









WOLF CHRONICLE

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From the Editor

Dear Members

I hope that you have had a fun filled Christmas and we all wish you a very happy New Year.

The wolves looking magnificent in their thick winter coats had Christmas trees put into their enclosures and, as usual, mischievous Tala chewed through the supporting rope and dragged the Beenhams tree off. It was put back with even more ropes! Children came to make crackers for the trees filled with tasty morsels of meats, fish and cheese and then, after they had decorated the trees and the wolves were back in their enclosures, watched the crackers being opened and eaten. Nuka always



runs about collecting a little pile of crackers for himself whilst Torak eats one at a time slowly. Mosi dashes about sniffing them all to see which has the best things in. The other wolves quickly tear open the crackers and eat the treats. The Wednesday after Christmas the wolves were

given whole turkey crowns to eat. Torak ended up with two as Mosi walked off for a brief while. She was not amused! The other wolves all enjoyed their after Christmas dinner.

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. I hope that you enjoy this issue and please send in letters or stories so that I can put them in the next magazine.

Wendy



ENRICHMENT FOR CAPTIVE ANIMALS

The verb “enrich” means to enhance, improve, develop or boost. Captive animals need mental stimulation to prevent boredom and there are many ways of providing this. Any stimulus which evokes an animal’s interest in a positive way can be considered enrichment and here at The U.K Wolf Conservation Trust we use natural and artificial objects, scents, novel foods and different methods of preparing foods(for example, freezing in ice)as many methods as possible to provide enrichment for our wolves. For example:-

Environmental enrichment

The wolves’ enclosures have platforms, mounds, woods and two have ponds, one with a waterfall, to add interest to their environment. Sometimes a pack changes enclosures with another pack to provide different environments, scents and possible finds of buried food.

The large enclosures provide an area space that closely matches the core environment of the wolves in the wild.



Sensory enrichment

This type of enrichment stimulates all five senses, sight, smell, hearing, touch and taste. We fill hessian sacks with straw from the goat’s enclosure or straw soaked in coffee, perfume or spices. The wolves roll on the sacks and tear them open to see what is inside. We also blow bubbles over the fence and watch the wolves try to catch them. Enrichment walks can also stimulate these senses. It could be a hare racing away, fox or deer poo to roll in or different sounds from the nearby road.



Social enrichment

From an early age our wolves are used to close contact with their handlers. This not only provides mental stimulation, but helps to create a close bond between the wolf and the handlers so that health checks can be done on a daily basis. Enrichment walks provide the wolves with opportunities to smell and roll in different scents and have visual contact with other animals and interaction with their handlers. On visitor days the wolves get mental stimulation from watching the visitors, especially on event days such as Easter when they are given meaty Easter eggs to open.





Puzzles

This includes providing objects containing treats that require the wolf to work out how to open or break them apart to get to the food. We use treat filled coconuts, sacks and melons that have been hollowed out & put food in large logs.



Feeding and manipulation.

By presenting food to the wolves in different ways, such as hidden or scattered. This encourages the natural hunting and scavenging behaviours and makes the wolves work for their food. Meat filled ice lollies in summer promote investigatory behaviour and manipulation by paws, and mouths. All of these things ensure our wolves' natural instincts are utilised in a fun way to enrich their lives



DOG ICE LOLLIES

In the hot weather humans can eat ice creams and have iced drinks to keep cool. What about your dog? At the Wolf Trust our wolves get ice lollies in hot weather—not the usual kind, but meat and raw egg ice lollies.

Here is how you can make some for your dog. Ask an adult to help you cut the food up.

Dog ice lollies

You will need a container, like an empty yogurt pot for small lollies or plastic biscuit tins for larger lollies. You can use any container that will freeze safely.

Cut up some meat, sausage or hot dogs and put in the container. Break a raw egg into the container.

Fill with water and put into the freezer.

Once it is frozen you can pop it out of the mould and watch your dog have fun trying to get at the meats.

Try and think of different treats your dog would like to put in the lollies.

Turn over for more!



CONCRETE SCRATCH PIT TUBE

Reasoning behind the Enrichment:

The Arctic wolves have the fastest growing claws of any grey wolf sub species; this is mainly due to them having evolved to deal with the special environment of the Arctic. In the Arctic the permafrost is a hard layer of ground which is nearly always rock hard like concrete, therefore as the Arctic wolves live their claws is constantly worn. In an environment consisting mainly of ice and snow, longer claws also help the wolves grip into the ground as they run.

Possible further reasons for rapid claw growth may stem from previous claw clipping in captive wolves. As the claws get clipped they grow faster, causing a need to constantly clip once it starts, therefore this should be avoided and only used as an absolute last case scenario. Sedating a wolf to clip claws is an invasive procedure and can be detrimental to the health and welfare of the animal. Conducting the clipping without a sedative is a danger to the individual unless the wolf has been conditioned from a young age to present its paw and has had time to habituate to the act of clipping.

Wolves are primarily scent based in their exploration of their habitat, when wolves find a strong smell, they will tend to roll in it and often dig the ground with a paw before rolling in it to 'dig up' and mix up the scent increasing the pungency of the scent. Wolves will do this for varied reasons, such as communication. A wolf finding a carcass in the wild may well roll in the carcass to transfer the scent back to its pack mates and then lead the pack back to the carcass. Another idea is that wild wolves will roll in the faeces/urine of prey animals to mask their own scent. To humans wolves don't smell of anything,

even when wet unlike a domestic dog, however many prey species have a far superior sense of smell than we do. Masking any possible wolf scent may be advantageous when hunting; in fact this is where the term 'wolf in sheep's clothing' is thought to originate from. The final example of scent rolling comes from the idea that wolves simply enjoy it, this isn't as farfetched as it may have been seen by science in past decades as it has now been documented among many species that play and enjoyment are a valid reason for a species to conduct certain behaviours.

The idea behind this enrichment is to create a safe environment to introduce strong smells to the arctic enclosure alongside a hard area to scratch on. Encouraging claw scraping on a hard surface to wear down the claws, alongside scent based enrichment behaviours. This essentially leads to self-medicating claw length, without an invasive procedure for the wolves or danger to humans.

Guide to creating the enrichment in the Arctic's enclosure:

Bags of ready mix concrete with ballast already inside were purchased (a rough texture will help avoid slipping on ice during winter and a large chrome tube used for shower rails etc.

The lengths of chrome tube were cut to the length needed using a hacksaw and a vice. The cut edges of the tube were sanded to ensure a smooth surface with no sharp splinters of metal. A hole the size of a large bucket was dug, deep enough to ensure that the inquisitive wolves won't dig up the concrete to remove the tube once it was

Turn over for more!



set in the concrete. The tube was put into the hole and the concrete poured in until it was level with the top of the tube. The concrete was moulded so that it gently sloped over the tube lip to ensure the metal lip was covered over with concrete: It was left to set overnight.



Within two minutes of the Arctic's being put back into the enclosure, Massak, Pukak and Sikko had scratched at the scent items which were put down the tubes. The tubes can be filled with any scent or food items we like as the tubes are about 30 cm long, meaning the wolves can't access the actual item. This allows for lots of variety and different options.

The Arctic's will continue to be monitored for claw length through the coming months by the use of ethograms (a study of the wolves' behaviour over a set time period) and general observations to see if this regular new enrichment will make a significant difference.



Trust Wolves



Mosi & Torak are now in their full thick winter coats and whilst Mosi is stunning in varying shades of silver and grey, Torak is magnificent in shades of beige and increasingly darker shades of brown. His bushy nearly floor length tail is beautiful and it has a fluffy reddish tip. At ten years old, Mosi and Torak are well into middle age, not that you would know it watching them. Although Torak has exhibited signs of arthritis, this has been controlled by medication when necessary. We monitor our wolves very closely and can treat them at the first sign of discomfort.

Mosi likes to spend a lot of the day relaxing on the platform close to the front of the enclosure – not only does this keep her off the colder ground, she can have a good view of anything that's going on around the site. When a contractor she doesn't like is working on site she barks all the time to show her displeasure. Normally in the wild barking is to alert the pack to danger, but the other wolves at the Trust just ignore her. Torak retires to the peace of the wood or back of enclosure until normality returns. He is a wise old wolf!

It is always a delight to watch Torak when he comes back from an enrichment walk. Once released back into his territory, he will gambol about like a lamb, often ending up splashing about in the enclosure pond. Mosi isn't quite as keen on that as Torak, but when she does venture in, it's always amusing to watch her keeping her tail well out of the water like a swimmer who doesn't want to get their hair wet. Mosi likes to wade about in their water trough and in the colder weather the ice provides extra fun. They will run about with chunks in their mouths. Mosi likes hunting birds and many a pigeon, pheasant or even magpie has ended up as a snack for her. Torak watches from a distance ready to snatch the catch when the opportunity arises, or dig it up if it has been cached. Mosi has been known to lie on a pigeon to avoid Torak sneaking it whilst she is asleep!

Mosi and Torak remain extremely popular with visitors and, as the first wolves they see, are always willing to greet people when they arrive at the Trust. You may even get a greeting howl from Mosi!



Turn over for more!



Trust Wolves

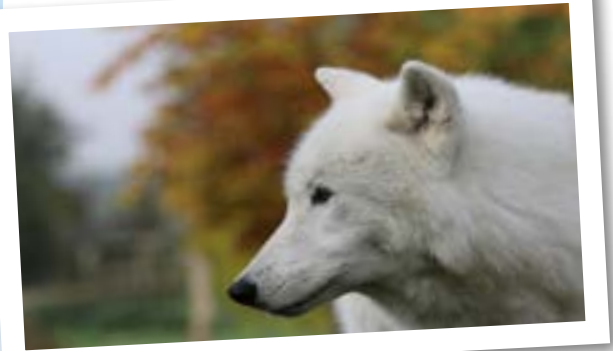
The Arctic pack has grown their extremely dense winter undercoat which is so thick that their handlers can sink their hands up to the knuckles in the soft fur. It will keep them warm to -70 degrees.

The Arctics have the fastest growing claws of any grey wolf sub species. In ice and snow, longer claws help wolves grip into the substrate as they run. In the wild, arctic permafrost, a hard layer of substrate is nearly always concrete hard and helps file down their claws. For our captive Arctic pack we introduced a scent-based enrichment, alongside a hard area to scratch on, which helps to wear down their claw length naturally.

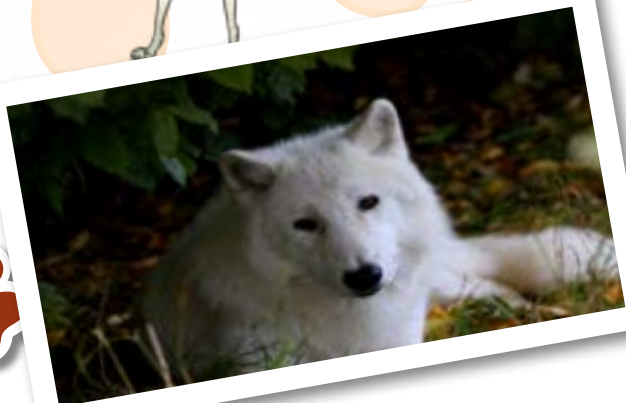
Arctic wolves also have a counter current heat exchanger in their paws to allow them to stay at a lower temperature than their body's core. As their blood enters their paws it 'heats up' and avoids heat loss at the extremities. Because heat loss is reduced, their paws never 'stick' to the icy frozen tundra.



With the help of their webbed feet, wolves are excellent swimmers and have been recorded swimming up to 7.5 miles. They also eat fish, and in the wild when the salmon return to the rivers to spawn in the autumn it's an ideal opportunity not to miss, both nutritious and safer than facing hooved prey. One frosty winter's day it was -0°C, so Mike our wolf keeper threw the wolves some whole frozen trout. Pukak guarded his fiercely. At night our wolves often retire to their sleeping quarters where their bedding area is a three foot



solid concrete raised bed strewn with straw. Pukak decided that he would have his dead trout as a bedtime buddy in case Massa Massak or Sikko stole it! The next morning, Mike found that Pukak had neatly tucked his fish up in the corner of the bed under hay! I don't know about 'Pooh' bear but after a night with his prize - definitely a Pooh Wolf!



Turn over



Trust Wolves

During the warmer parts of the day the Beenhams can be seen relaxing at the edge of the copse in their enclosure – either stretched out asleep or lying and watching the world go by. They have all regrown their thick winter undercoats coats and look most impressive. **Nuka** has started to develop the silvery neck-and-shoulders patterning of his father Motomo; **Tala**, has gone greyer particularly on her belly and **Tundra** has once again grown the elegant black 'ruff' round her neck and shoulders, which tapers down her front in a V - shape making her look stunning when she sits down.

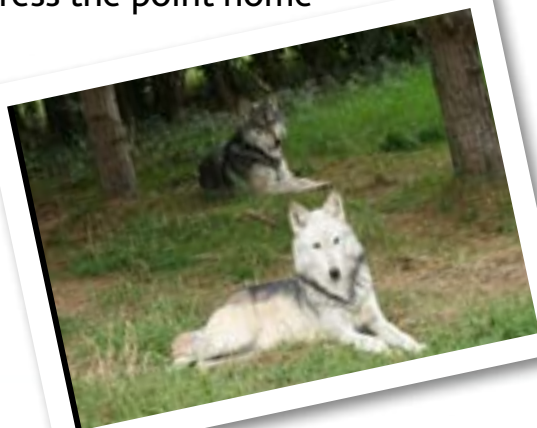


The pack hierarchy has remained stable, with Tundra still being the dominant female, and she is often seen quietly reminding Tala who is boss, by resting her head across Tala's back or shoulders, or sometimes putting a paw there. Occasionally this passive dominance doesn't completely work and Tundra will press the point home



rather more forcefully, with a raised, fluffed-up tail, raised hackles and a standing-tall stance. Nuka always intervenes if he feels that Tundra is being too severe.

All three wolves continue to be very interested in any wildlife that happens to find its way into their enclosure; as well as catching pheasants and pigeons; on one occasion they found a grey squirrel had foolishly entered the enclosure to steal nuts from one of the hazel trees. A brief chase saw the squirrel running up one of the fence support-posts – but not high enough! Tala grabbed it and within seconds the score was Squirrel 0 Wolves 1. After a few minutes, both Nuka and Tala lost interest in it whereupon Tundra quietly picked it up and carried it off to the undergrowth, where she either ate it or cached it for later. At Christmas the children's' Christmas cracker event meant that the Beenham's Christmas tree was briefly covered with meat filled crackers brightly wrapped in Christmas paper before being "wolfed" down!



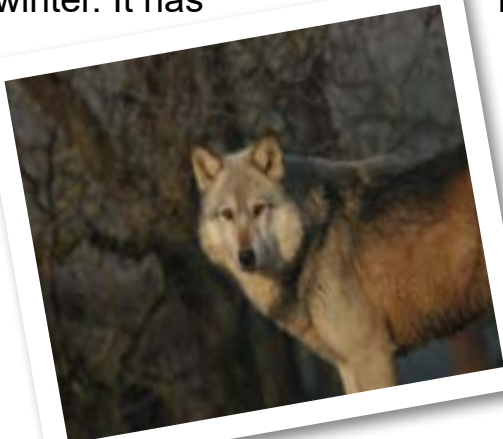


Trust Wolves

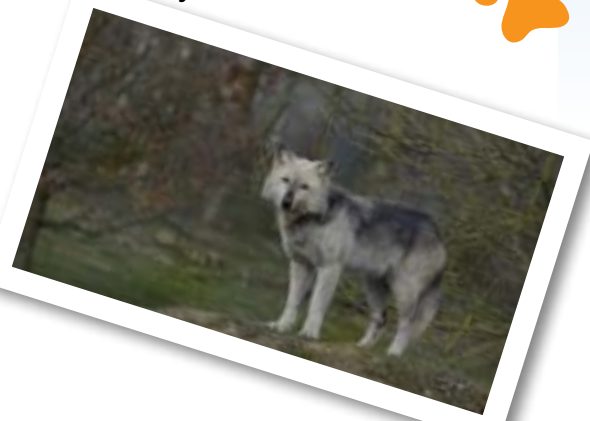
Mai and Motomo have been enjoying their favourite places to watch the world go by: their enclosure mound or the edge of the trees at the top of their enclosure, where they can often both be seen sitting or lying a few feet from each other. They get a good view across the site and – of highest importance – comings and goings in the food shed! As well as fence-running with the Arctics in the next enclosure, Mai and Motomo enjoy playing together – generally Mai starts a game by gently poking at Motomo with her paw – it may take several pokes but they usually then chase round the enclosure for a few minutes of rough and-tumble, head to the water trough for a drink then return to the edge of the trees, or the mound, for a rest. Wolf Keeper Mike and his team installed a new two-level platform in the enclosure this year. Once the maintenance work was complete, Mai and Motomo immediately investigated the new platform.



Motomo was initially nervous but soon gained enough courage to go up to the supports and cock his leg against them. A day later Mai was seen happily standing on the lower level and now loves to sit on the upper level. Motomo seems to prefer the mound, where he either sits and watches, or sprawls out sleeping. On one occasion while sleeping, he rolled over without realising how close to the edge he was – and then slowly slid on his back head-first down to the bottom, with all his legs waving in the air. At the bottom he got up, shook himself then looked round to discover he'd had an audience of about six visitors for his slide. If a wolf's face could show embarrassment...! Both Mai and Motomo have been re-growing their winter coats: Motomo's 'silverback' pattern has remained, and now with his bushy tail and thick mane of fur round his neck and shoulders he looks very impressive. Mai's fur has re-grown slightly lighter – her belly is now almost pure white, the rest of her still showing flecks of black through the grey. Both are fit and healthy and should now be looking forward to the coming of winter. It has been some years since they've had much snow



to play in.





ANIMAL ALPHABET PUZZLE



Some of the letters of the alphabet are missing.
Can you find them and make the name of an animal?

GIFT DONATIONS TO THE WOLVES

Tala will be dreaming sweet dreams now as Daisy Betony crocheted Tala a pink & white blanket & embroidered Tala's name onto a pillowcase.



Rosalind Wood age 5 years sold white roses & with the money she made of £5 and donated this to the Trust.
THANK YOU ROSALIND & DAISY

Wolf Wordsearch

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

BARK
 FACE
 HOWLING
 TOUCH

BODY
 GROWLING
 SCENT
 WHINE

EARS
 HACKLES
 TAIL

Created by Puzzlemaker at DiscoveryEducation.com



Book Reviews

The Winter Wolf by Holly Webb

This book is a heart-warming story which will enthral children that love animals and magical adventures. There is an interesting twist to the story at the end as well. Amelia is not looking forward to spending Christmas with her older cousins in their huge house and worse still, they have an enormous dog that won't leave her alone and she is terrified of dogs. One day, Amelia hides away from the over friendly big dog in an attic and discovers a trunk of old clothes and a diary that belonged to Noah, her great grandfather, which he wrote as a young child growing up in America. Noah wrote about finding a young wolf cub, which he had to keep hidden to keep it safe from the hunters. As Amelia settles down to read the diary she finds herself magically transported to the wintry world of the diary where she must help Noah keep the cub safe until they can find the cub's mother. The little cub "Frost" is so affectionate and playful that slowly Amelia begins to lose her fear of dogs. The book can be purchased from the UKWCT shop for £5.99 paperback.



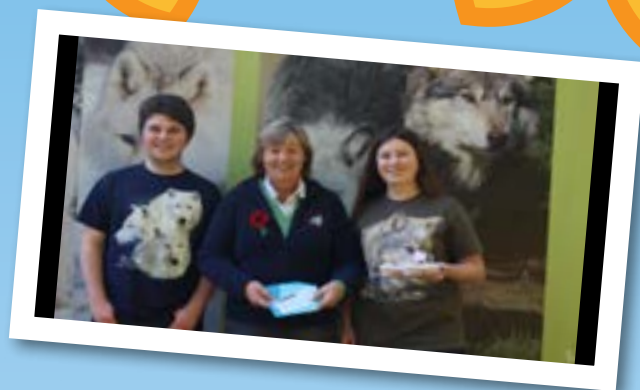
The Ways of the Wolf by Smriti Prasad-Halls

This is one of the most comprehensive, beautifully written children's natural history books that I have ever read. The outstanding illustrations bring the words to life and draw you into the fascinating world of the much misunderstood and wrongly feared animal—the wolf. Learn all about pack life, cubs as they grow into adults, how they hunt and the prey they seek, where and how they live, their enemies and the bird that cleverly lives a symbiotic life with the wolf. Every aspect of a wolf's life is detailed in easy to read text with beautifully coloured illustrations on every page. The book seeks to dispel the myths and legends about wolves and encourage us to help protect these wonderful animals and their environment. The book is due to be printed later this year and will be on sale in our shop and on our website. It is a must for both children and adults.





Fund Raising



Around a year ago, my daughter Joy Brereton (then aged 11) came to me and asked for my opinion about wolves. I started to reply, based on my limited knowledge (most of which was negative), but then Joy said that she had been studying the nature and behaviour of wolves from the UKWCT website. Over the following weeks Joy and her brother Samuel—who is 19 years old and studying Conservation Biology at Chester University—started to get really enthusiastic about wolves and Joy adopted Tundra. Both of our children were now so passionate about wolves that my husband and I decided to make the 330 mile round trip to visit the Trust and see the wolves and learn more for ourselves. Whilst we were there we met all the amazing volunteers and staff and Samuel adopted Massak.

Joy decided that she wanted to raise some funds for the UKWCT and, after discussing it with me; we asked the manager of a local shopping centre if we could sell home-made cakes in the foyer and he agreed. Over 2 days in the Autumn Joy, Samuel, myself and my husband baked cakes, borrowed trestle tables and obtained a lot of literature from the UKWCT to display and hand out. We made £80 in total and I will let Joy tell the rest of the story.

“We had a wonderful time baking, icing and selling cakes of all shapes and sizes with different flavours. I’d say we served about 150 people during the 5 hours we were at the Mall, only one of which knew about UKWCT and the wolves. I was amazed at how many people accepted the concept of saving wolves in the wild. I had set up a conservation table next to the cake stall and a surprising number of people came to look at the photos of the wolves and the previous issues of the Wolf Print magazine. We put out some wolf books for younger children to read and printed out colouring sheets of wolves for the kids to enjoy. It was really successful. I was so happy to have raised £80 for the amazing work done by the Trust and Samuel and I have baked some cakes to bring down for the volunteers.”



Editors Note - So the video on the UKWCT website educated and impassioned a young girl so much that she then passed on that enthusiasm to not only her family but at least 150 people in the community. What a wonderful story.



Work Experience at the UKWCT

My name is Jake, I am 18 years old and my scientific qualifications include A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. I have taken a gap year in order to do animal related work experience before going on to get a degree in zoology, animal behaviour or animal health and welfare. I searched on line for places to gain experience in areas of the animal industry, particularly with wolves as they are my favourite mammals, and the Wolf Trust was ideal.

The kinds of routine jobs I did daily included feeding and walking Billy and Madge the pygmy goats ,feeding and bathing the Herman's tortoises, changing the animals water, doing ethograms on the wolves, putting out food for the red kites and preparing food for the wolves and feeding them.

The purpose of ethograms is to build up a pattern of the wolves' behaviour and activity by observing them for an hour and recording every 30 seconds everything they do or any body language you see. These records are invaluable for monitoring behavioural changes as the wolf gets older and also allows abnormalities to be spotted which may indicate health issues.

Other types of work I was asked to do was mowing areas with a ride on mower, helping with maintenance and development tasks on site, doing teas and coffees on open days , preparing enrichment for the wolves, wildlife surveys, cleaning the food room and rooms used by the public and giving talks to the public.

My most favourite jobs were hand feeding the wolves, doing enrichment for the wolves and walking and feeding the goats. My least favourite jobs were talking to the public and supervising children in the education room on open days. Doing work experience at the Trust has been invaluable in helping me to make clearer decisions about my future. I have gained confidence in dealing with the public and, thanks to Mike, the wolf keeper, I have learnt a lot about wolves, projects helping wolves throughout the world and animal behaviour in general. My advice for anyone interested in doing work experience is to apply ,but realise that it can be hard work and not just having fun with the wolves. If you put in the effort, learn from the wolf keeper and use the time to study the animals it can be a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Written by Jake Opsblum



Events

Visit Wednesday

Every Wednesday 11am - 4pm

Come along & see the wolves & at 2pm and watch the wolves being fed. Additional children's activities will be held during school holidays. Pre booking not required. Junior member free entry on production of entry ticket.

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



Valentines Wolfy Treats



Tuesday 14th February 10.30am - 12.30

Making hearts for the wolves to eat, fill them with special wolfie treats & then hide them for the wolves to then find in the wolves enclosure (wolves will not be in same enclosure whilst treats are hidden)

Places must be pre booked on 0118 971 3330. £10 per person, Junior Member £8

Easter Eggstravaganza



Tuesday 11th April 10.30am - 12.30

Create egg enrichment for the wolves, as they have an eggstatic time !!! as they eat them all up.

Places must be pre booked on 0118 971 3330. £10 per person, Junior Member £8

Wolf Colour in Picture

