



WIN A
PERSONAL
UKWCT
TOUR!
See page 9!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



-  P2 UKWCT NEWS
-  P7 TALA'S ADVENTURE
-  P8 ARCTIC UPDATE
-  P9 COMPETITION
-  P10 WOLF PUZZLES
-  P11 MAKING SENSE
- THE WOLF'S EYES
-  P12 YOUR LETTERS
-  P13 CHILDREN'S EVENTS

WOLF CHRONICLE



From the Editor

Dear Members

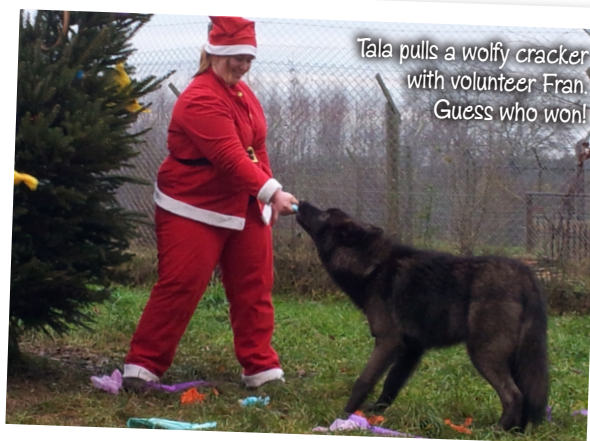
Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a great Christmas, we at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust certainly did!

The Trust has been buzzing with activity and excitement. The Christmas holidays saw the Arctic and Beenham Cubs have their first 'Christmas Cracker' when some of our younger members and supporters brought their families to our Children's Christmas Cracker Walk. They all helped create festive treats for our twelve wolves, stuffing cardboard tubes with meaty treats and wrapping them in tissue paper. The wolves certainly enjoyed ripping them to shreds!



As well as all the festive fun, another major event took place over the Christmas break. On 27th December the Arctic's quarantine period came to an end! You can hear more about this on page 8.

- 2012 is set to be a great year and we are already planning new events and Open Days for you to come and visit us!



I would like to thank all of you who have sent in photos and letters to the Trust. Please keep sending them and we'll try to include as many as we can in each

- edition of Wolf Chronicle. The wolves and I love hearing from you and we look forward to seeing you real soon!

Danny

Assistant Education Officer / Assistant Wolf Keeper

Christmas photo: Jacqui Wilson

News

The Earth turns, the seasons change and once again we are into the short days and the long darkness. The cold quiet nights at the Trust are broken only by the howls of our wolves as their song carries across the village and beyond, perhaps stirring ancient memories in the subconscious of all who hear it. The humans return during the day and break the spell of those mystical hours.

Torak and **Mosi** have been enjoying themselves throughout the year, socialising with their handlers and going on walks with the public. While hormones are high during the breeding season, they will be temporarily retired so they can concentrate on each other. It is unfair to ask them to perform their ambassadorial duties during this tense time and could even be dangerous. They will be left to act as wolves should.

Although not on walks, the interaction between these two wolves is interesting for all to see. Last year, Mosi was pestering Torak for quite a while before he decided he was ready to mate with her. She would grovel around him, squeaking and whining while Torak was his reserved self, ignoring her or snapping when her attention became too overwhelming.



Torak

Torak photo: Simon Davies



Mosi

Mosi photo: Lee Piper

Mosi is a determined creature and has always liked to get her own way, be it with her handlers, the public or other wolves. She succeeded in chasing her sister Mai from the pack and now thinks she is the most important wolf in her world.

Torak still loves to come out on walks when he is able to, but only if he has his favourite handlers around. If someone is there who he doesn't like, he will disappear to the back of his enclosure and no amount of encouraging and calling will persuade him to come out.

Like all our wolves, Torak and Mosi are looking magnificent in their thick winter coats and are beautiful, healthy creatures in the prime of their lives.



News

Duma and Lunca

continue to live companionably together and they have been enjoying lots of interaction with the public on walks.

Duma is the Queen of the Wolf Trust and takes her position very seriously. Although she is our oldest wolf at 13 years of age, she is healthy, strong and very energetic.

It is Duma who will meet the children on a school visit, standing patiently while they complete their special meet and greets.

However, this same, outwardly good-natured wolf can change in an instant if she takes a fancy to a male visitor on a walk! She will rub herself all round his legs and gaze adoringly into his eyes. These special men usually get a lick on the hand during their meet and greet and it is wonderful to see the involuntary smiles of the public when observing one of Duma's little rituals.

Lunca, our remaining European wolf, is 12 years old and compared to Duma is quite slow. This is possibly due to her



Duma

deteriorating eyesight and she just likes to take her time, slowly sniffing things out. Lunca still loves to come out on walks with her adopted sister but she has now stopped doing meet and greets. Lunca is happy to be petted

by her handlers and pose for photographers while Duma does all the work and she always has a crowd of happy people around her, snapping away with their cameras. This laid-back approach suits Lunca just fine.



Lunca

Lunca is a different wolf when it comes to feeding time and has to be fed separately otherwise Duma would not get any food at all. This is the only time that Lunca will stand up to her companion – and about the only time that Duma will let her get away with it.

These two elder stateswomen of the Trust are great favourites with the handlers and public alike and we hope they have lots more time together to enjoy life.

Duma photo: Pete Morgan Lucas

Lunca photo: PALvin Yap

Mai and **Motomo** are healthy, happy and very much a pair. Mai recovered well from her operation in October and made it very clear afterwards that she wanted to be back with her mate when we tried to keep her separate for a couple of days.

she now presents a wonderful sight, with the white contrasting beautifully against the darker colours of her thick pelt. Her mother was pure white so, from having a pure black young wolf, maybe we will have a completely white mature wolf in time!

Motomo has matured into an even more handsome male wolf, if that is possible. He is very protective of Mai and will howl mournfully if she goes

Mai & Motomo



out for a walk. He doesn't really approve of Mai's friendship with humans and has been getting ever nearer the fence when handlers are talking to her. We have to keep a sharp eye on him when he does this - he could easily rush up and, if he wanted

Mai is still very fond of her human friends and loves to come to the fence for a scratch and lots of fuss. After a while, she will go over to Motomo who is standing nearby to allow him to sniff her all over, getting the scent of the humans. Mai will then come back to the fence for more fuss and repeat the procedure, as if showing her mate that there is nothing to be worried about. Mai's coat gets whiter every year and

to, try and nip someone. On the other hand, maybe he is plucking up the courage to come to the fence to be stroked – although this is unlikely. When the cubs were walked past Mai and Motomo's fence, Motomo would rush up to try and make contact with them. His motives remain questionable!

Happy, healthy and loving each other's company, Mai and Motomo are a wonderful sight together.

News

The Beenham Pack, **Tala**, **Tundra** and **Nuka** are as big as their mother now! They are all good-looking as should be expected with such handsome parents. Tundra and Nuka have their father's striking markings and Tala is black like her mother was as a cub.

Tala is rather accident prone and we're hoping that she's finished getting into scrapes. Her first injury probably happened during rough play and she got a large gaping wound on her chest. She had to be separated from her siblings until it healed. A few days before she was due to go back with them, she injured one of the toes on her back foot. It was badly damaged and the vet had to remove it. Tala coped admirably, enjoying the attention. Tundra also liked being on her own with Nuka and snarled at Tala through the fence a few times. When wolves are separated for more than a couple of days, there is the worry that they won't be able to rejoin the same pack. However, after a few growls and some posing, Tala was accepted as part of the

gang again. She has no fear of humans and is very friendly, just like her mother.

Tundra, in contrast, is a wary young wolf, interacting with humans on her own terms. After a while she will lie down a short distance away, keeping an eye on what's happening. She is affectionate and playful when she wants to be and is often the first to try out a new experience, such as jumping on the picnic tables or plunging into the deepest part of the stream.

Nuka is a big ball of naughty furriness. It is difficult to believe how much he has grown when the handlers remember bottle feeding him! He is a powerful animal and must be treated with respect, although he still wants to play. He is a late developer - he can't yet jump onto the greeting platform in the enclosure and sits underneath it whining, while his sisters lie above him looking down. Nuka makes sure he gets his share of attention by lying on his back hoping that someone will scratch his stomach, which of course they do.

The Beenhams are playful, mischievous and charming. They are growing into impressive wolves and are enjoying their training to become our newest ambassadors.



Nuka, Tala & Tundra



Photos: Danny Kidby-Hunter

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



News

The Arctics, **Massak**, **Pukak** and **Sikko** are a lot bigger than when they first arrived in this country. How time flies, it seems only yesterday that the doors of their travelling crates were lifted and out came the first Arctic wolves in the UK.

and is wary of some people, but when he likes and trusts you he is very affectionate and playful. He is a big wolf to be playing puppy games but is not above trying to nibble his handlers' ears under the pretence of giving them a lick. Massak will sometimes take it into his head to have a mad five minutes, prancing and play-bowing, turning round in tight circles and then haring off round the enclosure at speed, closely chased by his siblings. When he is not playing

he sometimes lies on the mound or platform, looking every inch the majestic Arctic wolf.

Pukak is the joker and would like the world to be his friend. He has always been very affectionate and submissive in his greetings to humans, however we are still seeing the affection but not quite so

much submission! He loves attention and to be up close and personal with his handlers. On a cold day it is pretty wonderful to be kept warm by Pukak.

The Arctics are amazingly interactive with their handlers and seem to really enjoy their company. They hardly ever squabble amongst themselves and would rather play chasing and wrestling games. The Trust is so lucky to have these beautiful animals, unique to the UK, courtesy of Parc Safari in Canada and we are sure that our visitors will be equally impressed to see them.



Massak, Sikko & Pukak

Sikko is still a very pretty wolf with a delicate, fine-boned face which always seems to be wearing a cheeky grin. She is full of mischief and will try and get the better of her handlers but always in a playful way. Sikko may be the smallest of the three Arctics but she can hold her own with her two big brothers and chases them off the tastiest bits of food so that she can have them for herself.

Massak is the biggest Arctic and is probably challenging Torak for the title of Biggest Wolf at the Trust! Massak likes to do things on his own terms

Photo: Tsa Palmer

Find out what happened to Tala!



TALA'S ADVENTURE



So Tala made it back to her family and all was well. Congratulations to **Wendy B. from Kent**, who came up with the winning conclusion to Tala's story. Wendy says her favourite wolf at the Trust is Mosi because "she has a cheeky personality and likes to get her own way - a bit like me!" Well done, Wendy!



Wolf Fact

Tala was lucky that she bumped into some wolves that were related to her - also being a cub meant that the adult wolves didn't see her as a threat so they didn't hurt her. Sometimes unrelated cubs can be accepted into a new pack.



Photo: Danny Kidby-Hunter

The Arctic's first walk!

It's been a big week for our Arctic cubs. Tuesday 27th December finally saw the end of their quarantine period and on Saturday 31st December, they were taken on their first walk out of their enclosure to meet the rest of our volunteers! Up until now only 10 Senior Handlers were able to go into their enclosure to interact with them due to the strict quarantine regulations. This period is standard for animals imported from outside of the UK that may be susceptible to the rabies infection. Quarantine lasted six months as a safety precaution but as they showed no signs of infection, the vet signed them off as healthy and released them from their restrictions.

The cubs were a little nervous at being taken out of their comfort zone, Massak especially, but this was to be expected for their first time out. To help put them at ease they each had one of their favourite handlers on the lead, so they had a familiar face by their side for reassurance. One by one, the three cubs were walked up to greet the volunteers. Pukak seemed the most at ease with meeting the new faces and eventually they all seemed to enjoy the new experience, despite being



Massak greets volunteer Heather.



Sikko and Pukak meet the rest of the UKWCT volunteers and check out their new surroundings.

cautious. They thrilled volunteers with a few friendly licks and even indulged them further by allowing themselves to be scratched on the belly.

It is a very promising start and we're confident that once they become used to walking amongst groups in the outside world through further training walks with the volunteers, they will make fantastic Ambassadors for the Trust.

Turn over to find out how to win a fantastic wolfie prize!

Arctic wolves photos: Lee Piper



YOUR OWN PERSONAL TOUR OF THE UKWCT!



How would you like to go behind the scenes at the UKWCT and see the wolves on your very own personalised tour? We're offering one lucky junior member and their family (up to 2 adults and 3 children) **a private tour on a non-event week day** (includes school holidays).

See how the wolves live and are cared for by our volunteers and be shown what it takes to keep the UKWCT running

smoothly and the wolves healthy and happy. At the end of your tour you'll be given a reminder of your special visit to take away.

All you have to do to win this great prize is to answer the following questions and then either post or email them to us. Details can be found below. Even if you don't want to enter the competition, you can have fun answering the questions. Clue - the answers are all in this issue somewhere!

QUESTIONS

1 What is the name of the wildlife park where our Arctic wolves were born?

2 What type of wolf is Lunca?

3 How old is Duma?

4 Who are the Beenham pack's parents?

5 How long did the quarantine period for the Arctics last for?



HOW TO ENTER: Send your answers to **WCJan12 Win, UKWCT, Butlers Farm, Beenham, Reading, Berkshire RG7 5NT** or email us at **education@ukwolf.org** with **WCJan12 Win** in the subject line. Please include your name and a contact phone number.*

*Travel to and from the UKWCT is **NOT** included. Light refreshments are available but please bring any food that you may require during the day. We will notify the winner and arrange a suitable date for the visit. Entries close 31 March 2012.

Tile teaser

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message from the wolves!



Torak photo: Jason Siddall

al s w The py you
ike wi Ye oul sh New to ar.
I a ve hap wo d l Ive ry

Spot the difference

Can you see the differences in these pictures from the one on the left?



There are five differences in this picture.



There are nine differences in this picture.

Answers on page 13!



Beenham photo: Danny Kidby-Hunter



Wolf Facts

Making sense - the wolf's eyes

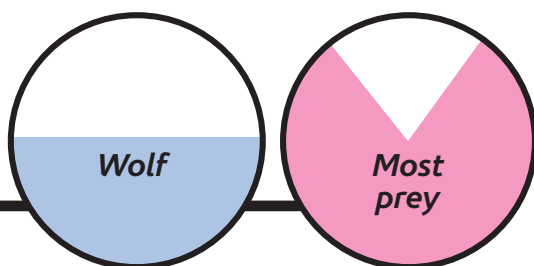
How do wolves' eyes work? Do they see like you and me? Can they cry tears? Deborah Duguid Farrant looks into the subject.



When a wolf is born it usually has deep blue eyes. By the time it is 10 to 12 weeks old this blue will, normally, have lightened and changed to the wolves adult colour. Adult wolves tend to have eyes that are amber, gold or brown but they can also be shades of grey, yellow and even green. It is rare for an adult wolf to retain or keep the blue eye colouring.

A wolf has really good peripheral vision (things you see out of the corner of your eyes) - they can see 180° around them because their eyes are on the front of their heads but their prey can see 300° as their eyes tend to be on the side of their heads.

Range of peripheral vision:



Unlike humans though, wolves' eyes see really well at night and in the times just before the sun comes up and just after it goes down – at dawn and dusk. If we look at a row of hedges or some long grass in a field or meadow, we just see different shades of greens and the brown of the trees and branches, the wolf will see the movement of the grass and the leaves but most importantly it will see the flick of a deer's tail or a twitch of a rabbit's ear and then the wolf knows that it might get lucky and have dinner that day.

One last fact about a wolf's eye is that, like dogs, they have a third eyelid in their eye which has a gland in it. This gland has an oily substance that lubricates the wolves' eyes when the third eyelid is stretched across the eye. Wolves, like all canines, don't cry salt tears as humans do.

So keep an eye on those wolves!



Letters

We love hearing from you about anything wolf related. Here is a selection of letters and pictures we've received recently.

"Thank you for letting us touch the wolves. My favourite part was seeing the Arctic wolves and the new pups, they were very cute."

Brandon



Hello,

I am Finley Arcos Archard and I love wolves! I really enjoyed my first visit to the UK Wolf Center last July, it was a fantastic 6th birthday present!

I got to meet Duma and I have a picture of her on my bedroom door so all my friends can see her when they come to see me.

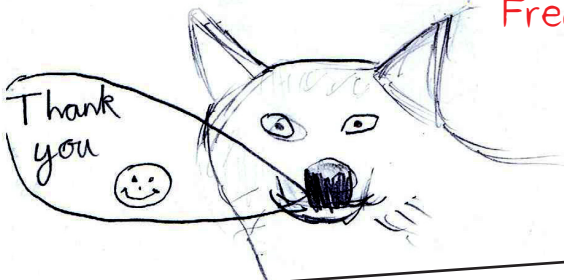
Can you please have my picture with Duma for the next junior newsletter? It would make me very happy!

Hope to see you all soon!

Finley Arcos Archard (by email)

"I didn't really know very much about wolves and I was quite scared of them but now I am not scared at all. I LOVED stroking the wolves, they have really bristly hairs and are so muscly and strong."

Freddie



"It was lots of fun walking with the wolves. My favourite wolf is Tala and my absolute favourite part was looking at the Arctic wolves."

Jack



"Thank you very much for letting us meet and stroke the wolves. Before I came to the Wolf Trust, I thought that wolves were such nasty creatures partly because all the books I read said nasty things about them. But now I love wolves!"

Charlie

Thank you to the children from **Elstree School** in Woolhampton for your lovely letters and drawings.

Events

CHILDRENS WOLF WALKS

● Friday 8th June 2012

1pm start

£13 per person (6 years +). No more than two adults per group.

Take a walk with a UKWCT wolf.

This event includes a short talk and a tour of the centre.



Duma photo: Jason Siddall



Lunca photo: Simon Davies



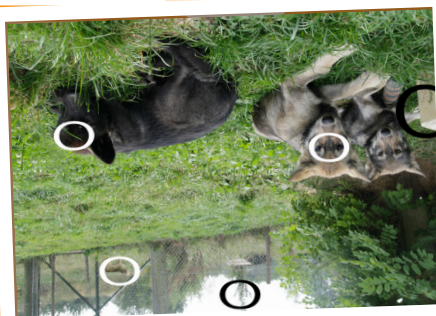
ANSWERS

TILE TEASER:

The message reads - The wolves would like to wish you all a very happy New Year.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

The differences are shown in the photos on the right - nine on the top and five on the bottom. Did you get them all?



Nuka photo: Danny Kidby-Hunter

