



WOLF CHRONICLE



From the Editor

Dear Members

I hope that you are enjoying the beautiful sunny weather that we have been having and are looking forward to summer. The wolves have already begun to lose their thick winter undercoats and will soon be looking sleek for the summer. This is a good time to see the amazingly powerful muscles the wolves have. These are needed if the wolf has to take down a big elk or bison. The Valentine's Day and Easter Eggstravaganza events were a great success and greatly enjoyed by visitors and wolves alike. Predictably, Nuka always runs about collecting a little pile



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of "goodies" to eat, whilst Torak leisurely eats one at a time. Mosi dashes about sniffing them all to see which has the best things in and Pukak just grabs as many as he can. The two Wednesday open days after Easter the wolves were given Goose eggs. Whilst

Torak was asleep under his tree, naughty Mosi gently picked his egg up in her mouth and buried it under the platform. 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 wolf keeper and two directors are slowly visiting all the projects to see how your money is spent. I hope that you enjoy this issue and please send in letters or stories so that they can be used in future magazines.

 Wendy

ROBINS AT THE TRUST

The Wolf Trust is home to one of the U.K's favourite birds-the robin. Robins aggressively defend their own territories and are quick to drive other robins away. However, they are happy to get close to the humans who work at the Trust to beg for food. One has even been known to hop into the tea room to look for biscuits!



In the Victorian times postmen used to be called robin redbreasts because of the long red tailcoats they used to wear. Robins appeared on Christmas cards because they were delivered by the red coated postmen.



We have one very bold robin that nests near to Mosi and Torak's enclosure and often sits on the enclosure fence next to the handlers feeding the wolves.'

The wolves just ignore the cheeky bird and concentrate on their meal. This robin seems to have no fear of the wolves. On one turkey toss event he sat on Mosi's turkey in front of her and was pecking at it. Mosi just sat there—either amazed at the audacity of the robin or thinking it was just not worth eating. Robins puff up their plumage in winter to keep warm so maybe he looked too feathery? Whenever there is any weeding or gardening done at the Trust the robin is right there to forage in the newly dug earth looking for insects and worms. Why don't you dig a small piece of your garden up with your parents' permission to see if the robins will come down? They are very tame and will usually stand right by you if you are very quiet. All birds need help in the winter, so ask if you can have a bird feeder in your garden. The birds love seed, fat, suet, sultanas, mealworms and crushed peanuts and Blue tits love to swing from a special peanut feeder. Birds also need some water in a bowl. Please don't feed bread in the spring or summer as the baby birds can choke on it. Why don't you keep a record of which birds you see in your garden each year.



Written by Wendy Brooker



TEN FACTS ABOUT ROBINS

1. The robin is a member of the thrush family, so is related to the blackbird and nightingale.

2. Both male and female robins hold their own territories in winter, so sing the same song.

3. When the male robin has found a mate, he will strengthen their bond by bringing the female food, such as worms and caterpillars, which she begs for noisily while quivering her wings and is often mistaken by the observer to be the mother feeding the young.

4. Once the female has laid her eggs, she stays in the nest for up to two weeks, crouching low over them, well concealed with only her brown back visible. The male brings her food, sometimes as often as three times in an hour.

5. Both parents take responsibility when feeding and looking after their chicks until they are two weeks old when they can fly and become fully independent. They pair up for the breeding season (April to June) only.

6. Robins are short lived .The longest record known was for a ringed bird that lived to 8 years old.

7. Robins eat everything from fruit to spiders. Their favourite food from humans is mealworms.

8. Most pairs of robins will try to raise as many broods of chicks a year as possible- usually 3-5 broods.

9. The British affection for the robin, where-by they are known to be friendly and sociable birds with gardeners' is not shared elsewhere in Europe, where they are shot for food or for sport.

10. Each robin has a unique breast pattern, and can (with difficulty) be recognised individually.



Turn over for more!

Wikipedia



CAN YOU GUESS WHAT THESE WOLVES ARE DOING & WHY?

To work with wolves you need to understand their behaviour and body language. See if you can do this. Make it a family game to see who gets the most correct. Remember to look at their faces and body positions.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



Turn over for more!

Trevor Goddard, Steve Carter, Mike Collins, Francesca MacIlroy



ANSWERS - TO GUESS

WHAT THE WOLVES ARE DOING & WHY?

1. Sikko is urinating to scent mark. Both the dominant male and female wolf urinate with a raised leg stance to enforce rank, whilst the lower ranking wolves squat. Wolves use scent marking to claim anything from territory to food. Faeces markers are used for the same purpose and act as a visual marker as well.

2. Mosi has found something smelly to roll in. It could be animal faeces, food or even perfumes we have sprayed on the ground for enrichment. They love new smells such as perfumes, used tea bags or oranges. In the wild wolves scent roll to bring back scents such as a new kill to the pack. They also roll in prey faeces so that they can "blend" in with the animals they are hunting. Wolves have no smell to us, but prey may be able to detect them.

3. Nuka and Tala have possibly detected a mouse or vole under the grass and are in stalking mode prior to quickly digging it out. Note the raised leg and intense stare. Nuka has his ears back in concentration ready for the kill.

4. Alba standing and Lunca on the ground are displaying classic dominance/submission behaviour. Alba, the dominant male, is standing stiff legged and tall over the lower ranking Lunca. His ears are erect and his hackles are up. Note his puckered nose and bared teeth. He will be snarling. He is very angry as Lunca tried to take some food from him. Lunca is on her back humbling herself to her angry brother. Her tail will be tucked between her legs and her belly exposed. Her eyes are tightly shut and her ears are down. Her muzzle is displaying an agonistic pucker. This occurs when an animal is fearful. She is drawing the corners of her mouth back exposing some teeth. However, her legs are pushing against Alba, so she is not totally submitting to him. In fact Lunca tried again to steal the meat when Alba let her get up!!!

5. Pukak is food guarding. There is a chunk of deer on the ground and I suspect that Massak the dominant male is out to steal it! Note the ears back, hackles up and the hard stare. His nose is puckered and he is baring his teeth and his tongue is hanging out. He will be growling and Massak will be warned off.

6. Tundra has obviously done something to annoy her brother Nuka and she is licking his face to appease him. Her ears are slightly back and her upper body is crouched. She may be whining. Nuka is impassive. Sometimes Tundra disciplines her lower ranking sister too severely and Nuka has been seen dragging her off Tala by the tail. Either that or he just jumps on top of them both. It is his job to restore peace to the pack.

Trust Wolves

Mosi & Torak are now 11 years old. Both are very active and can run at great speeds when they hear a dog on the footpath in the woods next to their enclosure. Torak loves to effortlessly jump up onto the highest platform so that he gets maximum sun and views over the site. Mosi prefers the lower platform so that she can watch who comes in the gate and can run to greet them whining and squeaking. Mosi's coat is silvery grey and she looks every inch the elegant, quirky wolf that she is. Torak is still his brindled beautiful self with a stunning long full tail that starts dark brown at the top and shades down to a reddish fluffy tip at the end. Our grand old man is still very popular despite being aloof at times. No doubt the two of them will continue to beguile visitors to the Trust for a long time yet! They have started their enrichment walks again after the breeding season. They really enjoy being out, searching out new smells and rolling in anything pungent. They know that when a certain group of handlers come on site that they are likely to go out on a walk, so they get very excited. It's nice to know that our retired wolves still appreciate going out on walks and benefit from the enrichment it brings.

Mosi is still an excellent hunter and birds enter the enclosure at their peril. She has been digging huge dens in the mound. This behaviour is instinctive in breeding season and her colour changes from silver to yellowy brown with a brown nose from the earth she excavates. All you can see is a tail and showers of earth coming out of the hole.

Torak is becoming more assertive and is not afraid to push Mosi aside when he wants attention from his human friends. Mosi pokes her head over his back whining in an effort to get our attention until he growls and walks off. On the Valentine's Day event Torak quietly took a cardboard heart full of treats up on the mound to eat whilst Mosi dashed from heart to heart peeing on them to claim them as her own and looking to see which was bigger and better. They really love these enrichment days.



Turn over for more!



Trust Wolves

Our stunning three Arctic wolves: **Massak, Sikko & Pukak** are now six years old.

Massak is still very much the dominant wolf and Pukak is never allowed to forget his lower ranking status. Sikko is smaller than her brothers' but well able to hold her own in any altercations. While they are fighting over food she cleverly sneaks in and takes it off to the wood.

The interactions with the neighbouring pack continue to be feisty; Pukak, the lower-ranking male, buried a pig's ear at the base of the fence adjoining Mai and Motomo. He had his reasons: whenever Massak, the dominant male, tried to get too close to Pukak's cached food, Motomo would



charge up and growl at Massak from his side of the fence. Massak forgot about trying to take control of the food and would chase off Motomo. Cunning Pukak! The colder weather provided entertainment for the wolves in trying to get to the water in their buckets and troughs which had frozen over. By attempting to dig their way through the ice, this provided an extra opportunity for claw maintenance. Arctic wolves' claws continually grow. In the wild the permafrost wears them down but in captivity we have to provide surfaces that will wear down their nails.



Recently, new logs have been added to the Arctic's enclosure to provide opportunities for play as well as chewing opportunities and scratching to find hidden food which helps to wear down their nails. During the wet weather the beautiful white Arctics become brown and muddy as they run and roll in the mud in their enclosures. Miraculously, their coats are soon white again. They self-clean by licking, going in the water troughs and rolling on wet grass.

The Valentine's Day and Easter egg events provided lots of enrichment and fun for the wolves. Although naturally wary of the strange new things they interestedly watched the children put in their enclosure, they soon worked out that (a) They were not dangerous and (b) the contents were yummy. The children had fun watching them so it was a success all round.



Turn over for more!



Trust Wolves

All three Beenham wolves have their thick winter coats on which keep them warm to minus 50 degrees. Tala's coat is a little greyer this year, but Tundra has become very pale. Nuka just looks stunning as usual. He is still an affectionate, playful wolf to his human friends, but firmly keeps his sisters under control.



Tala is the lower ranking female below Tundra, happily sneaking contact with her preferred handlers. When getting intense ear-rubs she remains constantly vigilant in case Tundra gets jealous, and decides to tell her off, putting her back in her place. If Nuka feels that Tundra is being too strict with Tala he will drag her off by the tail or just jump on them both and turn the aggression into play. No-one ever gets hurt in these inter-pack squabbles. Tundra – the dominant female – still retains her sense of aloofness with unfamiliar people and things. She comes to the fence for strokes



from her favourite handlers and ignores Nuka's attempts to push in even when he growls a warning. At all times she has an eye on what her sister is up to. A new source of wolf entertainment/enrichment at this time of year is the Beenhams' pond. It is a breeding ground for a large number of frogs and newts which the wolves love to chase and eat. We often see Tala with little legs dangling out of her mouth.

On Valentine's Day the children's lovingly filled cardboard hearts were viewed with some suspicion. Wolves have to evaluate new things in case they could be dangerous. However, bold Nuka soon realised there was food inside and started to collect them to put in a pile to gobble up. Tala and Tundra quickly found eggs too before they were all in Nuka's pile! The Easter Eggstravagaza event brought yet more treats inside cardboard eggs which were soon broken open and the food eaten, leaving a trail of chewed cardboard for the volunteers to clear up!!





Trust Wolves

Motomo began doing perimeter patrols more frequently during the February breeding season and fence-running with the Arctic wolves in the adjoining enclosure with a lot more vigour. Motomo took greater interest in the den site situated inside the enclosure's mound – the roof had slumped with the wet weather, probably aided by Motomo's love of standing on top. He was going halfway into the den and making half-hearted attempts at digging out the collapsed earth. Later sitting sphinx-like with his front paws hanging over the edge of the raised platform, he looked distinguished and regal, but with his entire face plastered with thick lumps of mud he looked less dignified.



Mai's attitude also changed, treating Motomo with disdain and howling from the upper deck of the raised platform. Occasionally her howl comes out more as a croak, or sometimes nothing at all! Other days she craves a tickle or ear-rub through the fence from her favourite handlers. Like Motomo she's been 'investigating' the den more often.

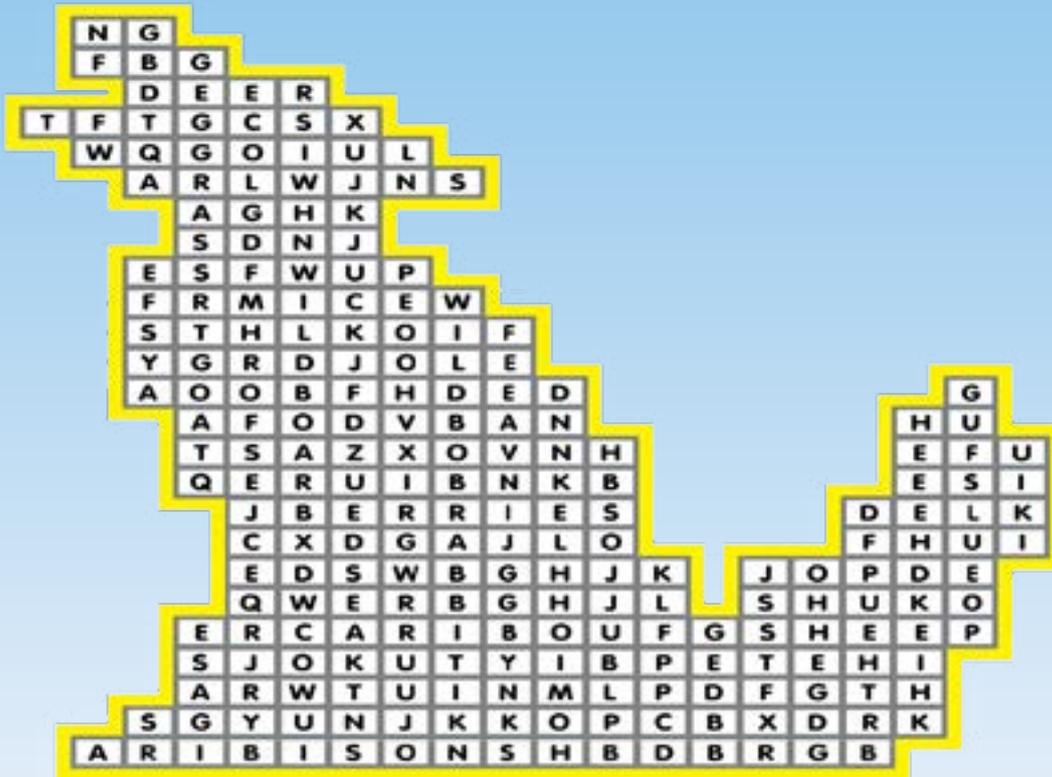
On Valentine's Day children filled cardboard hearts with meat, hot dogs, cheese and black pudding for them to eat. Motomo was a bit wary at first but after Mai had tipped hers open and eaten them he soon followed suite. The Easter Eggstravaganza event was a huge success with children filling cardboard Easter eggs with tasty treats for the wolves. The wolves do love these enrichment events.

Mai - Mike Collins, Motomo - Trevor Goddard

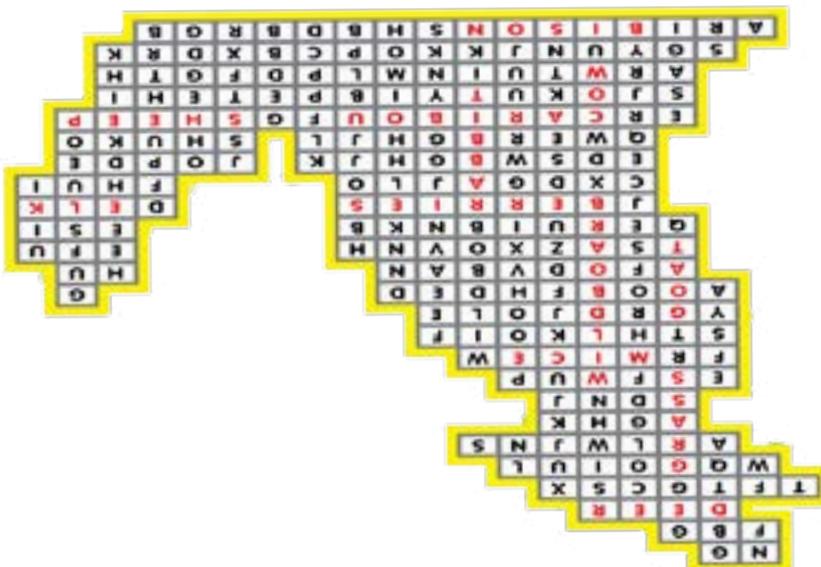




WORDSEARCH



Words to look for... **Bison** **Deer** **Caribou**
Elk **Sheep** **Mice** **Rabbit** **Cow** **Goat**



Wolves Anagram



Hidden word (circled letters)

□ □ □ □ □ □

a c k p

a c e i n o r r v

f o l w

a h i p

a g r y

h n t u

h l o w

m n o o

a e g l r

n d e

ANSWERS BELOW

- _____ den
- _____ large
- _____ moon
- _____ howl
- _____ hunt
- _____ gray
- _____ alpha
- _____ wolf
- _____ carnivore
- _____ pack

- ackp
- aceinorrv
- folw
- ahip
- agry
- hntu
- how
- moon
- aglr
- nde



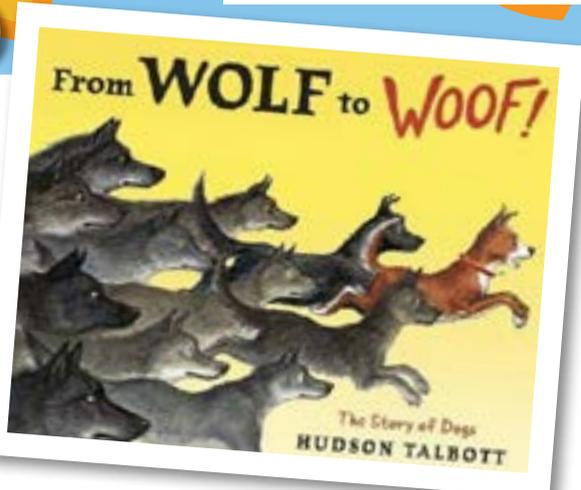
Hidden word (circled letters)

P R E D A T O R

Wolves Anagram



Book Reviews



From Wolf to Woof by Hudson Talbott.

This imaginative myth about a friendship that develops between a lone wolf cub and an orphaned boy starts readers on a journey through history to explore how the evolution of wolves to dogs may have happened. The book has minimal text with delightful illustrations and emphasises that wolves need our help to survive. An orphaned lone wolf cub and an orphaned boy began a friendship. They learnt that as a team they could find more food.

Quote from the book “Before long others found their way to the boy’s fire. They were all misfits-low-ranking wolves and children who wandered in search of food, with no friends or family of their own. But now they had each other”.

Most wolves kept away-wild and free-but for those that stayed a very different future lay ahead. Can you guess what that was? £11.99 from UKWCT shop.



Living with wolves by Jim and Jamie Dutcher.

Imagine living in very primitive conditions in forest wilderness in Idaho for 6 years with only a wolf pack for neighbours. Jim and Jamie Dutcher, did just that in order to learn more about these beautiful much misunderstood animals so that they could see what they were really like. This is the story of the hardships they encountered and the unforgettable relationships they made with the wolves and their cubs.

Jim and Jamie set up big tents called yurts with no electricity, running water, no toilets or heating. Life was very hard. Gradually they earned the trust and respect of a wolf pack they named the Sawtooth pack and were able to interact with them and study their behaviour.

This is an unforgettable children’s book with beautiful illustrations that shows the gentle nature of wolves and how we need to protect them.



Valentine's Day Event



On Valentine's Day the children coloured big cardboard hearts and then filled them with special treats for the wolves, including black pudding, sausage, hot dogs, tuna and cheese. The wolves had been put into their side enclosures so that the children could hide the hearts in their main enclosures watched of course by very interested wolves. The wolves were released back into their enclosures to search for the hearts whilst the excited children waited to see which one took theirs. Tala and Tundra were a little wary of the strange things, but bolder Nuka rapidly ate two or three. Mai and Motomo steadily ate theirs, whilst the Arctic pack led by Pukak, who loves his food, soon sniffed out hearts and "wolfed" down the contents. Cunning Mosi carefully watched where the children had hidden them, dashed in, took the tops off several and weed in them all to tell Torak that they were hers! Torak quietly took his own to his favourite tree and contentedly sat and ate the contents in the shade. A great time was had by all and the day provided essential enrichment for the wolves and an opportunity for the visitors to observe wolf behaviour.

Easter Eggstravaganza

It was a beautiful sunny day for some very excited children to come and colour cardboard Easter eggs to fill with tasty meat treats for the wolves that were waiting in their side enclosures until the children had hidden the eggs and real chicken eggs about their main enclosures. It was also an opportunity for the children to see what a wolf enclosure was like and how the wolves lived. The eggs were put on trees, near ponds, under platforms and in long grass so that the wolves could use all their hunting skills to find them. When the wolves were released back into their enclosures it was a mad dash to see who could find the most eggs and eat them. (As usual, Pukak, Mosi and Nuka!!)

The children were watching eagerly to see which wolf ate the eggs they had made. Everyone had lots of questions to ask and the volunteers were happy to talk about the wolves and their behaviour. The wolves and visitors had a wonderful day and the wolves were still egg hunting long after the visitors had gone.



Fund Raising



One of our Junior members Lily Rangelcroft-Heale aged 10 has been fund raising for the Trust. Here is her story on how she achieved this.



I decided to organise my own sponsored cycle ride to raise money for the wolves. I completed it on Saturday 22nd April. I cycled 10 miles from my house to the local Zoo (Banham). We thought the weather was going to be ok but it rained a bit but we kept going. It wasn't too hard but it was the furthest I've ever cycled on my bike in one go. I had been getting sponsors since Christmas and got a lot from friends, family and my neighbours. I now need to collect it all. It should be £200.

Lily is hoping to come to the Trust during the May school holiday to present the money to us & we can't wait to meet Lily to congratulate her.

Work Experience

Hi my name is Imogen. I was born very early which caused a severe visual impairment, as I cannot see with one eye & 20% vision in the other. I use a white cane, which is an aluminum stick with a ball on the end which, when I am holding it, shows the ground around me. I am studying business studies level 2 at Oaklands College in order to gain a better understanding of the business world with the intention of running my own business. Wolves have been a passion of mine since an early age. I am very interested in animal behaviour and wolves are the animals I feel show it best. Nothing they do is subtle and all their body language is clearly visible and recognizable.

For two weeks in April I was given the opportunity to do work experience at the Trust. I loved every second of it, from cutting up the meat, to crushing up the supplements for the wolves. Hand feeding the wolves I feel was the best part of the experience. They were so gentle taking the food. Just like wolves in the wild, the wolves don't eat every day. The wolves are fed five to six times per week leaving a starve day on one or two days at random. This emulates what happens in the wild. During the two weeks I was at the Wolf Trust, there were lots of events. I was tasked to throw meat over to the wolves for the photographers to get pictures of the wolves exhibiting their natural behavior, & on a 'Visit Wednesday' I did teas and coffees & helped with children's events.

In the future I intend to run my own business, hopefully working with wolves in the wild. Having spent two weeks working with wolves and feeding them with just a wire fence between us, I feel that I've succeeded amazingly well. I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience with the wolves and I will definitely come back next year.

Events

Visit Wednesday

Every Wednesday 11am - 4pm

Come along & see the wolves & at 2pm watch the wolves being fed. Additional children's activities will be held during school holidays. Wednesday 31st May - Quirks Animal Roadshows will be on site.

Pre booking not required. Junior member free entry on production of visit ticket.

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

Wolfie Birthday Party

Thursday 1st June 10.30am – 1pm

Help us celebrate the wolves birthday by decorating specially wolfie made cakes. See them wolf!! it down & then decorate cardboard gift boxes. Places must be pre booked. £10 per person. Junior Member £8.

Keep an eye on the website for updated news on summer holiday activities.



Colouring in pictures

