











WOLF CHRONICLE

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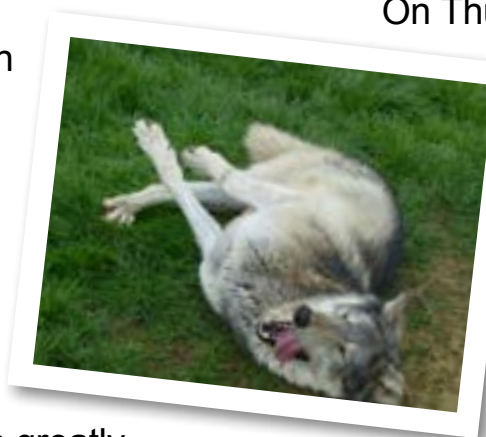


From the Editor

Dear Members

I hope that you had a lovely Christmas and we wish you a fun filled 2016.

Thank you for continuing to support us and with your help we have once again raised a lot of money for the projects abroad that work so hard to keep our wolves' cousins safe in the wild. The wolves had their usual Christmas cracker event and made short work of the festive crackers children had filled with tasty titbits to put on their Christmas trees. This year the wolves had meaty Christmas puddings instead of a cake and they were intrigued at first, but soon "wolfed" them down. This event was greatly



enjoyed by wolves and children alike.

I do hope that you will be able to come and see our wolves at one of this year's many exciting planned events.

Wednesday open days 11am -4pm are really popular with lots of different activities that children can

enjoy including Jill Nicholas Craft

Workshop in the holidays. On Wednesday 17th February there will be a Craft workshop when you can paint wooden bird boxes and bug boxes ready for spring and do lots of other fun things, no booking required.

On Thursday 18th February the wolves will expect children to fill their pancakes with favourite treats, so do come along and take lots of photos, booking required for this event.

We hope that you enjoy this edition.

Wendy



COMMUNICATION

Have you ever wondered how animals talk to each other? It is an essential part of our lives as humans and even sometimes different forms of communication must be used, for example some people can use sign language, this is a form of talking because it is a way of getting a message across. Well it is just as essential for animals all around the world to learn to communicate, even small creatures like bugs, birds and mice have to talk somehow but their methods are a little different to ours.

Each individual species has a different form of communication but they most often still fall under the same four categories of:

- Olfactory communication
- Visual
- Auditory
- Tactile

To start with, olfactory, this is a means of communication through smell and scent. For example, when a wolf urinates on something, be it an unfinished piece of food or a bush on the top of a hill, the wolf is claiming that it belongs to them or that this is their territory. The nose (the olfactory control centre) has around 200 million of these olfactory cells! It is one of the wolf's most important assets of communicating with other wolves. The behaviour of scent marking is much the same to that of the dog's behaviour. Just as dogs sniff each other as a greeting and mark their territory, wolves use this method as well. Wolves have many scent glands around different areas of the body. Behind their ears, these are often smelt by the opposite sex, usually in the process of selecting a mate. They have glands that release a warning scent when they raise their hackles, this is the fur that goes from the back of the neck all the way to the end of their tails.

The tails also have a gland known as the precaudal or supracaudal gland, there isn't much scientists or wolf experts have discovered about this gland although it is thought that it may be used for individual identification, females have been seen rubbing it on the entrance to dens, maybe to let whoever next crosses that path, that she is home or been there recently. This is the dotted black spot shown on Torak's tail below. Wolves have glands in their feet as well, this is so that they can leave traces of scent for any other packs to then pick up, that may be passing, letting them know they were there and how recently. Their noses are so powerful that they can even pick up the sex, age/weakness of the wolf and alpha or beta of the pack!



A wolf can let another member of the pack know how they are feeling simply through facial expressions and body posture; this is known as visual communication. A lot can be told about their behaviour by the eyes, sometimes they can be gentle and soft, this will be when they are relaxed and not faced with any threat, other times if there is an apparent danger their eyes will become hard as diamonds, cold and fierce. This is a defensive reaction along with an upright tail, raised hackles to make them appear bigger and more intimidating, and possibly wrinkling their nose and showing their teeth.



This is all posturing and no aggression is actually shown just yet, they use these signals as a warning to the opposing wolf. Submissive features of a wolf can be shown by a wolf that is avoiding conflict or during the greeting of an unfamiliar wolf and sometimes even other animals. The submissive wolf will have it's head pointing lower down and the tail tucked underneath and hiding behind their legs, whilst the dominant wolf will have an upright tail with their head held up high above theirs, often resting it on the neck of the submissive. Height is a very important role in the wolf as it will always show who is dominant over whom. Body language has a wide range of different meanings but it is mostly to show when the wolf is relaxed, playful, submissive or dominant. Not all animals can communicate through facial expressions as they don't have the specific muscles in their faces to do so, I mean, you can't really tell when a frog is angry, can you? So much like monkeys, humans, dogs, cats, wolves they are one of the special few mammalian species that have rather animated faces and you can tell by these whether they are



showing aggression, fear, contentment, excitement, curiosity and many more ranges of emotions from the facial expressions they exhibit. When we think of the noises we can hear expressed from wolves, immediately you think of the mighty howl that the wolf is so well known for! This is a great example of long range auditory communication. It is one of their best methods of physically being able to talk to each other,. Having the capability to be heard from 10 miles away it is used to notify pack members of their location and warning other packs of their territory. Although there isn't much evidence backing it up, it is thought that this communication related behaviour is exhibited through social bonding as well. Howling is not the only form of auditory communication, they can make lots of other sounds including barking to warn their pack members of a possible danger. Mosi will constantly bark if someone is on site she does not like.



Turn over for more!

Submissive picture of Mosi & Torak by Suvi Hall. 3 Wolves photo from Wikipedia





Growling is a sign of dominance or is used as a threat. Sometimes a wolf who is feeling a bit uncomfortable or defenceless when playing in a group, will make a noise known as 'monkey chatter' this involves them clattering their teeth together telling the rest of the group how he is feeling, and hopefully then the rest of the group will break up to give him time to get somewhere more comfortable, then they will continue to play. Whining is another form of talking and is an attention seeking behaviour, this can happen when humans are around socialised wolves or see a familiar face, a lot like a domestic dog might when they want something like being let out of the back door or begging for food. Wolves rely on their expert hearing skills for their auditory communication to be easy for them. Their high pointed ears are adapted this way to allow them to have enhanced hearing, being the pointed, upright shape that they are allows the sound to be echoed and travel down the ear canal. Common relatable quotes from

the classic Grimm's tale 'Little Red Riding Hood' such as 'what big ears you have' and 'all the better to hear you with' have familiarised us with the anatomy of these animals from a young age. Lastly, tactile communication, this is to do with touch, taking place alongside all other forms of communications talked about here, it is seen during greeting, social interaction and play. An example of this is when neonates (new-born pups at a vulnerable stage that are blind and deaf) are seen huddling together for protection, and warmth, because they cannot see yet. This tactile communication is seen a lot between the alpha pair during breeding season, with them spending a lot of time lying together, grooming each other and of course, mating. Tactile communication is important in plenty of mammalian species, such as the ones mentioned in visual communication. Especially in humans, being tactile with one another is a form of physical expression from one to the other allowing the recipient to know how one is feeling and is often associated

Turn over for more!



COMMUNICATION

with reward, for example, when hugging someone or receiving a hug we tend to feel happy, holding someone's hand does the same thing. Well this is perfectly relatable to animals alike, only they don't hug each other, they express their feelings in a few other ways. Instead we can see that they will use their tongues to literally kiss one another as a greeting. Licks are expressed when begging for food also, occurring in fully grown adults and pups. It is a common mother to pup communication method that is used and as they grow up is still associated with a gentle, loving and friendly meaning and a sign of comfort for the wolves. When a pup licks around its mother's mouth for comfort (not food in this instance) it releases a hormone in them called oxytocin, which is the same hormone that human mothers release when nursing their babies. This is what happens when we bond with dogs and also the socialised wolves at the trust, they want to lick for scent identification and it is simply a comforting feeling to both them and us.



Want to know how to say hello in the way a wolf would understand? Well, here at the trust, we have socialised wolves, which means they can be greeted by new people, but only if done so in the proper manner. A clenched fist is presented to the wolves nose to enable them to get an identifiable scent which holds the information they are looking for.

Article by Holly Hamp



Trust Wolves



Mosi & Torak

Mosi and Torak have grown their full thick winter coats and whilst Torak is as handsome as ever in browns, black, tans and cream, Mosi becomes greyer with each season and is a beautiful silvery colour this year. You would never believe that she was black as a young wolf. Torak is the perfect foil to Mosi. If she gets overexcited, either in the enclosure or on a walk, he growls and she drops down at his feet and submissively licks his chin while he looks haughtily into the distance. He is such a gentle boy. Torak is nearly ten years old and is developing some joint problems in his legs, so he gets stiff and limps when he has been lying down too much. It doesn't stop him from bounding up onto his high platform to check what is happening on site though!! The vet has given him some pain killers so that he can have better mobility.

Mosi got into the spirit of our anniversary when we presented a cheque to the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Project, taking our worldwide conservation donations to over £250,000. Volunteers and special guests enjoyed hog roast supplied by Graham, who does

building work around the site. For reasons known only to her, Mosi hates Graham, so we ate to the accompaniment of Mosi's constant barking and howling, letting Graham know exactly what she thought of him!! Torak usually wanders off to sleep under his favourite tree when she starts this!!

Mosi can be very mischievous. One day senior handler Pat filled their water bucket; Mosi emptied it by scooping out the water energetically with her front paws the minute Pat had left. Five times this happened; Pat gave up. (They do have a trough filled with water as well.) Antics like this have made her very popular. Over the summer, the enclosure grass becomes a myriad of thistles. One of Torak's favourite spots to rest is on top of the mound, but even tough wolves don't find thistles comfortable! You can see Torak's relief as he stretches out on the newly mown, thistle-free mound. It wouldn't do his aristocratic reputation any good to be hopping up and down if a thistle caught him in a sensitive place!

Torak does not usually invite human contact; any time he sidles up to a handler for a quick stroke is a huge privilege. If he's in the mood for a scratch behind the ears... no-one can pull a goofy face like Torak.



Turn over for



Trust Wolves

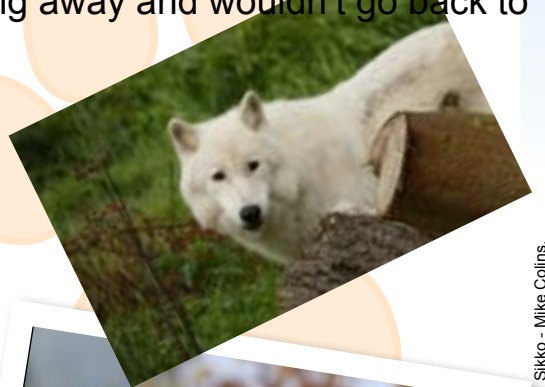
Now into winter, the Arctics' coats have changed in texture and quantity. Coats have become longer, soft fur bushes up underneath guard hairs, building up for colder nights. For wolves, this is a natural transition. This makes them appear up to a third bigger in size than in summer. The creamy tinge to off white colour of their previous juvenile coats has turned them into immaculate pure white wolves –until it rains a lot and they get all muddy!! For the 20th anniversary of the Trust, 40 volunteers had a hog roast dinner near the Arctic's enclosure. Although the wolves know that our volunteers regularly refill their water buckets and bring buckets of food, they were having none of it. They retired to the back of their large enclosure behind the mature trees, not coming out until the party was over! One event they did not like!!

The Arctics will often give out warning signals when something is not to their liking. Recently **Pukak** was very vocal,

starting with a deep-throated barking, clearing his throat, and then howling in indignation. Pukak still loves his food and impatiently paws the ground at feeding time.

Massak is a gentle giant and is the largest wolf at the trust. He is a magnificent male wolf very much in charge of his pack. Pukak is always very submissive to him unless food is involved.

On one of our Wednesday open days, visitors saw **Sikko** grab and kill an unfortunate vole that chose to walk right under her nose! Having killed the vole, she clasped it between her forepaws, tried to eat it, but didn't take into account the sinewy body. A vole is four inches long, but she slowly stretched him to double his length. As it got longer (and thinner!), something had to give – when it could stretch no more, like an elastic band, it broke and pinged right back on Sikko's nose, giving her such a fright that she sprang away and wouldn't go back to it.



Turn

Pukak - Mike Collins, Massak - Darren Prescott, Sikko - Mike Collins.



Trust Wolves

The Beenhams have now grown their thick fur coats for winter which keep them warm to -50 degrees. Tala has turned greyer like her mother Mai, whilst gentle Tundra has turned elegantly off white. Nuka looks really stunning like his father Motomo at the same age.

Nuka is a very solid, muscular wolf and very much in charge of his sisters. Tala is as mischievous as ever-like her aunty Mosi-and Tundra, as the dominant



female in the pack, keeps Tala firmly in her place.

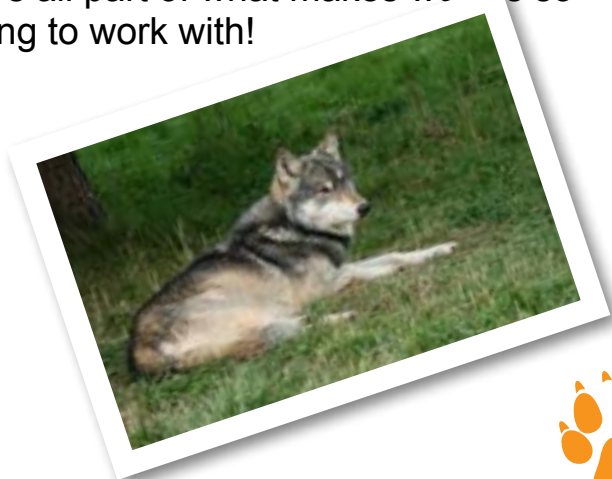
Meal times are always interesting to watch and whilst **Nuka** and Tala come to the fence eagerly for food, Nuka stealing Tala's if he can, Tundra prefers to have her food thrown over into the enclosure away from the visitors. On several occasions Tundra has not been interested in taking the food we've offered, whether deer, beef, or chicken – but this doesn't mean she goes hungry;



she is highly adept at catching any stupid pheasant or pigeon that lands in the enclosure and will also gleefully seek out food that has been buried in the enclosure by the others. On average the Beenhams eat around 1.4kg of food each per day. Overfeeding is something we avoid at all costs – a fat wolf is an unhealthy wolf. On visitor walks, the Beenhams enjoy going into the human-waist high grass and sniffing round. Deer and pheasants are regularly 'flushed' out - fortunately the wolves are sufficiently well-fed; they don't really give chase.



Sometimes the whole idea of 'walking' with visitors seems excessive and Nuka lies down and goes to sleep part way round the walk. The Beenhams are not always catchable when it's time to take them on a members' walk. Nuka is easiest to catch and Tala will follow, but we sometimes have to leave Tundra behind when she makes it obvious she doesn't want to come. Once her mind is made up, there's no changing it. That's all part of what makes wolves so intriguing to work with!





Trust Wolves

Motomo & Mai have both grown beautifully thick fur coats for winter. Motomo's fur has turned lighter – he has an impressive almost-white stripe starting on his head, fanning out over his shoulders, along his back and tapering off at the base of his tail. If he was a gorilla he'd definitely deserve the title of 'silverback'. He's also grown an impressively bushy tail. Mai has turned slightly lighter all over like sister Mosi and daughter Tala; her muzzle is now almost totally white! Mai and Motomo often play together – Mai poking at a resting Motomo with her paw or nose. Following a few play-bows, they would romp and chase together before either retiring to the shady edge of the copse in the upper left corner of their enclosure, or sprawling on the mound and sleeping. They both love fence running with their arctic neighbours.

Mai will happily take food through the mesh from a friendly handler, but we have to throw Motomo's large chunks of food over the wire. When he's eating strips of beef he will sometimes stand up on his hind legs to catch an incoming morsel, and will have swallowed it completely before his front paws are back on the ground. The expression "wolfing it down" couldn't be more appropriate! We were also recently given trout to feed to the wolves. In the wild they will naturally take fish (like bears catch spawning salmon from Alaskan rivers). Mai and Motomo were initially confused at these fishy offerings. The heads were eaten (wild wolves often leave the bodies of fish they've caught) and the uneaten fish became a form of enrichment – something smelly to roll on! When she gets the chance, Mai is happy to walk with her favourite handlers, and will keep in touch with Motomo by regular howling. This lets him know whereabouts in the fields she is. On odd occasions she will want to go back to Motomo, so her walk is ended prematurely. Maybe his howls are telling her to come back at once??





HERMANN TORTOISE



The UK Wolf Conservation Trust is home to two resident female Hermann tortoises (*Testudo hermanni hermanni*) called Rocket and Tin Tin. In the summer they live in a rabbit hutch outside the wolves enclosure & in winter they live indoors inside a vivarium. Both are only four years old, relatively young compared to the 75 years they can live up to. They can grow up 18-20cm in size so these girls are nearly fully grown. Hermann tortoises have a yellow orange coloured dome shell with bold black markings. Their shell is made up of 60 different bones all connected together. Like all tortoises they possess no teeth but just a very strong beak. They can be found in the wild throughout southern Europe and are near threatened in their native habitat. They were used as a food source during WWII because of the issue of rationing, but most recently the risk to them is the destruction of their habitat. At the trust they are very well looked after, recently acquiring a new house, built for them by the work experience. In it you'd usually find one of the tortoises sleeping getting ready to hibernate for the winter. They are fed well with a diet of tomato, kale, cucumber and strawberries. We also put a light sprinkling of calcium powder on them which is advantageous for their health. Cuttlefish bone is also given for them to bite on to provide them with more Calcium.

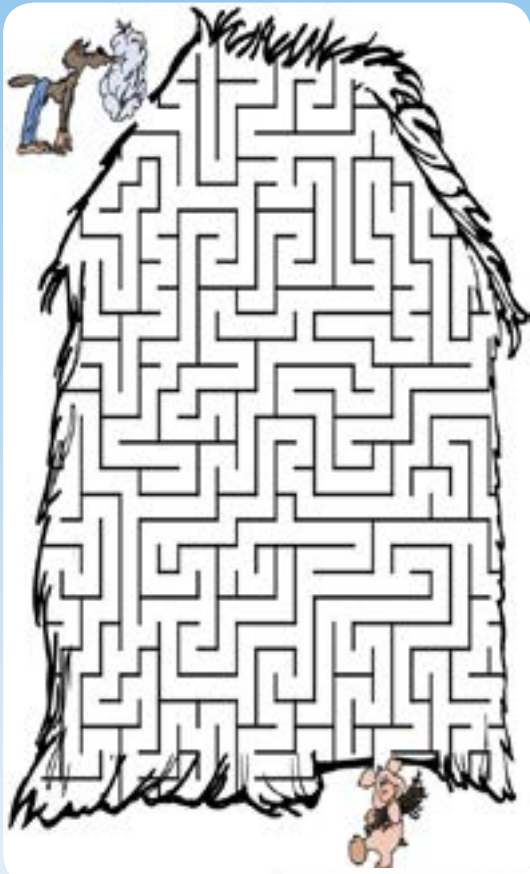
Hibernation is an annual behaviour that the tortoise goes through which is critical to their wellbeing. It happens every winter from November/ December to March when the temperature starts to drop. Due to being cold blooded animals they rely on the outdoor temperature to heat their body so when the temperature drops they go into a "sleep" to survive the winter. When this happens you have to take their food away from them making sure they have an empty stomach. We then weigh them before they go into hibernation and reweigh them when they wake up. This is to monitor their weight loss during hibernation. During hibernation they need to be kept in a warm dry place which has a temperature of between 3-7 °C which is the tortoises natural body temperature, this is to make sure they don't freeze or overheat.



Article and Tortoise Hut
photo by Calum O'Flaherty

Wordsearch

Wolf Maze

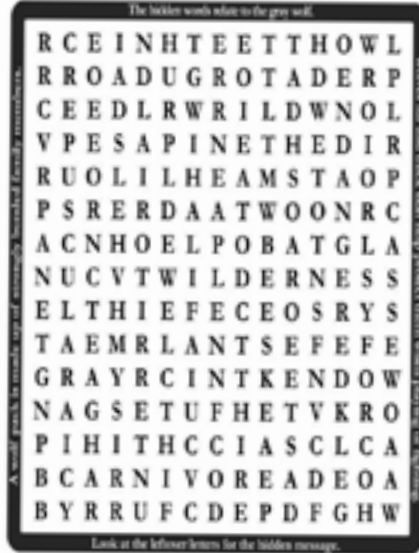


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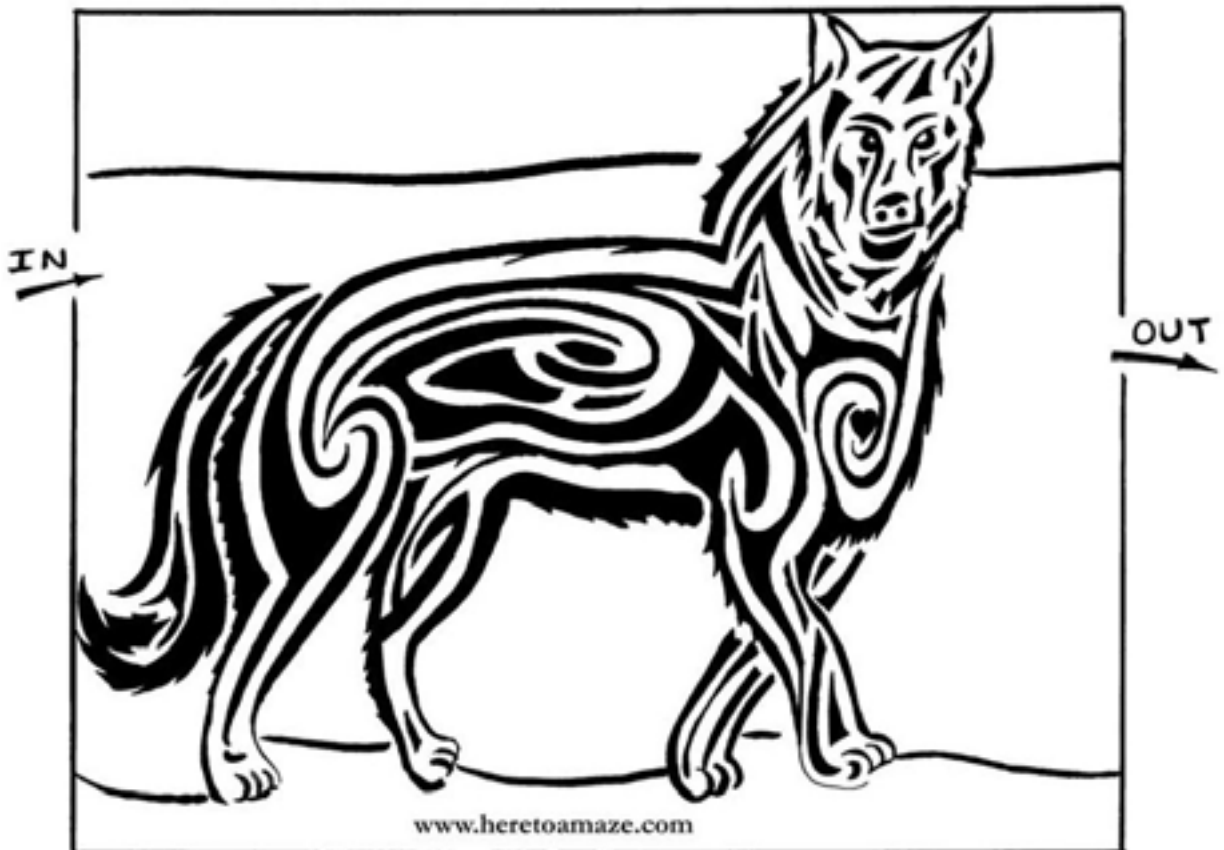
- Alpha
- Big
- Carnivore
- Crepuscular
- Endangered
- Furry
- Gray
- Howl
- Hunter
- Large
- Pack
- Predator
- Remote
- Teeth
- Territorial
- Vilified
- Wilderness
- Wolf
- Wolves

Gray Wolf ~ Word Search ~

The hidden words relate to the gray wolf.



Look at the letters for the hidden message.



www.heretoamaze.com



Book Reviews



Wolf Goes To Sea by Rob Lewis

This is an enchanting book written with younger children in mind. The pictures are colourful and eye catching and the text easy to read.

The story is about a wolf that lives with his human best friend in Wales. He often gazes out to sea and misses being close to other wolves, so he stows away on a ship and begins a world wide journey filled with adventures to find other wolves. The boat sinks and he is marooned on an iceberg.

You will have to read the book to find out the adventures he has and what amazing thing happens in the end.

The book is available to purchase in our shop or via website at £5.99p.



Wolves Life in the Wild

by Jen Green

This book is designed for 8-12 year olds, but the 190 beautiful eye catching photos by some of the world's top animal photographers would fascinate much younger children as well.

The text offers detailed aspects of the lives of wolves and how they survive in the wild using their highly developed senses of smell, sight and hearing. You learn about the structure of the pack, how they hunt and detailed cross sections and diagrams show the complex inner workings of a wolf's body.

Wolves are the ancestors of all domestic dogs and this exciting book introduces you to their closest relatives as well, including coyotes, foxes, jackals, bush dogs and racoon dogs. There are special features about Australian dingoes and African wild hunting dogs.

Myths and legends surrounding wolves are also investigated and explained. This is well worth a read £7.99p.



The Wolf Poem

My amber eyes glitter in the moonlight,
 As my pack stands beside me,
 As I lift my shaggy head to howl,
 I wonder why they still hunt us.
 A starry light shines on my brothers,
 We have done nothing to harm,
 Apart from roam these lands together,
 So hunt us they should not.
 We run upon this land for miles,
 To find some prey to hunt and eat,
 We have not harmed a single human,
 Yet we are hated by them still.
 Us wolves, we have done nothing,
 Yet we are hated by the humans,
 We will not harm you, so why harm us?
 And we will not harm you forever more.

Sadie Mansfield (age 12)

Fund Raising

The Trust was delighted to meet Oslo Bastin who came to the Trust & presented Mike Collins (Site Manager) with £ 86.85 that his friends Isan & Dhruve had raised through making wolf badges & origami wolves & then sold. Oslo goes to the American Embassy School in New Delhi & adopts Nuka.



O.I.D. Saves Wolves!

My name is O.I.D.
 My friends and I, Isan and Dhruve are saving wolves!
 Together we make O.I.D.

We are raising money for wolves. When we sell all the things we've made we will give all the money to the UK WOLF CONSERVATION TRUST!

Wolves need help if they want to survive.
 Wolves are most threatened by how little habitat they have!

We have made badges, bracelets and origami wolves!

The badges cost £1
 The bracelets cost £1
 And the origami wolves cost 50p

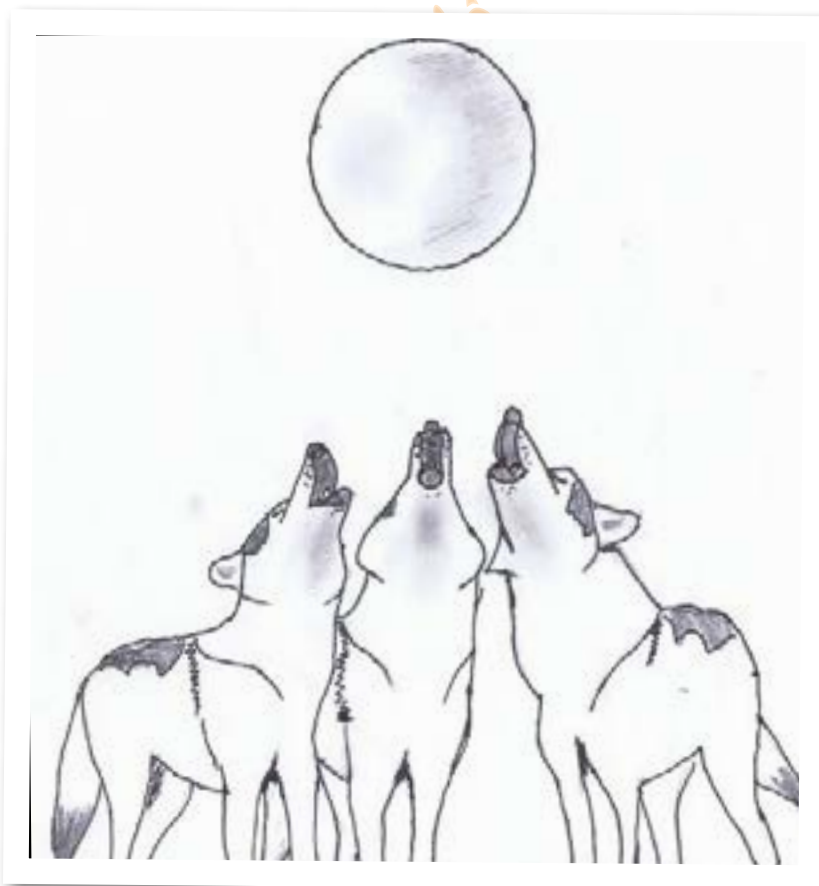
**PLEASE COME
 AND BUY SOME!!!**



Is it really time to get up?

(With apologies to Duncan Mackellar.)

Oh dear, is it really time to get up?
How long have I been asleep?
Are you aware that it is freezing out there?
The snow is three feet deep!
What do you mean by waking me up?
This cold is just not right.
A tortoise needs to dream and plan
So I'll go back to sleep if I may.
Put me back in my box again
With all that lovely warm straw.
Do the right thing, wait until spring
When the wind is not so raw.
Ah, that's better; it's really cosy in here (quick
yawn).
See you again in spring.
Remember children that tortoises need their winter sleep. You
wouldn't wake a big sleeping bear now would you!!!



Drawing by
Elizabeth Graham
Age 10 years.

Events

Visit Wednesday

Every Wednesday 11am - 4pm

Adults £8, children 3-12 £5, under 3's free. Wolf keeper talks & watch the wolves being fed at 2pm.

Additional children's activities will be held during school holidays. Wednesday 17th February craft workshop bug box & bird box painting & Wednesday 30th March - Jill Nicholas Craft Workshop. Junior Members free entry with their ticket. No pre booking required.



Pancake Fun Day

🐾 Thursday 18th February 10am - 12.30

£10 per person. Junior Member £8.

The wolves will each be given a pancake stuffed with their favourite treats! These will be filled by the children visiting the trust on the day from wolftastic ingredients. Watch how the wolves gobble up the pancakes. Pre booking required.

Eggy Fun Day

🐾 Thursday 31st March 10.30am - 1.00pm

Create egg enrichment for the wolves, so they have an eggstatic time!!!

£10 per person. Junior Member £8.

Pre booking required.



Children's Wolf Walk

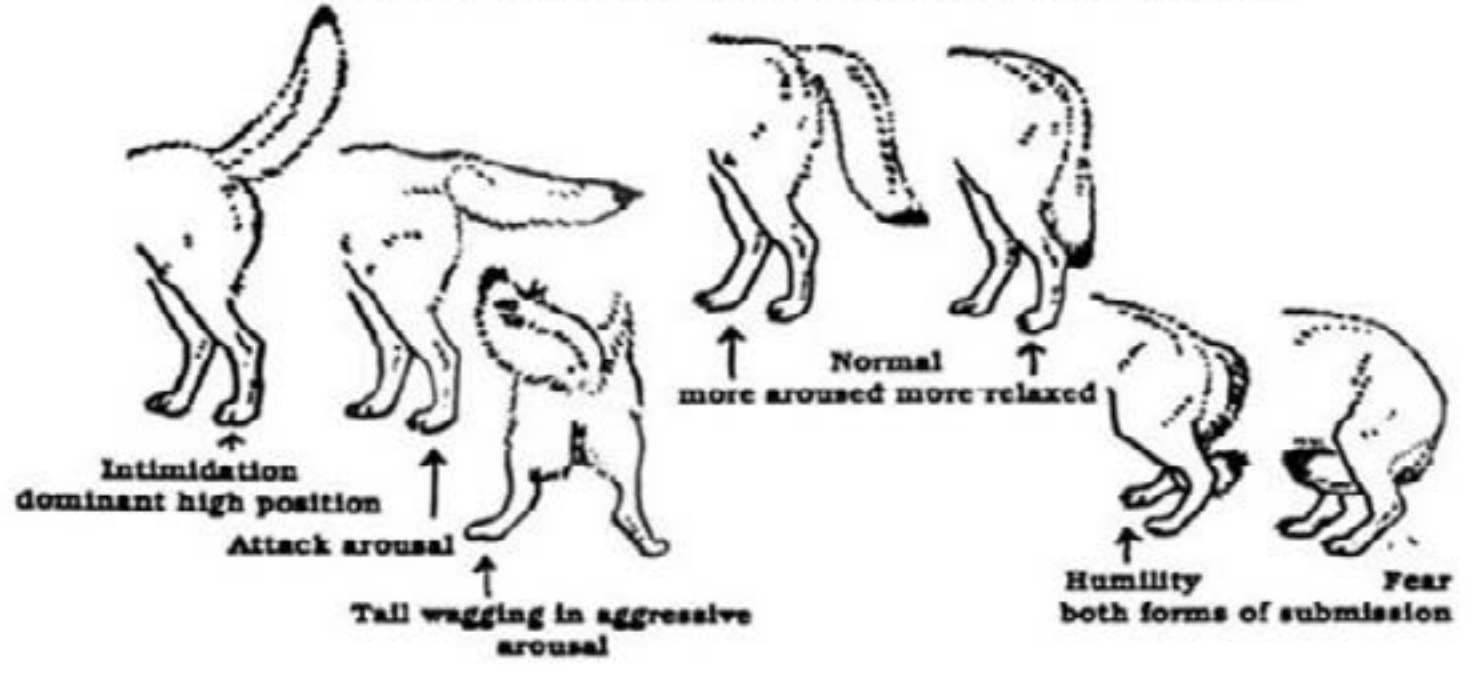
🐾 Tuesday 5th April 11am.

£15 per person. Junior Member £12

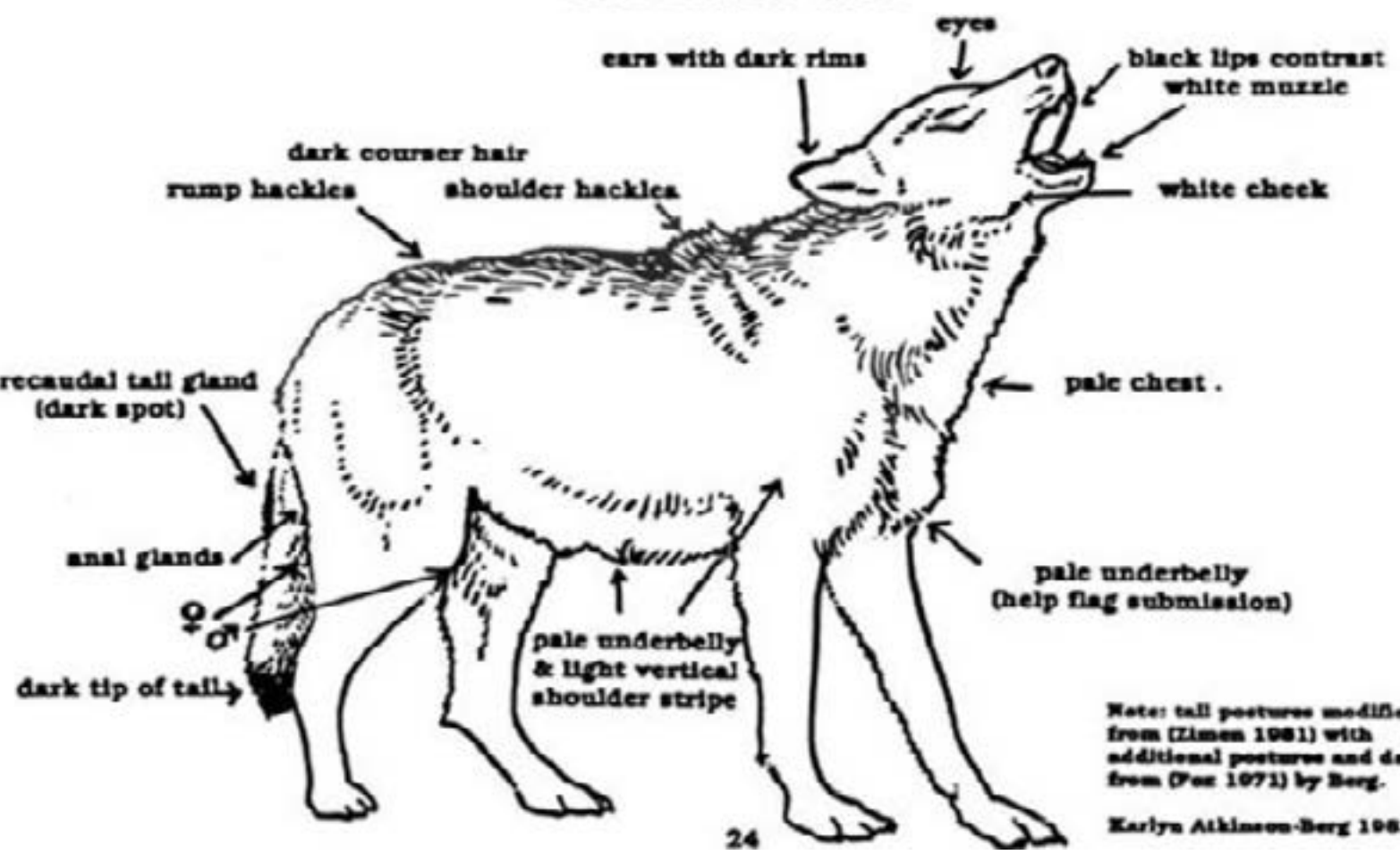
Have a talk all about the wolves at the Trust, and then join the wolves on a walk around the fields at the trust. Maximum of 1 adult on each booking. Pre booking required.

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 4years 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.

TAIL POSTURES USED FOR COMMUNICATION



PARTS OF THE WOLF AND COLOR PATTERNS USED IN COMMUNICATION



Note: tail postures modified from (Zimen 1981) with additional postures and data from (Fox 1971) by Berg.

Kariya Atkinson-Berg 1983