

Wolf Print

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Issue 39 Spring 2010



• Wolves
in the
French Alps

• **ARMENIA**
working in a
conflict zone

■ NEWS ■ EVENTS ■ MEDIA AND ARTS ■ REVIEWS



Editor's Letter

This issue will be my seventh as editor of Wolf Print and I can't believe how quickly the time has gone. Over the last couple of years we have striven to get the mix of information right and come up with new features. Many of you have been kind enough to tell us how much you love it and lots of you continue to subscribe to the magazine even if you decide not to renew your membership. We are so grateful and pleased you enjoy the magazine. We certainly enjoy putting it together.

This issue is brimming with articles from all around the world. The human dimensions work in Armenia continues and Alistair Bath gives us an update on how the work is evolving in the area. We don't hold back at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust and are quick to tell you the truth about wolves so the article from Troy Bennett on 'lessons in acceptance' from the French Alps will interest those among you who wonder how wolves and Shepherds live together. The article is as captivating and inspiring as Troy's talk at the book launch back in November 2009.

There are some old favourites, including what our wolves have been up to, and the fantastic news of how much you helped raise for wild wolf projects in 2009, (see the total on the wolf trust news pages).

We are always interested to hear from our members who go off on the most fantastic travels, visiting wolf organisations around the world, and in this issue, you can read about Sue Buckingham's trip to the Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Centre. If you've experienced a good one please tell us. You can email your write-up and photos to me at education@ukwolf.org

Because of the change going from four to three issues a year it has meant that you have had a bit of a gap between this issue and the last, thank you for your patience and we hope you enjoy this issue.

Toni Shelbourne

Education Officer / Senior Wolf Handler / Wolf Print Editor

STOP PRESS: WEB UPDATE 26 JANUARY 2010

Just as Wolf Print went to press two significant events happened:

Sadly Alba, our alpha male European, wolf died. Alba had been suffering from the after-effects of a spinal injury sustained in 2005. For the full story go to the news section of our website.

Also, the winner of the Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2009 competition featured on page 19 was stripped of his title when an enquiry concluded that the photo was in breach of the rules as a socialised wolf was allegedly used.

Wolf Print



Editor
Toni Shelbourne
Tel: 0118 971 3330
Email: education@ukwolf.org

Assistant Editor
Julia Bohanna

Editorial Team
Angela Barrow, Sandra Benson, Vicky Hughes,
Tsa Palmer, Denise Taylor

Published by
The UK Wolf Conservation Trust
Butlers Farm, Beenham,
Reading RG7 5NT
Tel: 0118 971 3330
Fax: 0118 971 0522
Email: ukwct@ukwolf.org

Patrons
David Clement Davies
Erich Klinghammer
Desmond Morris
Michelle Paver
Christoph Promberger

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust Directors
Nigel Bulmer
Anne Carter
Charles Hicks
Sue Hull
Tsa Palmer

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust is a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England & Wales. Company No. 3686061.

The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the publishers or The UK Wolf Conservation Trust.

All rights reserved throughout the world. Reproduction in any manner, in whole or in part, in English or other languages, is prohibited. The work may not be photocopied or otherwise produced within the terms of any licence granted by the Copyright Licensing Agency Ltd or the Publishers Licensing Society Ltd.

Aims of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

- To enhance the conservation, scientific knowledge and public awareness of the environment.
- To stimulate greater interest in wolves, their food, their habitat and their behaviour.
- To provide opportunities for both ethological research and for people to interact with wolves.
- To improve the chances of survival of European wolves in the wild.
- To provide education programmes for schools, conservationists and other organisations.

Cover Price - £3.50
3 issues - £14.00 inc P&P
Overseas subscriptions - £14.00 plus P&P.
Please contact the UKWCT for overseas postage costs.
Online subscription £10.00 - PDF download only.
Please visit www.ukwolf.org

Design and Artwork: Business Pluspoint
www.businesspluspoint.co.uk Tel: 0845 890 8690
email: enquiries@businesspluspoint.co.uk

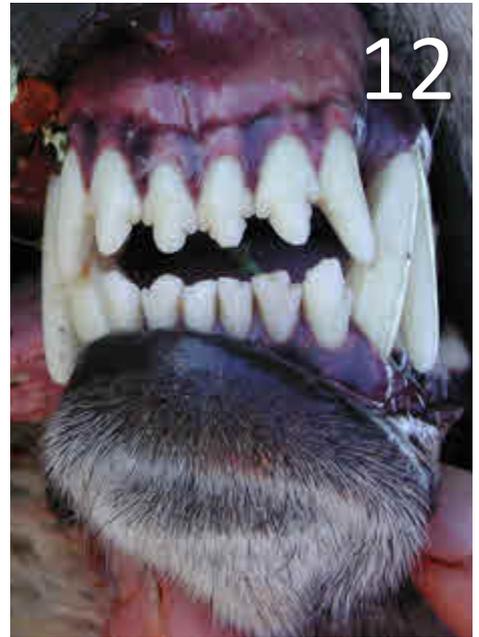
Printed by: Pensord, NP12 2YA. www.pensord.co.uk

Printed on FSC paper from sustainable forest sources. This magazine is fully recyclable. By recycling magazines you can help to reduce waste and add to the millions of tonnes of paper already recycled every year by the UK paper industry. You can recycle paper through your home recycling collection scheme or at your local recycling centre. Visit www.recyclenow.com and enter your postcode to find your nearest site.

Cover photo: Lunca by Clive Readings



8



12



18

contents

REGULARS

- 2 Editor's Letter
- 12 Life and Behaviour of Wolves
Wolf Teeth: Dentition and Disease
- 22 Merchandise
Wolf gifts, souvenirs and sale items
- 18 Making Tracks
Wolves in media and art

NEWS

- 4 News from the Trust
- 8 World Animal Day
- 10 Wolves of the World

FEATURES

- 14 Wolves in the French Alps
Lessons in acceptance, by Troy Bennett
- 20 Human Dimensions: working in conflict zones
Alistair J Bath visits Armenia
- 24 Return to the Wild
Red wolf recovery, by Steve Grooms
- 26 Information and Feedback

WHAT'S COMING UP

- 27 Special Events at the Trust
Open days, holiday activities, howl nights and more



26



23



Wolf NEWS: Update

Life for the UK Wolf Conservation Trust wolves follows the same cycle as their wild cousins. In the autumn they grow their winter coats and now they are gearing up for the breeding season. This will be the first true breeding season for the Canadian pack (formerly know as the Mackenzies): Torak, Mai and Mosi, since reaching full maturity. It could be an interesting time for wolves and handlers both.



ALBA suffers the most in the cold, damp winter months due to the arthritis in his spine and the strain on his body from the developing paralysis in his left hind leg. It is four and a half years since the accident that left him partially disabled and each year we battle a little harder to keep him fit and healthy. This winter he has joined the ranks of the young men trying to build muscle by taking anabolic steroids. He had his first injection in November and has been having them monthly to try and increase muscle and therefore help him get around a bit easier as he can be unstable on his hind legs. Although he won't let the vet near him, he is very good at having his injection which Toni Shelbourne administers while he is being fussed over by Colin Thorne, two of the Trust's Senior Wolf Handlers. He also has access to a warm dry bed 24/7 if he wants to get out of the weather. Don't be fooled by his failing exterior, he can still tell his sisters off and guard his food if necessary.

LUNCA is as usual taking some of the brunt from Latea's hormonal surge but as always is coping well, especially with the added benefit of Alba protecting her. Over the sunny summer months handlers noticed that her eyesight in bright sunlight seems to be impaired slightly which can make her hesitant in striding out on a walk. She has always had problems with her eyes but copes very well so we are watching it carefully. She is still playful and visitors on a recent Howl Night were treated to her bouncing around inviting her sister to play and encouraging the pack to howl back to the humans. Since being neutered, we have to watch her weight even more vigilantly; she seems to be able to live off air as we struggle to keep her at the optimum weight. Back in October we changed the way we feed which means we can now guarantee the amount each wolf gets if necessary so this should help in the future.

LATEA doesn't like to share. This is never more apparent than on enrichment days when the packs are given stuffed melons, pumpkins or Hessian sacks filled with straw, scented with perfume or coffee. She will grab hers and run off with it but she never goes far as there might be an opportunity to steal someone else's and have two. Last year Latea and Lunca have begun to go out on the members' walks occasionally and although neither of them enjoys standing around to be stroked, they do enjoy sniffing everyone in the line up and often double back to re-sniff anyone of interest. After a few years off work, the girls seem to love the extra stimulation but if Latea picks on her sister too much in the breeding season these walks will be temporarily stopped. As Alba is the protector and peace-keeper it is essential that he is around when Latea bullies her sister and he can't manage the longer members' walk.

DAKOTA is slowing down a lot; this will be her third year of living with cancer and she sometimes does feel her age. That's until a hotdog appears or a photo session is in the offing - then she is bright as a button. She had a minor operation back in October to remove what we thought was a benign lump on her lower right hind leg. While under anaesthetic the vet discovered a second growth hidden under the first which looked abnormal. The biopsy results showed that the second lump is likely to have been malignant and may therefore be part of the overall lymphomatous condition. She recovered well and within 10 days was back out in the main enclosure with her sister Duma. As usual Dakota was a model patient. She was calm and happy to stay on the yard and in the kennels. We provided a deep warm bed and lots of fusses from handlers which she loved.

te on the Trust Wolves

DUMA, always the higher ranking of the two, showed a more vulnerable side this autumn when Dakota was confined to the kennel and yard area whilst recovering from her minor op. Duma spent much of her day lying just outside the yard area in view of Dakota and would howl for the best part of the day until someone went and made a fuss of her. She was very concerned about her sister and was happy when they were properly reunited in the enclosure. Since then Duma hasn't had much time to relax as she has been on border patrol. With breeding season upon us she has stepped up her vigilance of making sure Mai and Mosi haven't snuck into her enclosure whilst she wasn't looking, guarding the fence line and running down towards their enclosure whenever she gets a sniff of something going on. It certainly does keep her fit and active.

TORAK has matured into a shy, aloof adult and disappointed most of the visitors on our five open days this year by hiding up in the trees where nobody could see him. He is still affectionate with his favourite handlers and is enjoying the walks with the public at the farm but isn't really interested in being stroked, which is fairly typical for a male wolf of his age. Both Kodiak and Alba were the same at his age. Michelle Paver, the author of 'The Chronicles of Ancient Darkness' where Torak got his name, thinks he very much takes after the character in the books and Torak is her favourite wolf at the centre. He is a little confused about Mai's behaviour towards him recently. One minute she is dominating Mosi, as she should be doing, the next she is being super-submissive to Torak. He looks like a confused teenager trying to work out what to do on his first date. Will he think of Mai as his mate or has living with her from a cub pushed all thoughts of mating with her out of the window. Watch this space to find out!

MAI is turning into a serious flirt. She can be extremely submissive toward Torak in play and in highly charged situations. Recently we had a photo day and a piece of meat we threw over the fence landed in a tree. Mai spent ages trying to jump high enough to retrieve it, going back to it long after the photo day had ended. Torak also became interested and came over to investigate, at which Mai became very submissive, almost begging at his feet. Torak took full advantage and used the situation to dominate her. However all her hard work paid off and later the meat fell out of the tree just in front of her nose. We have been replanting the herb planters for the wolves as some herbs had died and we wanted to add more variety. Mai and Mosi were especially taken with the new smells and tastes. Mai spent ages chinning the planter, which is specially designed to stop the wolves digging the plants up. She also had a nibble of the rosemary which all the wolves seem to enjoy.

MOSI also enjoyed the herb planters but in true Mosi fashion the camcorder, which we were using to record their reactions, was also a good source of amusement. Needless to say the film goes a little haywire for a moment while we discouraged her from playing with the camcorder. Although super-cheeky she does back Mai up against Duma, who is their arch enemy onsite, especially in breeding season. For her pains she is increasingly dominated by Mai as their hormone levels increase. Torak does step in and calm the situation down but occasionally Mosi gets herself into trouble. On a recent walk she was playing around in the stream and whilst standing on a log decided not to venture any further as Mai was bearing down on her from the front. In Mosi's haste to retreat she slipped off the log into the water and before she had time to recover Mai was telling her off very firmly.



4



5

THE MAC PACK GETS A NEW NAME

After talking about it amongst ourselves, and consulting the experts in the USA, it was felt North-Western Canadian Wolves was a better description for their species. As it's a bit of a mouthful we have shortened it to the Canadian Pack. The science of taxonomy is ever-changing and it's good to keep abreast of the latest information. Besides, the wolves don't seem to mind what they are called.

1. Lunca, Alba and Latea by Pete Morgan-Lucas
2. Dakota by Chris Odell
3. Duma by Chris Odell
4. Torak and Mosi by Anne Carter
5. Mai by Joan Paddock

Donation News

TOTALS FOR 2009

Donations sent out by the Trust during 2009 were:

Bulgaria: Balkani Wildlife Society - £6750

Croatia: Zagreb - £3000

Greece: Human Dimensions in Wolf Management - £2000

Ethiopia: Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Project - £2000

Russia: Chisty Les Biological Station - £6000, which includes the **Christmas Feed a Cub for a Year appeal**. Thank you to all those who were so generous. The Trust also donated £2000 towards this appeal bringing the total to £4000. That equates to 11 cubs being fed for a year.

Red Wolf Coalition (USA): £2000

The total money sent to projects for 2009 was £23,750. Thank you for all your support in raising these funds which are vital to help wild wolves.

How Your Donations Helped The Red Wolf Recovery Program

In the autumn of 2009 the UKWCT sent a £2000 donation to the Red Wolf recovery programme in America. The funds were much needed as they had a number of projects which needed an injection of cash. The Red Wolf Coalition board met in October 2009 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Laid out below are the decisions about designating a portion of the funds that your support helped raise. The information was sent to us by Cornelia Hutt.

(a) \$350 USD for the purchase of software to design the new Red Wolf Coalition Web site. We spent a considerable portion of the meeting working on the site components with a board member who has the expertise to run with this project.

(b) A re-printing of the Red Wolf issue of International Wolf magazine, a key component of our educational programs. It is also used by a number of the Species Survival Program facilities across the US. When I edited this issue, I took great care to make it as timeless as possible in order to give it a long shelf life. We are getting quotes now from the printer in Minneapolis. If we get 5000 copies for our education and outreach programs, the US Fish and Wildlife Red Wolf Recovery Team will split the cost with us. I estimate the cost to the Coalition will be about \$1500 USD.

(c) A re-printing of the Red Wolf Coalition's

signature educational brochure.

(d) Development of marketing materials for our campaign to raise \$100,000 USD for the enclosures for some ambassador red wolves. We have a jump start of \$10,000 from a grant source, so we have \$90,000 to go! This is going to be tough in the very rural (and poor) region that is red wolf country. So we will need to find sources of support in the big cities in the centre of the state of North Carolina. We will need to spend some money to get these funds.

Any conservationists and wolf advocates in the UK who want to support the ongoing restoration of this critically endangered wolf will have the joy of making a difference in a very direct way to an animal that once was extinct in the wild. Donations to the Coalition's operating budget allow us the flexibility to designate specific amounts where the money will have the most effect. However, if anyone is interested in the enclosure project as a direct recipient of a donation, we would be thrilled.

You can donate online at www.redwolves.com. You can also contact Kim Wheeler, RWC Executive Director, at kwheeler@redwolves.com. The RWC is able to accept transfers of money from outside the US.

Cornelia Hutt
Chair of the Red Wolf Coalition Board

BOOK LAUNCH A GREAT SUCCESS



The Launch of 'A New Era for Wolves and People' was a great success.

Alistair Bath, Denise Taylor & Marco Musiani
Photo: Chris Senior

Talks from Alistair Bath, Marco Musiani and Troy Bennett were packed out and book signings went on all day. The book launch and open day attracted over 1000 people. If you regret not being able to hear the talks don't worry, both Alistair and Troy have articles in this issue which complement their talks. If you haven't got a copy of the book yet, see the review on page 18 to whet your appetite. The book is available through our online shop at www.ukolf.org

The second book in the series is due out this month.



MARTIN ADAMS A HOWLING SUCCESS

The world class darts player Martin Adams, Nickname 'Wolfie', who is an active supporter of the UKWCT, let out a howl recently when he won the Winmau World Masters Champion 2009. What's more, in January 2010, Martin regained the Lakeside World Darts Championship.

We'd like to congratulate Martin and thank him for his continued support of our work.

Martin also visited the UKWCT on World Animal Day. See page 8 for a full report.

Photo: Yvonne Andrews

DONATION THANKS

Many thanks indeed to Chris and Su Dore for donating a much-needed external hard drive for our photo library.

As your newest Director it has been a privilege for me to become involved with the Wolf Trust once again after so many years in the wilderness, so to speak. To explain my absence, having been involved with wolves for over 15 years I changed direction a little and did an MSc at Southampton University in the behaviour of companion animals. After running a behavioural consultancy for 10 years or so I woke up one morning to find a letter from Tsa Palmer bringing me up to date with the news from the UKWCT. For some time I had been thinking, yes, I do miss being around wolves and I miss the friends that I made over all the years since I set up the Wolf Society in 1985. Much water has passed under the bridge since then but one thing that I can categorically say is that the lot of wolves has changed immeasurably in those 25 years. In particular the set-up at the Trust amazed me when I turned up for my first visit after this long gap. The facilities for visitors, the "wolf kitchen", the wildlife area, are all marvellous but what impressed me the most were the enclosures. Each one is a very good size and is enhanced by the varied topography and the use of a variety of vegetation and climbing platforms. (I still don't understand how it is that the wolves don't destroy these when my own pack of Huskies require everything wooden to be

edged in galvanised steel!!) It was just great to see that sensible sized holding areas had been included and most wondrous of all, that the wolves have the interest of being rotated around each of these enclosures once every four months. I really do think that the UKWCT can congratulate itself on providing some of the best facilities for captive wolves in the UK.

My pride in being involved with such an organisation is also enhanced by the fact the Trust financially supports so many conservation projects overseas. As a Director, this, along with my strong interest in captive wolf welfare, was my main reason for taking up the position. I really hope that we can increase the amount of support that we provide to projects, such as that for the Ethiopian wolf, over the next few years. They sorely need it, particularly as climate change is likely to stress ecosystems to the point of collapse. In many parts of the world there may be increased human conflict as resources become limited or their nature changes and you can be sure that the wildlife will be the first to suffer. As a long time fan of all things Arctic (and Antarctic) I cannot believe that I live in an era when the very survival of those ecosystems is in doubt. Maybe, like the polar bear we are going to lose those beautiful white arctic wolves.

A terrible thought indeed. So for all you wolf lovers out there, even though understanding of these animals and their place in nature has increased so vastly over the last ten to fifteen years and they are no longer universally vilified, there is still much to be done if we are to ensure that we still have wild wolves in the world by the end of this century.

Sue Hull
Director

Sue with Duma; photo: Matt Booth



What a Christmas Cracker!

Monday 21st December was the date set for our Christmas fun; little did we know when we planned the day that it was going to be truly festive with snow on the ground and falling from the air. Excited children turned up with their families to help the wolves celebrate Christmas. Mosi and Mai were eager for their walk and to meet their adoring fans, so after a quick hello to the adults we set off plodding through the snow as Mosi headed for the pond to play with the ice. Everyone had the opportunity to say hello to the girls before we all headed back to the Education Room to warm up and prepare the decorations for the wolves' Christmas trees. We even had a special visitor in the form of Father Christmas.

Each pack had their own Christmas tree this year which the children decorated with all sorts of goodies for the wolves to enjoy: they had crackers stuffed with chicken, pigs ears and other chews, as well as apples, oranges and carrots, and each tree had a star on the top. All the wolves were excited to find out what we had been up to. Latea was quick to realise that food was involved, whilst Lunca chose to grab a treat then move to a safe distance to enjoy it in peace. Alba chose carefully but stayed close enough to the tree to grab another treat for himself once he had finished. Duma and Dakota also had fun; once everyone had left Dakota was seen still sitting under their tree eating her way through the remaining treats. Mosi, Mai and Torak didn't quite know what to make of it; Mosi in her usual style jumped straight in and was seen jumping up at the tree to get the higher treats, Mai and Torak weren't so sure about the new addition to their enclosure and took a little coaxing from a couple of their favourite handlers before they were willing to join in the fun. This was our first event of this kind and I'm sure all the wolves will know what to expect when we do it again next year.



Mosi tucks into some Christmas treats. Photo by Joan Paddock

A howl of a time at wolf open da



The most popular Open Day, and the one with the most going on, was October 4th. This was our second celebration of World Animal Day and our theme this year was NORTH AMERICAN WOLVES. There were talks on Yellowstone in the Education Room and many stalls selling leather and North American native crafts. However, the highlight of the day was two dancing displays by the AMWEST internationally acclaimed troupe of dancers. Not only did they dance in wonderful costumes, including a 135-year-old American wolf hide, as well as unique headdresses with eagle and swan feathers, they explained the history of the outfits involved. They erected two genuine Indian tipis and told stories about customs and traditions and the Indians with native humour. Some visitors arrived at the open day in their own Native Indian traditional dress making a great atmosphere; the feeling of closeness and warmth between all those who revere the Native American Indians was evident and it made a great impression on all the visitors - adults and children alike.



The Trust opened its doors five times during the summer and autumn months of 2009 when people had the chance to come and see the wolves and have some fun. Most visitors are already interested in wolves and enjoy being able to spend time in the sunshine watching the three packs in their spacious enclosures, taking photographs from the lower viewing platform and through the specially adapted photo holes in the fencing.



Volunteers were on hand throughout the day to talk to visitors about wolves in general and to share their knowledge of ours here at the Trust. This knowledge, and their first-hand experience, helps dispel any visitors' misconceptions that may have been implanted from childhood stories and nursery rhymes that wolves attack people - putting the facts straight that wolves avoid people and run away. Our Trust wolves are true ambassadors to help educate people in this important area. Although the wolves are centre stage, we always have events for the children and other animals and birds on site, so there is something for everyone.

We were lucky to have a sunny day, so over 1000 people enjoyed not only the wolves and dancers but also were able to get up close and personal with hawks, which performed two flying displays during the afternoon, and meet and touch goats, snakes, bats and hedgehogs, as well as ferrets and dormice. One of the most popular events was the 'hug a husky' with queues all afternoon to go into the enclosure with seven friendly huskies. There were also stands where visitors learnt more about the British Deer society's anti-poaching campaign and from wildlife rescue organisations and the badger trust.



For the artistic minded visitor there were wildlife art displays and pastel workshops running all day, as well as activities especially for children ranging from a bouncy castle to

ays in 2009

pond dipping, a nature trail, archery sessions and the opportunity to make North American masks and feather head dresses.

There were one or two celebrities on hand during the day: Winmau World Masters' Champion 2009, and World Champion 2010, Martin "Wolfie" Adams, was on site to demonstrate and give visitors tips on throwing darts!!! Martin has sponsored Duma since 2005 and is a great supporter of the wolf trust. He also judged our human howling competition and judged the children's North American masks, which were at very high standards. Chris Tarrant, who lives within howling distance of the Trust, made his first visit and was captivated by the wolves.

The Trust raised over £6,000 from the day and these much needed funds have been sent to Russia, Bulgaria and Greece where work is going on to keep wolves in the wild, by education and, in the case of the project in Russia, saving wolf cubs from the hunters and bringing them up and then releasing them back into the wild. This year's World Animal Day will be on Sunday October 3rd. The theme will be "British wildlife lost and living" and we have already booked reindeer, wild boar, otters and birds of prey. It will be another really worthwhile day - do come if you can.

Tsa Palmer, Director

Pictures:

1. **AMWEST Native American dancers.** Reproduced courtesy of the Reading Chronicle, holder of the copyright. www.readinginchronicle.co.uk
2. **Traditional American dancing**
3. **Traditional American dancing**
4. **Traditional Native American tipis**
Photo by Ian Goudie
5. **Mask competition judging**
Photo by Ian Goudie
6. **Red kite**
7. **Chris Tarrant and Martin 'Wolfie' Adams**
Photo by Ian Goudie
8. **Pygmy goat**
Photo by Ian Goudie
9. **Martin Adams**
Photo by Ian Goudie
10. **Jayne Kingdon and her huskies**



5



6



9



7



10



8

wolves of the world

news from
around the
world

Lunca & Alba by Paula French



■ DNA Analysis of Japanese Wolf.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) D-loop control region sequences ranging in length from 583 to 598 bp were determined for eight Japanese wolf specimens (*Canis lupus hodophilax* Temminck, 1839) collected from several sites and compared with 105 haplotypes from the domestic dog (*C. lupus familiaris*) and continental grey wolf (*C. lupus lupus*). Also, a 197-bp mtDNA sequence was amplified from archaeological wolf specimens and two continental wolf specimens (*C. lupus chanco*) as reference sequences for analysis. The mtDNA haplotypes from the eight Japanese wolf specimens were closely related to each other and grouped in a single lineage with an 88% bootstrap value in a neighbour-joining analysis. The results provide valuable information for understanding the taxonomic and phylogenetic relationships of the Japanese wolf, which have long been controversial. www.bioone.org, July 2009, (tinyurl.com/ykcv4l3)

■ Oregon's Wolves on YouTube.

In early 2008, State wildlife officials confirmed the presence of a young female wolf in North eastern Oregon near the Eagle Cap Wilderness. A radio-tracking collar she'd been wearing since 2006 confirmed that she had migrated from a pack in Idaho. Apparently, she's been doing well for herself in Oregon. Officials have captured excellent video footage of her in the rugged Imnaha region in the northeast corner of the state. She's now the alpha wolf in an unusually large pack of 10 animals, including what appears to be a large number of pups. www.daily.sightline.org, November 2009, (tinyurl.com/yemlzd3)

Swiss Wardens Seek Three Wolves: Dead or Alive

Swiss authorities are on the hunt for three wolves that have exceeded their kill count of sheep in western Switzerland's canton Valais.

A death warrant has been issued for the wolves, which entered the country from Italy and France. The order came after shepherds reported that their flocks were under attack by the pack of wolves.

On the night of August 1st and 2nd, about 15 sheep fell prey to the wolf trio. A total of 27 sheep were killed during the month of July in the Swiss canton of Lucerne. According to Swiss law, the predators are breaking the law, which states that predators may only kill 35 animals over a period of four months, or 25 in a single month. That kill limit drops to 15 a month for protected herds.

The predators may not be aware that they are breaking Swiss law, but authorities have given the green light for wardens to shoot them at first sight.

The decision to hunt down the wolves has been met with criticism from conservation group World Wildlife Fund. "In most cases, the sheep which were attacked had not been efficiently protected," said WWF's spokeswoman Pierrette Rey.

There are 12 known wolves in Switzerland that have yet to form into a pack, although they may eventually do so. "At the moment, the young males are looking for new territories and the first packs will form because there are two females,"

www.redorbit.com, August 2009
(tinyurl.com/yguzm4y)

Wolf behaviour will guide management on Flathead Indian Reservation

How the grey wolf population is managed on the Flathead Indian Reservation will largely be up to the wolves.

The management plan, approved by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council (CSKT) in June, went through the required environmental assessment process and went into effect earlier this month. It does not attempt to manage toward a specific number of wolves on the reservation. Instead, according to Germaine White, information and education specialist with the CSKT Natural Resources Department, management "will depend heavily upon wolf behaviour and amount of conflict with other wildlife, livestock and people."

A large population of wolves with little or no conflicts will result in "no excessive effort to reduce the wolf population," she said. On the other hand, a small population of wolves that

repeatedly kill livestock or excessive numbers of big game or other wildlife species could lead to lethal control. White said the planning effort "attempted to consider all viewpoints in the development of alternative management scenarios for inclusion in the Gray Wolf Management Plan." Input from tribal elders and culture committees, hunters, stock growers and others were considered as four management alternatives were developed. The one chosen includes a goal of providing for the long-term presence of wolves on the reservation, while also working to minimize conflicts between wolves and humans.

The management plan went into effect on November 1st. It can be found on the tribal website www.cskt.org at tinyurl.com/yeo7hhc

www.missoulian.com, November 2009
(tinyurl.com/ybfj2ue)

Wolves rode icebergs to travel to Falkland Islands, say biologists.

A team of biologists has solved the mystery contemplated by Charles Darwin in 1835 about how a wolf-like species got on the Falkland Islands, determining that it might have come to the islands on icebergs.

When Charles Darwin visited the Falkland Islands during the voyage of the Beagle in 1835, he saw a wolf-like species, wrote about it in his diaries and correctly commented that it was being hunted in such large numbers that it would soon become extinct. Darwin was baffled by how this animal got on the islands, and it figured heavily in the formation of his ideas on evolution by natural selection. Now, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) biologists and colleagues have analysed DNA from museum specimens, including one collected by Darwin, and have solved the puzzle.

"It was the only terrestrial mammal on the island," said Robert Wayne, UCLA professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and co-author of the research paper. "How can something the size of a Labrador Retriever end up on an island in sufficient numbers that a new population emerges and evolves into a new species? The presence of this large canid, the Falkland Islands wolf, has always been a puzzle, since the early 1800s," he added. Graham Slater, a postdoctoral scholar in the UCLA Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and lead author of the research paper, Wayne and colleagues, analysed DNA samples from five Falkland Islands wolves and calculated how long ago those five wolves shared a common ancestor.

"It was at least 70,000 years ago - well before humans came to the New World," Slater said. "The Falkland Islands wolf clearly precedes any possible human occupation of the New World, which dates back some 12,000 to 13,000 years," he added.

Darwin hypothesised that the Falkland Islands wolf, which became extinct in 1876, may have come to the islands on icebergs.

www.DNAIndia.com, November 2009
(tinyurl.com/ya9fdhr)

Wolves, Moose and Soil Nutrients: the unexpected connection

Isle Royale National Park is unusual among land ecosystems: wolves are the only predator of moose, and moose are nearly the only prey for wolves. Having a single-predator-single-prey structure makes things pretty simple for ecologists studying how species interact. But they still find the unexpected.

Researchers were startled recently to discover "hot spots" of forest fertility on this 50-mile long, eight-mile wide island in the northwest part of Lake Superior - areas rich with nutrients somehow derived from the carcasses of moose - even after the bodies had been picked clean by wolves and scavengers. "It was surprising that these moose carcasses led to increased soil nutrients that actually lasted for two or three years," said Joseph K. Bump, assistant professor in Michigan Technological University's School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science and lead author of the study. "If you've ever seen a kill site, not much is left - we predicted nothing was going on in the soil and the plants. And we were wrong." "This is a new link between wolves and ecosystem functions," Bump said. "It's inspiring because it's not intuitive. Wolves and moose and hot spots and dirt are not seemingly inter-related. Who would have thought wolves were related to these hot spots in the dirt? Or influenced fertile spots in the earth? Being proved wrong is the best thing in science - I love being wrong."

He and his colleagues studied a 50-year record of more than 3,600 wolf-killed moose carcasses on the island. They examined levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in the soil, and compared them to spots where there had been no moose bodies. They also analyzed microbes and fungi in the soil and leaf tissue of large-leaf aster, a common native plant that is a frequent part of the moose diet in eastern and central North America. They discovered that soil at carcass locations had 100 to 600 percent more inorganic nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium

than the control areas used for comparison purposes. Carcass sites also had an average of 38 percent more bacterial and fungal acids, which indicates the growth of bacteria and fungi.

Furthermore, nitrogen levels in plants growing on the carcass sites were 25 to 47 per cent higher than those at the control sites. "It definitely showed that plants growing on carcass sites have elevated leaf nitrogen, which is kind of like a leaf protein," Bump said. "It's important for leaf growth - and for anything that eats leaves."

Rolf O. Peterson, another member of the research team, called it "gratifying" to be able to follow animal-derived nutrients back into plants to enrich them in protein, ready to be eaten again." Bump has found similar results on the soil and plant life at elk carcass sites in Yellowstone National Park, another area with wolf predators and large herbivores as prey. Also, on the Arctic tundra, where soil nutrients are sparse, other researchers have found a similar impact from muskox carcasses on surrounding vegetation. In that instance, the effects have persisted for at least a decade.

"Predation and nutrient cycling are two of the most important of all ecological processes, but they seem just about completely unrelated to each other," said John Vucetich, the third member of the research team. Yet, he added, they are "connected in a most interesting way."

The study, published in the November issue of Ecology, "illuminates another contribution large predators make to the ecosystem they live in, and illustrates what can be protected or lost when predators are preserved or exterminated," Bump added.

www.USNews.com, November 2009
(tinyurl.com/ybfewh2).



Mosji, Mai and Torak, by Joann Padbock



Life and behaviour of wolves

Wolf Teeth: Dentition and Disease

by Toni Shelbourne, UKWCT

Torak yawning: M Readings

I must confess wolves' teeth are not something I'd thought much about, but recently a homeopathic vet asked me about dental problems in wolves.

He was discussing with conventional vets, feeding a natural diet to domestic dogs, but kept being told that wolves die in the wild due to dental problems through sustaining molar slab fractures from eating bones. The UKWCT wolves' teeth are all in good condition and only have normal wear and tear; even the older wolves have never had dental problems. With my curiosity fired I set out to find out more.

The response I received from many colleagues around the world was interesting and thought provoking. Predictably data is limited due to the normal life span of wild wolves; Zanete Andersone-Lilley, who works for WWF Norway, says 'All I can say is that in my numerous autopsies of wolves in Latvia I never came across one whose cause of death was broken teeth. It was usually bullets'. Other organisations with captive wolves, like the International Wolf Centre

(IWC), have also not encountered problems. 'The Wolf Centre and other captive wolves that I work with eat deer carcasses for the natural food and bones. It has been my experience with captive wolves that natural bones are fine' says Nancy Gibson who co-founded the centre with David Mech.

So where were the vets getting their information from? Josip Kusak from the Department of Biology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine University of Zagreb, in Croatia may have the answer. A paper written by Josip and his colleagues in 2007 called 'Prevalence of Dental Pathology in Wolves in Croatia' did provide some credible data regarding dental issues with wild wolves. 34 skulls were examined for dental changes. The skulls originated from wolves which had died due to various reasons in Croatia between 1997 and 2006. Age of examined animals ranged from seven months to eight and half years. Only three skulls had changes to teeth or the alveolar bone (the sockets of the teeth in the jaw bone). Periodontitis, with changes in the alveolar bone, was determined on the alveolus of the lower fourth premolar in two individuals and on the alveolus of the mandibular first molar

in one specimen. Complicated crown-root fractures were found in two individuals. All caries lesions (tooth decay) were found on premolars and molars, (except on one incisor). Caries were also found on the upper jaw in one animal and on the lower jaw of another animal, while a third animal had decay in both jaws. None of the animals died because of dental issues and of all the skulls examined the pathological changes belonged to females older than two years. Out of all the skulls studied 8.9% had dental changes. Dental disease is rare in wild canids and evidence shows that they seem to cope by changing sides for chewing. Fractures of teeth also seem to be rare but not unheard of. Possibly lesser fractures where the tooth crown is lost but the pulp is not exposed would be quite common.

Wolves have the same number of teeth as domestic dogs. The permanent dentition is 42 teeth; cubs have a few less until their adult teeth come through. Canid teeth are different from feline as cats tend to deliver one killing bite and hold on with their teeth and claws, whereas wolves prefer to deliver a number of bites which are shallower and designed to injure and weaken the prey animal. This enables

them to track it or return later to bring it down safely once its strength deteriorates. The dental formula for one side of the jaw is Incisors 3/3, Canines 1/1, Premolars 4/4, and Molars 2/3. The incisors initial role is to grasp and hold the prey, but they are also used to nip or pull at live prey and nibble meat from bones, or delicately take berries from bushes. The canine teeth initially slash at the hide and muscle causing bleeding and large wounds. Later these teeth will be used for stabbing and holding on to the prey. They can be up to 560mm in length including the portion imbedded in the jaw bone. Once the incisors and canines have brought down the prey, the specialist molars and premolars called carnassials are employed for cutting and shearing the flesh. These teeth also aid the molars to crush bone.

All the force of holding onto and the movement of the fleeing prey are borne by the front teeth.

It is the incisors and canines which are predominantly used to bring down prey. The jaw strength is phenomenal and can exert around 1,500 pounds per square inch in pressure, which equals approximately twice that of a pit bull terrier. All the force of holding onto and the movement of the fleeing prey are borne by the front teeth. Wolves in the wild have been seen lifted off the ground and dragged for metres or even flung against tree trunks by their prey whilst hunting. Research has shown that only wolves who predominantly bring down large prey like moose suffer from broken canines.

Spiral fractures to canines can be caused by the extreme pressure from an incomplete hold on a thrashing prey animal. Cornelia Hutt from the International Wolf Centre and Red Wolf Coalition says 'If wild wolves live long enough, of

course they are going to have tooth wear and injury. But the wolf is superbly adapted to be a carnivore with muscles that convey powerful mechanical advantage to the jaw. Despite that, asymmetrical loading within the skull can be severe when the wolf locks onto a bite with just one canine tooth for instance. This can result in spiral fractures, but this is lessened by the buttressing of bone along the jaw and also by the limited length of the wolf's skull. The post-carnassial molars are designed for crushing and grinding. Indeed, they fracture and break in some wolves and maybe the wolf dies but maybe that wolf is compromised in other ways as well. A few wild wolves live to be very old - eight or nine and occasionally older. One old red wolf in North Carolina lived to be about 13. He had nothing but stubs for teeth when he died. His canines were short and blunt, his incisors were gone, and the carnassials and molars were good for nothing but helping him gum his food. For some reason, the pack (he had been the breeding male) not only tolerated him, they took care of him. One biologist says he observed the old wolf's family regurgitating food to him'.

Nancy Gibson from the IWC says, 'Wolf teeth get worn in the wild. Wolves have to chase down prey running at 40 mph, they get kicked by their prey and then wolves have to fiercely defend their food, territory, breeding partners and rank. All of this wears their teeth down and most wild wolves and prey have worn teeth at an early age in comparison to captive wolves'.

So the biggest problem for wild wolves - if they live long enough - seems to be wear and decay. As captive wolves fed a raw food diet comprising of a large proportion of bone don't seem to suffer from fractures, then it would appear it is more likely the pressure and stresses of bringing down their prey rather than the eating of it.

WOLF TEETH

It is the incisors and canines that are predominantly used to bring down prey. The jaw can exert around 1500 pounds per square inch. Once the prey is brought down, the specialist molars and premolars are employed for cutting and shearing the flesh.



Torak: M Readings



Mosi

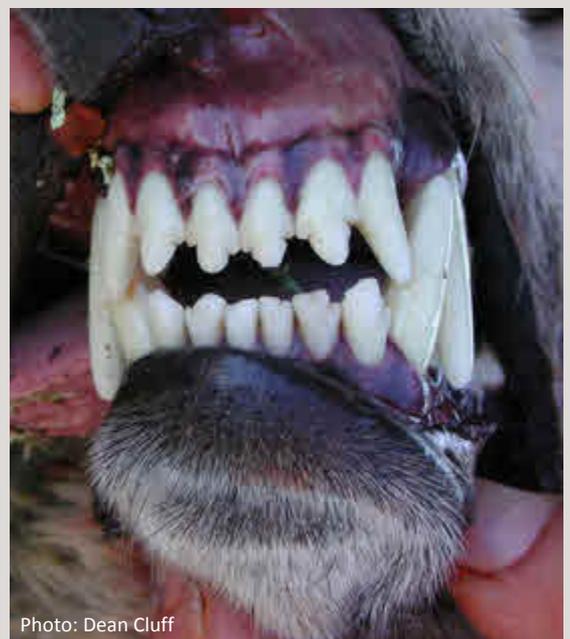


Photo: Dean Cluff

Wolves in the French Alps

Lessons in acceptance • Troy Bennett

Troy Bennett has worked in the French Alps for 18 years. He has studied wolves in France, Romania, Poland and Portugal. His studies include tracking, radio telemetry, prey and scat analysis, kill-site analysis, territory mapping and howl surveys.

The Massif du Monge

is situated where the Alps become the high Alps, not far from the border of France and Italy. It rises to 2115 metres above sea level. It is remote and due to limited access

has not suffered from too much interference by man. There is a mixture of oak, beech and various pines, interspersed with open grasslands and scrublands, many rivers and a lake. Hunting has been restricted for over a hundred years. Large populations of wild boar and roe deer inhabit here and we have around a thousand Mouflon, a type of long horn sheep reintroduced around 20 years ago. There is a high diversity of wildlife including wolves and lynx. Some of the land is grazed by cattle and sheep, but most is being slowly reclaimed by the forest. Baudinard, the village where my story comes from, is situated on a western arm of the mountain, it stands at 1100 metres and is also only partially inhabited. Two people live here all year round and four of the houses are holiday homes. The rest are ruins, inhabited by foxes, feral cats, rats, bats and dormice.

It was in the autumn of 1992 that I first came across signs of wolves on the Massif du Monge, where at the time I was working as a goat herder. A few years later the goats began acting strangely whilst out grazing. Our guarding dog also began acting strangely, circling the flock constantly, hackles raised and grumbling. Our collie took to hiding between my legs. I knew there was something out there but couldn't find what. Previously we had a few attacks from feral dogs, but with 70 large feisty goats and our killer guard dog, they hadn't proved to be too much of a problem. But this was entirely different. Whatever was hiding out there never showed itself and our guarding dog didn't want to go off and intercept it with the passion he had developed for feral dogs. It was in short a mystery.



Herd protection dogs

It was only after the EU directive ruling that homemade cheeses were dangerous, due to salmonella, listeria or perhaps cheese flu, that we were forced to sell our goats, give up our ideal lifestyle, and switch over to keeping sheep for meat. It was then that we began to have real problems. We were lucky really we only lost about ten sheep in that first year, but as we were just starting out and only had 200 it was worrying.

280 SHEEP WENT OVER A CLIFF

Then, in the summer of 1998, something terrible happened. The shepherd who guarded for our cooperative lost almost half the flock in one night. 280 sheep were herded over a cliff by no one knew what. It was horrific. In farming you lose stock; it's par for the course: disease and hard winters, predators and occasionally thieves take your animals, but this seemed unnatural and was disturbing in the deepest sense. When sheep are stressed they tend to abort, and a lot of our sheep were pregnant at this time.

280 sheep went over the cliff, but many more hit the ground. Some didn't, they hung on the cliffs and in trees, some were still alive, wounded, bleeding and bleating pitifully. We dispatched them, and we cried, us grown men hardened by mountain life. En route to the cliff top was more carnage, sheep dead and half-eaten, wandering wounded.

We were asked to help find and gather the lost sheep that were still wandering the mountain in small bewildered groups, and between eight of us working in shifts this took around two weeks. Every day we found fresh kills and sheep with their

stomachs open, half-eaten, some wounded and bleeding.

On the Thursday morning of that second week, my younger brother and I took our turn walking the mountain. We found two lambs, one paralyzed by a bite to the spine and one who would not leave its side. We carried them on our shoulders in proper shepherd style for around three hours until we found a few sheep for the active one to run with. We continued to carry the paralyzed one. I was sick of killing and thought that she could be saved.

We carried her between us for about 14 hours, till at around 8.30pm after finding 18 sheep and two more fresh kills, we decided to head back down the mountain to where the other sheep were penned before darkness fell. As we were passing into the wooded terrain on the lower slopes we stopped, turned and looked into the trees. There, about five metres away, was a wolf.

Our eyes met and were locked, I was drawn into them. People talk about the wolves stare and how it holds you, how it holds its prey. When a wild wolf looks into your eyes it looks deep and you cannot look away. Something holds you there. Whether it is hypnotism or fear or something else is unsure. I didn't feel fear, but I was held. In that look I felt something change in me, I felt an exchange of information, I don't know what the wolf took from it, but I was left with something, a gift, as it were. I have deliberated over it many times, something primeval that was dormant in me was awakened that day; it's not something I can write about, I cannot even put it into words.

It was a feeling of the wild that I'd never imagined existed and it has stayed with me ever since.

When herding on the mountain I saw wildlife about its business every day, it had grown used to me and I learned its ways. I began to look at things with a predator's eye, looking at formations of trees or mountain features as likely places to catch unwary animals, or as lines along which to herd them into traps from which they could not escape. With this insight I see where the prey will pass, where it will fall and where it hides. In knowing the prey you can work out the predators, and in having an empathy with them it leads me to find their tracks, their scats, their kills and occasionally to glimpse the wolves, to hear them howling and to find myself strangely drawn to howl back.

A LIFE-CHANGING ENCOUNTER

From that first chance encounter my life has been changed, wolves have become a passion for me, I have followed the lives of that wolf and her family ever since. ▶



Wolf

◀ It was three months later that the wolf was officially recognised as being in the Massif du Monge. We lost around 700 animals that first year, sheep, goats and even baby donkeys.

The shepherds were not prepared for wolves and the wolves took full advantage. That winter was even harder for us: the only stock left on the mountain was ours and the wolves followed the game down into our valley. Every morning we found tracks around the barn and every night the dogs went wild. We took it in shifts to sleep in with the sheep, waking frequently to dogs barking or from sheep nightmares.

To find a solution I signed up for the large carnivore project in Romania. There I learned guarding methods from the local shepherds, 24-hour guarding and the use of guarding dogs. I also began learning about wolves. I read all the books and yes, the wolves did do some of the things written in them but they also did things not written down; they were obviously not reading the same books.

EFFICIENT GUARDING METHODS

When I arrived back in France we built a protection park so that the sheep would not have to be crammed into the barn every night. This consisted of a two metre high fence with another metre buried into the ground to prevent tunnelling. We backed this up with an electric fence and began to sleep well once more.

The average number of animals lost during attacks in 1998 was 22. Today we lose on average one or two. We don't have a problem with feral dogs anymore; attacks are in fact down by 98%. The wolves are either scaring them off or eating them, and in doing this they are helping without even knowing it. However, in many ways they are not helping; slaughtering stock will always be seen to be a crime, especially with what appears to be wanton killing, even if it is the fault of shepherds too slow or too poor to guard properly.

The summers for us are still problematic as all the herds are brought together and ascend to the summer pastures, where together there are too many to guard efficiently and are vulnerable. Though we don't lose too many and nature being as it is, sheep often die for no apparent reason. Wolves are and should be a part of nature. Is it not natural that they take the

occasional sheep? The wolves have every right to be there. It is we who have to adapt.

In 1999 we found by sightings and scat analysis that we had six wolves in our area, a breeding pair, two yearlings and two cubs. DNA analysis proved them to be Abruzzese wolves that had found their way there from Italy. The yearlings and cubs accounted for the surplus killings, predators have to learn to hunt and kill and with all the sheep unguarded they could have all the practice they needed. Domestic animals seem to trigger a killing response in wolves even when they have no need.

The wolves adapted to our guarding methods. In 1998 85% of the attacks were at night. Today, as we guard at night and lock away the flocks, the attacks are 70% by day when the sheep are out amongst the trees or drinking at the river.

In 1999 the wolf pack split. Four remained, and two passed over the crest to create a pack further north. I continued tracking these two packs and finding their kills until 2001 when they suddenly disappeared! They stopped howling. I searched but found nothing. Then one day I came across a deer skeleton and, in searching around it for tracks, I found badger and fox skulls, two dead badger cubs, rat skeletons and a dead feral cat. This was not a natural find and I soon realised that the deer had been poisoned. Also two local dogs died, confirming the use of poison. How someone could do this eludes me; how indiscriminate could you be? I have a list of fauna that feed on carcasses, it's long and I have watched it happen many times. First come flies, then butterflies and beetles whilst the blood is still warm. Tits and corvids arrive, eagles and vultures and mustelids follow. Then as night falls, rats, cats, foxes, badgers and wild boar clean up, leaving nothing. Wolves, if not protecting their kill come last, especially if the scent of humans is around. How many animals are you willing to kill before you get the one you were after in the first place? Even I have fed from fresh kills if I have been out tracking for days, living off the forest. I thanked the gods I hadn't found this one.

Poison is documented to be the most efficient way of killing wolves and I fear it was. Over the next few months I found the tracks of only one wolf, the large male. Maybe he'd arrived too late or had been too big for the poison to work properly? But had he had to watch his mate die, his

cubs? He began to be hard to track; it became hard to find a trace of him. I would think he had gone then find a deer carcass or a single track in the bed of a river.

And then a strange thing happened. I don't know if he became lonely or just wanted to know his enemy, but he began showing himself to people. He took to sitting on the slopes opposite the shepherd, watching him, until the shepherd got scared and started to take his gun. He stepped into a clearing in front of a teenage boy out walking. I spoke to the boy and he had seen a wolf; he couldn't talk about it without something changing in his eyes. He'd seen what I had seen, deep into the eyes of a wild wolf.

SIGNS OF RECOVERY

Then in the autumn of 2003 I began to find two sets of prints, often together, the tracks of the male and a smaller set. I found three kills in one week, a deer, a mouflon and a young male wild boar all stripped to the bone. I knew then that there were more than one, a single wolf wouldn't chance bringing down a healthy boar alone. Then, in the winter of 2004, the forest guards found traces of blood in some of the tracks that they were following. DNA tests showed this to be menstrual blood; the wolves were back and they began to howl once more, filling the night with their haunting songs.

In 1990 there were no known wolves in France. Today there are estimated to be over two hundred, covering the Alps from the Mediterranean Sea in the south, all the way up and into Switzerland, across France even reaching the Massif Central. They are moving north, south, east and west, expanding to fill the ranges that were once theirs. Also, from the northern wastes of Russia and Poland, wolves are reaching out to meet them. They are also expanding their territories in Portugal and Spain, forming a pincer movement that will hopefully once again unite the wolves of Europe to repopulate a continent that has been without them for hundreds of years.

Troy Bennett

Troy Bennett gives talks about his work and how he came to accept the wolf in France. He also runs wolf trekking holidays from his base in Baudinard (see opposite for details).

Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Centre...

Christine Buckingham reports

Nearing the end of our road-trip from Salt Lake City to Denver we finished on a high note by visiting the Colorado Wolf Centre. Darlene Kobobel, the owner and founder of the centre conducted our tour. She has intimate knowledge of each animal and pulls no punches when telling of how they came to be in the sanctuary. You can read Darlene's amazing story on their website.

Her compassion, determination and good sense have resulted in a conservation and education centre that has received Association of Zoos and Aquariums certification, the highest and most prestigious award in the US. Her work started from rescuing one wolf-dog (Chinook) that was about to be destroyed; now there are many species including coyotes and foxes.

Darlene came to realise that she could not rescue every animal and so determined that education was the answer. Oh my, can she educate! She educated me in things I would have far rather remained in ignorance about. The readers of this magazine will be aware of the wolf slaughter by helicopter in Alaska; will know that wolves have been de-listed in Idaho and Wyoming with more permits being issued than there are wolves to kill. You will have heard of the photo farms where cubs are snapped for commercial purposes until they are not so cute anymore.

You may not have heard about the 'guaranteed kill hunt'. The 'kill' (wolf, bear, coyote, and mountain lion) is guaranteed because it is in a cage. The creature is shot in a cage.

Darlene takes as many of these animals as she can and the ones that she has rescued look magnificent. She was pleased to point out the automatic watering stations that they raised money for two years ago. Up until then it had been hard work breaking through the ice again and again in the long Colorado winters. Her next project, for the spring of 2010, is to raise money for a pool for the wolves to play in when they go out on walks.

By visiting the website you can view all the animals at the centre; they are all up for adoption. As for me, I am going to adopt the coyotes; they came from the guaranteed kill hunt.

Editor's note - Thank you to Christine for telling us about the centre. It sounds well worth a visit if you are in the area. The contact details are:

Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Centre,
PO Box 713, Divide, Colorado 80814
info@wolfeducation.org
www.wolfeducation.org



WOLF TREKS IN THE FRENCH ALPS

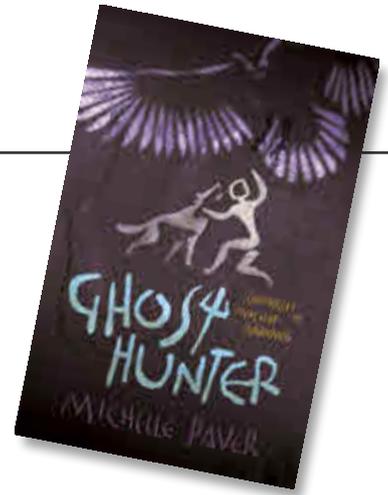
Tailor-made holidays to suit your needs

Track wolves, lynx and their prey species in the French Alps and help wolves by studying them and collecting data. Stay in the remote village of Baudinard in a beautiful converted barn, overlooking majestic mountain scenery, in the heart of wolf territory. Hear them howl and take part in howling response surveys. Meet the Shepherds who live amongst the wolves and find out what it is really like to have wolves on your doorstep. Take part in starlit night walks to see wild boar, badgers, foxes, mouflon and deer. Watch eagles and other birdlife whilst walking through amazing flora and fauna.

- Self catering or full board in shared accommodation (self-contained cabin also available).
- Individuals or groups up to ten.
- Transport can be arranged.

Contact Troy Bennett M.I.A.C.E
Natural guide and wolf specialist
www.wolfpeople.org
loopdeloup@hotmail.co.uk





Ghost Hunter by Michelle Paver

FINALES IN LITERATURE, where a skilled writer has engaged our hearts and imagination, are never easy. So Michelle Paver's *Ghost Hunter* concludes the *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness*: Torak, now fifteen, is faced with the machinations of the ultimate Soul-Eater Eostra, who uses guile and guises for a master plan to be unleashed on Soul's Night where the dead walk the earth. The consequences will be terrible.

In this sixth volume, the quality of writing has not paled. There is an exquisite sense of place, of North European prehistory where Nature is, as in Thomas Hardy, a character in itself. 'Twisted fangs of rock' are 'like teeth' and Nature is dangerously mercurial: 'Stone had once flowed like honey: dripping, pooling, then freezing hard'. Many things dance with life but death and decay are also hovering in Torak's eventful journey to the eerie Mountain of Ghosts. There is an early tragedy and the grief is palpable. Sensuality

in the truest sense also crawls into every sentence: Paver fills the gaps that so many writers neglect: namely smell, touch and taste. Combined with the filmic quality of the writing, Torak's world is painfully vivid. This is compounded by clever research. If someone builds a shelter for survival, it is real, credible.

Torak, Wolf and Renn have grown, suffered and formed unique bonds. Ideas from earlier books are sustained: animals co-exist sometimes uncomfortably with man, that 'tailless' creature. Spirit walking gives insight into what it is to be 'other.' The tokoroths are the most sinister and daring of creations though: children forced to murder. But there is humour too: in the naming of the raven Ark, who likes his name and 'says it a lot.'

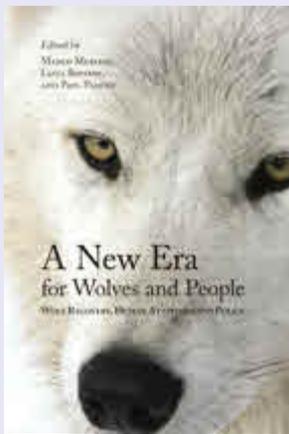
Most impressively, there is complexity and pace: the diverse clans with their own rules and the foreshadowing of events with an early appearance by Torak's lost father Fa.

The climactic scenes in *The Mountain of Ghosts* are tense and terrifying. Ultimately, there is some resolution but also sadness and loss. I am unashamed to say that I cried. This is the passionately crafted and deeply engaging final chapter of Torak's adventures.

Reviewed by Julia Bohanna.

Available from the UKWCT website:
www.ukwolf.org
 Hardback, 240 pages, £9.99

A New Era for Wolves and People: Wolf Recovery, Human Attitudes and Policy by Marco Musiani, Luigi Boitani, Paul C Paquet



BOOKS ON WOLVES generally fall into two camps; those coffee table tomes full of gorgeous pictures documenting the close relationship with tribal man and the distance separating wolves from modern man; and those with a more academic approach summarising the scientific research efforts and conservation planning.

Edited by three eminent wolf biologists (Professor Luigi Boitani is also President of the SCB), "A New Era..." sits firmly in the latter camp, but it is eminently readable and includes colour plates at the end of the book. A series of papers is presented on different aspects of wolf conservation from across the

global range of the grey wolf, documenting the history and current status of wolf populations and the key threat to their existence and expansion: human-wolf conflict.

Section one presents the history and current status of the eight major and two minor wolf populations in Europe as a whole, with a focus on Spain; and wolves in the US with a focus on the north west Rocky Mountains (including Yellowstone National Park) and the Western Great Lake populations. The story is a familiar one of persecution, extinction and recovery with a new and recent twist as from 2009 US wolves were down-graded from the federally endangered list with management responsibility returning to the separate states.

The papers discuss population assessment methods, habitat selection and outline key methods of reducing human-wolf conflict such as compensation payments, livestock guarding and the controversial issue of lethal wolf control. Particularly interesting is to learn that in two areas-Spain and the North-West Rockies, what seems to be perfectly good habitat for wolves (high prey density, low human density) is being ignored because wolves are being pressured through differences in livestock husbandry into low quality habitat, such as the agricultural plain in Spain.

Section two of the book highlights the ethical and socio-economic aspects of wolf conservation which emerge from these research insights and in particular that wolf conservation is no longer purely about biological or ecological factors but instead relies on working with the needs and perceptions of local communities and seeking through education to change hostile perceptions which are often wholly undeserved (for instance, over 20 years the proportion of cattle taken by wolves is 0.01% of the total lost in the Northern Rockies). Living with wolves in the 21st century may mean accepting a certain level of livestock loss and a small risk to human life but the benefits of retaining a keystone predator are arguably outweighed by the benefits of ecological health and human well-being.

This is an insightful and enjoyable addition to the library on wolf ecology.

Reviewed by Jim Jones

Jim works for the People Trust for Endangered Species. To find out more about this great organisation visit www.ptes.org

This book is available from the UKWCT website: www.ukwolf.org
 Paperback, 224 pages, £15.99

Natural History Museum and BBC Wildlife Magazine are proud to present the **Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition**

THE WINNER of the Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2009 competition was José Luis Rodríguez's haunting portrait of an Iberian wolf leaping a gate. José planned the photo for years, even sketching out what it might look like. Close observation of the wolves helped him lay a custom built infrared camera which bagged him the winning shot. To see the winning photo and other amazing photos visit the exhibition which is on at the Natural History Museum until April 2010. The competition is co-owned by the Natural History Museum and the BBC Wildlife Magazine.

(Update: please see note on page 2)

Exhibition tickets:

Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition

23 October 2009 - 11 April 2010

Open 10.00 - 17.50 daily, Monday to Sunday

Last admission 17.00

Ticket prices:

Adult £9, Child £4.50, Adult senior £4.50,

Family £24 (up to 2 adults and up to 3 children)

Free to Members, Patrons and children aged 3 and under.

Visitor enquiries:

Telephone 020 7942 5000

Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK.

www.nhm.ac.uk



José Luis Rodríguez: *The Storybook Wolf*



Wisdom Beyond Years

JANE PASCOE-ABSOLOM was born and bred in Hampshire and first started drawing at the age of ten. She studied at Fareham Art College and later at Guildford in art and design where she achieved a distinction. Jane has had a varied career, primarily spent as a successful design illustrator, although her first love has always been fine art. She was awarded the best of the show accolade at the Alton Art Society Exhibition in 2007 and 2008. Working in many types of media, her favourites are chalk, pastel and oil paint.

Jane Pascoe-Absolom Wildlife Artist

Of all the animals Jane paints it's the Wolf paintings that carry such vibrancy due to her special affection for these animals. Jane's strong point is the eyes and the texture of the fur, it's these two skills that bring to life her pictures of our ambassador wolves.

This talented artist has drawn several of the UKWCT wolves, demonstrating her skills at the World Animal Day event during which she was working on a beautiful picture of Mosi. Now finished, the print of Mosi called "Wisdom Beyond Years", along with prints of other drawings of the wolf trust wolves - Latea in "Tired", Dakota pictured in "Faithful Companion", Torak "An Understanding", Mosi again in "Mesmerized" and finally Duma in "Ambassador" - are available to buy from the merchandise section of her website: www.janepascoeabsolom.com along with original drawings. A proportion of money made is donated to the UKWCT so not only are you getting a fantastic piece of art but you are also helping wolves in the wild.

Exclusive offer to Wolf Print readers: buy one of Jane's 2010 calendars for a £5.00 plus P&P (RRP in February will be £7.50).

To receive this offer just email art@janepascoeabsolom.com and title the email 'UKWCT Offer'. (Please don't send your credit card details via email.)

Human Dimensions:

Working in conflict zones toward a transboundary peace park

In some parts of the world, people have had the luxury to think about protecting wildlife species and endangered spaces, however, in many places on our planet the environment and the wildlife may not be the immediate priorities for the local people and national governments.

Many ecosystems are under siege and many regions under immense conflict between people and their respective nations. Most of these conflicts result in human poverty, displacement and death of many, especially the most vulnerable, children. Some of these conflicts have their origins from many years ago, but have remained as deep scars to the people of the various countries involved. Such conflicts result often in depleted species, degraded environments, poverty for those living in the border areas, and closed borders.

It is in one of these conflict border zone areas in Armenia where people drive in the meadows as it is easier than travelling on the "road", where water lines need to be fixed so clean water supplies can be guaranteed, where rare vipers still exist, where there is a very high density of livestock and grazing pressure, and also where wolves do kill the very livelihood for these poor people. However, it is also in this place where people are incredibly generous with food and alcohol, friendly, and in contrast to many conflict border zones have protected their landscape to some degree. More importantly, residents of small villages with incomes of little more than \$25 USD per month are willing to strive for coexistence and a bigger vision of a "peace" park, unifying nations, ecosystems and families. Wolf-human interaction, while perceived as a conflict initially, has also been seen as an opportunity, and hence wolves could become a small "peace" in a big puzzle toward a transboundary peace park involving Armenia, Turkey and Georgia.

The UKWCT has provided some monies to better understand and address the concerns of the people in this region and specifically to help in reducing wolf-livestock conflicts in the area. You, as members of the UKWCT, are contributing to a project that is an immense journey toward achieving conservation of cultural landscapes, natural environments, birds, fish, wolves and most importantly sustainable livelihoods for families living in a conflict zone.

In an earlier UKWCT Wolf Print (Issue 37, summer 2009) conflict from a human dimensions perspective was defined as either cognitive (about beliefs we have), values (what's really important to us), economics (who pays and who benefits) and behavioural (about trust and credibility of different individuals and groups). In a border zone in Armenia, what does a "conflict zone" really mean? According to the Canadian Travel Advisory for Armenia, potential visitors are told to "exercise a high degree of caution in the land border areas. The land border with Turkey is closed. The border with Azerbaijan is closed." Such statements would seem major obstacles to working with local people toward a transboundary peace park. The Travel Advisory also states that "a cease-fire has been in effect since May 1994, however, armed clashes along the border and cease-fire line may occur sporadically".

With such background information about this region, a human dimensions project that involves listening, learning and working with people toward a possibility of a transboundary peace park begins.

Healthy environments and ecosystems which include wolves and people have been linked before with peace initiatives. In fact one of the first international peace parks created between Canada and the USA, Glacier-Waterton, now protects a border population of wolves that travels between northern Montana and southern Alberta. On a much larger scale, this relationship between peace and a healthy environment was demonstrated through the Nobel Peace prize in 2004 when it was awarded to Wangari Maathai who initiated a grass-roots tree planting scheme in Kenya.

Peace Parks are much more than conserving environments

Peace Parks are not a new idea, but an idea that is continuing to grow around the world. In 1988, there were only 59 but today there are over 170 peace parks. Such protected areas are becoming an integral part of forging agreements between countries that have traditionally been in conflict. Much though still needs to be done worldwide as less than 12% of the planet's resources are protected. The



creation of a transboundary peace park between Armenia, Turkey and Georgia, although a challenge, could provide, as in many other places, the beginnings of forging better relationships between countries, and new opportunities for conserving wildlife, including wolves which will become a small "peace" in this complex jigsaw puzzle.

Armenia is located between Europe and Asia known as the TransCaucasus. The country has a short history, being established on September 23rd, 1991; before it was part of the former republic of the USSR. The country is 29,743km² in size with a population of approximately 3 million people. It has a relatively long border of 1,254km of which most lies with unfriendly neighbours (Azerbaijan - 566km, Az-Naxican Exclave - 221km and Turkey - 268km). Georgia to the north (164km) and Iran to the south (35km) are friendly open borders. The history of conflict lies in the Armenian genocide which was carried out by the "Young Turk" government of the Ottoman Empire in 1915-1916 and again in 1922-1923; approximately 1.5 million of 2.5 million Armenians are believed to have been killed during this period. Mount Ararat, now located in Turkey but very much visible from the Armenian capital of Yerevan, is a constant reminder of the losses suffered by the Armenian nation. The Armenian flag colours symbolize this history with red being the bloodshed of the Armenian people, blue the clear sky of Armenia, and orange the fruitfulness of the Armenian nation. Creating a peace park in this region may help in building trust, credibility and understanding between nations and be a small first step to addressing these much bigger issues that have become culturally entrenched.



Lake Arden
in the proposed
park area.

Wolves and people: opportunities for peace

The "wolf" component of this project as you can clearly see is a small piece, but an exciting opportunity to forge environmental cooperation in the border area. The proposed park area on the Armenian side would involve a core area around Lake Arpi and a buffer zone a little further away in the Shirak province. Shepherds and local villagers say they see wolves every day in the core area. The human dimension project in the area has focused on understanding the values and attitudes of these local people toward nature, the environment, the idea of a protected area, and also toward wolves. Through personal interviews with local residents in the core area (n=79) and the buffer zone (n=320), I have begun to understand some of these attitudes toward wolves, and realise that opportunities do exist to find compromise and coexistence possibilities between people, who need a livelihood based on livestock, and wolves.

On a scale from strongly disagree, disagree, neither, agree and strongly agree, these local residents within the core area and buffer zone were asked to respond to statements focused on the impact of wolves on livestock, various management options ranging from complete protection within the park area, protected seasons during the breeding season, hunting during specific seasons, hunting year round, perceptions of whether wolves could bring tourists to an area, willingness to learn more about wolves, and perceptions of whether it is possible to protect livestock from wolves.

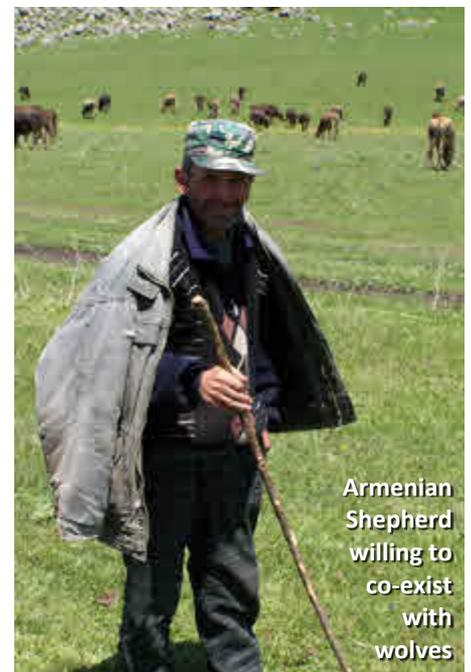
Despite the poor economic conditions in the area, attitudes of local residents suggest there is room to forge coexistence between wolves and people.

In the core area, 73% of residents strongly agreed that "wolves cause significant damage to livestock in the area", the remaining 25% agreed. Attitudes in the buffer zone were not as strong, however 82% still agreed or strongly agreed with the statement. The reality is that wolves kill livestock regularly in the core area and in the surrounding buffer zone, sometimes taking animals right next to people's homes. On a positive note, most residents (68%) in both areas believe it is possible to protect livestock from wolves. Particularly in the core area, a large percentage (75%) strongly agrees that they would be interested in learning how to protect their livestock from wolves. Preventative measures such as electric fences powered by solar panels, guard dogs and additional shepherds are potential solutions but these require monies in a place where very little extra money is available.

Attitudes are significantly different from those residents who live inside the core area of the proposed park and in the proposed buffer zone. Those living in the buffer zone tend to agree (58%) that wolves should be completely protected in the national park area whereas in the core area 41% agree and 47% disagree to some extent. These differences become more pronounced when exploring attitudes toward whether wolves should be protected during the breeding season (February to May). While residents inside the buffer zone support this management option (58%), those living in the core area are mixed. Approximately 43% agree but 53% disagree with such protection. ▶



Armenian
Shepherd



Armenian
Shepherd
willing to
co-exist
with
wolves



Lake Arpi

Wolf Merchandise: gifts and souvenirs

A) Call of the Wild



C) Wolf Lookout



B) Wolf Trio



D) Wolf Face



HOODED SWEATSHIRTS £25.50
and **crew-neck T-SHIRTS** (not shown) **£14.00**

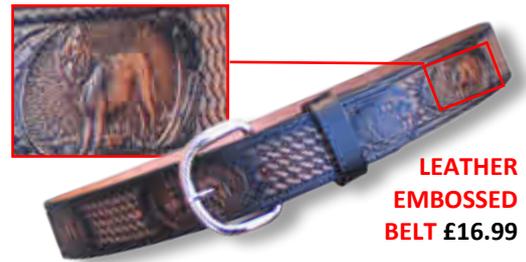
These fabulous hooded zip-fronted sweatshirts feature stunning wolf designs on the front, back and sleeves. Made from thick, 100% cotton, with ribbed cuffs and two front pockets, they are perfect for cooler weather. The same printed designs are also available as 100% cotton t-shirts.

All available in sizes medium, large and extra large.

WOLF SOCKS
£6.00

Our wolf socks are available in three colours: beige, hunter green and black.

Made from 75% cotton, 20% nylon and 5% Spandex, they are machine washable. Adult sizes: 9-11 and 10-13.



LEATHER EMBOSSED BELT £16.99

Brushy Creek black leather belt embossed with wolf and basket weave pattern. Made in the USA from full grain cowhide. Width 1 1/4 in (3.5cm) approx. Snap fastening allows buckle to be changed. Available in sizes (inches/cm): 43/86, 36/91, 38/96, 40/101, 44/111, 46/116, 48/121, 50/126.

BEANIE £11.99

One size
100% acrylic



What, however, is very interesting is that when options of hunting are discussed, those in the buffer zone are in fact more supportive of year round hunting (66%) than core area residents (57%) and more supportive of hunting in specific seasons than core residents (61% compared to 54% respectively). Given the large numbers of livestock losses and potentially the large number of wolves in the area (no research is available at present), these attitudes especially of core area residents are not as negative as one might have hypothesized.

Where is there room for coexistence? Most residents in the core and buffer zones (approximately 60%) believe that having wolves could bring tourists to the area. A similar percentage also believe that tourists will come to an area where wolves are protected; approximately 28% were neutral suggesting opportunities to target communication messages on this item and possibly create more positive attitudes. Within the core area, more than 80% of residents agreed to the statement: "I am interested in learning more about wolves in the area". Interestingly, only 67% of buffer zone residents expressed the same view. Some sustainable tourism is needed in the region and this is an overarching objective of the much larger project.

At present, it is extremely difficult to find a place selling bottled water, never mind providing accommodation suitable to western standards, so tourism infrastructure is severely limited. Where do we go from here on this immense journey of conservation?

Future direction needed to continue to make a difference

Unfortunately, educational materials about wolves are non-existent in the region and materials, particularly in English, limited in the region to help students willing to learn English in the schools. This does create a huge opportunity to provide English materials for children to learn more about wolves, and materials for teachers to communicate such messages within their communities. The UKWCT as an educational trust can be instrumental in increasing public awareness of wolves in the area and in increasing English skills of the future generations. Working toward a transboundary peace park may appear to some members of the UKWCT as far removed from a mandate to conserve wolves and increase tolerance of this large carnivore, however,

conservation today involves so much more than just biological research. I am finishing this article while in Kenya where I have been understanding human-elephant conflicts and where scientists here realise that elephant conservation is part of such bigger issues as sustainable livelihoods and climate change. Addressing the conservation challenges we face today and wolf conservation on a much smaller scale, requires everyone to think much broader and bigger than we ever have. I am encouraged with the continued understanding of the UKWCT that working with people and understanding the human dimension is the only way collectively we can create conservation successes.

*Alistair J. Bath Ph.D
Human Dimensions in Wildlife Management
St. John's NL Canada*

Alistair is a world leading expert in human dimensions in the field of wildlife management. He has contributed to an exciting new series of books called 'A New Era for Wolves and People; Wolf Recovery, Human Attitudes, and Policy', the first of which is now available from the UKWCT shop (details opposite).

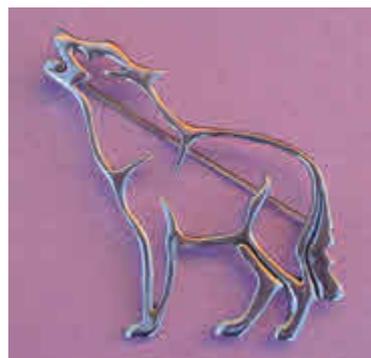
for family, friends and you.

STUNNING STERLING SILVER JEWELLERY

These beautiful Sterling silver necklaces and earrings are available in two designs - howling wolf and Kokopelli - each with a choice of coral (A), opal (B) or turquoise (C) gems.

Earrings (excluding hooks) and necklace pendants are 1 1/4in/3cm long. Necklace chain is 18in/45cm. Please state gem choice when ordering.

Howling Wolf: necklace - **£26.00**; earrings - **£26.00**
Kokopelli: necklace - **£25.00**; earrings - **£25.00**



STERLING SILVER CUTOUT WOLF

Simple, yet elegant, silver wolf jewellery.

The brooch is 1 1/4in (4.5cm) high. The earrings and pendant are 3/4in (2cm) high; the necklace chain is 15in (38cm) long approx.

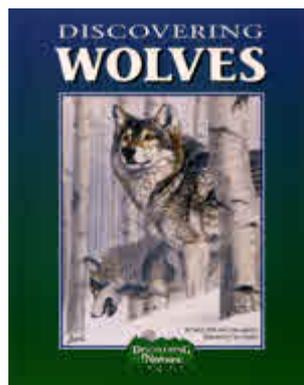
Cutout wolf brooch **£28.00**
Cutout wolf earrings **£18.00**
Cutout wolf necklace **£18.00**



STUD EARRINGS £5.25

Shown larger than actual size (3/4in/9mm), these Sterling silver stud earrings are beautifully crafted.

Please note that for hygiene reasons we cannot accept returns of earrings unless faulty.



Discovering Nature Library:
DISCOVERING WOLVES £3.65
Nancy Field and Corliss Karasov;
illustrated by Cary Hunkel

18 fun, thought-stimulating activities designed to exercise critical thinking skills.

- track wolves in the wild
- meet an actual wolf pack
- solve a barnyard mystery
- survive one season as a wolf

L. David Mech, wolf biologist and author, says "Discovering Wolves is an outstanding resource for children of all ages. This book is unique in getting children to think about predator-prey relationships, current research and wolf-human conflicts."

Ages 5-12.
40 pages plus sheet of stickers; paperback; size A4.

Mission Survival: WAY OF THE WOLF

Bear Grylls
£5.99

A plane crash in the wilds of Alaska leaves the pilot dead and Beck's uncle seriously injured. Alive, but shaken, Beck and his friend, Tikaani, must somehow make their way out to find help. It's a journey that will take them across the wilderness, through sub-zero tundra and into the icy mountains. But without food or the proper equipment it's a journey that could well be fatal.

Ages 9-11.
313 pages; paperback; 197mm x 130mm.



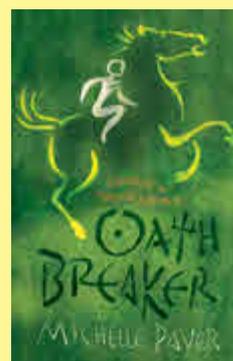
SALE - UP TO 50% OFF

Michelle Paver: Oath Breaker

Was **£9.99** now **£4.99**

The penultimate book in the 'Chronicles of Ancient Darkness' series.

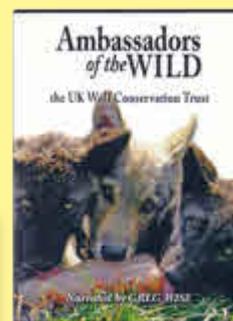
240 pages; hardback; 216mm x 135mm



DVD: Ambassadors of the Wild

Was **£9.99** now **£4.99**

Stunning DVD showcasing the work of the Trust. Narrated by Greg Wise. 40 mins, PAL, Region 0.



UKWCT 2010 A4 Wall Calendar

Was **£8.50** now **£5.50**

Featuring all the UKWCT wolves. Supplied with mailing envelope.



See www.ukwolf.org
for more sale items



Return to the wild:

The cliffhanger story of red wolf recovery

In the case of the Red Wolf Recovery Program, the drama could hardly have been more gripping. Red wolf restoration has been a lot like an Indiana Jones cliffhanger film, full of narrow escapes from situations that looked like sure death. The red wolf just barely dodged the bullet of extinction, not once but several times. Steve Grooms explains.

When wildlife managers give progress reports on their programs, they typically exude confidence. "Well, we face some challenges," they will report, "but we've got this thing going the right way." Sometimes, however, the truth behind those blandly optimistic reports is dramatic. The managers never report about those nights they stumble home after a disastrous day and admit to anyone patient enough to listen, "Oh man, I think we've had it."

A stunning revival

In one sense, it was sheer luck that saved the red wolf from extinction in the 1960s. For decades, US federal policy had been to extirpate wolves. That process had eradicated red wolves from all but a sliver of vile habitat along the Texas and Louisiana Gulf coast.

Then, just before the red wolf was wiped out forever, more sophisticated thinking about predators led to a stunning reversal. The animal that had been considered a menace to be eradicated would, under a new program, be protected and managed as a critically endangered species. So abrupt was the change that for one year the red wolf was listed as endangered while federal agents continued to trap and destroy them. If management had drifted for another decade before the great change, the red wolf would probably have been pushed off the cliff of extinction.

Studies done in the 1960s revealed that humans weren't the only threat to red wolves. The new and more insidious threat was hybridization. Red wolves were mating with coyotes. After passage of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, managers tried to save the red wolf from being genetically swamped with coyote genes. Agents trapped and destroyed coyotes in the last remaining red wolf habitat. That effort failed. The supply of coyotes was virtually endless. The situation was so dire that it seemed the red wolf was doomed to disappear as a distinct species. That drove managers to an extreme remedy. They would save the red wolf from extinction by trapping all remaining wolves and putting them in captive breeding centers. Consider how desperate that was. Removing the last free red wolves was the opposite of the intent of the ESA. Red wolves might be saved from genetic extinction, but at the price of being

lost from the wild. Managers could not be sure that it would ever be politically possible to reintroduce wolves, one of the most reviled species on earth. They could not be sure that wolves would survive the transition from zoo life in captivity to life in the wild. No predator species had ever been successfully restored. This decision was a massive gamble analogous to putting a man dying of cancer in a cryogenic chamber, hoping that some day the technology for thawing and curing him would appear.

And then things got worse. When managers began examining the 400 or so "wolves" they had managed to trap and confine, they saw the taint of coyote blood in many. They culled away dubious wolves until there were just 43. But at that time, there was no test to indicate which of those animals were pure wolves. Managers went through a second anguishing round of culling. As managers destroyed the animals suspected of being hybrids, they had to worry if they were killing authentic red wolves—one of the most endangered species in North America. After the last cull there were just 17 wolves, only 14 of which were able to breed. When those red wolves began

reproducing, managers were faced with daunting problems. Where could they reintroduce red wolves to the wild? It had to be a place where humans would accept them, if such a place existed. And it had to be a place where coyotes wouldn't hybridise with the red wolves, although coyotes are ubiquitous in the former range of the red wolf.





RED WOLVES • at a glance •



Legal and political challenges

The next challenges to the program were legal and political. Managers struggled to find an area where people would tolerate wolves. Meanwhile, critical changes had to be made to the ESA, which was so rigid in its original form that it imposed a straight jacket on restoration programs.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service finally found a place to release a few wolves: The Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge release site in northeastern North Carolina was a peninsula. The presence of water on three sides reduced the chances that wolves would run away or that coyotes would enter the restoration area. The first reintroduction release happened in 1987. That began another harrowing time for the red wolf program. In spite of determined optimism by managers, everyone knew that the wolves faced daunting odds against survival. It takes more than claws and teeth to survive as a predator. Above all, what is required is knowledge. Wild wolves have to know how to find and kill food. They must know what animals or objects are life-threatening. They need to know to avoid humans. The reintroduced wolves were dangerously naïve. As expected, mortality rates were high. Wolves were hit by cars, had accidents, drowned, succumbed to disease, hung out around humans or just disappeared. About 80 percent of the reintroduced wolves died shortly after being released.

In spite of that, managers kept releasing more captive-bred wolves. Eventually, a few wolves survived long enough to mate and raise young. And then a few wild-born wolves began rearing their own young. With that, the red wolf made the treacherous passage from zoo-born dummies to wild wolves. The wild-born pups of wild-born wolves were the real deal.

Just when it looked like the program was a success, disaster struck again. In the mid-1990s, coyotes began infiltrating the recovery area, and where there were not established red wolf pack territories, dispersing wolves began breeding with coyotes. While program leaders maintained determined optimism in public, some insiders believed that the red wolf program was doomed. It hadn't been possible to keep wolves and coyotes apart in the 1970s, and now it was proving just as difficult to keep coyotes from obliterating the red wolf species through hybridization.

Adaptive Management

Just in time, in 1999, managers crafted a new management protocol called "adaptive management." It focused intensive control on coyotes in the zone where they were most likely to encounter wolves. In spite of the discouraging precedent, this new protocol succeeded, and the program survived another crisis.

Although Indiana Jones almost dies about twenty times in each of his films, somehow he is always alive when the final reel has run and they roll the credits. Today, in spite of all the close brushes with extinction, the red wolf is still with us. Don't let anyone suggest it was easy!

Steve Grooms has been writing about wolves and wolf management since 1976. He is the author of the critically acclaimed book *Return of the Wolf*, and he serves on the International Wolf Center magazine advisory committee.

Reprinted with permission from the International Wolf Center, www.wolf.org.



Where do red wolves live today?

Approximately 100-130 wild red wolves inhabit 1.7 million acres of public and private land in northeastern North Carolina. An additional 190 red wolves live in captive breeding facilities.

Why should red wolves be protected?

The red wolf is a unique species of wolf. Once an important member of the southeastern US ecological community, this top predator contributes to the overall biological diversity of the region where it now lives.

What are the most important steps to securing the future of red wolves?

- Coyote control measures must continue in order to preserve distinctive red wolf genes.
- Two other areas where wild red wolves can live must be found.
- A Red Wolf Center must be built to educate the public about red wolves and to promote public acceptance of red wolves.

How can you help red wolves?

The Red Wolf Coalition's mission is to advocate for the long-term survival of red wolf populations. The Coalition is grateful for the UK Wolf Conservation Trust's generous support! You can help the Red Wolf Coalition ensure that the howl of the red wolf will never be silenced by extinction.

- Learn more about red wolves. Go to www.redwolves.com (a new website is in the works!) and to www.fws.gov/redwolf.
- You can donate online at www.redwolves.com. You can also contact Kim Wheeler, RWC Executive Director, at kwheeler@redwolves.com. The RWC is able to accept transfers of money from outside the US.
- The RWC is raising funds to build a viewing enclosure so that people can see red wolves "up close and natural" in a spacious habitat. Contact Kim Wheeler about ways you can help make that happen for red wolves!

1. Chris finds a red wolf den
2. Red wolf pups

Information

Dakota, like others, can't wait to get her paws on the next issue of Wolf Print.

Feedback

Hello,

I just wanted to pass on to you and the team my thanks for the lovely afternoon my brother and I spent walking the farm with Mai & Mosi last Saturday. We really enjoyed ourselves and I know my brother (who's new to all this) was delighted to meet the "girls" and all the other wolves at Butlers Farm. The afternoon was informative, professionally run and yet fun and friendly, the team really know how to strike the right balance to give us all a great time with the wolves.

Thank you very much, it was great.

Hi,

Just thought I would give you a quick feedback relating to our wolf walk. We had a fantastic time. It was great fun and the staff at the centre were very knowledgeable. It was a brilliant experience. We will highly recommend it to anyone else who is interested in wolves, like me. Thanks again for a great day. Please pass on our comments to the staff at the centre.

Dear UKWCT,

I can not express how much I and my guest enjoyed yesterday's wolf walk. The interaction with the wolves was beyond my expectation. I would also like to say how helpful and friendly the helpers were, they gave freely of their time. The visit was carried out in an unhurried manner. Many thanks and all the best with the good work.



Wolf Print: a great gift idea and great for sharing!

DON'T BIN IT SHARE IT!

When you have read your Wolf Print, put it to work by sharing it with others. Do you have a neighbour that loves animals? Do you go to the vets or doctors and wish that there was something interesting to read while in the waiting room? Is there a retirement community that is looking for wonderful things for the residents to read? A school, library or college who would benefit?

Why not give others the opportunity to view our informative magazine. Passing it on will keep one less item from ending up in landfill and will also let others know about the UK Wolf Conservation Trust's work. Please pass it on: RECYCLE - REUSE.

MAKE WOLF PRINT THE IDEAL GIFT

If you are struggling to think of an original gift for friends and family mad about animals and conservation, why not give a yearly subscription to Wolf Print? Simply contact the office on 0118 971 3330 and for just £14.00 they will receive three issues over the year-long subscription. Even Dakota (above) can't wait to get her paws on it!



CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

The Trust is always looking for great photos of the wolves. If you have any gems which we could use in Wolf Print or for publicity we'd be really grateful - the photo would be credited to you. Jpg or tiff format is best, 175dpi is the absolute minimum resolution, but not ideal, and 300dpi is preferable; in fact, the bigger the better! Please send disks to The UK Wolf Conservation Trust, Butlers Farm, Beenham, Reading, Berks, RG7 5NT.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE UK WOLF CONSERVATION TRUST IN YOUR WILL

As the UKWCT is self-funded, a legacy could mean security for the Trust. It could help ensure there will always be somewhere for our wolves to live and be looked after. A legacy will also supplement our important conservation, education and research work to help keep wolves in the wild.

If you have remembered us in your will we would love to hear from you, mainly

because we would like to say thank you, but also it would give us the opportunity to discuss what your actions could mean to us. Your gift can further improve the security of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust so that it continues its vital work long into the future. We want you to be happy in the knowledge that your gift will help us send money to conservation projects in the world where wolves are endangered, such as the Ethiopian and Red wolf projects. If

you would like to discuss any aspect with regard to the UK Wolf Conservation Trust in your will do please contact me personally.

Tsa Palmer
Director



Dakota by Clive Readings

Forthcoming events at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

UKWCT Wolf Centre Open Days

Bank Holiday Mondays 31st May & 30th August, 11am-5pm



- Look around the Wolf Trust
- Photography sessions from the platform and the positioned camera lens holes cut into the enclosure fence
- Ask the experts about living with wolves
- Listen to the wolves howling
- Other animal exhibits
- Children's activities available
- Nature Trail
- Pond Dipping
- Birds of prey
- Bouncy Castle
- Hug a Husky
- Refreshments
- Picnic tables available

£7 adults and non-members

£5 members and children under 12

Booking not required. Sorry, no dogs.



Valentine's Day Walks

Sunday, 14th February, 10am; 1.30pm

What could be a more romantic gift for an animal lover than to walk with wolves? Spend your special day at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust in the company of one of the world's most family-oriented species. It's breeding season for the wolves as well and they are very loyal and attentive to their mates at this special time of the year for lovers.

£75 for two people. Comes with a year's membership to the Trust. Includes gift. Booking essential.

February Half Term • Easter Holidays • May Half Term • School Holiday Events

Children's Wolf Walks

18th & 19th February, 1st & 4th June, 11am-1pm

Take a walk with the UKWCT wolves. This event includes a short talk and tour of the centre. **£12 per person, 6 years +**
Booking essential; limited parent spaces.

Creative Writing Workshop with Michelle Paver

Wednesday, 14th April, 1pm-5pm



Find out how Michelle researches her work. She will also guide you through writing a short piece of your own and finish the day by reviewing some of the work. Michelle will also be signing her latest book *Ghost Hunter*, the final chapter in the *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* series.

Book early as this event is very popular.

£10 per person, 8 years+

Children's Wolf Keeper Days

8th & 15th April, 3rd June, 10am-3pm

- Come dressed to get mucky and see what the wolves and their keepers get up to during the day.
- Take over the job of the Wolf Keeper looking after the wolves. Don't be fooled - it's hard work but lots of fun.

Spaces are limited to make the day really special, so please book early.

£25 per child. 10 years +



Eggstatic Spectacular! Wolf Walk and Easter Egg Hunts

1st & 6th April, 11am-1pm

Have you ever wondered what the wolves love to do at Easter? Well, they do enjoy hunting for eggs.

Come for a walk with the wolves and then go on a human and wolf egg hunt adventure - the wolves love it and so will you! Please book early for this popular event.

Cost £14 per person, 6 years +

Forthcoming events at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Adult Wolf Keeper Day

Thursday, 8th July
10am-4pm



A truly unique experience for the wolf lover as it gives an insight into the day to day management of wolves.

- Shadow the wolf keeper and help with tasks like feeding and giving medications.
- Clean out kennels and get involved in enrichment for the wolves whilst learning about their behaviour.
- You will also have the opportunity to meet and greet a wolf.
- You will also get great photographic opportunities throughout the day.

Spaces are limited to make the day really special, so please book early.

Cost £50 per person

Friday Night is Howl Night!

26th February & 19th March at 6.30pm
7th May & 18th June at 7.00pm

If you've ever dreamed of standing near a wolf and hearing it howl, this is a once in a life time opportunity to feel your backbone tingle and your ears vibrate with the sound. The evening will start with a presentation on wolf communication; you will then go on a tour of the centre and have the opportunity to let out a howl and see if the wolves respond! You will also see them feeding. Night is the best time to see the wolves as they are at their most active. (Don't forget to dress up warmly for an evening under the stars).

Cost £10 per person

Booking required



Mobility Walk

Thursday, 20th May, 2pm

For those unable to come on our full two hour walks due to mobility issues, we offer special mobility walks at the Wolf Centre. These take place a couple of times a year, usually in the summer half of the year when the ground is firm.

The event starts with a PowerPoint presentation in the education centre and then a short walk around the site, with the chance to meet the wolves up close. There is a large area of graveled path around the enclosures which allows good viewing of all the wolves.

The wolves are happy around wheelchairs and the events offer an ideal opportunity to see wolves firsthand.

Cost £75 for two people.

Comes with a year's membership to the UK Wolf Conservation Trust.

Booking essential.



Father's Day Walk

Sunday, 20th June, 10am

Stuck for that special gift for a Dad who has everything? Why not get him the ultimate gift, walking with wolves! The event includes photo opportunity with the wolves and a gift for Dad.

£75 for two people. Open to children 12 years plus. £10 extra per child for additional children. Comes with a year's membership to the UK Wolf Conservation Trust.

Booking required.

Predator to Pet Workshop (Wolf to Woof!)

Sunday, 21st March, 10am-2pm

Join us for a fast-moving, interactive workshop, developed in conjunction with Wolf Park, Indiana, charting the evolution of man's best friend. Discover the relationship between your dog and the ancestral wolf using the latest research and enjoy an opportunity to discuss the behaviour of wolves and dogs with like-minded people. If you wonder why your dog behaves as he does, then this is the event for you!

The day includes: workshop • free gift • walk with ambassador wolf
Tickets £50 per person. Book early to avoid disappointment.