



WOLF CHRONICLE

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From the Editor

Dear Members

We are so grateful for your continued support of the UK Wolf Trust and the money you help us to raise goes to projects abroad working to keep wolves in the wild. I am really hoping to see you at one of our events or open days before winter. The open days are very successful and the wolves are more relaxed with fewer people. Even Torak and Motomo-usually shy wolves- are happy to greet visitors at these events. Quirks Animal Roadshow was here during the summer holidays and I did have a cuddle from a snake and dragon but NOT the big spiders!! Pond dipping also took place and so



far no-one has fallen in this year! The new froglets are everywhere and several beautiful dragonflies can be seen around the pond.

The younger children have had great fun in the Education barn with quizzes, painting, lino printing, nature trails etc.

The wolves were given ice lollies on hot days made of fish, meat and hot dogs to cool them down and mostly they lick and crunch the lollies eagerly. The wolves during the summer lost their winter 'undercoat'. We collected the soft wool and put it into little bottles to give with adoptions or sell in the shop. Each wolf's hair is kept in a separate drawer so that we know which wolf it comes from.

The wolves and I look forward to seeing you really soon & we wish you a Happy Xmas until the next edition in January 2015

Wendy





Enrichment

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

Wolves are incredibly intelligent, whether they are in an enclosure in a captive situation or in the wild; it is part of how they survive. In the wild, wolves use their intelligence to solve problems which involve getting a decent feed or escaping a possible threat. In captivity we can use this problem solving capability to keep wolves occupied and mentally stimulated. Enrichment comes in many different forms, usually all grouped into six categories. There are; sensory enrichment, environmental enrichment, feeding enrichment, social enrichment, training and puzzle/ problem solving enrichment. Most enrichment activities include elements of more than one of these types of enrichment.

Here are some examples of each enrichment type being used at the trust;

Sensory Enrichment:

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

Environmental Enrichment:

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



Torak photo: Eve King



Enrichment

behaviours that have been recorded in the wild, for example climbing high to see what is going on around the territory.

Feeding Enrichment:

Wolves like to eat, hence the expression 'wolfing it down.' If we fed our wolves the same time, using the same method each day, they would soon start to expect it and show stereotypical behaviours (behaviours associated with stress in a captive environment), such as pacing and fur pulling. To get around this at the Trust, we sometimes carcass feed, which involves depositing a large carcass in an enclosure for the wolves to eat, much like a wild wolf pack would feed. We sometimes hand feed, as all of our wolves are socialised apart from Motomo, and they will readily take food from the hand. This has the added advantage of hand feeding medication when needed. We lay scent trails with their food; this involves dragging food around the enclosure, whilst the wolves are in their holding pens, then letting them out to find their food, using their sense of smell (also sensory enrichment). Occasionally we will also load up treats in a container, for example recently we have given the wolves melons, filling them with the wolves favourite treats and placing them in the enclosures. This kind of enrichment encourages the wolves to use all of their teeth, paws and intellect to try and work out ways

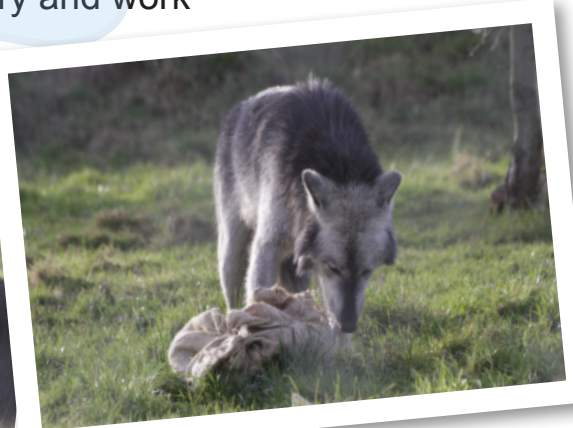
to get the food out of the melon, whilst being surprisingly gentle. We also do this at Halloween with pumpkins, carved and hollowed for each of the wolves.

Social Enrichment:

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

Training Enrichment:

We haven't trained our wolves to react to stimuli, such as clicker trainers, as we like our wolves to act like they would naturally. We have, however, conditioned our wolves from a young age to certain situations and items. The main items the wolves at the trust have been conditioned to are leads and collars which we use to walk them. Using this conditioning has allowed us to introduce walks to the wolves.



Turn over for more!



WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. EMAIL US AT info@ukwolf.org



Mai Photo's: Danny Kidby Hunter



Enrichment

We walk them not for exercise, but for sensory enrichment for the wolves, experiencing new sights, smells and sounds with every walk.

Problem solving enrichment:

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

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

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

Turn over for more!

Tala photo: Tsa Palmer





Enrichment

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

As a whole, enrichment is a crucial part of keeping any animal in captivity and in my opinion it is a highlight of working with such incredible creatures. There is something really special about watching an animal show natural behaviour in a captive environment that is incredibly rewarding. Wolves wouldn't show these natural behaviours through enrichment, or otherwise, unless they were content in their surroundings and their day to day experiences.



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

Mike Collins, Site Manager



Trust Wolves



Mosi & Torak Mosi and Torak celebrated their eighth birthdays in late April and continue to live happily together. Now that the breeding season is over and their hormones are settling down, they are starting their enrichment walks again. They both really enjoy these and although they are retired from public life, it's important for their welfare that they continue to go out to explore the world beyond their enclosure. The aggression Mosi and Mai were showing towards each other through the fence that separated them escalated to a point that it was becoming dangerous for both animals (particularly their teeth as they tried to get at each other by biting the wire. In fact Mosi broke part of one tooth). So Mosi and Torak were moved to the top enclosure to allow things to settle down.

Torak

Torak was quite vocal this breeding season and took to howling from the enclosure mound and regularly patrolling the boundary fence. The move to the new enclosure brought out the pup in Torak! He was thrilled to be somewhere new and charged around the perimeter at great speed, jumping up & down over the platforms & ending up splashing in the pond. He also discovered a loose corner of pond liner and did his best

to dig it up before being seen – wolves don't miss an opportunity for mischief! He obviously enjoys the relative peace of the top enclosure.. He is starting to shed his coat and he always looks magnificent in his summer attire when you can really see his lean, muscular form. Torak is now in the prime of his life and continues to be extremely popular with our visitors in fact; he is our most adopted wolf!

Mosi

Once Mosi came into season she busied herself digging a den and burying food near the den even though she wasn't carrying cubs. This cycle of behaviour is very interesting to observe and one of the reasons our wolves make such good study animals. Mosi also benefited from the enclosure move. She has taken it upon herself to greet everyone who comes on site, as she is often the first wolf people will see when they arrive at the Trust. Mosi is a gregarious animal and likes to know what is going on at all times. She is very vocal and anyone who wants to hear a wolf howl is not going to be disappointed when Mosi is around. We can always rely on her to give a performance! She is also extremely defensive of her food or enrichment, which is fascinating to watch. Torak wasn't so lucky when the pair were given special wolf birthday "cakes" (made of liver and chicken) recently – Mosi

as usual made sure she had her fill before Torak could take a nibble.



Turn over for more!

Torak photo: Suvi Hall, Mosi photo: Francesca MacIlroy

ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WOLVES? EMAIL US AT info@ukwolf.org



Trust Wolves

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



Motomo now regularly indulges in staring contests with the two Arctic males and will often do a ‘bounce’ at them through the wire – running up quickly with his tail raised, then going into a semi-crouched position as if ready to spring at them if the fence wasn’t there. At other times, Motomo reveals his softer side - he is still extremely devoted to Mai, and the two can often be seen quietly nuzzling each other or indulging in gentle muzzle - mouthing.

Mai has been very relaxed. She has excavated an interesting series of dens into the mound in her enclosure – we think this is probably because her hormones and the day-length changes are reminding her that it would be the time of year for cubs. These dens are large enough for even Motomo to climb down into and be completely invisible from the outside. On a couple of occasions Mai has been seen to defend a den against Motomo, she’s also driven him off with a curled-lip snarl when he’s tried to steal her food.



Turn over for more!

Mai & Motomo photo: Danny Kidby Hunter

WE’D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. EMAIL US AT info@ukwolf.org





Trust Wolves

THE BEENHAM pack have been displaying their mischievous tendencies— while hunting for frogs in the pond of the top enclosure they found the pond liner which they then comprehensively destroyed – The Beenham Three have been moved to the bottom enclosure.



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



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



Tala is the first of the Beenhams to start moulting this year. In mid-May she was looking rather moth - eaten and the fur was coming out in handfuls. In pack position, Tala is generally accepting of her 'beta female' rank though she still engages in feisty and at first sight rather aggressive 'wolf-piles' with her brother and sister.



Nuka, Tala & Tundra photo: Tisa Palmer





Trust Wolves

As with all families they all have their different personalities, **Massak** is the boss who tends to keep back watching all that is going on around him, keeping an eye on not only his pack but the visitors as well.



Pukak the subordinate male doesn't have that responsibility and therefore has the luxury of investigating all aspects the walk has to offer and taking full advantage of his carefree position. He is a young mature male finding out like any youngster how far he can push the boundaries to see what he can get away with.

Sikko the female on the other hand is a gentle soul and happy to leave these antics to her brother and enjoy a quiet walk. One Sunday we took them down to the fields at the bottom of the Trust where there is a stream and pond – both full with recent rain. I don't know whether it was the newness of the experience that appealed to them so much or that they just like water! Pukak, the subordinate male, even managed a few doggy paddle strokes in the stream. It also made for a lovely photo opportunity for our visitors. Mike, our Wolf Keeper, and his team of students are constantly coming up with new ideas for their 'enrichment.' Recently, they tried out a carcass feed for the Arctics with a 15 kilo roe deer. Pukak was in first and guarded the carcass. Massak tried to show dominance but decided against a fight while Sikko kept nearby waiting for an opportunity to get some food and managed to snatch a piece of the carcass while the boys were having a stand off.



Massak photo: Suvi Hall, Pukak : Amanda Steele, Sikko : Marie Lianne





BUMBLEBEE'S AT THE TRUST



There is a tranquil sound of buzzing around the Wolf Trust -the bumblebee queen is hovering over early flowering plants to find nectar rich flowers and regain her strength to find a suitable place to build her nest. It could be in an old mouse burrow, compost heap, and holes in hedge banks or above ground in dense grass. Bumblebees are social bees and live in colonies of up to 400. Unlike honey bees the colony only produces small amounts of honey for feeding in bad weather.

Bumblebees are characterised by black and yellow soft long body hairs, often in bands, making them look and feel fuzzy. They are much larger than honeybees and almost have a “Disney” character appearance. They are not aggressive bees and are unlikely to sting anyone without severe provocation. Male bumblebees do not sting.

Having mated soon after hatching the previous summer, the queen lays her first eggs about two weeks after finding a nest site. These emerge as adult worker bees that will collect pollen to feed the future larvae and nectar for the honey pots. After a while the queen will lay more eggs destined to become female workers or queens later in the year and other eggs that become males.

The newly developed males fly out to attract and mate with queens from other nests. After a few months the original colony comes to an end and the existing queen, her workers and any males die. Only the new queens survive to start it all again next year. They build up their fat reserves and find safe sites to spend the winter.

Over the last 60 years bumblebees have declined dramatically due largely to loss of feeding habitat and changes in land management.(over 90% of rich flower meadows have been lost in the UK). At the Wolf Trust we plant nectar rich flowering plants, use different flower types (some bumblebee species have different length tongues)

and a wild flower meadow was planted some years ago which is cut at staged intervals to ensure some nectar source is always available. An insect hotel was created by work experience students for a variety of insects so that they could overwinter safely. These beautiful insects need to be protected.





Can you spot the 8 differences !



Jokes

Q Why did the wolf want the chicken to join the band??

A He wanted drumsticks

Q How do wolves eat?

A They "wolf" their food down.

Q What do you call a lost wolf?

A A where wolf.

Q What did the wolf say to his friend?

A Howls it going.

Wordsearch

U	Y	O	K	Z	Z	Q	F	L	K	Q	G	U	E	B
B	N	Q	Z	E	C	E	B	U	Z	Z	I	N	G	G
N	P	E	T	A	L	Z	D	N	R	B	K	H	E	G
W	N	C	R	G	J	J	U	K	L	U	L	O	V	Z
F	S	T	T	N	W	B	P	S	N	K	S	V	D	P
L	A	I	V	N	O	T	A	J	N	E	J	E	F	F
O	X	K	R	E	R	X	X	S	B	N	C	R	L	G
W	Q	H	B	S	K	S	Y	O	H	L	Y	T	W	M
E	U	O	E	T	E	B	I	J	L	A	R	V	A	E
R	E	S	W	L	R	U	O	N	C	F	M	P	A	R
A	E	G	H	Y	H	M	S	Q	S	J	Z	F	I	U
X	N	K	O	L	I	B	T	H	N	E	B	E	E	Z
N	C	C	N	N	V	L	I	V	X	A	C	I	X	I
H	O	A	E	L	E	E	N	M	C	F	A	T	A	G
F	W	L	Y	V	F	B	G	M	F	P	U	D	P	V

Bumble, Petal, Insect, Honey, Hive, Hover, Sting, Bee, Nectar, Queen, Nest, Buzzing, Larvae, Worker, Flower



Book Reviews



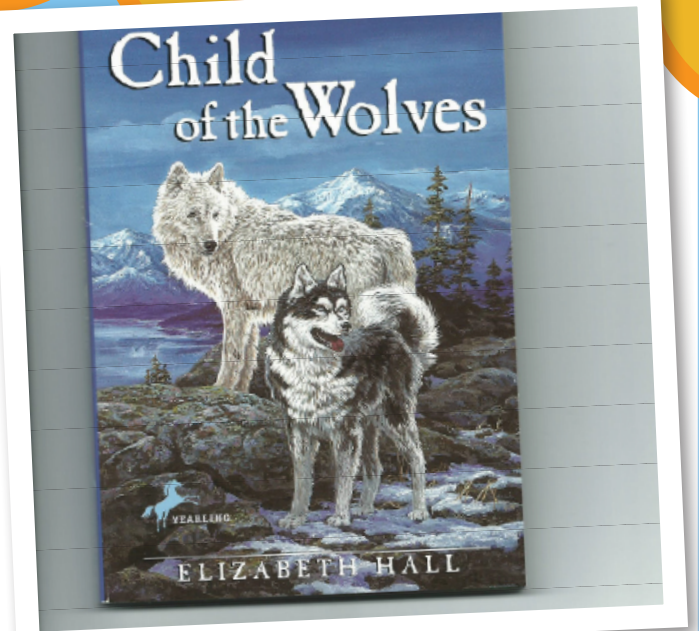
EXPLORING THE WORLD OF WOLVES by Tracy C Read

This informative and beautifully illustrated book is suitable for children and adults alike. It contains fascinating facts and stunning full colour photos of wolves.

It is fun to read and uses “bubbles” of information, at times amusing, on photographs to illustrate important facts. By the end of the book readers will have a sound knowledge of wolves and an insight into the very organised life of a wolf pack. The book dispels a lot of myths surrounding these much feared and hunted social animals.

Tracy Read has presented the life of wolves in an interesting and factual way complimented by beautiful photographs.

A must to buy and read. £4.25 from www.ukwolf.org



CHILD OF THE WOLVES by ELIZABETH HALL.

An enthralling beautifully written story about a Siberian husky pup called Granite who escapes from his kennels and after many perilous adventures encounters a white wolf mourning the loss of her cubs to traders. She takes him back to her pack but then Granite must prove to the less tolerant and even hostile other wolves in the pack that he can learn the ways of the wolves and be more like them. It is a long, difficult and dangerous task and Granite encounters many perils both human and natural in his quest to be accepted as a pack member.

The author's research into both canine and wolf behaviour make this a believable heartfelt wild life story with plenty of dramatic events, sometimes very sad, to keep the reader's attention.

Available from Amazon.



Fund Raising

We are three 12 year old girls (Eva Rundle, Rhiannon Wooldridge and Isabella Cardwell) and we have raised money for the RSPCA - Cornwall Branch and the UK Wolf Conservation Trust. To do so we climbed Mount Snowden, the highest mountain in England and Wales. We raised just under £500 and halved it. The journey was on a wet and windy day (typical) and it was very cold, but we were determined to finish the walk up and down, which we did successfully. We are extremely glad we've raised money and we hope we've made a change !!



Well done girls a remarkable achievement and the Trust is very grateful to you.

Imogen Quadling & Rosie Potter have also raised £30 in aid of the 'Ethiopian wolf Project' by holding a raffle and selling badges, popcorn & lemonade.



Letters

'Game of Thrones' Author George R. R. Martin writes sweet letter to teenage fan who loves wolves

The writer behind the cult book series penned a touching reply to a 13-year-old who wants to get involved in wolf conservation, and donated \$10,000 in his name.

After bringing direwolves to life in the Game of Thrones books, author George R.R. Martin has dedicated his spare time to the conservation of real-life wolves. The fantasy writer even offered to turn lucky winners who donated \$20,000 into characters in a future book, and give them a bloody and gruesome death.

Jack Bailey, a 13-year-old fan from the U.K., can't afford to be part of the big leagues but he sure does love Game of the Thrones — and wolves—and his offer of help to the world-renowned A Song of Ice and Fire writer prompted a surprise reply, reported Time.

The teenager wrote, "Wolves are my favorite animal and I when I grow up I want to be a wolf conservationist," and although he's wisely "not allowed to watch some bits of Game of Thrones," he loves "acting out being a warrior." Bailey included a cheque for £153 (\$260) to Martin's favorite fund, and begged that he be added to a future book. "A gruesome grizzly death is all I ask for."

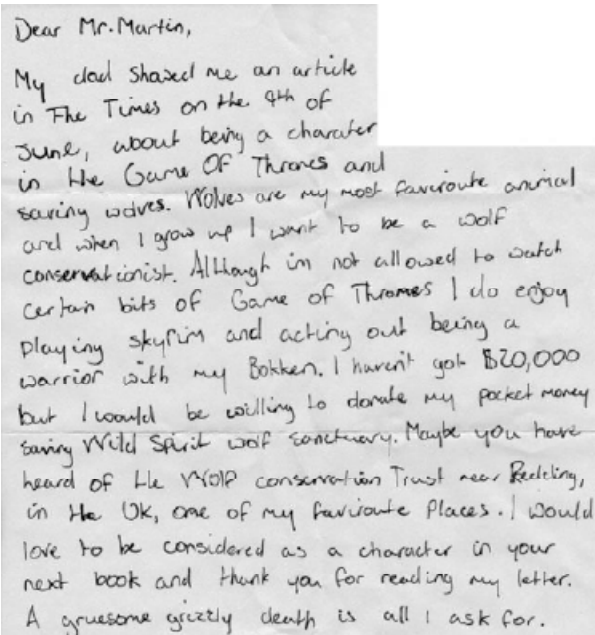
Something in the sweet musings caught Martin's eye, and he replied with a personal letter of sincere thanks.

"I've heard that you donated all your £153 pocket money savings to my Prizeo fundraiser on behalf of the Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary. I cannot tell you how much that moved me. It pleases me no end to know that my novels, and the TV series based on them, have inspired readers as young as yourself to rally to the support of these majestic

and too often stigmatized animal.

"Alas, I cannot promise you a grisly death in The Wind of Winter. Those spots have already been filled by some very generous donors, and there's a limit to how many people even I can kill," he revealed (despite the high death count during some weeks on the HBO show).

Instead, he offered a huge donation in return and pledged \$10,000 to the UK Wolf Conservation Trust in Bailey's name. "That's a wonderful organization that I've heard much about, and they are lucky to count people like you as supporters," he wrote, signing it GRR. Martin is currently offering a grand collection of prizes for donors to the Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary in Santa Fe, N.M., through Prizeo, including a helicopter ride with their literary hero over the property where they can discuss anything from the HBO drama to characters in the book series, and of course, direwolves.



Dear Mr. Martin,

My dad showed me an article in The Times on the 4th of June, about being a character in The Game of Thrones and saving wolves. Wolves are my most favourite animal and when I grow up I want to be a wolf conservationist. Although im not allowed to watch certain bits of Game of Thrones I do enjoy playing Skyrim and acting out being a warrior with my Bokken. I haven't got £20,000 but I would be willing to donate my pocket money saving Wild Spirit wolf sanctuary. Maybe you have heard of The Wolf conservation Trust near Redling, in The UK, one of my favourite places. I would love to be considered as a character in your next book and thank you for reading my letter. A gruesome grizzly death is all I ask for.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Bailey
Age 13




Article taken from 'The Hollywood Reporter'

Events



Creative Writing Workshop with Piers Torday

 Monday 27th October

£23 per person, 11am - 2:00pm

An opportunity to work with Piers Torday author. The day includes a talk given by Piers on writing fictional stories and the best way to research characters. You will then go on a wolf walk, followed by a tour of the trust & a chance to watch the wolves in their enclosures. After writing your own short story Piers will give you tips & advice. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Wednesday Visit Day with Howl & Hoot

 Wednesday 29th October 11am - 4pm

Come & see the wolves in their winter coats. Birds of Prey will also be on site to look at. Adults £8, children 3- 12 £5, under 3 free . Junior members must show membership number for entry discount .


Children's Howl O' Ween Pumpkin Party

 Thursday 30th October 2014 1pm - 3pm

£15 per person (6 years +). Booking essential. No more than 1 adult per group. Take a walk with our UKWCT wolves. Includes a short talk and a tour of the centre, carve a pumpkin & stuff it with wolves food & watch the wolves eat it.



Children's Xmas Cracker

 Monday 22nd December 2014

11am - 1pm

£15 per person (6 years +). Booking essential.

No more than 1 adult per group.

Take a walk with our UKWCT wolves. Includes a short talk and a tour of the centre, make xmas crackers & stuff it with wolves food & watch the wolves eat it.

Wednesday Visit Day

 Wednesday 31st December 11am - 4pm

Adults £8, children 3-12 £5, under 3's free.

PLEASE NOTE THE TRUST IS NOT OPEN ON WEDNESDAY 24th DECEMBER



Please note: Any dates here on after will no longer have wolf contact, i.e. no "meet and greets". This is due to the Ambassador wolves having matured now that they are 2 years old. Walking with the wolves will still take place and there will be plenty of photographic opportunities and chances to observe them up close enjoying their walk. There will be no 'meet and greet' sessions.

Nuka & Tundra: Danny Kidby Hunter, Torak: Darren Prescott, Mosi: K. Hunte

COLOUR ME IN

