Bao**, PhD

Research Unit of Biodiversity (UO/CSIC/PA), Oviedo University, Spain. Grimsö Wildlife Research Station (SLU), Sweden. Iberian Wolf Research Team (IWRT), Iberia. IUCN/SSC Canid Specialist Group.

[www.carnivore.science/](http://www.carnivore.science/)  
[www.iwrt.info](http://www.iwrt.info)

All photographs by Victor Sazatornil Luna

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**  
The Trust has donated £3,500 to help this worthwhile project.



# Saving the Indian Wolf

Wolf and other flagship species of the grasslands of Ahmednagar district (our project area in Maharashtra) are facing a grave threat, as populations have diminished greatly in the last three decades. Unlike the tiger, the wolf is largely ignored by policy makers and conservationists.

Our project area has a rich biodiversity with good grassland cover that supports carnivores, reptiles, birds and insects. Large scale habitat destruction has proven near fatal for lupines, as well as for the great Indian bustard and the black buck. Ahmednagar, Pune, Solapur, Aurangabad, Jalna and adjoining districts in Maharashtra have a considerable population of all these animals, except the bustard. We could lose them all at any moment, if nothing is done in time.

However, conscious efforts focusing on mitigation of man animal conflict can turn the situation around.

Ultimately, rampant habitat destruction and acute scarcity of water in the grasslands are the main problems that face the Indian wolf. Ironically, they are now listed as endangered. According to BBC News, DNA tests on an endangered variety of Indian wolf suggest it might be the most ancient

habitat and high density areas. Indian wolves and black bucks are falling prey to human greed. Acute shortage of water drives them to seek water and food by leaving the forest, heading towards the human-populated agricultural land on the forest fringes. In the district of Ahmednagar, some people are illegally cultivating forest land and even river beds, dry for over eight months of the year. In the open, many species are vulnerable, easy to kill, either by dogs or vehicles. For example, a dozen black bucks drowned in wells while looking for water. Several were

jackal and leopard, the dwindling numbers drives these predators to kill cattle and even attack humans.

The situation is grim, but timely intervention could save wolves, black bucks, hyenas, bustards and every single organism in the grassland food chain. If we provide water and food for animals inside the forest, all the problems would be solved.

## METHODS:

### **1. Baseline Survey – all studied over one ecological year:**

#### **Landscape Assessment**

The entire grassland measuring 1444 km<sup>2</sup> will be assessed for its ecology and ecological niches, documenting seasonal changes in landscape and geography.

#### **Biodiversity Count**

Mega fauna will be documented to further understand the food web, species interaction and prey predator relationship. Sympatry and allopatry (species who have awareness of one another or who are isolated) will also be studied.

#### **Population Estimation**

Packs and pack size will be estimated. Behavioural traits and anomalies to be documented.



### **2. Waterhole Creation:**

Perennial water sources, waterholes, will be created in strategic locations. Since evaporation losses are maximum in the grasslands due to lack of canopy, locations will be chosen strategically and made large enough to retain water throughout the year, biofenced with shade using native tree species like babul - *acacia nilotica*. It would also provide nesting areas for native birds. Waterholes would be tanker fed regularly.

### **3. Awareness**

Local outreach and awareness programmes conducted on the importance of the grassland denizens, community participation in landscape management etc. Mention of grassland denizens in the communities' folklores, songs and other oral traditional components would also be documented.

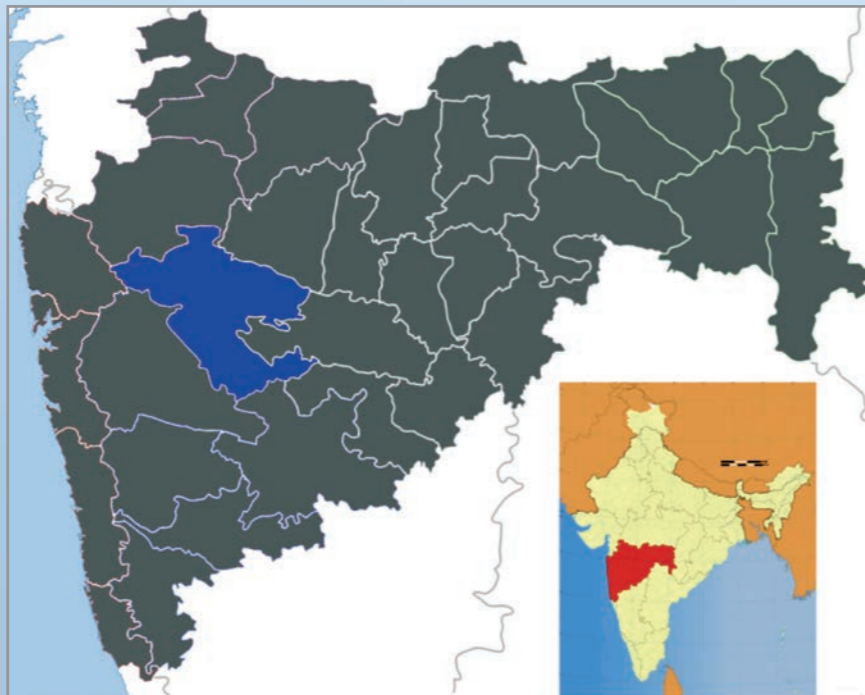
### **4. Local Community Engagement**

Adult members from the local communities engaged in all the above activities wherever appropriate.

## RESULTS:

- Cartographic landscape data
- Biodiversity inventory
- Wolf data to include population, pack size and numbers, migratory trends, behavioral anomalies, population density and abundance
- Oral historical accounts of the faunal components of the region

The Indian wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*), or Iranian wolf, Southern-East Asian Wolf and Asian Wolf, is a grey wolf subspecies inhabiting South and south-western Asia. Some experts believe it may be the wolf subspecies from which the dog was domesticated, pointing to its small size ▶



Study site: Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra.

wolf representative worldwide. Clearly it is struggling hard to survive in its own territory.

Part of the issue is that there is hardly any information available on the wolves, such as population,

killed by stray dogs. We can only estimate the exact population, so can only guess on the subsequent effect to grassland ecosystems. Since black bucks are prey for carnivores like wolves, hyena,





Indian wolves do not form large packs like northern wolves, though they better tolerate crowded conditions in captivity. Their social structure is more similar to that of dingoes and coyotes than northern wolves.

Packs typically consist of a nuclear family of six to eight animals, though pairs are more common. They breed from mid-October to late December. Cubs are born blind with floppy ears and a white mark on their chests which disappears with age.

Indian wolves' prey is antelope, rodents, and hares. They usually hunt in pairs when targeting antelopes. A single wolf will distract the herd with its presence, acting as a decoy, while its pack mate(s) attack(s) from behind. Red deer, wild boar, golden jackal, ibex, fallow deer, chamois, and roe deer are also significant food sources in south-eastern Turkey and south-western Iran.

**Ashwin Aghor**  
 Director – Projects, EnviroCare Welfare Society.

All photographs by Raosaheb Kasar

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

The Trust has recently donated £4,000 to help this worthwhile project (the Trust's total donation since 2014 is £9,000)



#### Acknowledgements:

1. Sunil Limaye, Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife, Pune
2. Gulabrao Walsepatil, Divisional Forest Officer, Ahmednagar.
3. Anant Kokate, Range Forest Officer, Parner.
4. Raosaheb Kasar, Parner
5. Rajesh Pardeshi, Ahmednagar.

# Cast in Stone

## Are there any statues of wolves?

Although lions and horses steal the limelight, wolf statues do make the odd appearance. And sometimes 'odd' is the operative word!

The most famous is probably the Capitoline she-wolf, who, according to legend, nursed the founders of Rome - Romulus and Remus. Surprisingly, she was sculpted some time before the twins, and her 5th Century Etruscan heritage may in fact be 13th Century medieval.

Italy isn't the only place a wolf was put on a pedestal, but it wasn't always as welcome!

Meant to represent 'the birth of the Romanian nation', Vasile Gorduz's bronze (right, top) depicts a rather bizarrely proportioned Roman Emperor Trajan and a 'levitating' Dacian wolf. Unveiled before a less than enthusiastic audience outside the Bucharest National History Museum, it's since been satirised as a 'monument to Romania's stray dogs'. Strangely, it's not the only statue linking oddly-shaped wolves and ownerless dogs.

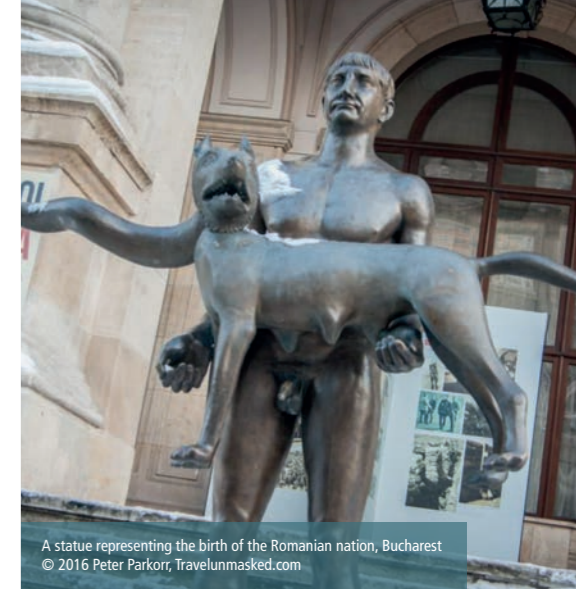
This laden fellow in Tomsk, Russia (right, middle) is from a famous Soviet short called Once Upon a Time There Lived a Dog, about a selfless old wolf who helps a dog regain favour with his master. As a reward, the dog lets him sneak into a banquet. Apparently touching the wolf's tummy will bring you happiness, but our next statue from Japan inspires quite the opposite!

Inscribed with the mournful haiku: "I walk with the wolf that is no more", Toshio Mihashi's sculpture (right, bottom) in Higashi-Yoshino honours the last Honshu wolf (canis lupus hodophilax). The subspecies became extinct in 1905, but some local cultures believe it still exists.

Happily, some sculptures celebrate the wolf that's still among us. American artist Malvina Hoffman, known for the controversial collection *The Races of Man*, crafted the bronze St. Francis and the Wolf, which is displayed outside Saint Mary's Hospital in Minnesota and shows St. Francis of Assisi standing side by side with the animal. The story goes that after the wolf attacked a village, St. Francis spoke with it and found it was only trying to survive. By preaching forgiveness, he convinced the villagers to help.

These wolf statues show our appreciation of their cunning, nobility and strength, and in some cases, regret at how we've treated wolves throughout history. Sadly it was more than giving them an oversized belly or mysterious floating powers, but by placing them on a pedestal, especially beside a human, we raise their profile and may give people 'paws' for thought!

Jessica Jacobs



A statue representing the birth of the Romanian nation, Bucharest  
 © 2016 Peter Parkorr, Travelunmasked.com



A statue based on the Soviet animated short 'Once Upon a Time There Lived a Dog', Tomsk  
 © 2016 Anastasia Kozlova, Lifebeyondtourism.org



A statue dedicated to the death of the last native wolf of Japan in 1905  
 © 2016 "Katuuya". Wikimedia Commons.

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# The Red Wolf Species Survival Captive Breeding Program Celebrates Two New Arrivals

Cornelia N. Hutt, Red Wolf Coalition

As of this May 16th, 2016 writing, two critically endangered red wolf pups have been born at Red Wolf Species Survival Captive Breeding Program (SSP) institutions in the United States.

The two pups, one born at the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro, North Carolina and the other born at the Knoxville Zoo in Knoxville, Tennessee, are healthy and gaining weight rapidly. They will have



regular veterinary check-ups during the upcoming weeks. More birth announcements may be on the way since whelping is typically in April and May.

The Red Wolf SSP has been a crucial component of the red wolf's epic journey from near extinction to the 1987 reintroduction into the wild in northeastern North Carolina. In 1977, four years after the breeding program was formalized, the first litter of red wolf pups was born at the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium in Tacoma, Washington. Today, 43 approved zoos and wildlife centers around the United States participate in the Red Wolf SSP and collectively manage a captive population of more than 200 red wolves.

Managing the population as a genetic reservoir is the SSP's primary task. Since all red wolves are descended from just 14 wild founder wolves, preserving genetic diversity is of

utmost importance. The innovative technique of cross-fostering pups from SSP litters to wild litters, where the captive-born pups are raised by wild wolves (along with their own offspring), has emerged as an important way for the Red Wolf SSP to support interactive management between the two populations.

Red wolves born in captivity are raised by their parents and older siblings just as wild wolves are. The pups are not socialized to humans because that would decrease their chances of survival if they were released to augment the wild population. However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency responsible for implementing the recovery plans for endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act, is not currently releasing any captive red wolves.

The two pups born so far in captivity in May 2016 were single births. Single



pups are not as common percentage-wise compared to litter sizes of 2-6. However, the single pup phenomenon is more frequent than litters of 7-9. William Waddell, the Red Wolf SSP Coordinator, does not think there is a trend in single-pup litters. Research is ongoing regarding the effect of inbreeding on reproduction, including litter size, in captive red wolves. In

2009, a study concluded that over the 30 years of managed breeding, litter size had declined. Additional research studying the effects of inbreeding will be required in the captive population.

**Cornelia Hutt** is the chair of the Red Wolf Coalition Board of Directors. She is a member and patron of the UKWCT.





Rick McIntyre

# Kirsty Peake in conversation with Rick McIntyre, YNP Wolf Project's Interpretive Ranger

Questions by Cammie Jones and Kirsty Peake

## How did you start your career?

**RM.** I started as a seasonal naturalist in Denali National Park in the seventies. During my first few years there wolves were hard to spot. I only saw three during my initial summer there. Grizzlies, however, were way more common and I spent a lot of time watching them. But gradually I realised that, other than mother/cub interactions, bear behaviour is pretty repetitive. It is mostly eating, walking around and sleeping. As the years went by I saw wolves more regularly and became fascinated by their endless social interactions with pack members. By the eighties Denali had become the best place in the world to see and study wolves. During that period I found a viewpoint from where miles away I could watch the den of the famous East Fork Pack, the pack that Adolph Murie had studied and written about in the thirties and forties.

## What brought you to Yellowstone?

**RM.** In the early nineties I was asked to write my first wolf book

(A Society of Wolves) and at the time the biggest wolf issue was the possible reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park. I interviewed park service staff involved in the issue, along with Ed Bangs of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the overall wolf recovery leader. I got to know all the players involved in the possible reintroduction proposal and became familiar with all aspects of the issue. I transferred to Yellowstone in the spring of 1994 and was given the title of Wolf Interpreter. All my programmes to park visitors were on the reintroduction proposal.

## What was the best way you found to talk to people about the reintroduction?

**RM.** Only a small percentage of park visitors go to the formal park service naturalist programmes and those people tend to be very well informed about park issues. I tried to figure out how to reach the vast majority of visitors that never went to our programmes and who likely knew nothing about the history of wolves

in the park. I recall how I would walk around in my ranger uniform in the busiest sections of the park, such as Old Faithful, with a wolf pelt in my arms. That guaranteed that people would come to me. As they gathered around to touch the pelt, I would tell the story of how the gray wolf was native animal when Yellowstone was set aside as the first National Park in 1872, but that the early rangers killed all of them off by 1926. I then would add that we hoped to get approval to reintroduce them back into the park. In those days I felt like I was more of a street preacher than one giving sermons to the converted.

## Were you here for the release in January 1995?

**RM.** No, in my first few years in Yellowstone my job was only for the summer months. I worked in Big Bend National Park in the winters so that meant that I was there when the wolves arrived in February of 1995. I got back to the park in May and during my first full day back I saw the entire six member Crystal Creek wolf

pack in Lamar Valley. None of us had expected that the wolves would be very visible, but it turned out we saw them frequently that first year.

## What is the longest time you have had seeing wolves on consecutive days?

**RM.** I saw wolves every day during one period of 892 days.

## Much has been said about the amount of data you have collected. What are you doing with this?

**RM.** At the end of the day, on my own time, I write up my field notes and now have close to 11,000 pages and any time Doug Smith or other wolf biologists would like to take a look at that I am happy to share. Eventually I will be writing books based on those notes when I am finished with the Park Service. **KP** – well I don't think that will happen for a long time, **RM** – the date does keep being pushed back!

## Do you think captive wolves play an important part in educating people about wolves?

**RM.** Yes I definitely do feel that way. Not everyone has the time or money to visit parks like Denali and Yellowstone and see wolves in the wild. We need captive facilities like the one so well managed by the Trust so that people in the UK and nearby countries have the opportunity to see a wolf pack and hear talks given by knowledgeable guides about the real story of wolves and their place in the natural world. I am very grateful for all the people that have worked so hard in the Trust and in other wolf organisations throughout the world and have dedicated their lives to help educate people about wolves.

## In a previous interview you stated that packs generally shared their carcass peacefully, that images of wolves baring teeth at their own pack members were usually captive wolves. Is this still your observation with the apparent reduced elk numbers?



**RM.** Yes, I think wild wolves are very tolerant of each other at carcasses. We have had many cases of the adult wolves making a kill but not feeding right away. They will walk off to rest or catch their breath. While they are doing that the subordinate members of the pack come in and often they are in fact the first ones to eat.

The most aggression you might see is when wolves are feeding shoulder to shoulder and one might snap at another and then it is over and they continue to feed. It's like the equivalent of a human family at a big dinner where two teenagers go for the same piece of food. The wolves seem to get along very well in terms of sharing a carcass. Of course a bull elk carcass could be 700lbs so if I was a wolf I would have a pretty good understanding that there was plenty to go around. If there was a tasty titbit there might be a very minor, very brief argument.

We may have done some harm in the perception of wolf behaviour. Most of the earlier wolf documentaries were filmed with wolves in captivity and they didn't always tell the audience straight off that that was the case. It makes for good TV to see animals fighting over a carcass, growling and seeing one bite and pin another one. I understand why

filmmakers would put a lot of emphasis on that.

Wolves born in captivity have no option of hunting, no ability to earn their own living. All they know is that once in a while food shows up in their pen. If there is a big dominant male he may well take the food aggressively because he doesn't know if he is going to eat again. Compare this to a wild wolf which has, in my opinion, a lot of self-confidence, a lot of self-assurance that its pack will make a kill sooner or later and there will be plenty of food for all.

## There are huge numbers of visitors to the park now. Approaching four million in 2015. Their enthusiasm to get close to the wolves must be challenging at times. You are always so patient and polite with them. Does it ever get frustrating that their behaviour may be bothersome to the wolves?

**RM.** Yes it does, but it is important to understand that if I allow myself



Member of Blacktail Pack (no longer alive)



Mollie Pack (14 of the 16!) Only pack from original introduction '95  
© Kirsty Peake

to get angry it is going to do way more harm than good. I understand how important it is for people to see and get a photo of a wolf. But if park visitors are too obsessed with those goals, they may not realise that they might be interfering with a wolf's everyday life. For example we have some wolf dens near the park road and the pack members have to frequently cross the road to hunt and bring back food to the pups. Our most common problem takes place when a visitor is driving along and sees a wolf approaching the road. Without thinking, they probably will speed up to the potential crossing spot, stop the car, get out and take pictures of the wolf, not knowing that it is a mother trying to get back to her pups. In cases like that I would go to the person and ask if they have had the chance to get some photos of the wolf, then explain that it is a mother who is trying to bring food to her pups. I would then add that it looks like we, and I would

emphasise the word we rather than you, might be in her way. I would lastly suggest that they take another picture or two then move on so we can help her get home to her family. By wording things that way, rather than accusing someone of harassing an animal, I am hoping to get people to understand their potential impact on wild animals and how they can avoid bothering them, both now and in the future.

**When we travelled up to Billings together you talked about the 126 matings you had seen. 50% were the breeding males and 42% were the breeding females.**

**RM.** I have now seen 126 matings over 17 breeding seasons and in total, adding in other people's observations, we have observed 204 ties. 50 of the males in ties have been breeding males and 43% of the females have been the breeding females. That means that subordinate males and females can often find ways to mate despite their lower positions in

the pack. For example a subordinate male may wait for the breeding male to tie with the breeding female, then run over to a lower ranking unrelated female and mate with her. It may be sneaky, but it works.

**I couldn't remember what you said about the subordinate females and why they are a larger percentage than the breeding females.**

**RM.** I am working on analysing that in order to come up with a better understanding. The common practice seems to be that it is more likely for young male adults to disperse from their home pack seeking out unrelated females. This is a risky business as they leave their territory and cross into territories of other packs. It seems more likely that subordinate females stay within their territories and the

males come to them, gentleman callers in fact! The females are in a very secure situation. They have the protection of their own territory, their own family, etc. It is the males that are taking the risk.

If a subordinate female meets up with a dispersing male then she has a lot of options. For example she could go off with that male and try to find a vacant territory to start their own pack. In Yellowstone the norm is that at any given time all good wolf pack territories are occupied. It is a hard thing to find a vacant territory which could support them year round. Another option would be to stay with her natal pack and have her pups. The dispersing male may not stay with her pack. We do know that at times certain adult females have shown aggression towards other pregnant females with the pack. However there are many breeding females that are non-aggressive to subordinate pregnant females, sometimes their own daughters. If the daughter 'stays home' and has pups they would be the 'grandpups' of the breeding pair. Genetically that is a pretty good pay off for allowing them to stay. There is just a lot of possibilities and options and I think one indication of the intelligence of wolves is how they have to make so many decisions in their life – what to do here, there.



Lamar Canyon Br.F (daughter of 06)  
© Kirsty Peake

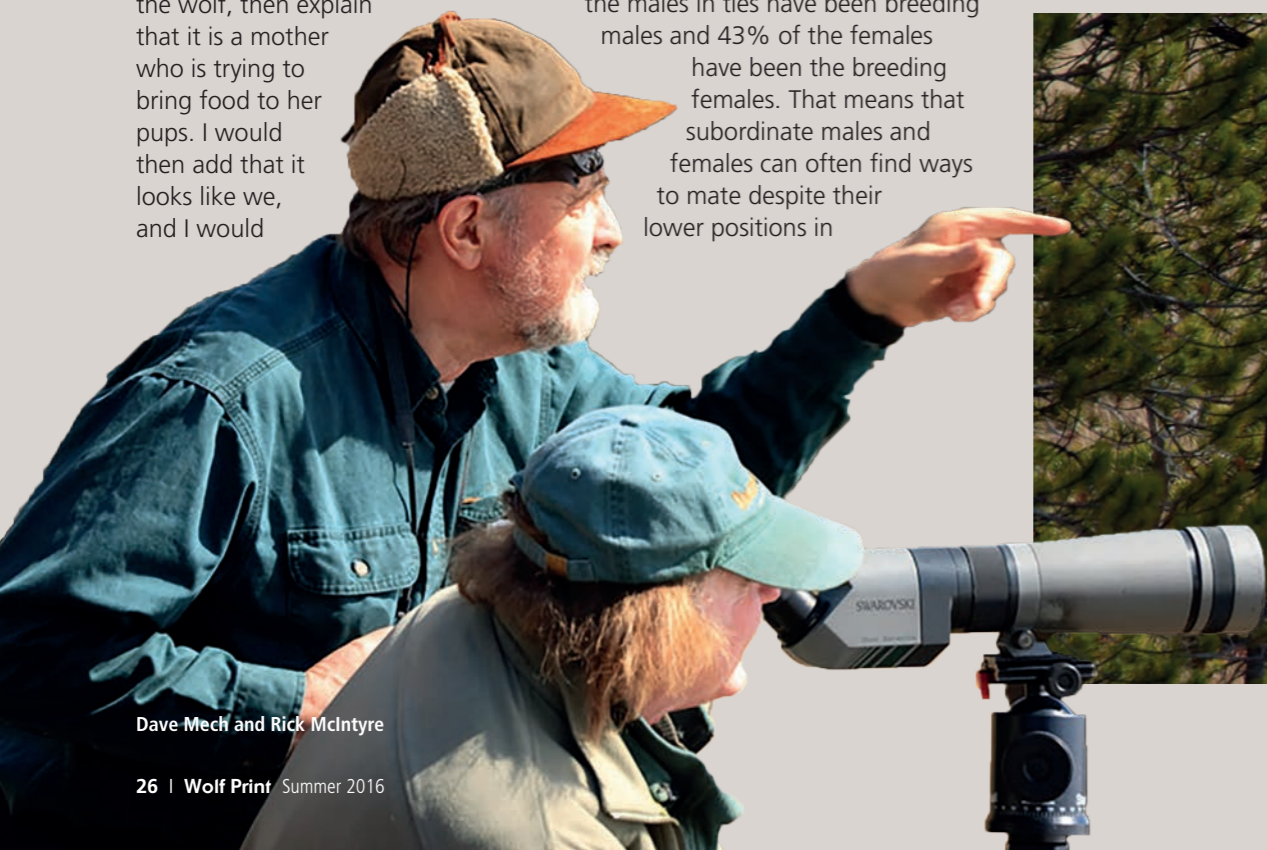
**You told me that you have had over 88,000 wolf sightings. Are there any that stand out?**

**RM.** A recent one was when we had the Lamar Canyon adults howling from the north side of the road. One of their grey pups was missing and their howling was probably an attempt to contact it. We heard answering howls from the south, then saw a grey pup in that area. It was going north, toward the sound of the adults' howls. 926F the breeding female and mother of the pups, was doing most of the howling. She and a yearling daughter crossed the road to the south and went toward the pup. On reaching it, 926F sniffed the pup nose to nose, just like you would expect a mother to do with a missing pup. Then 926F walked off to the east and the pup followed. But after another moment or two, 926F turned around, ran at the pup and pounced on it. She seemed to be attacking it and her yearling was joining in. Apparently it had taken 926F a few seconds to analyse the scent of the pup and realise that it was not hers. It must have been a pup from the neighbouring Junction Butte Pack and had mistaken the howling as being from its own pack. The pup ended up in a low spot and we could not tell if it had been killed. The two Lamar Canyon adults then walked off. After a short delay the pup stood up with a tucked tail. Both adults

ran back and harassed it, but this time the pup fought back and 926F and the yearling soon left it alone and recrossed the road to the north. The pup went back to the south and seemed alright.

In thinking over that incident, I concluded that 926F was fixated on finding her lost pup and was assuming that this grey pup was hers. After realising that it was from a rival pack an instinct to attack it kicked in and her adult daughter imitated her actions. But then another instinct took over and she spared its life and let it go. We have had other observations over the years of adult wolves coming across pups from other packs and also letting them go after sniffing them. Perhaps an adult wolf when meeting a pup from a rival pack just does not see the pup as a threat and therefore has no reason to kill it. 926F's actions may also relate to what we have seen happen when a breeding male dies of natural causes and is replaced by a new male who has come in from another pack. In every case we have seen, the new male adopts and raises the pups of the previous male, just like they were his own.

**Thank you Rick for giving me so much of your time. It has been fascinating listening to your insights on wolves and their behaviour.**



Dave Mech and Rick McIntyre



Br.F Canyon: Now 11  
© Kirsty Peake



# The Bionic Sheep

Earlier this year I represented the UKWCT at an event involving an unusual collaboration between artists, scientists and technologists. The focus of the afternoon was to be the problems faced by livestock farmers with increasing pressure from wolf predation as populations rebound in Europe.

It was hosted by artist Fernando García-Dory whose research area in the National Park of Picos de Europa, northern Spain, is home to many predators. Madrid-based Fernando is associated with a 'shepherding school' and is clearly a predator-friendly individual. To get information like this from the 'grass roots' is not only rare but exceedingly valuable. At the Trust we have been privileged to listen to Troy Bennett, himself a shepherd working in the French Pyrenees, and this event drew interesting comparisons. Promoting the return of large carnivores to Europe is a laudable aim, but unless the concerns of farmers are met, neither reintroduction projects nor natural recolonisation by wolves, bears and lynx can be successful in the long term.

What came across during the day was that the over-riding issue preventing farming support for carnivore conservation is the lack of timely and efficient compensation schemes for livestock losses. This was certainly true for the Sami in Scandinavia who claim that it is not worth their while even to apply for financial compensation, and similarly for the farmers in Southern Europe where identification of genuine wolf kills makes the whole process hopelessly slow.

The crux of this particular meeting was to present the idea of a device to protect sheep out on the summer pastures. Italian technologist Paolo Cavagnolo was able to demonstrate the principles which uses ultrasonics to frighten off, or simply annoy predators

like wolves, the frequency necessary to affect wolves being inaudible to sheep. The device will be solar-powered and portable as it has to be used far from civilisation. This is not a totally new idea but any form of non-lethal control is always well worth consideration. Current controls all have their limitations and a mixture of tactics is often used to achieve the best effect. Perhaps some form of ultrasonic device will have its place although I am not terribly optimistic that this will be an effective solution. Wolves rapidly habituate to such things even if they initially find them scary. However, this device is in the very earliest stage of development and it may yet surprise me.

**Sue Hull**  
Director, UKWCT

## Idaho pups killed – \$10,000 reward offered

In Couer d'Alene, Idaho, a \$10,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever illegally killed wolf pups after removing them from a northern Idaho den. The Center for Biological Diversity announced the reward Monday following the killing of the pups that Idaho officials say happened in the middle of May.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is asking anyone with information to call the Citizens Against Poaching Hotline. Callers can remain anonymous. The Center for Biological Diversity says the killing of the wolf pups is an example of why a federal monitoring program of Idaho wolf management should continue.

Source: The Associated Press



*Editor's note: We have previously described Idaho in Wolf Print as 'the worst place to be a wolf'. Sadly, this example of cruelty and disregard for federal laws is an all too common event in a region that continues to harbour an irrational and irresponsible hate for canis lupus.*

## From Hope – Six Italian cubs ready to Live La Dolce Vita

Albert and Hope, two wolves living at the six hectare Maritime Alps Nature Park in Italy's Cuneo province, have produced their first litter of six cubs.

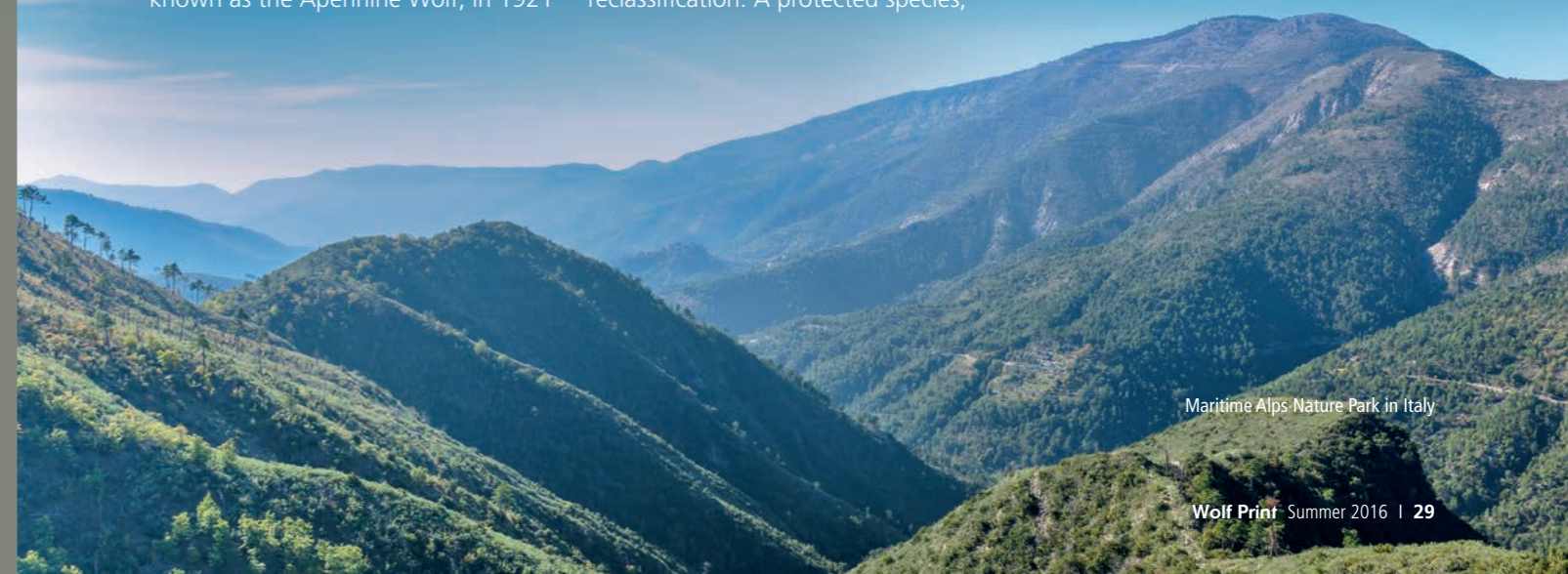
The Italian wolf is native to the Italian Peninsula (*Canis lupus italicus*). Also known as the Apennine Wolf, in 1921

Italian zoologist Joseph Altobello described it as a subspecies of the grey wolf. In the late '90s, it was recognised as a distinct species.

After earlier extinction, it made a comeback in the Apennines and the western Alps just before its reclassification. A protected species,

there are believed to be 20-25 of these Italian wolves living wild in the Maritime Alps. The public have been asked to name the cubs and they may well have names by the time Wolf Print goes to publication.

<http://en.parcoalpimarittime.it/park/staff>



Maritime Alps Nature Park in Italy

# The Wolf In Spain; Survival and Success?

‘No-one can deceive the eyes of a wolf. They always know.’ R.D.Lawrence *In Praise of Wolves*.

Those eyes burning out of intent features convey the essence of wolf; seared into our psyche whenever we encounter them, whether it be on a t-shirt, within a photograph or especially if we have seen them direct.

As is the case with all wild wolves of the world, these animals can never be classified as easy to see, but certain areas in the Sierra de la Culebra in Northern Spain are considered by many to offer the best chance of seeing a wild wolf in Europe. This reserve of 65,891 hectares holds one of the highest densities of Iberian wolves being approximated at five wolves per 100km<sup>2</sup> and consists of wide sweeping valleys and rolling hills which allow for panoramic viewing; essential when looking for this highly mobile animal. Other places hosting populations of Iberian wolf include the Picos de Europa, the cereal belt of western Valladolid, Somiedo National Park in Spain and the Montesinho National Park and Peneda-Geres National Park in Portugal.

The Iberian wolf (*Canis lupus signatus*) is a distinct sub-species of the European grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) which is believed to have evolved when the Iberian Peninsula was cut off from the rest of Europe during the Pleistocene Era. Previously widespread throughout the Iberian Peninsula, wolves were almost wiped out in Spain during Franco's rule when complete eradication of the wolf was encouraged. Only relict populations remained in remote corners of north-west Spain and northern Portugal. Wolves were trapped, poisoned or shot at every opportunity.

However, the Iberian wolf is now numbering between 2,500 and 3,000 individuals in the North-western Iberian Peninsula. From relegation to Spain's least populated corners, the Iberian wolf has begun to recover, being a very adaptable animal. The basic requirements of the species are availability of food and suitable, undisturbed potential denning areas. Rural depopulation and a plentiful supply of wild ungulates are ideal conditions. Iberian wolves have expanded eastward and southward

and have even extensively colonised apparently inappropriate agricultural habitats.

Fenced barriers and highways do not stop wolf-spread although sometimes a new motorway intersects their territory and individuals are unable to cross them without casualties. The effect of the relatively recent eruption of wind turbines throughout Spain upon Iberian wolf distribution has not yet been fully established. Mountains are no obstacle for the Iberian wolf. There are currently breeding packs in the Picos de Europa at elevations of greater than 2,000 metres in alpine habitats above the tree line. A stronger conscience towards native species is emerging and although this does run at odds with the tradition of trophy hunting in certain areas of Spain, it contributes towards a greater knowledge of the true nature of this iconic predator.

Hopefully, as the Iberian wolf continues to increase its range more people will be privileged to set eyes upon this expert in resilience. Despite hunting, illegal killing, destruction of habitat and human prejudice, the Iberian wolf is nevertheless surviving and will, of its very nature, continue to re-establish the huge Iberian peninsula as its reclaimed territory.

Margaret Hallowell  
[www.wildwolfexperience.com](http://www.wildwolfexperience.com)

Motomo by Sue Morris (Picture taken on a workshop run by Bob Brind-Surch at the UKWCT)

## What it takes to succeed as a Wildlife Photographer

By Bob Brind-Surch

When I started photography over 40 years ago I was shooting on film; as an enthusiastic naturalist I was keen to take photographs to sell to a wider audience.

I was extremely lucky to know some of the country's top naturalists who were also very competent photographers.

I asked H.G. Hurrell, a well-known Devon naturalist, what it took to become a competent wildlife photographer. He looked me straight in the eye and said: 'It all comes down to the five Ps you know':

**Passion** to do it in the first place  
**Patience** to keep on trying  
**Practice** and you will get better  
**Preparation** to research your quarry  
**Purpose** to be determined and go out on a photo shoot with a particular purpose in mind.

As a young, headstrong photographer I put these to the back of my mind

and didn't consider them again for a very long time. When I was asked recently what I thought it took to become a successful wildlife photographer, I realised that whilst I had ignored them all those years ago I was subconsciously following them every time I took photographs.

How might they help you improve your wildlife photography? ▶



#### Passion

Unless you are passionate about what you're doing, prepared to learn all that there is to know about your subject and really get 'under its skin', you will never take a decent photograph. Wildlife photography provides you with the opportunity to capture pictures that say 'wow' and pass that experience and passion on to other people. When I'm shooting wildlife I try to share with the viewer what it was that drew my attention in the first place. I try to shoot with emotion and through this emotion highlight the feeling that I had at the time. A well-known American photographer called Lisa Langell summed it up very well when she said: 'Photography isn't just documenting that you saw it – it is capturing how you experienced the moment'.

#### Patience

Whenever I tell anybody that I'm a wildlife photographer the immediate response I get is *gosh you must be patient*. You need to spend a great deal of time sitting in a hide, stalking the animal or simply using field signs to get to know its habits better. I also need the patience to capture the picture I have in my mind. I strongly believe that the best wildlife photographs are made when you're trying to capture an idea or an image

that you've previously imagined. For many years I had in my mind a photograph of a red deer stag bellowing, surrounded by broadleaved woodland and bracken. One very cold October day I came across just that opportunity, carefully focused the camera to construct the image I'd so often seen in my head and pressed the shutter.

#### Practice

Whatever you do in life you will do it better if you practise. If you want

to get better at something surround yourself with those that are better at it than you.' I have been very lucky to have worked with some wonderful naturalists and photographers over the years; they have taught me a great deal, but it is only by constantly practising what they told me that I have improved. Modern digital photography gives us a great opportunity to do just that for free. When I began every time I pressed the shutter it cost me money. Now you can learn a new technique and



continue to practise it until you're perfect. That way when something happens in front of you, you will know instinctively how to react. When I saw the African fish eagle in this photograph take off carrying a tilapia fish I had to quickly pick up the camera focus, select the right settings to freeze the action and get a nice soft background and take the picture. I had little time to think and had to react based on the many times I had practised something similar on a seagull over a local pond.

#### Preparation

Adequate preparation will make for far better photographs. I like to have an image in mind and go out to shoot it. To get that image often requires considerable preparation. The native little owl is a diurnal owl; that is, it comes out in the daytime but is often very difficult to see, as it's well camouflaged. I imagined a photograph of a little owl in an oak tree partially hidden by the leaves. In order to shoot this picture I had to find a location where there were little owls, but also very importantly when the leaves would be just right. Spring growth would be so bright it would reflect a lot of light and in the autumn and winter the trees would be devoid of leaves. There was only one period in September when the leaves would be sufficiently dull and the light sufficiently bright to take the photograph I had in mind.

#### Purpose

When I go out to take a photograph I often have a clear purpose in mind. Wildlife photography is an art form, as when I'm taking a photograph I'm trying to create a piece of artwork that conveys the passion and experience I had to the observer of my work. This requires steadfast purpose. The great crested grebe is a magnificent bird that builds its nest on a floating mat of debris often amongst the reeds. In the mid-1800s there were only 50 breeding pairs left in the UK. Such was their beauty that they were slaughtered on an industrial scale to feed the demands of fashion. The fine chestnut head plumage was used to decorate hats and other accessories



and their densely feathered skins were used in the clothing industry as 'grebe fur'. I was keen to capture an image of this magnificent animal in the right light and on its nest amongst reeds. This was not a photograph I could take casually, but one that took some time to prepare for; I went out very early one day when the light was just right with a very clear purpose of capturing that photo I had imagined.

As a young photographer I ignored the five Ps. As a wiser, more experienced older photographer I am beginning to see the value of this simple guidance I was given so many years ago. I do hope that it will help you too.

*Bob Brind-Surch*

*All photographs, unless otherwise stated, by Bob Brind-Surch*

Bob Brind-Surch is a professional wildlife photographer who runs Natures Photos – [www.naturesphotos.co.uk](http://www.naturesphotos.co.uk), providing wildlife photography workshops. One of his workshops is run at the UKWCT.



# Interview with Andrew Kay, Sculptor

Andrew Kay

## Was sculpture an early influence?

I was only ever any good at making things and always had a penknife and a stick to whittle. One of my earliest sculptures was a lion I made out of a bar of soap which I gave to my mother. Whilst I didn't go to galleries I loved to play on the sand dunes on the coast where I lived and enjoyed sketching things which I had found on the shore.

## How did your time in Scandinavia influence your work?

After completing my design degree in Leeds I won a travel scholarship to Scandinavia. I got diverted and ended up working for a while on a deep sea fishing trawler in the Arctic Ocean. I then travelled to the Nordkapp, north Norway, and have never experienced such solitude and beauty. It was the first time I'd ever seen elk and arctic hares (but alas no wolves!). Following that I hitchhiked to Prague and ended

up working at the Franz Kafka Theatre as a fledgling set designer. When I returned home I had sketchbooks full of ideas and started my career by first making pieces in my parents' garage before getting my own sculpture studio at Tosca, which is only a mile as the crow flies from my new studio at Becks Barn.

## There is a wonderful video on your website showing how you created the metal stag in your workshop.

Making a new piece of sculpture, I work from sketches and anatomical drawings which I then scale up on a blackboard to a full-sized animal. Once I'm happy with the posture and form, pieces of steel are cut and offered up to the master drawing. Once pressed into the correct shape the pieces are welded together, from the feet up, and the animal slowly takes shape. This process takes some time so as to capture the essence and attitude of the live beast.

From the first sculptures the process hasn't changed much, I've just refined it over the years. I found that people really liked the simplicity and nuances of the various animals and within a couple of years I had a list of international clients, from lords, ladies and lairds to people who wanted a herd of deer to grace their gardens in the Seychelles.

## You have often spoken about your love of wolves and clearly the story of the last wolf killed in

## England at Cartmel has had some influence.

Following a trip to Grizedale Forest in Cumbria many years ago, I bought a book which I could ill afford at the time, *Brother Wolf: A Forgotten Promise* by Jim Brandenburg, a truly inspirational story of his building a log cabin in the north west territories of America and observing/photographing the wonderful timber wolves of Raven Falls.

The Cumbrian commission of a large wolf came from an association with the Cumbria Wildlife Trust. I sometimes walk on Cartmel Fell with my wife and dogs and I always think about the wolf legend when I am there - the last wolf to be killed in England was at Humphrey Head and that's just over the hills from my studio. So it's never far from my mind. When I started work on the sculpture I tried to capture the lean, hungry, stalking form of this wolf which lived in the 14th Century.

## Your spray paint sketches are very fluid, with a great sense of movement and freedom. You can see sky and landscape through them – animal and earth become one.

We are very fortunate to live and work in the wild moorland of my native county where we see vast amounts of wildlife. When the workshop shuts down for the evening, the serenity of our surroundings becomes apparent and we enjoy watching the 'cackle' of

jackdaws which live in the sycamore trees above the barn and are lucky enough to be able to walk our two labradors around our neighbour's lake before dusk each day and see the bird life, including swans, coots, herons and oystercatchers. Further above the barn there is a spruce copse in which we have seen red deer and a pair of resident tawny owls, whose silent flight I find magical to glimpse. The countryside in which I live inspires me every day.

## Is there any animal you have not attempted/would not attempt?

I try and create animal sculptures which have lean musculature, as the style I use depicts the tautness and strength of the beasts. Whilst we have created a herd of wild boar, a domestic Gloucester Old Spot pig got a bit lost in translation as it is more 'fleshy'. As well as our studio pieces, we are currently working on a five metre limousin bull for a prestigious auction mart just off

the M6 motorway, a life sized shire horse for the Grand Union Canal and a large flying swan fountain for a public lake. I even had an enquiry from Germany from a chap who wanted a pack of wolves which he planned to 'emerge' from a forest but he hasn't been back in contact. A shame, as that would be a very exciting commission!

<http://andrewkaysculpture.com>

Julia Bohanna

## Wolf Land

By Carter Niemeyer  
Published by Bottlefly Press  
RRP \$18.00  
ISBN-13: 978-0-9848113-2-8

*'...the bodies hit like blocks of firewood'. (referring to the sedated wolves)*

*How to lose friends and alienate people* could be the perfect strapline to the controversial Yellowstone reintroduction scheme in the grungy 1990s. Carter Niemeyer, ex trapper and ranchers' buddy, gives us his very personal account of capturing wolves, dealing with ranchers and ultimately, managing the sheer loathing of lupines and division in scientific rationale that perpetuated around the whole scheme at the time.

The history of bringing wolves back to Yellowstone National Park, for so many people, was a conservation adventure that no one knew would have a happy ending. In detailed and beautifully written, honest prose, Carter recalls some of the people involved such as biologists and officials but also, viscerally and vividly, his part in the capture of the to-be-reintroduced wolves. Those wolves were radio collared so that they could be studied as numbers like OR-7 but to some, even hardened professionals, those same animals gradually developed names, character and a

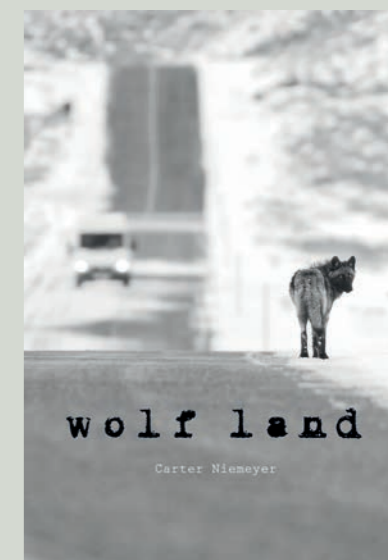
story. It became a wolfy soap opera with bite, no pun intended.

In *Wolf Land* you can see the successes, the tragedies and the sheer cruelty of some towards a species that deserved a chance. 'Characters' like Chad McKitterick from Montana, who killed, dismembered and disposed of a radio collared wolf (No 10) in a culvert. I am biased of course, but Carter gives at least an idea of the whys behind the persecution and fear of the species. He shows the dirty and uncomfortable realities of the captures: perilous helicopter rides, bear-bashed cars and mouse-infested beds. This is adventure with a distinct purpose, where the danger came largely from human beings and their inability to adapt to change. The wandering wolf, the problematic cattle stealer or just the animal that dares to be a wolf in a wolf-hating world – we see them all. We are there at ground level for the noted wolf packs, like the Biscuit Basin pack and the Crystal Creek pack (now Mollie's pack), the creatures that made the Yellowstone adventure exciting to follow, perilous and frustrating in equal measure.

There is some lovely mellow and self-deprecating humour in the book too, which make it akin to listening to a captivating storyteller around a campfire:

*'Dirt and grime and a good sunburn came first.'*

For anyone who wants a reliable witness to the politics, passion and the sheer



bloodmindedness of both lupophiles and lupophobes involved in Yellowstone, you absolutely need to read *Wolf Land*. There is even a thoughtful list of discussion questions for book groups at the back of the book. After all, this is a discussion, even twenty years on. It's clear too that despite the friendships and allegiances that Carter lost by taking a stand, he made some fresh and lasting ones (including his wife Jenny who has expertly co-edited his book with Dee Lane) and in the process, changed his stance on a number of things. It's a fascinating history of the Yellowstone reintroduction but also a study of how the mercurial and magical *canis lupus* can so craftily make us a willing slave to their ultimate protection.

*Wolf Land* is the second book from Carter, after his initial memoir *Wolfer*.

Julia Bohanna





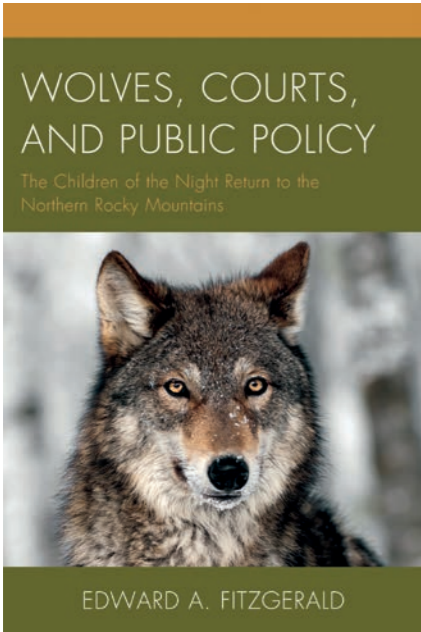
Wolves, Courts,  
and Public Policy:

The Children of the Night Return  
to the Northern Rocky Mountains

By Edward A. Fitzgerald  
Published by Lexington Books  
Hardcover 242pp  
RRP £60 ISBN: 978-1498502672

Law professor Edward Fitzgerald discusses wolf reintroduction in the Northern Rocky Mountains (NRM) and debates whether federal courts should defer to decisions of administrative agencies, or more actively police what judges perceive as the intent of Congress in a statute, specifically the Endangered Species Act (ESA). He dedicates the book to the government agencies, groups, individuals, judges, lawyers and law firms who have helped to restore the wolf to the Northern Rocky Mountains, therefore demonstrating his support for reintroduction and the recovery of the wolf population.

According to Fitzgerald, wolves have been very beneficial to the NRM's ecosystem. Wolf depredation removes diseased animals, culls deformed or genetically inferior animals before



reproduction and accelerates healthy prey reproductive rates, through higher twining and fertility. It maintains prey populations at levels that can be supported by the habitat. Reduction of bison and elk, wolves' main prey, has allowed willows and aspen trees to return in overgrazed areas.

Ultimately, plant growth stabilises soil, prevents erosion, improves water quality and expands carbon sequestration, helping to address climate change. Increased beaver colonies improves riparian hydrology and increases water fowl populations. Wolf reintroduction has clearly improved biodiversity in the NRM. Wolves kill an elk every few days. The carcasses provide food for other animals, including grizzly bears who receive nourishment before and after hibernation. Wolves terminating coyotes has led to an increase in rodents and hares, the prey of other species, including foxes, owls, hawks, eagles, badgers and pine martens. The increase in hares has been particularly beneficial for lynx recovery. A recent Oregon State University study concluded that: 'Predation and predation risk associated with large predators appear to represent powerful ecological forces capable of affecting the interactions of numerous animals and plants, as well as the structure and function of the ecosystems.'

However, the reintroduction and recovery of the grey wolf under the Endangered Species Act (ERA) to the NRM demonstrates the interaction of law and politics between federal government, state/local governments, and interest groups, including public law litigation. Livestock and hunting industries, western states and environmental groups, all challenged the Interior's implementation of the

ESA. Federal courts had to determine the meaning of the statutory mandates and decide whether the Interior complied with the law.

Fitzgerald follows policy debates and lawsuits surrounding the successful 1990s Yellowstone and central Idaho wolf reintroduction and the repeated federal court decisions striking down the Fish and Wildlife Service's delisting of the wolf throughout the northern Rockies, based upon this limited success. Dispiritingly, Congress passed an appropriations rider delisting the wolf in the NRM to appease regional politicians.

Fitzgerald underscores the political balancing act involved in wolf reintroduction during the Clinton era, quoting then-Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt 1995 testimony that: 'Our aim is to speed the recolonization of wolves so that they can be removed from the Endangered Species List and federal protection by the year 2002.'

Promising delisting based on the hoped-for success of a limited reintroduction programme has generated political backlash among opponents (as it did in the NRM) and judicial reprimand (as happened repeatedly to the Fish and Wildlife Service in its subsequent wolf downlisting and delisting rules).

The book's review of the politics and litigation of wolf reintroduction and recovery reveals some overarching past and future perspectives. Firstly, politics matters. While Republican President Richard Nixon signed the modern Endangered Species Act in 1973, every administration that has actively supported wolf reintroduction and recovery has been democratic, while republican administrations have leveraged the issue to build electoral support in the Intermountain West.

Secondly, It is widely believed that the Fish and Wildlife Service will ultimately prevail in Endangered Species Act litigation, notwithstanding the agency's losses on the wolf

downlisting and delisting rules. Reintroduction has been judicially upheld as lawful and appropriate; both proponents and opponents of wolf recovery need to deal with the agency as the recognised federal expert on managing the species in a developed world.

Fitzgerald quotes professor Holly Doremus on species 'recovery' and delisting: 'Delisting is an aspirational goal, the achievement of which

will require substantial regulatory and societal changes, rather than a short-term expectation. The primary purpose of the ESA is not delisting, rather it is the protection of species against ill-considered human activity while society works toward the type of fundamental mechanisms to regulate economic development that might support widespread delisting.'

He concludes that several outstanding issues will affect the future of the wolf

in the NRM: the litigation regarding the Wyoming delisting, President Obama's proposed delisting of the wolf across much of the USA, and proposed amendments to the ESA.

Fitzgerald's rich, complex narrative tells us that wolves will be 'in recovery' as long as wolves and modern, industrialised human beings inhabit the same space.

Tsa Palmer



Wolves in Video Games:  
Just a Pack of Pixels?

From the Big Bad Wolf to 'Grandma', everyone's heard of wolves in books and film. But what about video games, which are now bigger than Hollywood movies? Are wolves just cannon fodder, or is the gamer like Little Red Riding Hood? The answer may surprise you.

Thanks to the bafflingly popular *Goat Simulator*, there's been a surge in games about the daily lives of animals. But back in 1994, MS DOS game *Wolf* let you play as a wolf hunting for prey and a pack, and 2010's *Wolf Quest* was launched with the same goal but with other players. While hardly runaway hits, they portrayed wolves simply as animals trying to survive.

Given their less than stellar reputation in medieval Europe and the wild west - where many open world fantasy games are based - it's surprising that they're not always aggressive either. In *Skyrim*, for instance, wolves usually only attack if threatened, and in up and coming game *WiLD*, you may be able to control a wolf pack and call them to your aid rather than fight them.

That's not to say that they're never antagonistic. In the downloadable content for *Dark Souls*, another fantasy

game, Sif the Great Grey Wolf is a boss enemy who guards the grave of her master, Knight Artorias. He died protecting her from 'the Abyss', an area that the player is trying to access. Depending on how you play the game Sif may recognise you before the battle, but despite her mournful howl she is still honour-bound to attack you. Simply put, she is a tragic figure.

Sci-fi series *Star Fox* has another 'grey' wolf enemy. Wolf O'Donnell is an anthropomorphic wolf, skilled spaceship pilot and rival of hero Fox McCloud. However, despite his ruthless reputation, in *Star Fox: Assault* he allies with and even saves Fox from the insect-like cyborgs the Aparoids, although he denies doing so and continues to fight him in later games. While this character deserves distrust, our next 'wolf' is not so lucky.

In *The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess*, elfin hero Link must journey between the light and 'twilight' realms to defeat evil. Whenever he crosses over he becomes a wolf, but this causes enough panic that Midna, his twilight companion, advises him not to transform in front of other people if possible. Those who do recognise him

are few and far between, and while the same is true of the most famous wolf in video gaming, at least she is treated with respect.

Amaterasu, or 'Ammy', is a wolf goddess from the Japanese mythology game *Okami*. Beautifully rendered like a brush painting, Amaterasu must regain her powers, restore the land, fight demons and protect the innocent. Villagers who think she is a normal wolf still welcome her because she looks like (and is) the reincarnation of one who helped overthrow an evil dragon, despite being shunned by the village at the time.

Whether they're striking down warriors, demons or pilot egos, almost all of these wolves are more complex than at first glance. If they're not simply trying to survive, they're imbued with a tragic backstory or desperate situation, and are brave or loyal. Does this portrayal reflect a feeling of guilt for their persecution, combined with respect for a strong, intelligent animal that defends those closest to it?

Since video games are still a new medium, this may suggest that up and coming generations have a different and more balanced perspective of *canis lupus*. And that's a future we can all look forward to.

Jessica Jacobs

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# Gifts, clothing and wolffy souvenirs



## Wolf – Wild Watch £9.99

A child's plastic wrap around watch designed on wolf's face. Paw prints on strap. Not suitable for under three years of age.

## Moonlight Sonata Drinking Bottle £5.99

A flip top lid with inserted straw on this child's drinking flask. Designed by 3D Livelife, featuring 3D picture of a wolf howling. Height 20cm



## Guardian of the North Throw £25.00

A 160cm fleece throw. Lisa Parker design of 'Guardian of The North' on one side & plain on reverse.



## Wolf Song Round Tray £9.99

A 34cm round tray featuring Lisa Parker picture 'Wolf Song.' Tray has two handles for easy carrying.



## Protection Spell Lavender Candle £6.50

Lisa Parker's scented Lavender Spell candle - simply recite the spell three times. Each glass jar candle is approx 9cm overall height with a burn time of up to 20 hours.

## 15cm Lil's Cuddlekings Soft Toy £5.20

A grey, beige & white 15cm soft feel wolf toy. Not suitable for small child as detachable eyes.



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](http://www.ukwolf.org) or call 0118 971 3330.

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

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### Wolf Magnet £3.40

Chromium wolf howling magnet with the words printed in black 'UK Wolf Conservation Trust'. Size 6cm



### Wolf Keyring £3.25

Chromium jointed wolf keyring. Designed exclusively for the Trust. Trust logo inserted on his tummy. Size 11.5cm



### UKWCT Beenham Ralf T Shirt £16.50

A t shirt designed by Ralf Nature. Hand drawn image & then printed onto 190g weight 100% cotton t shirt. Picture printed on front only, with UK Wolf Conservation Trust. In the word 'wolf' the 'o' is a wolf's face. The name of wolf/wolves set below the text. Choice of French Navy or Brick Red. Chest Sizes – Sizes XS 96cm, S 100cm, M 106cm, L 112cm, XL 116cm, 2XL 124cm

## UKWCT Calendar 2017 £8.50

- A4 calendar opening to A3
- Features pictures of all ten Trust wolves
- Planner with key dates and holidays



- Hole-punched for wall hanging
- Supplied with mailing envelope for you to post to a friend
- P&P charges apply. See page 40 for further information and how to order





# Howl Nights

Feel your backbone tingle and your ears vibrate with the sound of the wolves howling. The evening starts with a presentation on wolf communication; you will then go on a tour of the Trust and have the

opportunity to let out a howl and see if the wolves respond! (Don't forget to dress up warmly for an evening under the stars). The event usually finishes from around 9 to 9.30pm.

**2nd September, 28th October, 25th November, 2nd December, 7pm to 9.30pm**  
£10 per person. Age 8+ – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.



# Arctic Amble

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!

**11th September, 8th October 9am to 11am**  
£60 per person. Maximum 16 people.  
Age 18+ – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.



# Wolf Viewing & Bat Walk

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

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

**17th September, 6pm**  
£15 per person.  
Age 8+ – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.

*Note: Please check the website for start times as they vary throughout the year.*

# UKWCT Wolf Centre 'Visit Wednesdays'

**Visit Wednesdays** give you the opportunity to come and see the Trust without pre-booking, unlike our other events. You will be able to observe our ten very charismatic wolves – from our three Arctics with their amazing white coats, to our enigmatic black Canadian wolves – and have a guided tour with one of our knowledgeable volunteers. There will be fantastic photographic views of the wolves in their large, natural-looking enclosures and

you'll have access to the raised photographic platform on site. Hear them howling during the day and watch them being fed at 2pm. We have picnic areas for warmer days, a gift shop for you to browse for books and souvenirs, and plenty of free parking.

During the summer school holidays Owen's Animals and Quirks Animal Road will be on site with a variety of animals.

**Wednesdays – Open from 11am to 4pm**  
ADMISSION: Adults – £8; Members, children (age 3-12) & OAPs – £5; Children under 3 – FREE. Tickets on the gate only. Sorry, no dogs on site.



# Photography Day

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. During the day the handlers will give a tour of the wolf trust, seeing all of wolves and learning about each individual.

*Refreshments available but not lunch included, so please bring your own*

**Tuesday 4th October, 10am to 3pm.**  
£80 per person (no wolf walk included). Suitable for all abilities.  
– BOOKING ESSENTIAL.





# THE ULTIMATE WOLF DAY: a magical lupine experience

- 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 observe the wolves while they investigate the countryside around the Trust
- Photograph the wolves as they: interact with each other, investigate various scents, paddle in the pond or stream and howl to the other 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 worldwide projects currently supported by the UKWCT and in the last twenty years

*Make sure to bring your own lunch, tea and coffee will be provided.*

**Check website for future dates – [www.ukwct.org.uk](http://www.ukwct.org.uk)**

**£175 per person, £300 for 2 people. Limited spaces. Age 18+ – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.**



## Wolf Discovery Day

Spend the whole day studying in depth wolf behaviour close up by observing and getting involved with the welfare of our ten resident wolves. Learn about wolf pack structure, our wolves' personalities and take close up photos.

**You will have the opportunity to:**

- Listen to a presentation about wolf behaviour.
- Learn personal information on our ten resident wolves.
- Prepare their food and feed the wolves.
- Take part in our enrichment programme for the wolves, which differs daily, and observe the behaviours shown. Learn how we keep our wolves healthy and happy.
- Have a tour inside one of our enclosures whilst the wolves are in a different holding area and learn about the habitat we keep our wolves in.
- Undertake wolf tracking and learn how to use our telemetry equipment with our wolfkeeper Mike, who has tracked wolves in the wild.
- Have a howling session to encourage the wolves to howl back.
- Have a wrap up presentation about the projects we support. Learn what needs to happen for wolves and humans to coexist in the future.
- Close up photo opportunities throughout the day.

*Make sure to bring your own lunch, tea and coffee will be provided.*

**Check website for future dates – [www.ukwct.org.uk](http://www.ukwct.org.uk)**

**£90 Per person. Age 18+ – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.**

**NEW FOR  
2016**

