











WOLF CHRONICLE

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From the Editor

Dear Members

We hope that 2015 will be a fun year for you and that you will continue to support us and help us raise money for projects abroad that work to keep wolves safe in the wild. In the coming issues I will be highlighting some of the projects your money helps to support as in some areas of the world wolves are critically endangered. I am really hoping to see you at one of our events or open days this year. We have some exciting things planned. The Open days attract a lot of visitors and the education barn has a variety of hands on activities that children can enjoy, including a Dire wolf skull. An



extinct wolf that was very big and fierce. We will tell you all about them in the next issue. The wolves had a great Christmas and I made a meaty Christmas cake for them with hot dogs decorating the top (they can't eat icing) which they "wolfed" down.

At the children's event on December 22nd crackers and boxes were filled with food to put on the trees and wrapped in brightly coloured wrapping paper. Wolves are always wary of new things. However it didn't take long for them to sniff out food and the trees were soon bare of crackers and boxes!! The wolves are looking magnificent in their thick winter coats, so don't forget to use your free entry ticket to come & visit us.

We hope you enjoy this edition & we would love to hear from you with any articles.

Wendy





PYGMY GOATS AT THE TRUST

So why does the Wolf Trust have pygmy goats?

Our pygmy goats love to keep us company on days when the public aren't around, following us in our day to day activities and generally getting up to mischief. They provide great enrichment for the wolves, as the wolves see them through their fence, trying to get any scent they can of the goats.

We use our pygmy goats a lot as scent enrichment for the wolves. They are great for taking into the enclosures (when the wolves are away in their holding pen) and being walked around, creating scent trails. The goats enjoy the walk and company, exploring new areas, standing on top of the vantage points and climbing onto the wolves' platforms. At the same time, they get to nibble on all plants and weeds that they like. After leaving scents, scat and plant destruction all around, the goats are taken out and the wolves are let back in. The wolves are always very eager to see and smell what has happened and where they have been, getting clear information about these goats they always see through their fences!



12 things to know about Billy and Madge!

1. They have four stomachs and chew cud, which is partly digested food that is sent up to the mouth to be chewed a bit more.
2. They have no top teeth in the front of their mouth. At the back, they have grinding teeth on the top and bottom.
3. They have two layers of fur like wolves, an under layer to keep them warm during winter, and a top layer to keep them weatherproof. However, their hair is thinner than wolves', thus they cannot stand as cold temperatures.
4. The hard parts of their hooves grow constantly and need to be clipped occasionally, much like our fingernails.
5. The soft insides of their hooves allow them to climb and balance easily on uneven, steep and narrow surfaces.
6. They never shed their horns and they will never stop growing, however, it slows down as they get older.
7. They control their body temperature by releasing heat through their horns, by panting and sweating like a horse.
8. They mainly rely on vision and hearing to survive.
9. They are fussy about dirt, and won't eat or drink unless their food is clean or their water is fresh.
10. Their scat is in the form of small pellets, and they cannot control when it comes out.
11. They sometimes sneeze to make a quick alarm sound, or sound of disgust. Normally, both goats will then quickly freeze, alert for danger.
12. Their lifespan is about 10-12 years, though could be anywhere between 8-18 years.



BILLY

Born: June 2011 in Aldermaston, from Animal Dramatics
Weight: About 36kg (79lbs)
Species: Capra aegagrus hircus (domestic goat)
Lives with: His sister Madge
Special needs: lots of human interaction and attention
Likes: Eating, human interaction, scratches, playing, his sister Madge
Dislikes: Unfamiliar people, rain, having his hooves cut
Favourite food: Banana and their skins, bird seed
Favourite treat: Oats!
Favourite toy: Branches or anything placed to scratch his horns against

Billy is the boss of the two goats, mainly due to size and strength. He will often bully Madge away from food or resting spots, or without reason, just because he can. However, he cannot bear to be apart from Madge and can get quite distressed without her, as well as be quite protective over her. Billy can be quite wary of new people and take some time to respect them.

With new people, his typical male goat behaviour comes out, head-butting and challenging to see who is the boss, but after being told off a few times and stood up to, he learns his place and becomes very affectionate. Once boundaries are established, he will very rarely test them again and loves his positive attention, such as scratches, and will often give people kisses. Another reason for his head-butting is his love of playing, and will often head-butt without meaning to hurt, though sometimes he simply loves the reaction he gets out of people. For this reason, he will often take any chance he gets to butt someone he hasn't learnt to respect yet, until this person corrects his behaviour. Once friends, it is possible to play with him without it going too far.

Billy needs lots of attention throughout the week, for he is incredibly sociable and can get quite lonely and grumpy without human interaction. He is not too bothered about enrichment via objects, and new things sometimes spook him, so he tends to let Madge deal with them. He does however enjoy scraping his horns against branches, brushes or anything convenient for him. This is his way of 'sharpening' them, or to scratch an itch between his horns.

Billy is the more food-orientated of the two goats. If there's one thing that gets him running, it's food! Billy will eat nearly anything, and sometimes at a tremendous pace, until he is finished and then proceeds to eat Madge's. For this reason, they must always be fed in a way that prevents him doing this. However, unlike Madge, he tends to not eat things such as paper or fabrics. He can sometimes be a pest, especially while filling up the bird tables, for he will try his best to get even a little bit of the bird seed that he loves so much. Everyday jobs with the goats involve feeding,

enrichment, exercise and procedures such as hoof clipping, which Billy hates and will often struggle, not realising that it will be over quicker if he was still and patient.



Turn over for more!

Billy & Madge Photos: Mike Collins





MADGE

Born: June 2011 in Aldermaston, from Animal Dramatics

Weight: About 28kg (61lbs)

Species: *Capra aegagrus hircus* (domestic goat)

Lives with: Her brother Billy

Special needs: Minimal attention, lots of enrichment

Likes: Time spent away from Billy, exploring, eating things that are not food, enrichment

Dislikes: Being touched, her brother Billy sometimes, being bored

Favourite food: Apple (and paper)

Favourite treat: Oats!

Favourite toy: Hanging chains, bottles, anything that makes a noise

Madge tends to be the explorer and leader of the two, when it comes down to where they are going. Madge is quite happy going off by herself to explore the world, while Billy never likes to leave Madge's company, except sometimes when he is with people he likes very much. Madge is very curious, and we often find her far off, doing something she is not supposed to. Madge can sometimes be a bit moody, and often does not like people touching her, though she does enjoy human company. She will often warn an unknowing person off, by pretending to head-butt, if the person attempts to touch or stroke her. However,



she will often seek the attention of humans, especially when bored, by playing cheeky games with them, such as trying to sneak inside the port-a-cabin and quickly grab any papers in sight, only to run off with them and eat them. She has been observed playing games with the wolves too, first teasing them by rubbing herself up and down the barrier fence, and then once a wolf tries creeping up to her, she will turn around and head-butt the fence, scaring the wolf off!

Madge is very active and enjoys exploring and climbing, and it seems the higher up or more awkward things to climb on the better. She enjoys her walks in the fields, as there are new sights and things to eat, as well as things to climb, and enjoys the space to run, often skipping as she goes. She needs lots of enrichment to keep her interested, and enjoys mouthing objects, especially ones that make a lot of noise when moved! In her enclosure, she will be rattling hanging chains against the fence or throwing around bottles of grain. Madge enjoys her food though will often eat things not meant as food too, such as fabrics and the straw meant as her bedding. She will usually be bullied away from food by her brother, as she knows she will not win due to her small size and smaller horns, though will sometimes have a good go back at him. She will sometimes even butt Billy when he is not looking, for no apparent reason, and then quickly skip away out of reach, for although Billy wins in size and strength, Madge wins in speed and agility.

Everyday jobs with the goats involve feeding, enrichment, exercise and procedures such as hoof clipping, during which Madge likes to make things difficult (although not really minding it), by laying on top of all her hooves causing us to support all her weight for her too.

Turn over for more!



Trust Wolves



AS OCTOBER CAME to an end, *The Beenham Three (Tala, Tundra & Nuka)*, began to re-grow their coats in readiness for winter. Nuka's colour markings are rather reminiscent of his father Motomo's at the same age. His tail has filled out and looks particularly fine this year! Tala has gone noticeably greyer all over (though as yet nowhere near as grey as mum!) and Tundra's new fur is a fine light straw colour with black highlights – the dark 'collar' around her neck gives her a particularly elegant appearance when viewed from the front.

All three of the Beenhams are still taking part in walks with members – though sometimes it is difficult to get them ready for these walks – they can turn the whole process into a game of 'chase' and it's not unusual for one wolf to grab another wolf's tail and pull

him/her away if he/she looks like she's in danger of being collared. On walks, Nuka and Tala are still happy to mingle freely with visitors, doing their usual sniffing, rolling in disgusting smelly things they find and posing for photos. On occasions the biggest problem has been stopping Nuka from falling over – he is a master at rolling over and soliciting belly rubs from anyone who looks easily persuaded. Tundra still likes to keep her distance from groups of unfamiliar people but will sometimes summon up enough courage to intervene if she thinks Nuka and Tala have been the focus of attention for too long. In the same way, when out on a walk if Nuka and Tala start howling to the other wolves, Tundra can persuade them to stop just by giving them a stare of disapproval.

We put christmas trees were into each enclosure as usual to hang presents on, but naughty Tala tore the Beenham's tree up and ran round the enclosure with Nuka and Tundra in hot pursuit!!



Trust Wolves



Mosi & Torak

WINTER IS starting to make itself felt at the Trust. This is the time when the wolves become more active as their hormones begin to rise in preparation for the breeding season ahead. This triggers the growth of their winter coats and the laying down of a thin layer of subcutaneous fat to keep them warm during the cold nights.

Torak

As our most adopted wolf, Torak continues to be a hit with our visitors. His aloof nature and good looks make him very popular. Living in the top enclosure obviously suits him, as he comes down to the front fence quite often now and will even feed in front of members of the public, if they are quiet. No doubt his rising hormones have made him bolder and, as he is such a magnificent-looking wolf, it's nice for people to be able to see him in his full glory. He is still picky about his handlers though and will drift away into the trees if he spots someone he's not sure about. They are enjoying regular early morning walks with their favoured handlers. This is important for their welfare and they look disappointed if you walk past their enclosure with a lead and don't stop to take them out out.

The onset of autumn means there are lots of rich smells and new sights for them to experience. Mosi likes to eat blackberries and has even been known to wolf down a sloe without making a face! Both wolves enjoy these outings very much, although Mosi seems to think they are sprints rather than leisurely ambles. Torak wanders round enjoying every sniff.

Mosi

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



Turn over for more!

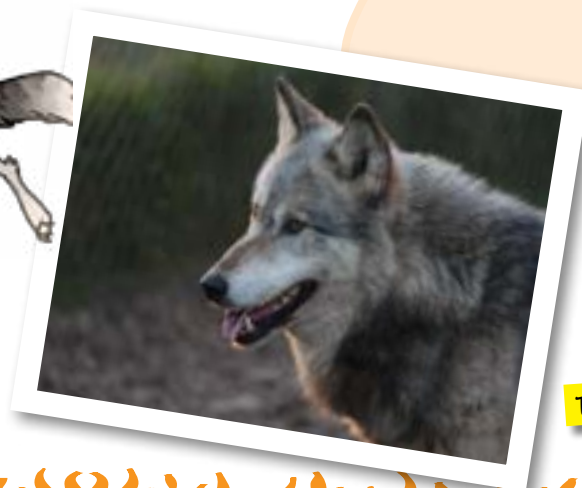
ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WOLVES? EMAIL US AT info@ukwolf.org



Trust Wolves

Mai & Motomo have enjoyed a relatively tranquil summer together; the mound in their enclosure has been regressed, and they both love to sit or sprawl on it watching the world go by. Or, when it's too hot to be in the open, they will take sanctuary at the partially shaded edge of the woods at the top of the enclosure and sleep. During the summer both wolves moulted down to just the guard-hairs, and looked remarkably slender – highlighting the wolf's underlying nature as a long-distance athlete. Now, in November, both have regrown their winter coats and in the process have become noticeably lighter-coloured. Mai, in particular, has greyed a lot round her muzzle, legs and shoulders while Motomo's new coat has come through with a predominant pale straw colour in place of his previous European wolf brown.

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



Turn over for more!



Trust Wolves

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



Dusk is a wonderful time as wolves are at their most active. It's a joy to watch them playing games with each other: cat & mouse, hide & seek, tit for tat and tag. Wolves rarely use their night quarters, with raised beds, decked with straw of course. So I am always surprised how their coats remain so clean and neat looking.

At this time of year their coats look amazing and with the evening sunlight behind them and the blue sky above, it makes a beautiful scene. How lucky we are to have them. At three and a half years old they should be white this year! All we need now is the snow!

The Arctics naturally have long nails because in the Arctic's harsh snow and ice conditions they need them. On their enrichment walks when just their handlers are present, at the beginning and end of these walks, we now walk them up and down the drive to give them more access to hard-wearing terrain to help prevent the nails growing too long.

Mike and the work experience team also got straight to work on designing some enrichment ideas to help trim the claws down such as hiding food in trees and smells or food in deeply drilled holes in huge fallen logs, which they then have to scrape away at to gain access. Plus, next to their enclosure boundary fence, twenty paving slabs have been laid down for them to run over when they come up to greet us and the visitors. They now have a patio in their enclosure – where will it end?!





SPIDERS

Are Daddy Long Legs cool spiders. Yes? Wrong!!

Daddy Long Legs are NOT spiders, or even insects, at all! They are part of the Arachnid family but in a different class. They are, in fact, called Harvestmen. They have 3 body sections, not two like spiders, and their legs have seven sections which they can break off to surprise or distract a predator.



The Goliath spider is the largest spider in the world growing to one foot long with one inch fangs. They live in South America and although their venom kills small mammals their venom isn't really strong enough to kill a human. It would feel just like bee sting.

They are what are called "ambush predators" which means they lay silken web traps outside their burrows and wait for dinner to walk by. They mostly hunt after dark and although they have 8 eyes, their vision is very poor and they rely upon vibrations in the strands of the web to tell them when dinner

has arrived—a bit like a dinner bell. Once they feel the vibration they pounce on the unsuspecting victim and inject their deadly venom into it. Dinner is served!!! Whilst they look very scary they cannot hurt us and are really beautiful creatures that should be admired not feared.



The Wolf spider is a super-mom! She will attach the egg sac to spinnerets and carry the sac with her until the eggs hatch. Once the babies are born they climb onto her back and stay there until they are fully developed, living off their egg yolks (from their eggs). This could take weeks. They go everywhere with her, including hunting. If one falls off, mom will stop what she is doing until it is back on top!





SPIDERS AT THE TRUST



Whilst walking around the Trust you will see many beautifully made spider's webs. A lot of people don't like spiders but they are very clever and there is even a wolf spider (It doesn't have ears and a tail though).

If you've ever seen a new home being built, you know that the workers use wooden boards to frame the house. Instead of boards, spiders produce silk threads to build their webs. The silk is produced in silk glands with the help of the spider's spinnerets. Spinnerets are special organs that allow the spider to decide what type of thread it needs for the web. The silk threads can be thick or thin, dry or sticky, beaded or smooth. The threads a spider uses to construct its web begin as liquid, but they dry quickly in the air. Spider webs are quite elaborate. How do spiders learn to make such complex geometrical patterns? Making webs is instinctive for spiders, which means nobody has to teach them how to do it. They are born knowing how.

When a spider begins a web, it releases a silk thread. It anchors the thread to some object — a branch, a corner of a room, a doorframe — wherever it builds its web. As the spider moves back and forth, it adds more threads, strengthening the web and creating a pattern. Lines that go from the centre of the web outward are called "radial lines." They support the web. Threads that go around and around the web are called "orb lines." These threads are amazingly strong.

So why do spiders spin webs? When you need food, you go to the grocery store. When a spider is hungry, it heads to the web. The main reason spiders spin webs is to catch their dinner. When an insect, such as a fly, flies into a spider's web, it gets stuck on the sticky threads. When a spider catches prey in the sticky strands of its web, it approaches the trapped insect and uses its fangs to inject venom. The venom either kills or paralyzes the prey, allowing the spider to enjoy its dinner in peace. However the spiders bite cannot go through our skin in this country so we are safe.

Not all spiders use webs for food, however. Some don't build webs at all. Other spiders chase their prey. Some even make sticky nets, which they throw over their prey when it

gets close enough.

Spiders in this country are not to be feared as they cannot hurt us, so don't think that they are horrible and think how clever they are as builders. They have more to fear from us!!



Jokes

Q What did the spider say when he fell in the bath?
A Please give me a legup-legup-legup-legup-legup-legup, legup-legup!

Q Why do spiders spin webs?
A Because they can't knit or crochet!

Q What did the spider ask the I.T expert?
A I am looking for a new web site!

Q Have you heard about the squirrel spider?
A He sneaks into the house at Christmas and steals all your nuts!

Q Why are spiders like toy tops?
A They are always spinning!

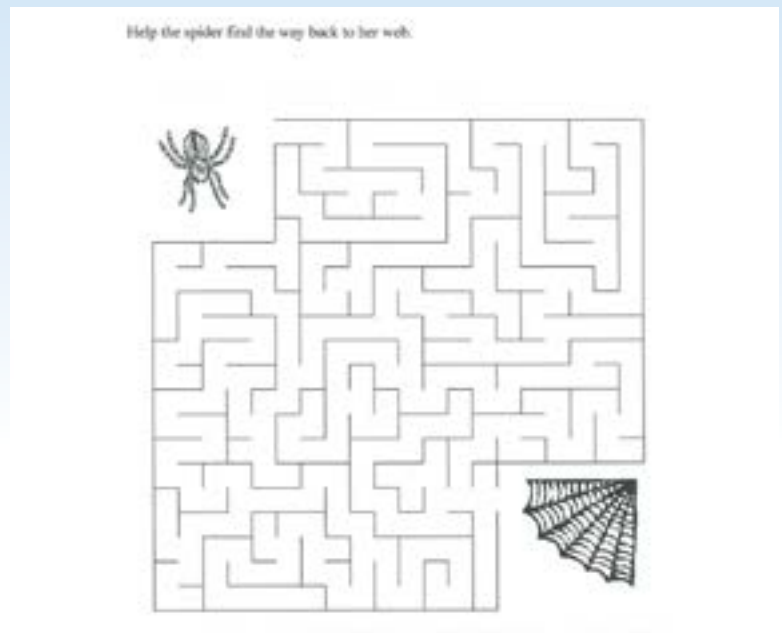
Q What is a spider's favourite sport?
A Fly fishing!

Q What did the spider say to the fly on Halloween?
A The web is the trick and you are the treat!

Q What did the Wolf spider say to the wolf?
A You can't be a wolf? You look nothing like me at all!

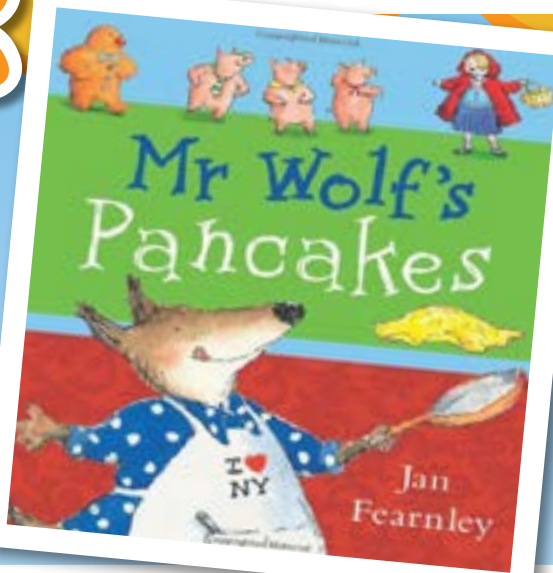
Q What do you get if you cross a spider with an elephant?
A I don't know but if you see one walking on the ceiling run before the ceiling collapses!

Q How do spiders talk to each other?
A On a web site!



Spider Maze

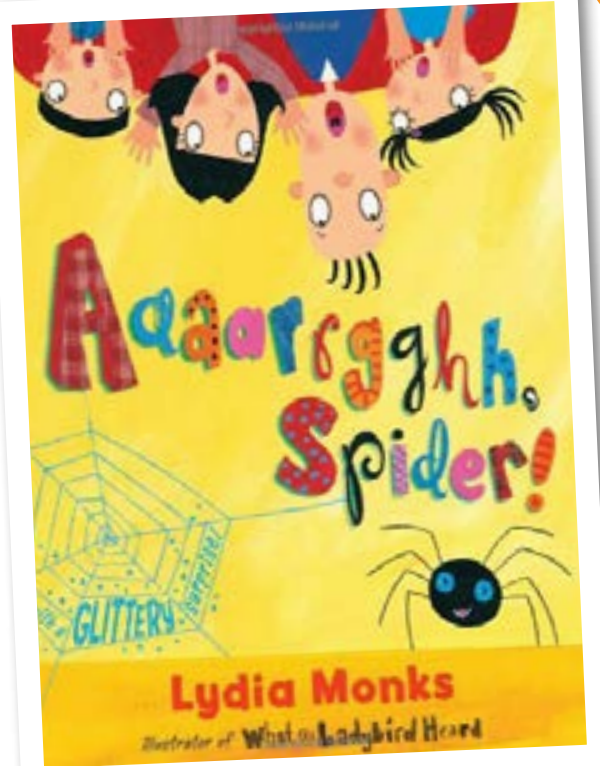
Book Reviews



MR WOLF'S PANCAKES by Jan Fearnley

This is a beautifully illustrated and well written children's book that has an unexpected twist before the happy ending. Jan Fearnley has written three Mr Wolf books, each as funny as the other. She knows how to capture a child's imagination and involve them in the story. The illustrations are both comical and vivid. "A classic picture book" the Sunday Telegraph calls it.

In this book poor Mr Wolf wants to cook some tasty pancakes, but he doesn't know how to make them. His mean neighbours won't help him. Read this delightful story to find out how he learns to cook and what happens next!! Jan Fearnley's other enchanting Mr Wolf books are:- Mr Wolf and the Enormous Turnip, Mr Wolf and the Three Bears.



Aaaarrgghh Spider by Lydia Monks

A very, very amusing story that will make anyone who is afraid of spiders feel so sorry for the poor little spider, that they will no longer be afraid of them. It did me !! As an adult I found it enjoyable, so it is a must for younger children.

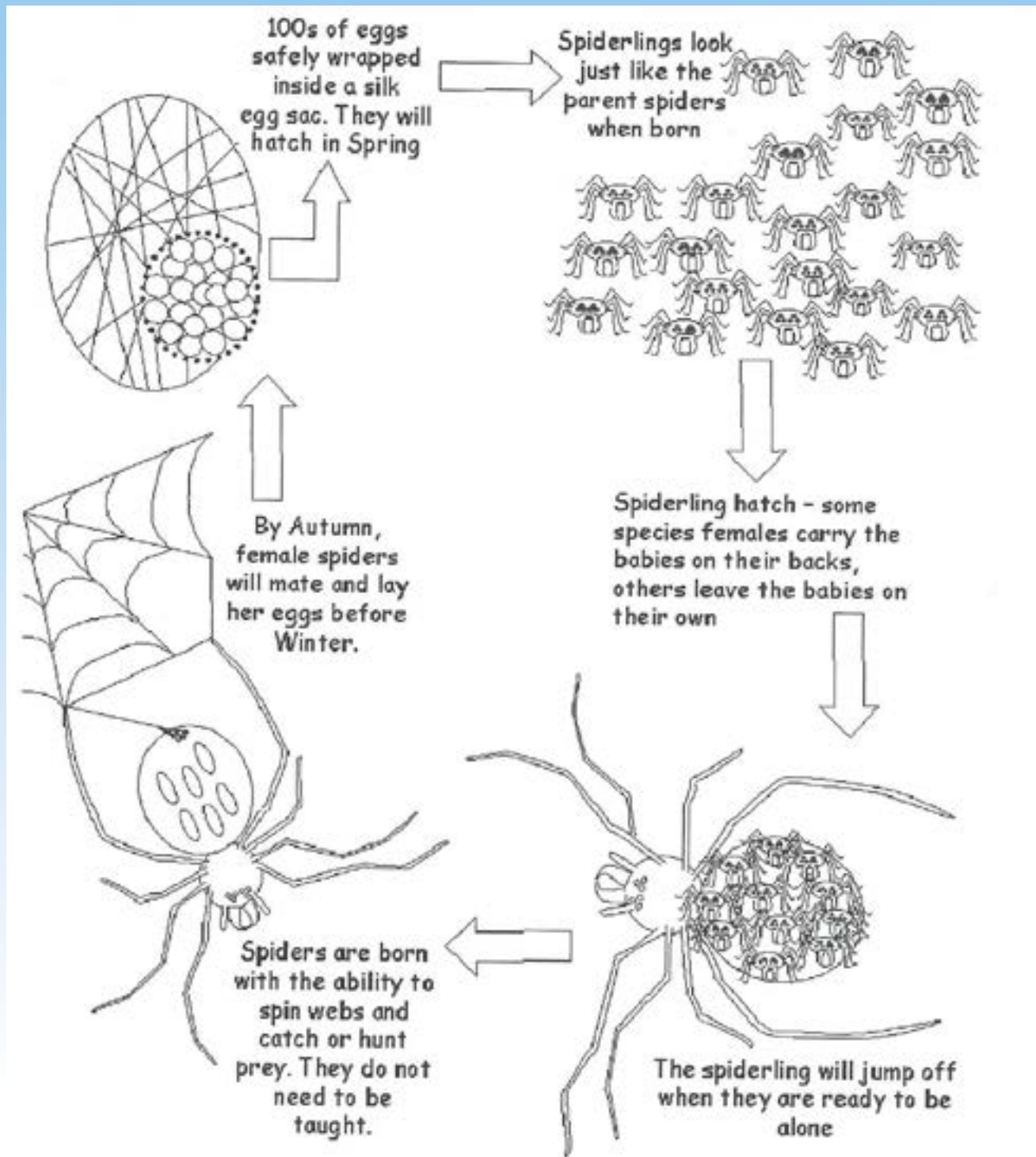
The story is about a little spider who wants to belong to a family. He says it is very lonely being a spider and he wants to be a pet like the dog and cat. The humans are all afraid of him and scream "aaaarrgghh - get out" when they see him. He tries various very funny ways to show them how he can be a better pet than the dog and cat.

The ending is a big surprise, but you will need to get this beautifully illustrated and well written book to find out what happens.

Both books published by Egmont Press & available to purchase at the Trust



Life of a Spider





Fund Raising

SEEING RED FOR THE WOLVES

With only 400 red wolves left in the world, best friends Kitty and George felt like helping out. We asked our friend's mum if we could have a stall at the school fair, so we could raise money for the red wolf conservation trust.

We shared a table with our friends Rosie, Ellie, Oliwia and Martha. A few days before we worked our socks off, making biscuits cut into wolf shapes, which we then iced and cakes with icing and rice paper wolf pictures on the top.

Then it was time to sell them. As well as selling cakes and biscuits, we gave out paw print pictures for smaller children to decorate, and made up some leaflets and posters about red wolves to give out. After about 2 hours our biscuits were running out. That was probably because occasionally we would split up, and one of us would stay at the stall, and the other would go into the hall and hand out the biscuits.

Sadly it was time to leave so we packed up and left. Later we counted up the money and we made £52.60.

We also raised £63 at the school Xmas Fair by selling wolf biscuits.

It was fun raising money for the red wolves and a great experience!!



Well done Kitty & George and your donation will help the Red Wolf Coalition in USA



Events

Wednesday Visit Day

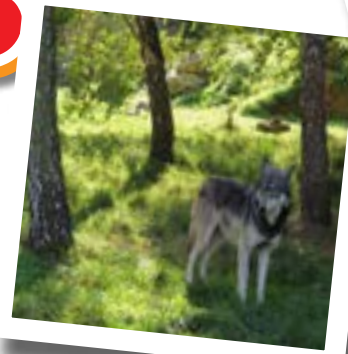
🐾 Wednesday 18th February ,
Wednesday 27th May & every Wednesday
through August 11am - 4pm
Adults £8, children 3-12 £5, under 3's free.
Additional children's activities will be held.

Wolf Pancake Party

🐾 Tuesday 17th February 10am - 12.30
Stuff a pancake with the wolves favourite
treats (eg sardines, hot dogs, cottage
cheese)
then you will watch whilst the wolves flip
them over! to get their food. Great photo
opportunities from a raised platform area at
one enclosure on site. Maximum of 1 adult
per child. £15 per person. (Please note
there is no walk on this event)

Re - Cycling Workshop

🐾 Friday 20th February 11am - 1.00pm
Working with Jill Nicholas you will make
wolf sock puppets & masks. We will provide
all the equipment. Have a tour of the trust
& take photo's from a raised platform area
at one enclosure on site. Suitable ages
6-12. Maximum of 1 adult per child. £15 per
person, booking on 0118 971 3330. (Please



Children's Wolf Walk

🐾 14th April, 28th May, 23rd July, 30th July,
6th August, 13th August, 20th August
& 27th August 11am.
£15 per person.

Have a talk all about the wolves at the Trust,
and then join the wolves on a walk around the
fields at the Trust. Maximum of 1 adult per
child.

Wolf Walk & Wolves Birthday Cake

🐾 Monday 25th May 11am - 1.30pm
Help decorate special cakes for the wolves
to eat to celebrate their birthdays & then join
them on a wolf walk & watch whilst they scent
mark & interact with each other. Maximum of
1 adult per child. £17 per person.



Please note: Any dates here on after will no longer have
wolf contact, i.e. no "meet and greet sessions". This is due to the Ambassador wolves having matured
now that they are 3 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.

SPIDER MASK

