

# Wolf Print

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Issue 46 Summer 2012



## Idaho

The worst place in the world for wolves?  
Denise Taylor investigates

- **CALL OF THE WILD**

exploring with wolves in British Columbia

- Perceptions of and threats to the wolf in Nepal

■ NEWS ■ EVENTS ■ MEDIA AND ARTS ■ REVIEWS





# Editor's Letter

Summer is here and it is the calmest time of the year for the wolves with hormone levels at their lowest. Also, with no cubs at the Trust in 2012, we look forward to enjoying some sun and watching the wolves relax in their enclosures in the company of their pack mates. All our 2011 cubs are now fully grown and have transformed into truly magnificent animals. Catch up on all their news on pages 8 to 11. The wolves are at their scruffiest at this time of year, as they moult away their winter coats and transform into lean muscular animals. The moult begins at their feet and legs, with the hair slowly shedding further up the body. The hair on their backs and heads is the last to shed, leaving just their guard hairs.

The summer holds no problems for the wolves – they enjoy basking in the sun, but can also shelter in the shade of the mature trees in their enclosures. If it gets too hot for them, they can head for the large water troughs or the enclosure pond to splash around and cool off in or indulge in a summer treat of a stuffed melon or a wolf ice lolly (meat- or fish-flavoured of course). Wolves adapt amazingly well to different environments, which is one of the reasons they are the most widespread land mammal in the world – with the exception of human beings.

We are also looking forward to our 2012 open days. Our first of the year was in May but we have two more to look forward to in August and October, where I hope to meet some of you. Fingers crossed for the sunshine. As usual, we intend to have a variety of visiting animals including birds of prey, reptiles and some British native species. There will be plenty of things to do for the whole family. Want something to keep the children busy during those long summer holidays? Why not take a look at our events pages 30 and 31 for a few ideas.

We also have preparations well underway for Wolf Awareness Week 2012, where there will be some exciting events such as our annual seminar and our always-popular photography day. See page 32 for further information on these events and much more.

*Vicky Allison-Hughes*

Education Officer / Assistant Senior Wolf Handler / Wolf Print Editor

## Wolf Print



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### Aims of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

- To increase public awareness and knowledge of wild wolves and their place in the ecosystem.
- To provide opportunities for ethological and other research that may improve the lives of wolves both in captivity and in the wild.
- To provide wolf-related education programmes for young people and adults.
- To raise money to help fund wolf-related conservation projects around the world.

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# Trust News

## Director's Letter



Now that summer is here, we are able to welcome group visits in the longer evenings. These are particularly popular with our local scouts and guide packs. Cubs, the junior section of the scout movement have a special relationship with wolves, so their visits are particularly meaningful. Robert Baden-Powell, a retired Lieutenant General in the British Army, held the first Scouting encampment on Brownsea Island in England for 20 boys in 1907. He developed his thoughts for the movement in *Scouting for Boys*, published in serialised form in 1908.

With the phenomenal success of the Scouts there was gradual pressure for the formation of a junior branch to allow the participation of boys younger than 11 years old. In 1916 with the publication of *The Wolf Cub's Handbook*, the Wolf Cubs came into being. Mowgli, of *The Jungle Book* fame, and his relationship with the wolves was the founding myth of the Wolf Cubs and was used by Baden Powell to establish the proper relationship that a Cub should have with his Pack and with its leader, Akela. Here the image of wolves was of creatures that lived in a supportive, orderly and disciplined society. They respected their leader, they were co-operative and they

brought up their offspring to be good, true and loyal members of the pack. As the Law of the Wolf Cub Pack demands: 'The Cub gives in to the Old Wolf; The Cub does not give in to himself.' For the Cubs themselves Baden Powell makes an explicit connection with how young wolves are raised and taught to be members of the pack through discipline, a quality that he greatly admires in both

humans and wolves. Wolf Cubs are allowed to play but they must do so under the watchful eye of an adult. If a wolf cub attempts to wander off on his own his mother will soon bring him back.

Part of Baden-Powell's view is that through disciplined play the young can be taught how to be proper adults. Wolf Cubs begin to learn about serious hunting through play hunting and, by learning from the adults, they take their place in the social life of the pack. Human Wolf Cubs, through play, have their wildness and unruliness gradually channelled so that they can enter the more disciplined and demanding world of the Scout troop. Here are two worlds – the animal world of the pack and the human world of the troop – both parallel and mutually reinforcing. Baden-Powell seemed to believe that the members of a natural wolf pack responded to the howled demands of their leader to gather together and the Grand Howl of the Wolf Cubs became a key ritual response to their leader. When Akela, the Cub master, entered the room or when he called 'Pack' the boys should gather around him and immediately howl.

The global Wolf Cub movement was suffused with celebratory lupine imagery until 1967 when, in a major reform, the Wolf Cubs became Cub Scouts and the animal world of *The Jungle Book* was cast aside in favour of fuller incorporation into the modern world of the Scouts. However, the iconic image of the wolf as a wise, powerful and respected leader was not entirely lost: the emblem of The Bronze Wolf remains the highest award given to an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to the international Scouting Movement.

The Boy Scouts of America were founded in 1910 and rapidly became a popular youth movement. The Wolf Cubs, however, with their *Jungle Book* founding myth, did not find a home there in the same form. The young Americans were called Cub Scouts rather than Wolf Cubs, the groups were named dens rather than packs, and they had a Scout rather than Akela as their guardian

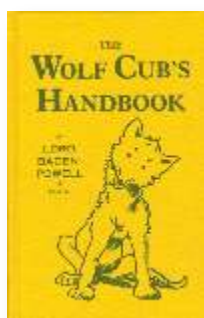
and leader. Perhaps this distancing from the original iconography resulted from the perception at the time of wolves as creatures fit only for eradication. The idea of wolves being appropriate role models for socialising young boys or creatures from which a compelling image of a human community could be modelled would have been anathema to a frontier-inspired society.

Thus from Rudyard Kipling's writings about Mowgli, the most famous wolf boy in the world, and his adventures in the Jungle, many generations of children have been entertained and brought up on stories of children raised by wolves. In *The Jungle Book*, although the man's cub has a rancorous and ambiguous relationship with other wolves in the jungle, he has entirely supportive and affectionate relationships with his adoptive family and Akela, the

wise leader of the pack. It was these relationships that were celebrated through the enduring popularity of the youth movement founded in Britain during the First World War. In 2011, Scouting and Guiding together had over 41 million members worldwide.

We look forward to sharing our wolves' behaviour and howls with all our young visitors this summer.

Tsa Palmer  
Director



### Thank You to our fundraisers

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our supporters who fundraise for the Trust, some putting themselves through unusual activities! For example, Dieter Huggins took part in a MMA fight and Harry Portchmouth swam 700 lengths, climbed 2400 metres and then cycled 200 miles to raise funds for the Trust.

Thank you to everyone who takes the time and effort to raise funds on our behalf to keep wolves where they belong... in the wild!

# Perpetuating the myths

A report by Denise Taylor,  
UKWCT Specialist Advisor

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the woods, along comes a blockbuster movie to remind you that out in the 'wild' lands there are big and scary beasts baying for your blood.

The Grey, released earlier this year, has really stirred up a lot of controversy in the world of conservation. All the top biologists and conservationists have come out in force against the film and the way it portrays the wolf as a blood-thirsty man-hunter, taking us back to the dark ages of wolf conservation when everyone believed the Red Riding Hood myths.

The most disturbing thing about the film is that it is not portraying a mythical or fantastical image of the wolf, which we know is not real, but one which is supposed to be very realistic. And judging by the comments on various forums about the film, a significant percentage of the audience sadly believe this portrayal is an

accurate one.

As if wolf conservationists didn't have their work cut out already fighting against hunting and farming associations and policy makers who simply want to see the wolf eradicated to protect their own interests.

But let's not get too despondent. Yes, The Grey shows the wolf in a grossly inaccurate light, but it does give us the opportunity to step up our activities in educating people about the real wolf. It provokes discussion, and as angry as the film makes wolf advocates feel, let's use this as a platform to do some good.

UKWCT supporters can join the campaign to educate people positively about wolves and conservation in general by getting involved in the work we do around the world, and I know there are a fair few of you who have blogs and Facebook pages. Use these to



campaign and lobby for the good of wolf conservation. And get involved in the fundraising activities at the Trust, where money raised goes directly to wild wolf projects we support.

Although the struggle to conserve and protect wolves seems like an uphill battle sometimes, do take heart in the fact that wolf advocates are growing in number. Wolves are here to stay no matter how negatively films like The Grey portray them.

*Denise Taylor has been involved in wolf conservation for the past 20 years. Her main area of expertise is in environmental and conservation education, and she plays a proactive role in helping us to support wild wolf projects throughout the world.*

## Ethiopian Wolf Expedition with Professor Claudio Sillero, EWCP.

Professor Claudio Sillero invites six to nine wolf supporters to travel with him on an exclusive trail-riding expedition in the remote Bale Central Peaks observing Ethiopian wolves with their pups.

5-15  
November  
2012



Claudio has almost single-handedly saved the Ethiopian wolf – the only wolf in Africa – conducted all the research and continues to monitor and protect the species. Unlike other rare carnivores the wolves are easily found and observed; every day will be spent helping to monitor different wolf packs in the hinterland of Bale during the all-important breeding season. You will travel on horseback (no previous experience required) and camp in the Afroalpine habitat of the wolves.

£6,435 per person (excluding flights). Organised by Spencer Scott Travel (ATOL 3417). [www.spencerscotttravel.com](http://www.spencerscotttravel.com)

Contact: Liz on tel. 01825 714310 email: [info@spencerscott.co.uk](mailto:info@spencerscott.co.uk)



# A day with the Dutchers

## Seminar at the Trust on 28 January 2012



There are a number of people in the wolf world it is a privilege to meet. None more so than Jim and Jamie Dutcher. They are calm, gentle and dedicated wolf folk. In 1990, they began a project that would happily consume their lives for 20 years.

Julia Bohanna reports



Initially, it was a two-year commitment. Aware that no one had really studied the social behaviour of wolves – namely because of the shy nature of the animal – they built a 25-acre enclosure on sub-alpine terrain in the Sawtooth Mountains in Idaho. Jim stated his aim was to ‘listen to the wolf as a social partner’ – which gives you some indication of their generosity of spirit and big-hearted respect for all things lupine. They wanted to speak for the wolf because as Jamie firmly stated ‘They need a voice wherever they can get it.’

There were many questions that the Dutchers wanted to answer by raising their own packs and watching them flourish to truly understand lupine body language and to assess the role of the omega wolf. The wolves were named, of course, and became family – with all the joy and heartache that entailed. Many people used to their home comforts might have been shocked at

the dedication the Dutchers showed to their project. They lived 65,000 ft above sea level.

It was a very harsh environment and they existed in a Mongolian yurt with a ‘roof that was good for snow.’ It may seem superficially romantic but then imagine no electricity or running water and food being roadkill deer, antelope or elk. They used a wood stove for warmth and cooking, snowmobiles in winter and ATVs in summer to negotiate the terrain. It is one of the coldest spots in the US and as they rolled their film their pinched faces at times really spoke of that. It truly was a mission of the heart.

The snow may have often been a problem – often stranding vehicles – but for the wolves it was playtime, even at minus 30 or 40 degrees. Only a wolf person would understand and feel envy – but every night they had wolves at the door – rustling and playing outside. It seems a world apart from public perception of the wolf in the States – where they are associated with the federal government, a symbol of hatred and also used politically for the vote hungry. ‘Kill them, shoot them, torture them’ is an ethos that is hard to break, hard to shake. What we had with the Dutchers was an insider’s view. It was an incredible act of trust when Jamie crawled on her belly into Chemukh’s den to look at her cubs, while the patient mother watched her from outside.

Many elements they discussed really questioned our common perceptions. For example, a scientist carrying out an autopsy on a wolf with a broken jaw found that the jaw had completely healed – so the wolf must have lived some time after his accident, being

unable to hunt. This must mean that others fed him.

When the wolves outside at the Trust set up their howls and whines, Jamie quipped ‘They must be pro-introduction.’ With that in mind, they also stressed the positive effect of wolves in their area of observation: elk moving to higher ground to escape the wolves meant that cottonwood trees thrived. The returned vegetation helped beavers, ducks and geese to come back to the area. Bears and golden eagles feasted on wolf kills. Owls, hawks and eagles were seen in the skies. In their two decades of knowing their wolves so intimately they frequently encountered empathy in The Sawtooth Pack. The animals mourned lost relatives. An early omega Motaki spent a long time alone and, sadly, a mountain lion broke into the area and killed her. The other wolves appeared depressed. They ‘lost the spirit to play’ and howled separately, with little energy. This continued for six months.

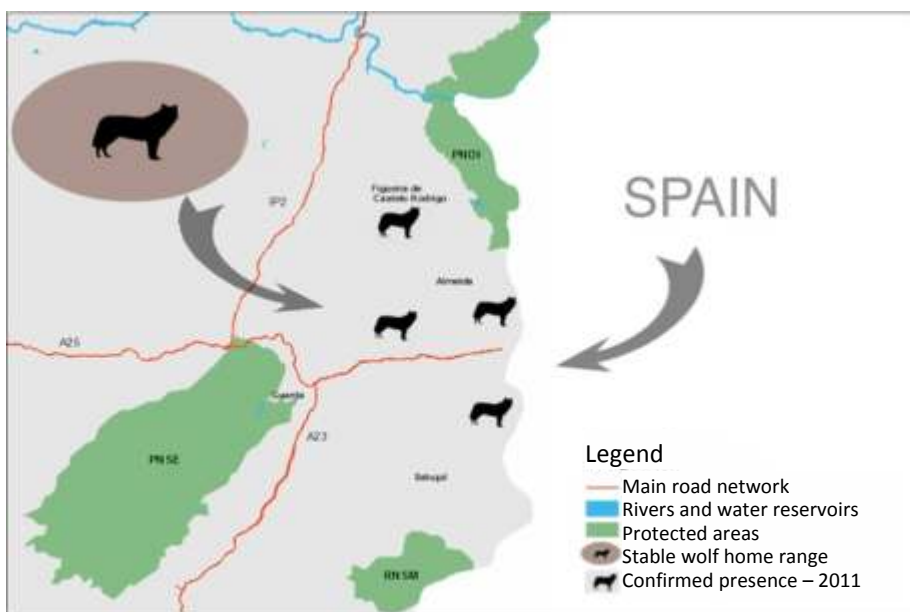
When the film documented the project ending and the wolves had to be moved to Native American Indian land, there was a palpable silence in the room. When the Dutchers were shown revisiting the pack after some time, not sure how they would be greeted, there were tears from the audience. Jim softly told us that Kamot – the alpha male – ‘taught me about trust.’ This was clear from the joy in two old friends reconnecting on screen. When the lights came up, there were a lot of hankies out and people looking at the floor. Duma then came in – our beautiful stately girl – ►



## Projecto Lobo na Raia – the challenge of the last frontier

The wolves found in Portugal and Spain form one population described in 1907 as a sub-species of the grey wolf, bearing the scientific name *Canis lupus signatus* – the Iberian Wolf.

Wolves were once numerous in Portugal, but by 1910 the population was in decline, as they suffered habitat loss and as some of the chosen prey species became extinct. Studies estimate that the wolf population within Portugal is between 250-300 animals, occurring only in the north and centre of the country – corresponding to 30% of its original range. The Iberian wolf, which has been threatened with extinction, has been protected by law since 1988 in Portugal. Research conducted in 1994 showed the existence of only two wolf packs along the border with Spain; these were in the South of Douro river region. The groups were isolated, with very little connectivity to the rest of the subpopulation (North West and East). Later research in the area confirmed wolf numbers were decreasing and that the population had poor medium- to long-term viability. In 2011 through research carried out by the organisation Grupo Lobo there are signs of a possible natural re-colonisation process along



the border line with a consequent connectivity increase between the population clusters of the Iberian wolf in this region.

**Grupo Lobo** is a not-for-profit non-governmental association which was founded in 1985 to work in favour of wolf conservation and their ecosystem in Portugal. <http://lobo.fc.ul.pt/>

## TRUST DONATIONS NEWS

So far in 2012 the UKWCT has made the following donations:

£2,000 to Grupo Lobo in Portugal – see a report of their project above – and £2,000 to Josip Cusak for his work in Croatia.

## ◀ A day with the Dutchers

to have her picture taken with the Dutchers.

Outside in the darkness, I asked Jim if he dreamt of his wolves. His eyes looked far away for a few seconds. 'Oh yeah,' he nodded.

Later, when I read 'Living with Wolves' I was struck by another of his comments 'The way it used to be is burned onto my mind.'

Jim Dutcher is an Emmy Award-winning cinematographer and filmmaker. His work includes *Wolf: Return of a Legend*. Jamie Dutcher received an Emmy award for mixing sounds of *The Sawtooth Pack*. Their film 'Living with Wolves' was produced by The Discovery Channel.

The book and CD of the same name is reviewed in 'Making Tracks' on page 20.

Julia Bohanna  
Pictures: *Living with Wolves*

## Danny Kidby-Hunter Assistant Education Officer

We are pleased to welcome a new member of staff to the team. Danny joined us full-time in November and is a real asset: she has a degree in graphic design and a passion for photography, especially wildlife photography. This passion has inspired her to travel which included a trip to South Africa and to get involved in conservation work. She has also been fortunate enough to work for a summer at Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom in Orlando, USA.

*"I first came to the Trust back in 2006 for one of their photographic days. I was amazed to find such a place existed literally on my doorstep. After my discovery I continued to support the Trust and in 2010 I came to complete a work experience placement here. My love for the Trust and wolf conservation grew which led to me becoming a volunteer and starting to build a*



*Danny with Massak, by Jethro Bradley-Firth relationship with the resident wolves. Upon being offered a job at the Trust needless to say I was thrilled and accepted! My background in education and art, coupled with my conservation experience has helped prepare me for my work here and combined all of my interests too! Who else can boast they get to listen to wolf howls from their desks?"*



# Wolf News

## Update on the Trust Wolves

Spring has sprung! However, it has arrived accompanied by hailstones, freezing temperatures and unseasonably hot sunny days, all within a couple of weeks. The wolves have started to lose their winter coats, but rather tentatively, as if not sure what the weather will bring next. There has been a lot happening on site, with work ongoing to improve and maintain our wolves' enclosures. Thankfully the weather has not impeded this.

### The Arctic Pack

Our Arctic wolves continue to thrive and grow; their first birthday was on 8th March. As they are in the top enclosure next to our Education Centre, they are the first wolves that the excited public see when they arrive. Massak, Pukak and Sikko love the attention they get and interact amongst themselves by the fence, making all manner of strange noises and really playing to the delighted audience.

The Arctics are being socialised to groups of people in preparation for walking with the public. Having been in quarantine for six months, with only ten people allowed by law to interact with them, they can sometimes find a large crowd a bit daunting which is understandable. All three wolves love to paddle and splash in the pond and stream in the field. A favourite game is chasing and catching small twigs as they float downstream, perhaps an indication of how they would hunt for fish in their native lands.

**Pukak** is the most forward of the three, he just can't help himself! His natural curiosity will propel him towards the



*Sikko, Massak and Pukak by Danny Kidby Hunter*

nearest person to greet them submissively, with crouched posture and much squeaking.

**Sikko** is the next to pluck up courage once she has watched her brother for a

while. Her greeting takes the same form as she tries to persuade you that she is a princess who is sorely put upon by her two large brothers. This is easy to believe as she is much smaller and has retained the delicate features she had as a cub. However she is well able to take care of herself as the boys know to their cost.

**Massak** is the largest of the three and the most wary. If he chooses to greet you it is a great honour. With his handlers he is more forthcoming and lets them know he wants attention by nudging them gently with his nose. He is a striking looking wolf who likes to keep his distance until he is absolutely sure of what is going on.

Being the only Arctic wolves in the UK, Massak, Pukak and Sikko are very popular with visitors and, along with the Beenham pack, will make wonderful ambassadors for their wild cousins.

*Pukak, Massak and Sikko, out on their first walk, by Jason Siddall*





## Duma and Lunca

Our two oldest wolves, Duma at 14 and Lunca at 13, have moved into the enclosure next to the Arctics. The two oldies like to be where they can see what is going on around the site and to watch the antics of their next door neighbours. Duma and Lunca have been retired from walks at weekends but will still go out on short walks during the week. After a lifetime of being our most professional and well known ambassador,

**Duma** deserves a bit of a rest, although she is still eager to come out and see people during the week. The Queen of the Wolf Trust remains healthy, active and delighted to see her human friends.

**Lunca** is much slower than Duma but still very much enjoys her walks and human interaction. Although Lunca no longer does meet and greets, she loves to go out and sniff all the new scents in



Lunca by Barry Welch



Duma and Lunca by Danny Kidby-Hunter

the surrounding fields. To see Lunca being affectionate to her favourite handlers you would not believe the change that comes over her when food is involved. She must be separated from Duma at feeding time or she will chase Duma off and eat all Duma's food as well as her own! Apart from this one occasion, the two old ladies live together in peace and can often be seen lying together soaking up some sun.

## Mosi and Torak

Mosi and Torak have been retired from public events but the pair still enjoy going out for a walk with their handlers. They love splashing about in the pond together and have recently had a trip away from the Trust to some beautiful local bluebell woods which they thoroughly enjoyed. It also gave us the opportunity to take a few photos, one of which will be appearing in our 2013 calendar.

They have now moved into the enclosure next to Mosi's sister, Mai. At first there was a lot of posing, grumbling and fence-running because the two sisters are not the best of friends.

**Mosi** is still the same, full of character and attitude, for this reason she is great favourite amongst the handlers. Never a dull moment with Mosi!

**Torak** is still the same handsome but wary wolf, happy with his partner Mosi. He is quite laid back most of the time but when Mosi pesters him too much he retaliates and stands no nonsense from her. It is an impressive sight to see the very large Torak telling off the bossy Mosi in no

uncertain terms – and very unusual to see Mosi so submissive. Mosi and Torak are now six years old.



Mosi and Torak tied, by Matt Booth



Torak and Mosi by Jason Siddall



## Mai and Motomo

Mai and Motomo  
by Barry Welch



The happy couple, Mai and Motomo, seem completely content in their new enclosure – even if it is next to the pesky Mosi. Mai can lie on top of the mound

going in this colour direction. Mai was retired for the breeding season so that she and Motomo could have quality time together. She will not have any more

and keep an eye not only on her sister but on her cubs just down the site. Mai at six years old is still a magnificent looking wolf, with her coat turning more silver with every passing year. Mai and Mosi's mother was completely white so Mai could also be

cubs as she has had an operation which is most easily described as a "female vasectomy." Mai is happy with her partner Motomo but still seems to have kept her love of interaction with her humans, liking nothing more than a good scratch through the fence until she is called away by her mate.

Motomo is our only unsocialised wolf but he has grown in confidence since he arrived to live at the Trust. He will now come to the fence to see what is going on, even if it's not feeding time! He always keeps an eye on what Mai is doing and doesn't like her to have too much human interaction. Motomo is in his prime at four years old and a very handsome wolf. He has passed on his colouring and markings to two of his cubs while the third takes after her mother.

## The Beenham Pack

The Beenham Pack have taken up residence in the bottom enclosure and take full advantage of the pond. Nuka, Tala and Tundra are typically boisterous, mischievous and bouncy young wolves, loving to play and explore everything they can.

**Nuka** is friendly and inquisitive, scared of nothing. In Nuka's world everyone is his friend and he likes them to know it. His greetings are sometimes a little over-enthusiastic but always good natured. He is the spitting image of his father and almost equal in size, a force to be reckoned with as he matures. Nuka and Tala like to meet and greet the public but Nuka prefers to throw himself on his back to have his belly rubbed. This is very appealing of course but his handlers

Nuka by Vicky Hughes



must try and persuade him to stand up, which is not always easy as he loves all the attention he gets.

**Tala** takes after her mother in looks, a black coat flecked with grey and tan and beautiful eyes which contrast with the dark pelage. Tala is very friendly to everyone at the Trust but with the public she is a little more reserved. Instead of just throwing herself at everyone like her brother does, she stands politely and quietly for her meet and greets, sometimes giving the lucky greeter a lick on the hand. At the moment, Tala seems to be the one who has inherited her mother's calm disposition with humans, but things can always change!

**Tundra** is the most reserved of the siblings. She is shy and quiet when out on a walk and will stay on the outskirts of the crowd, watching intently while her brother and sister meet



Tala and Tundra by Jason Siddall

the public. Occasionally she will pick out a person who takes her fancy and sidle up to them for some attention. Who knows what she sees in one human over another, but that is the way she is at the moment and we are happy to accommodate her.

In their enclosure the Beenhams revert to being typical young cubs, fishing in the pond, playing chase and being very pleased to see their handlers for a visit. They are charming and very entertaining and we look forward to seeing them grow into their future ambassadorial roles.

Angela Barrow



# IDAHO...

## THE WORST PLACE IN THE WORLD FOR WOLVES?

**Is Idaho the worst place in the world for a wolf to live right now? Evidence suggests it is.**

During the 2011-2012 hunting season, the state allowed 400 wolves from a population of less than 1000 to be killed. A media storm then hit when a wolf was caught in a leghold trap then illegally shot at and injured by passers-by.

Photographs were subsequently posted on [www.trapperman.com](http://www.trapperman.com) showing a trapper known as Pinching, a US Forest Service employee, smiling triumphantly and posing with the injured and then the dead wolf. Pictures show a wolf with its hind leg in the trap and the snow around it stained with its blood in a large red circle. The animal looked dejected, exhausted and, from its stance and demeanour, you can see it has suffered greatly, and is in pain. The images were quickly removed but not before they went viral after a horrified audience voiced their protest. Accompanying comments on the trapper forum evidently showed that the wolf had been tortured over a three-day period.

The question is – how can such animal cruelty exist in a civilised nation in the 21st century? According to the Humane Society's website: 'Idaho's animal cruelty laws are some of the weakest in the country, as one of only three states with no felony-level penalties for egregious animal cruelty.' Furthermore, its policy-makers, including Governor, CL 'Butch' Otter, have made no secret about waging a war on wolves. So with trapping and snaring legal, trappers can kill without conscience. Idaho, despite its vast wilderness and excellent habitat, may be the worst place in the world to be a wolf.

Comments on [www.trapperman.com](http://www.trapperman.com) show this highly publicised incident is not an isolated incident. Ironically, it contradicts the Mission Statement on their website that states "It's imperative that we show the public who we are and the good we are doing for wildlife." Hard to understand how torturing a wolf and revelling in the fact is 'doing good for wildlife.'

### Speaking out led to death threats

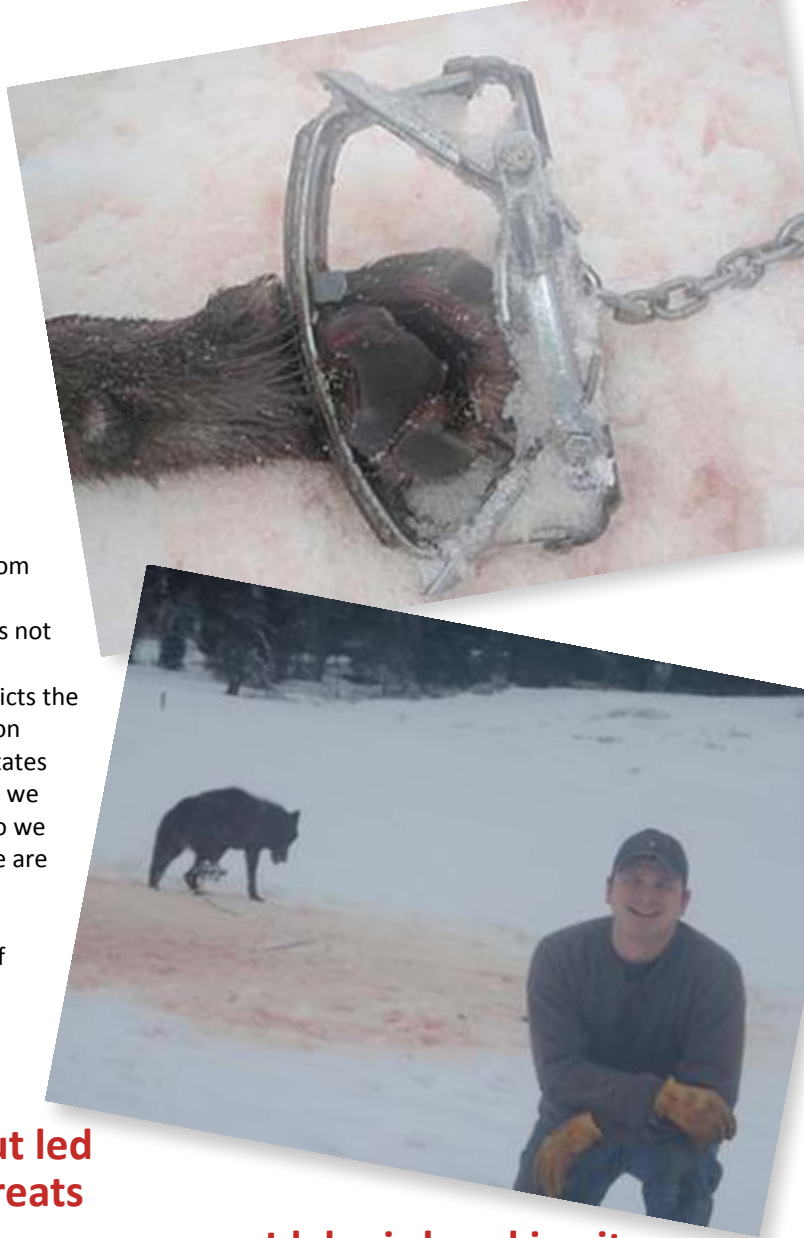
Understandably, some have spoken out. But when a Montana woman criticised the Idaho brutality on an anti-trapping forum, she received death threats. Such a cowardly form of bullying ought to concern Idaho government officials.

A large part of the problem is the power that minority groups like the Safari Club International have to shape policy and legislation. There are 259,000 hunters and anglers in Idaho; a state with a population of 1.42 million living in 83,557 square miles. Hunters complain loudly about declining elk numbers and blame the wolf, despite Idaho's Department of Fish and Game, the state's authority on ungulates, disagreeing. 'We're having trouble in some areas, but overall things are looking pretty good,' big game manager Jon Rachael recently told the Idaho Fish and Game Commission. Female elk numbers meet or exceed objectives in 21 of 29 elk management zones and are below objectives in eight zones. Bull elk meet or exceed objectives in 20 zones and are below objectives in nine zones.

### Idaho is breaking its pledge to manage wolves like other game species

During the March 21st public hearing at Idaho Department of Fish and Game, commission chairman Tony McDermott repeated the claim that Idaho is adhering to its public commitment to manage wolves like cougar and bears. But is it?

Cougar and bear cannot be sport-trapped or snared in Idaho. Wolves can. Cougar and bear have abundant populations – approximately 3,000 cougars and 20,000 black bears. But there are only approximately 548 adult wolves left in Idaho after the mass cull. Idaho has in fact reduced its wolf population by nearly half since wolves were exempted by a congressional rider on a budget bill. Yet it has just approved a hunting plan that will allow more to be killed in the next season. There is no quota that sets a maximum number allowed to be killed.



# IDAHO... THE WORST PLACE IN THE WORLD FOR WOLVES?

◀ Instead of managing a healthy population of wolves, Idaho is only interested in maintaining less than 200 wolves in the entire state. If bears or cougar populations fell to that low level, there would be an immediate hunting ban and actions taken to restore their numbers. Idaho puts little value on the species, despite the state being the prime habitat for the core western gray wolf population and crucial for the recovery of wolves in the Pacific Northwest and expanded range in the Rockies.

environmentalists only serves to highlight the arrogance that exists in those who hold power in the state. They appear to want to pursue only their own interests rather than the interests of all Idaho's citizens.

## A human solution for a human problem



The Idaho 'war against wolves' not only ignores the science behind wildlife conservation, but blatantly ignores the majority public opinion.

Wherever there is human/wildlife conflict the problem is invariably a human one of

perception. The real conflict is between human groups with different and greatly polarised perspectives.

There are similar problems in Europe, where wildlife management is more advanced than Idaho when it comes to 'grown-up' thinking about co-existence with wolves and other large mammals. In Bulgaria, a country that has also had a history of widespread hatred of wolves and also has a large proportion of hunters, perspectives are altering with the development of a wolf management plan. The process surrounding the planning has brought together all the different groups and participants including foresters, farmers, livestock growers, hunters, rangers, policy-makers, conservationists and wildlife managers.

In Bulgaria, wolves have never been extirpated. Although a mountainous country with highly developed extensive

livestock breeding, Bulgarian farmers have always shared the mountain pastures with large carnivores. There has never been any really extreme opposition to wolves and bears. Older shepherds remember the times when they had large flocks of sheep and always said: 'There was enough for us and for wolves.'

Poisoning and trapping of wolves occurred many decades ago in Bulgaria. In the late 1970s, when wolf numbers had decreased to around 200 individuals, the species was included in the National Red Data Book as 'endangered.' In 1991, it was one of the member countries that ratified the Bern Convention, which prohibits most of the previous methods of hunting for all game species – including poisons and traps. These 'hunting' methods rightly became illegal.

Today, Bulgaria has approximately 1,000 wolves within only 111,000 sq. km. This is less than the size of Idaho – a state complaining that even a few hundred wolves are too many. Recently, the Balkani Wildlife Society initiated a process for the development of a wolf management plan. They invited all interested groups to work together over a period of time, to discuss the future management of the species to preserve it for future generations in Bulgaria and the Balkans. Officials, foresters, hunters, farmers, scientists and conservationists worked closely together over many months to develop the plan and agree the main issues for the future conservation and management of the species.

The whole process operated on the basis of reaching a consensus, which meant compromises had to be made from all sides. Eventually, a mutually agreed plan emerged – to implement a three month period of protection for the wolves during April, May and June – when wolves reproduce and the young pups depend on their mothers. This is a major advance in a country where hunters and farmers previously had a history of hating and fearing wolves – where bounty offered for wolves killed was equivalent to two weeks' wages.

But wolves kill livestock and compete for elk with human hunters – or so the argument goes. Actually, wolves kill fewer livestock than disease, bad weather, birthing problems, noxious weeds, rustlers and other native predators. Less than 200 cattle and sheep depredations have been reported – the lowest number since 2004.

At the meeting, although wolf advocates outnumbered those against wolf conservation by three to one, the voices of the wolf advocates were totally disregarded and dismissed. A further meeting was held the following morning to push through the motion to continue hunting, trapping wolves and increasing the limits. One of the commissioners even went as far as calling the wolf advocates 'crazy environmentalists' – an extremely 'backward' view. Scientists and other professionals spoke up for wolf conservation. To call them crazy



## Trapping in Idaho

The fate this wolf suffered is – unbelievably – legal. In Idaho, where this wolf was caught, hunters and trappers can buy ‘tags’ which allows them to kill wolves. The Idaho Wolf Trapping Season and Rules give only the briefest of information. Bait must not be used, although traps can be set beyond 30 feet of the carcass of a naturally killed large game species – as long as the carcass is left undisturbed. Traps must be checked at least every 72 hours,

which means that an animal caught in a trap could be held for days.

The traps are designed to ‘hold’ not kill. The animal will try desperately to free itself. This inflicts unnecessary suffering and torment on the animal. In the case of the wolf in the photo, it suffered even further torment as it was shot at while caught in the trap – a supremely cowardly way to ‘hunt.’

The 72-hour trap check limit actually violates the American Veterinarian

Association recommended 24-hour trap check limit. In addition, these devices capture not only wolves but non-target and threatened species like wolverine and lynx. Few animals survive being caught in a trap away from water and in distress for 72 hours.

Links to recent articles:

Daily Mail: [tiny.cc/wolftrap1](http://tiny.cc/wolftrap1)

Daily Kos [tiny.cc/wolftrap2](http://tiny.cc/wolftrap2)

Earth Island Journal: [tiny.cc/wolftrap3](http://tiny.cc/wolftrap3)

Psychology Today: [tiny.cc/wolftrap4](http://tiny.cc/wolftrap4)



## What lessons can Idaho learn from its European counterparts?

Bulgaria is not the first or the only country to adopt such a mature and effective approach towards the conservation of its large wild mammalian species: Croatia, France, Italy and others are also adopting a more ecological approach to conservation. It takes foresight and courage for policymakers to really make a difference in protecting their wild heritage. Idaho's governor and its state officials are failing to engage their stakeholders in a meaningful conflict resolution process, as the rest of the world watches. There needs to be some sensible dialogue taking place – not the angry rhetoric, fear-mongering and revenge killing of wolves.

Governor ‘Butch’ Otter of Idaho, the world is indeed watching. You will be judged on how you treat your wild species. As Gandhi once said, ‘The

greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the ways its animals are treated.’

The situation in Idaho is directly due to the inadequate de-listing criteria approved by the federal US Fish and Wildlife Service. Wildlife scientists around the world should protest at any plan that allows all but 100 – 150 wolves to be killed there. Unfortunately, the Service and the Obama administration failed Idaho's wolves and are soon to approve a plan allowing Wyoming to follow Idaho's lead in reducing wolf numbers to ecologically unsustainable levels.

**Denise Taylor**

with additional material from  
Suzanne Stone and Elena Tsingarska

**Denise Taylor** is a specialist adviser at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust and has been involved in wolf conservation for the past 20 years. Her main area of expertise is in environmental and conservation education, and she plays a proactive role in helping us to support wild wolf projects throughout the world.

**Suzanne Stone** provided additional information for this article and is the Northern Rockies Representative for the Defenders of Wildlife. She has worked tirelessly for the conservation of wolves for 24 years including serving as a member of the USA-Canadian wolf reintroduction team for Idaho and Yellowstone. For the last 12 years, she has worked closely with ranchers and farmers to help them co-exist with wolves by adopting non-lethal control methods and livestock protection through better animal husbandry. She grew up in Idaho and still resides there today.

**Elena Tsingarska** is a biologist and Project Leader for Balkani Wildlife Society in Bulgaria. She has studied wolves in the country for many years and has been the driving force behind the recent successful Wolf Management Plan process. She has also been one of the leaders in the team behind the building, development and equipping of the Large Carnivore Education Centre based in Vlahi in the foothills of the Pirin Mountains. In the past ten years, the project has provided outreach education programmes to over 10,000 children throughout the region, as well providing workshops and seminar programmes for adult learners on the conservation of wolves, bears and other wild species in Bulgaria.



# Call of the Wild

## Exploring with wolves in British Columbia

Boarding the plane to Canada from Gatwick Airport, a wave of excitement washed over me. I was an eager 20-year-old zoology student, on my first trip into 'the real world.'

Venturing this far into the wilderness was a first for me, but I had been keen to do it my whole life. Since childhood I had marvelled at photographs of British Columbia's turquoise lakes, surrounded by magnificent mountains sprinkled in snow. Not to mention the images of wildlife – bears, cougars and, to my immense pleasure, wolves. I wanted to become 'Torak', the boy from Michelle Paver's book "Wolf Brother", and be truly face-to-face with the harshness of the wild. To

get into the mood, I sat down and engaged myself in deep conversation with the Canadian next to me about the best tactics to use in a bear attack.

A day's travel later I finally arrived in the province of British Columbia. The journey was an amazing transition from the flat, dry landscape of the Alberta desert to the mountain



Tuk and Aspen  
Shelley Black, Black Wolf Photography

ranges of British Columbia. The clichéd blue-green lakes, and forests of dark green pine trees skirting around the bottoms of the mountains, were all I could see. My 'hostel' was hidden in the forest and completely isolated. Upon arrival, I naturally dumped my bags, forgetting about any unpacking, and went exploring. As a zoologist, one thing I quickly noticed was the huge abundance of bird calls from branches above as I walked – intrigued – through the forest. It was horribly unnerving – I didn't recognise a single one. I knew that species of birds inhabiting areas all over the world develop different 'accents', depending upon what country they are in. I paused, straining hopefully to hear a blackbird singing with a Canadian accent, but with no success.

Next morning, I set off for the Northern Lights Wildlife Centre, on a bike kindly lent to me by the hostel owners. They seemed impressed at my ambitious determination to bike to the Wildlife Centre – thoughts that did not bode well, as it gave me the distinct impression I was in for quite the

mountainous trek. Correct. However, the aches and pains went unnoticed as I was constantly staring, open mouthed at my surroundings. The journey to the Wildlife Centre was beautiful, and one I would soon come to love.

When I arrived I was introduced to the owners, Shelley and Casey Black, and their workers. Jax was one of the workers. 'We'll start over here,' she motioned, walking out of the reception to the first of three visible enclosures labelled: 'Karelian Bear Dogs.' The centre was small and surrounded by forest. 'Has anyone ever heard of Karelian Bear Dogs before?' Jax asked, as she entered the enclosure, upon which three dogs leapt up and ran over to her, tails wagging. Everybody, including myself, said 'no.' They had a build similar to that of a German Shepherd, but were much smaller, and were black and white. Karelian Bear Dogs, I learned, are used to remove 'Problem Bears' in towns. A 'Problem Bear' is a bear that has lost its fear of humans and associates them with food, causing them to come into towns and cities.

We then moved over to the wolf enclosure. Finally, I was about to meet a wolf – I had waited for this moment my whole life and cannot describe how excited I was. I walked eagerly over to the fence and there lay a wolf happily chewing on a rotting deer leg. This was Aspen, a ten-year-old female. The enclosure was large and contained a small pond and trees, backing onto more woodland. There were, in fact, two visible enclosures together, separated by a single metal fence. I walked over to the second and heard Jax say: 'The two wolves in there are Maya and Tuk – brother and sister – you'll be lucky to see them, they don't like people much.' She was right; I couldn't see anything but forest. I stood quietly, determinedly staring for several minutes until, eventually, I saw an ear twitch from behind a bush not far from where I was standing.

A sudden growl made me spin around and look into Aspen's enclosure. She was standing, tail high, guarding her deer leg. 'Ah, here comes Wiley,' Jax said. Aspen continued to growl, but I couldn't see another wolf – until I craned my neck and saw a huge, black shape rising slowly up from the shadows of the trees. The shape came closer and moved into the light. I gasped – it was a magnificent male wolf, weighing 110 lbs (53kg), his huge head held high. Gazing around with his deep amber eyes, he walked slowly towards us. He stood over a metre off the ground. Aspen, who was barely half his size, continued to growl and ran towards him, teeth bared. He quickly put his tail down, ears back, and trotted off to the other side of the enclosure. Aspen waited to make sure he had gone before returning to her deer leg.



## Sara Frost achieves a lifetime's ambition

My next three weeks were spent watching, discussing and learning about the wolves, during which time I made some fascinating observations. Seeing the pack separated when Aspen and Tuk were taken for a hike was remarkable. Upon their departure the whole pack immediately began to howl in an attempt to locate their pack members and reunite. In one memorable moment I saw Shelley and Casey return from being away for several days – 20 minutes before their truck pulled into the drive, the wolves recognised the sounds in the distance, leapt up and paced restlessly. Casey entered one enclosure and, for a horrifying moment, Wiley (the biggest of the wolves) ran at Casey, only to leap on him and cover him in licks and playful bites of reunion. It couldn't be clearer that Shelley and Casey are well-loved pack members.

### A walk with the wolves

I walked slowly and quietly through the forest, listening for the slightest of sounds. I made my way along a small path through some trees. Snow-capped mountains surrounded me; the sun was

from the trees – ears back and tongue out. I stood, rooted to the spot, my heart racing. To my left, the other wolf from the bushes leapt gracefully from the undergrowth, and galloped towards me. When they reached me they skidded to a halt, and sat, waiting patiently.

I was out hiking in the Rocky Mountains with Shelley, Casey and the wolves Aspen and Tuk. The Northern Lights Wildlife Centre is the only place in the world where people can experience a hike with wolves without leads. We were able to keep the wolves near us by calling them back for food. No leads, no barriers, just us, the wolves and the forest. It was an honour to be walking with them. I stopped to examine a wolf print on the ground (that my hand could just cover). A cold nose nudged my hand from behind – I spun round to see Aspen next to me, looking over at the mountains. It seemed she loved them as

much as I did. She trotted along side me for a while, letting me pet her. Tuk, however, was nowhere to be seen. He behaved much more like a wolf in the wild, enjoying his space and keeping his distance from humans. I would only ever catch glimpses of him as he weaved in between the trees in the forest. Just standing watching these majestic animals, I wondered how

people can ever have thought of them as vermin. At that moment, Aspen took off into the forest, crashing through the undergrowth, leaving broken branches behind her. Laughing, I followed in her wake. Finally, I was Torak. Finally, I was running with the wolves.

Spending my last few days horse-riding through the mountains, galloping in forests and through rivers, in addition to canoeing in Lake Louise (Banff National Park), was a wonderful way to end my trip. Looking back down into the valley



Aspen  
Shelley Black, Black Wolf Photography

as I biked from the Northern Lights Wildlife Centre for the last time, I heard the familiar howls of six wolves echoing across the mountains and through the trees. Losing all regard for dignity or decorum, I threw my head back into a howl of farewell.

*Sara Frost*

*Shelley and Casey Black originally worked with wolves in the film industry. They started Northern Lights Wildlife Wolf Centre in the summer of 1998, with the adoption of Aspen. In the summer of 2002 that the centre finally opened its doors to the public, offering a fun educational experience and the chance to see wolves up close.*

[www.northernlightswildlife.com](http://www.northernlightswildlife.com)

*Sara Frost graduated with a BSc Hons zoology degree from Newcastle University in 2009. Her first visit to the Northern Lights Wildlife Centre was in 2008, and she has since returned to see the wolves and has even worked at the centre.*



Sara with a tranquilised 'Problem Bear'

beating down on my back, and shining through the canopy, casting golden-green dappled light onto the forest floor. As I glanced up, I saw a black shape trot between a gap in the trees ahead of me. It was there for a split second, and then it was gone. After a moment's pause, I continued walking. I saw it again, this time on my left. I stopped in my tracks, watching the piercing amber eyes gazing at me through the bushes. It felt as though I were surrounded. From behind me came the thud of paws and, spinning round, I saw a wolf running towards me



# Life and behaviour of wolves:

## Predation risk and the structure of ecosystems

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*Since the re-introduction of wolves into Yellowstone the influence of wolf predation on ungulates and the consequent effects this has upon vegetation communities has come to light. These knock-on effects caused by the actions of one population promoting changes through multiple levels of the food web are known as trophic cascades.*

### **Pete Haswell reports**

By preventing overpopulation of ungulates, wolf predation averts a wealth of potentially negative interactions that overgrazing/browsing by herbivores can lead to. Through the reduction of ungulate pressure on riverside vegetation, bank stability is maintained and flooding prevented, habitat for pest-controlling birds and pollinating insects as well as shady fish nurseries are all maintained. Some grassy herbaceous areas are permitted to advance to forest and carcasses provide food for scavengers in hard winters. A wealth of valuable ecosystem services are all maintained in balance by the predatory acts of carnivores. But is it predatory action on population size alone that has this top down influence or is there more to it?

The activity patterns that animals exhibit are a complex compromise between optimal foraging, social activities and environmental constraints. Ungulates like all other mammals spend their days tending to their immediate biological requirements and welfare, with temperature regulation and the need for food and water being on top of the list. They also spend time interacting socially and attempting to fulfil life-cycle needs such as learning, play and reproduction. In some ungulate species such as red deer this can involve massive energy expenditure during the breeding season or rut that leaves little room for alternative activity.

An animal balances its needs against environmental constraints. One such factor is the avoidance of pests or parasites. Deer are known to exhibit variation in their use of and preference for certain altitudes during the summer months when midges and other blood sucking insects are plentiful and adapt their daily grazing routine to avoid these pests. Wild boars among others wallow in an attempt to reduce pest irritation. So if ungulates deviate from optimal foraging and social requirements to invest time avoiding irritation and degradation from pests, surely they must exhibit similar habitat preferences and alterations in behaviour to avoid predation? The need to survive clearly represents the most imperative environmental constraint on their ability to conduct other activities.

### **PREY SPECIES EXHIBIT NUMEROUS BEHAVIOURAL RESPONSES TO PREDATION RISK:**

Changes in group size, reduced movement, increased vigilance, reduced foraging and habitat selectivity. The associated focus of foraging pressure accompanying these behavioural responses is likely to impact vegetation community structure on a local scale. On a larger scale ungulate habitat selection and the associated grazing/browsing pressure is likely to be important in shaping vegetation communities at the ecosystem level.

Habitat selection reflects a balance between loss of fitness due to predation risk and fitness gain due to improved forage access. Risk-driven alterations in habitat use by prey can alter population and community dynamics in several ways. Constraints on habitat selection may carry fitness costs that reduce prey numbers beyond the effects of predation itself. Changes in prey behaviour may alter their impacts on vegetation resources even if numbers remain constant.

Terrain fear (predation-risk effects associated with encounter and escape situations) has influence on habitat use by herbivorous prey species. Elk avoid

areas offering poor visibility or those with obstacles that make escape difficult. In areas of high wolf presence they increasingly select to forage at sites that allow early detection and successful escape from wolves. Elk do not avoid travel in high wolf-use areas but show spatial avoidance and a switch in habitat preferences when doing so.

Wolves tend to travel along riparian (riverside) areas and do not opt to travel in coniferous forest. elk movements may reflect avoidance in response to wolf travel routes and signs of predator presence as they show preference for routes offering coniferous forest cover when travelling in areas with high wolf activity. Some studies show wolf kills to be significantly more likely in grassland areas far from woodland edges in comparison with sites close to woodland. It is suggested that elk move to forest edges when risk is detected. Although elk prefer to forage on aspen, studies have indicated they move away from riparian aspen stands or those at forest edges and into coniferous forest when wolf use of an area is high.

In response to predation risk, female elk show stronger preference to wooded areas than stags. It seems males are less capable of paying the costs of anti-predator behaviour. In winter they are in worse physical condition due to weight lost during the rut and significantly lower bone marrow fat stores caused by malnutrition. They also travel in smaller groups, offering less assistance in watching for predators reducing time spent foraging.

Clearly there is variation among species and ecosystems in the way habitat features affect risk and equally how behaviour is adjusted in response to risk. Nonetheless the impact of predator activity can clearly lead to the establishment of prey and plant refuge areas. Ungulate populations can structure plant communities through patterns of movement and foraging decisions. Reduced grazing/ browsing pressure in areas of high predation risk





will impact vegetation structure and diversity. If elk densities became low enough, then a more widespread release from browsing of woody plants would be expected. However, observations indicate release of pressure on vegetation at high risk sites only. Lack of wolf presence results in unimpeded grazing and simpler less diverse plant communities. Elk habitat preference in high wolf use areas results in decreased use of some aspen and increased use of conifer forests. This lower grazing pressure allows the sustainment of aspen and the progression of vegetation communities eventually resulting in tree cover.

**LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT HOW UNGULATES USE SCENT AND SOUND IN COMBINATION WITH VISUAL INDICATORS TO EVALUATE PREDATION RISK.**

However, elk are known to use predator cues to directly assess local risk on short time scales rather than by location alone. It is important to consider variation in risk over time when assessing anti-predator habitat selection by prey. Predation risk varies in

space and time due to wolf movements, colonisation and pack failure. Persistence of grazing limited plant refuge sites and the related increase in plant biomass and progression to woody vegetation relies on stability of wolf presence. Changes in level of wolf use on the landscape would alter patterns of refuge and the accompanying vegetation structure. Reduced foraging pressure in one area should be in general mirrored by increased pressure in another. It is highly plausible that through impacts upon herbivore movement and foraging behaviour, wolf activity helps maintain a mosaic of habitat types with varied plant communities providing a constantly changing yet variable landscape.

We do still need to be aware of impacts other biotic factors have such as forage availability or the effects human activity have on herbivore habitat use. Elk and wolves both avoid roads and other human disturbance. Natural migrations can often be interrupted by our actions. Human hunting seasons have been found to cause some animals to move out of profitable grassy meadows and into forests, returning once hunting seasons are over. This leads to a significant change of diet

and time spent browsing. Likewise environmental factors such as snow depth should be considered. Snow depth limits habitat selection for grazing, valley bottoms with less snow depth often suffer from heavily impacted riparian areas due to herbivore activity.

**ALTHOUGH ELK ANTI-PREDATOR BEHAVIOUR COULD DRIVE A TROPHIC CASCADE, CHANGES IN DENSITY AND NUMBERS COULD ALSO AFFECT ELK-PLANT INTERACTIONS.**

Numbers and behaviour have both changed since wolf recovery in Yellowstone. There is further need to understand the interactions of lethal and non-lethal predator activity in structuring vegetation communities and ecosystems. Previous long-term population control efforts by the Yellowstone National Park Service have not been documented to have effect on winter patterns of elk behaviour. Elk populations artificially maintained from 1930-68 showed no significant effects on aspen recruitment. Nor have the actions of cougar, bear or coyotes. It appears unlikely that observed trophic cascades are purely the result of lower elk density but instead are largely behaviourally mediated. Non-lethal action of predators may have an even stronger influence on food webs than population control alone. Land management goals should clearly focus on the recovery of natural processes in order to maintain ecosystem structure and stability.

*Pete Haswell*



*Pete Haswell, BSc Hons Environmental Science (Biodiversity and Conservation), is collaborating with Josip Kusak on a project the UKWCT supports in Croatia. You can read more about his work on his website <http://petehaswellwolfresearch.wordpress.com/>*





# Wolf Watching in the Sierra de la Culebra

**How prophetic was that?** The lure of the lobo certainly cast its spell that July in 2009, to call me back at any opportunity. I have now experienced a wealth of different wild wolf encounters with each one being very special. Every sighting is well-earned, if you count the hours watching and waiting, or the forest paths walked searching for clues. Such times are also punctuated by other wildlife gems like a family of 15 wild boar scuttling by and a black-shouldered kite surveying its domain. Or eerie nightjars flying moth-like around lit lamps and a trio of black storks feeding by the roadside. There is such a long list! But the aim of all our endeavours is always of course to learn more about this top predator in Sierra de la Culebra – the Iberian Wolf.

John and I have witnessed the attitudes to living a rural life with wolves and we find that in general the inhabitants of the Sierra are proud of how they adapt their lifestyle; the wolf has been there as long as they have. Gnarled local faces light up as they regale us, in animated, colloquial Spanish, with tales of wolf hunts in their youth. Even shepherds, who still live with their flock and dogs 24 hours a day, are proud of such co-existence with a predator. Certainly the healthy population of red deer help sustain the nine wolf packs in this area and also limits the predation of domestic stock. That said, all pet dogs are secured inside at night, as wolves are seen hunting in the local villages on cold winter nights. Not many miles away, amongst the stunning scenery of Sanabria, complaints and requests for compensation are more frequent among the more commercial cattle farmers.

Michael Viney's article 'How our Wolves were Ushered into History' – published in the Irish Times on 5 November 2011 – relates to wolves in Ireland. But he highlights a comparison which could equally apply to Sierra de la Culebra:

*Native Irish people's attitudes to wolves were quite different from those of the island's colonists. They first accepted them as part of the natural landscape, to be hunted now and then for various reasons. People were used to having them around, even if not everyone was comfortable with them. The colonists*

*were appalled by their presence in "Wolf Land" and sought to exterminate them; they were even ready to kill horses to use as bait in the forest.*

During our time spent in Sierra de la Culebra, we have seen people who manage their rural economy alongside wolves. As in all relationships, there are tense times, but balance and toleration seem to be general bywords. Perhaps the very strictly controlled hunting of wolves in Culebra could be replaced by sensitive tourism? Optimistically, the income raised from the annual auction of wolf-shooting permits dropped drastically this year; we were present in February where four permits were auctioned. They only reached €3,000/€3,500 compared with €12,000 the previous year, with a definite lack of enthusiasm for the bidding. Not all of this can be explained away by a general drop in Spanish expendable income; at the same auction shooting permits for red deer stags were actively contested and generally reached a price of €12,000. When the time came to bid for wolf-shooting permits, hands remained on laps and the atmosphere darkened.

In July 2009 I described our first sighting of that magnificent alpha male as *spell-binding* and the magic has continued with every fresh view of this truly wild beast. We have seen wolves feasting on a deer for several hours having stalked and made a kill in deep snow, while in the same area only six months previously the pack allowed us to watch them bring out their newly weaned cubs, plus lanky adolescent, to enjoy their summer antics. And yes, when sighted it is generally with that particular wolf's permission. The wolf is always aware of your presence; it is the wolf that is always in control.

Long may this balance between predator, prey and population continue. I feel honoured to have been allowed to witness it.

Margaret Hallowell – UKWCT member.

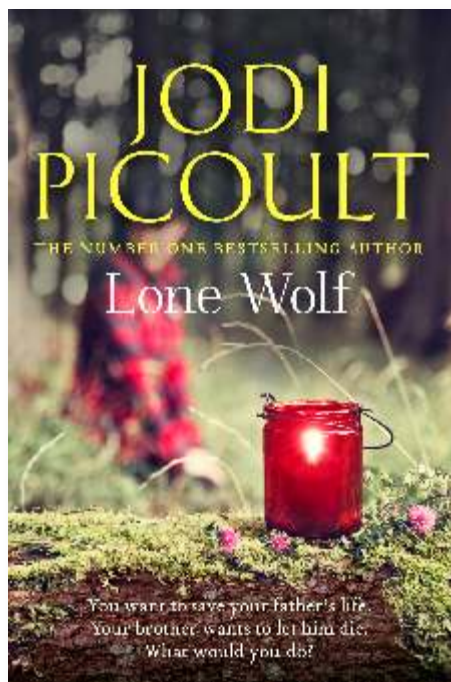
John and Margaret Hallowell organise wolf-watching tours in Northern Spain. [www.wildwolfexperience.com](http://www.wildwolfexperience.com)

Irish Times article: [tiny.cc/3a7kdw](http://tiny.cc/3a7kdw)

## A lifetime of memories

In issue 35 of Wolf Print I wrote of my first close encounter with an Iberian wolf. My closing sentence was: *'Perhaps, like me, your five-day short break will stretch out into a ten-day holiday, with promises of return visits and a lifetime's worth of memories.'*





# Making Tracks

wolves in the media and the arts

## LONE WOLF

Jodi Picoult

Hodder & Stoughton, hardback, 365pp, 21.6 x 14cm  
RRP £14.45, ISBN 978-0615409481

At the heart of *Lone Wolf* – in true Picoult tradition – is a dilemma. After a car accident that also includes his daughter, wolf biologist Luke Warren is in a coma, from which he is not anticipated to recover. It is left to his children, Cara and estranged son Edward, to decide his fate. One of Luke's comments, made earlier in the book, becomes the central premise: 'The one gift you can't throw away is life.' Is that always true?

Jodi Picoult clearly did a great deal of research for her novel, but when she initially came up with the character of Luke – a man who lives with wolves – she had no idea that Shaun Ellis existed. When she did discover Shaun she visited him to flesh out the character of Luke, but also to learn more about wolves as a species and how they relate to family, how they bond.

This is how her book began, according to a recent interview:

*'Researching Lone Wolf, I was amazed at how thoughtful and intelligent these animals are. There has never been a documented attack against a human by a wolf that wasn't provoked by the human. But the book began for me with a premise about the right to die and what happens when you have equal competing interests trying to make a decision about the health care of a loved one who is in a vegetative state. I woke up one morning thinking about wolves and realized that wolf packs function as families. Everyone has a role, and if you act within the parameters of your role, the whole pack succeeds, and when that falls apart, so does the pack.'*

On learning to howl with Shaun Ellis:

*'Finally, my publicist... created the illusion that there were many of her, with a howl that circled and pitched between the tones my son and I were using. The most amazing thing happened: the packs all around us began to howl back. It was the coolest feeling to know that we had 'sent' out our position, and were getting*

*responses because we were speaking their language.'*

The novel is told with several alternating voices, including Luke's in his pre-coma past with his beloved wolves, both wild and captive. There are also some minor characters – some introduced late into the book. I found this distracting, like shifting from chair to chair without being allowed to get comfortable. Some do not seem to merit their own dedicated chapters. There are others, like Luke's wife Georgie, who I felt was a stranger at

*Fundamentally, this is a pro-wolf book*

the end of it all. We should sympathise with her – especially when her husband decides to spend two years in the wilds of Canada going native with a wolf pack. But we never really know her well enough.

Picoult produces some good descriptive writing in *Lone Wolf*, for example 'painting' one character as having a 'doughy freckled face like a cinnamon roll.' Or telling us that 'the dark had a heartbeat.' There are also some evocative images and sensory observations, such as: 'He smelled of spearmint and snow.'

Fundamentally, this is a pro-wolf book – which is very much a strength. But on the flip side of that, sometimes the whole exercise feels a little bit too didactic. It's always a problem with enthusiastic research – that all of it demands to be integrated into the story

and the need to spread a message eats into character development. But at least the message is one of which many of us might all approve and relate to – perhaps most in statements like 'Red Riding Hood should be flogged' or 'Animals have always been straight with me, but humans haven't.'

But there were also some questions raised in the book – questions that I might need to pose to a wolf biologist for clarification:

- Do wolves really react so negatively to smelling alcohol on someone? Why? It can't simply be the staggering around, as some people with alcohol on their breath can behave in a perfectly sober manner
- Do wolves really eat ice and snow to disguise the tell-tale signs of their hot breath in the air?
- Wolves have no ego. Really? I think a lot of handlers will see that differently!

All that aside, anyone interested in the natural world will appreciate the touching moments, such as an encounter with a moose and its calf, or the way Luke has to re-learn language after living with the Canadian wolves. We feel Luke's angst when he struggles with his desire to be with his beloved animals, a desire that that conflicts painfully with love for his family. But ultimately he leaves his human family – so is he a hero or simply a man indulging his passions? Perhaps his son's observation of his father that he '...wasn't a wolf. He was just a hypocrite' is the truth?

# LIVING WITH WOLVES

Jim and Jamie Dutcher

Braided River Books (braidedriver.org), Paperback & CD, 176pp, 30.5cm x 25.5cm  
ISBN 978-0615409481, £18.99 from the UKWCT shop.

The Dutcher's photo-journalistic book is large and glossy but it also has substance, sincerity and heart. You would expect nothing less of a couple that gave 20 years of their lives to wolves. It is also beautifully written – with scenic and sensual descriptions of their environment. It has a distinctly laid-back and philosophical style: 'Winter is not far away. Although it looks as if it will hold off for today' is a classic example. This is an exquisitely recorded account of their astonishing journey and the incredible lessons they learned from the Sawtooth Pack.



whimpers and more' included. The photography is astounding – one image of their yurt lit up in the snowy darkness, as if on fire, is only one small example. Or a photo of wolves speckled with snow that comes so close to us, like a Caravaggio painting – it really haunts. Also how composed the Dutchers look, adjusting their camera equipment while next to wolves tearing a carcass to pieces.

The joy of this book is that it is a wolf drama. The Dutchers create the stage

*The photography is astounding*

The Dutchers would seem an ideal partnership on every level, Jim with his



and the wolves step into it. Like all good plays, there is a cast list which included Jim's beloved Kamot – the alpha. All the names and their origins are explained and the pronunciation given. Some are Sioux or Blackfoot words. Some simple – such as Lakota (lah-COAT-ah) is Sioux for 'friend.' But the pack's lives panned out without

great eye for image and Jamie with her patience and skill with sound recording. If you think you can't hear the book, then you would be wrong – there is a CD of the Sawtooth Pack's 'howls, barks,

human direction, simply observation. The Dutchers are tremendously humble; they do not pretend to be scientists or even assume that they were fully accepted as part of the Sawtooth Pack.



They were simply there to record and experience the joys of close unity with the wolf. They tried not to anthropomorphise but honestly admitted that 'our observations are influenced by our own humanity.'

Jamie's love for Lakota, the hard done-by omega male is motherly, sisterly, all things empathetic and enviably close: 'we would sit together with his paw on my shoulder as we had done the first time we met.'

What is special and different about *Living with Wolves* is that they do not constantly force some kind of scientific or logic explanation on behaviour that is enigmatic. There is even a section on unexplained behaviour. Most of us, the friends of the wolf, will know that the wolf has a secret side, enigmatic private power. This is really borne out by the Dutchers – particularly in one description of a raven seemingly taunting one of the wolves, Amani, into a game.

If you read *Living with Wolves* – however stressful your life may be – it will slow your heartbeat, make you believe in something again. Truly recommended.

Julia Bohanna

Photographs: Living with Wolves

## ◀ Lone Wolf – Jodi Picoult

I found the biggest problem – and it is a purely personal thing – is that I was fully engaged during Luke's chapters but less so when the humans were squabbling over his fate. I also wanted to hear more about the wolves in the enclosures – Kladen, Sikwla and Wazoli – and less of people like the oddly named Zirconia Notch, in the courtroom scenes. Perhaps it was related to an apt quote from the

book: 'He couldn't break free from the drug that was the wolf community.' I felt the same when reading about wolves and their wild environment – if in literary terms I was then placed back inside, I felt as claustrophobic as Luke Warren.

In honesty I never truly got to grips with Luke Warren – not really into his heart or his intellect. But Lone Wolf does have a satisfying and moving conclusion. It is a book that will make you think, make you

question what you might do, given the same dilemma. The complexity of being human is ultimately contrasted with the wolf world:

*'There is an honesty to the wolf world that is liberating. There's no diplomacy, no decorum.'*

I think we can all agree on that one.

Julia Bohanna





Misha (Paradise Wildlife Park)

## About Lucy Swinburne

Lucy Swinburne trained as a graphic designer and then spent the next decade as a print estimator and account executive. In 2003 she was a finalist from 10,500 entries in the Daily Mail's first "Not the Turner Prize" competition. Lucy holds regular artist workshops in pastel techniques – predominantly with animal subjects. She also writes articles for Leisure Painter magazine.

Her book 'Masterclass – Drawing Animals' will be published in December 2012 by Search Press. It is aimed at beginners and amateurs working in the medium of graphite pencil sketches.

Her website is [www.lucyswinburne.com](http://www.lucyswinburne.com)

# An interview with... *Lucy Swinburne, artist*

**Lucy, I have seen some of your portraits of the wolves at Paradise Wildlife Park. How did that connection come about?**  
It just happened that I now live about seven minutes away from the Park.



Sleeping Wolf

**Have you actually met any of the wolves? If so, what were your impressions of them?**

I have fed them – with Pia, a handler – chicken wings and chicken thighs. I noticed that even though they didn't see me very much, they sniffed me through the mesh each time. They have great memories. I met Tatra and Mifha, who are both included in my new book. Tatra is stocky and can often have a sad look in her eyes. Something about her

expression reminded of my dog. Mifha is tall and leggy. But both look so different in their winter and summer coats – I could hardly recognize them being the same animals.

**How do you work? With photos or directly sketching the wolves?**

I do take photos and also moving images so I can capture things in 3D. But I like to meet the animals – as I do for my pet portraits – to really get a sense of who they are.

**What observations have you made from the way a wolf moves, their musculature for example?**

Those long legs and powerful shoulders – their whole presence! But also how light they can look. It reminds me of my dogs (Lucy has five) – especially the powerful ones like the Rhodesian Ridgebacks.

**Is there any element of the wolf you find difficult to capture?**

Not really. I love that saddle, the way the hair falls on their back.

**How do you think they differ from dogs – I understand that you also do pet portraits?**

Looking at wolves – at Paradise Park, the Anglian Wolf Trust and at two other wolf parks – got me fascinated by the

behaviour of my dogs. Especially that mouthing over the muzzle, which my dogs do. And the rough play.

**How did the connection with the Trust come about?**

I just wanted to see more wolves. I visited when Roger (Palmer) was running the Trust and went out on a walk. It was down by the lake and when a horse and a rider came past the wolves froze and went into prey mode. It was amazing to watch. I learnt to stroke the wolves under the belly.

**Finally, anything else about wolves that strikes you?**

Just that look they give you. The connection is just awesome.

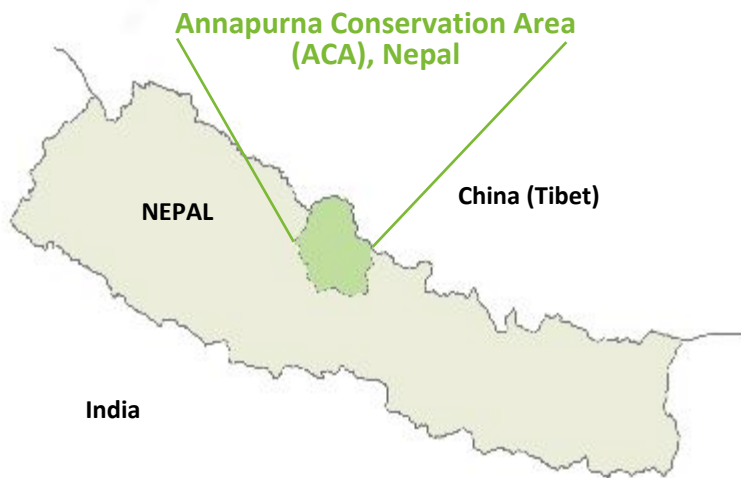


Wolf Awake

*Lucy Swinburne was talking to  
Julia Bohanna*

# *The wolf in Annapurna Conservation Area, Nepal*

by Raju Acharya and Yadav Ghimirey, Friends of Nature, Nepal



The study area is located in Upper Mustang (2550 km<sup>2</sup>) which covers the northern half of Mustang District. The study area is also a part of Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) (left) and represents Tibetan culture, endemic biodiversity and unique landscape in the country.

The livelihood of the local people is based on livestock farming, agriculture and seasonal trade in winter. Nomadic lifestyle is still in practice in some parts of the study area.

'Friends of Nature' (FON) is a youth-led organisation working in the field of wildlife conservation, climate change, water resource management and conservation education. [www.fonnepal.org](http://www.fonnepal.org)

## METHOD

The study was done to extract important information on ethno-wolf relations in the area that could have significant relation with the species' conservation. This survey was targeted towards people with intimate knowledge of the area and who spent considerable time in the field (e.g. farmers, livestock herders and hunters). The structural questionnaires were administered purposively to approximately 10% (97 respondents) of the total households (1020 hhs) of the study area.

A questionnaire survey was conducted in the Village Development Committees (VDCs) of Lomanthang, Chhoser, Chhonup, Tsarang, Ghemi and Chhuksang.

Key informants were interviewed using the snowball sampling method. The primary focus was on males as they generally do the herding and fuel collecting in the remote areas. Informal discussions were conducted in five different sites to gather information on the use of the wolves' different body parts.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The primary occupation of 80% respondents was agriculture and livestock herding. The remaining 20% were job holders, shopkeepers and businessmen. All the respondents were familiar with the species' name, its characteristics, conflict and conservation aspects and provided different responses:

S. No.	Questions	Yes (%)	No (%)	Not sure (%)
1	Have you seen a wolf?	60.82	39.18	0
2	Have you heard it calling?	55.76	44.23	0
3	Do wolves live in packs?	67.01	32.99	0
4	Do wolves have any religious significance?	16.49	83.51	0
5	Is there human-wolf conflict in the area?	57.73	42.27	0
6	Should wolves be conserved?	43.3	12.37	44.33

Wolves are generally social animals thus we also wanted to know whether the respondents thought they were or not. Of the 60.82% respondents who have seen the species, 47.42% have seen a single animal. Six (6.19%) have seen two, one (1.03%) has seen three, two (2.06%) have seen five and one (1.03%) has seen six wolves. The remaining people were not sure about the number.

A large section of the respondents (57.73%) believed that there are two different types of wolves in terms of physical appearance. They are 1) black and 2) white. Of the remaining respondents, 3.09% said that there were three different types of wolves in the area, while 4.12% said that there was only one type of the species present in the area. Others had no idea about the types of wolves found in the area.

According to 77.32% of respondents, highland was the best habitat for the species, whereas pastureland, forests and settlements were also extensively used as habitat according to 18.54%, 3.09% and 1.03% of the respondents respectively.

Human-wolf conflict seems to have existed in the area for a long time and is still there. The economic loss because of human-wolf conflict accounts for \$78/household/year in the area. Loss of livestock – sheep, goat, horse and young yak is the main cause of the conflict. Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) has supported livestock owners by constructing two predator-proof corrals (targeting snow leopards) but the problem still persists.



## MEDICINAL USE OF WOLF PARTS

Informal discussions threw light on the use of wolf body parts in traditional medicines and its importance:

S.N.	Parts	Use	How are they used?
1	Head	To make god happy	People make "stuffed head" to keep it for religious ceremonies, performed at least once a year.
2	Blood	To treat cancer	Drink fresh blood or soup of dry blood
3	Fur/hair	1. To treat back pain 2. To protect livestock from predators	1. People use the belt to keep warm which is believed to reduce pain. 2. The fur of wolf, snow leopard and brown bear is mixed with the fur of sheep, mountain goat, horse or other prey species and tied around the neck of the horse. It helps in protecting the horse and other animals around it from any predators.
4	Bone	To treat joint pain (arthritis)	Bones mixed with meat/other plus corn to prepare alcohol
5	Tongue	1. To treat tongue pain 2. To treat tonsillitis	1. Paste of fresh/dried tongue mixed with other six herbal medicines and eaten. 2. If a person touches a dying wolf's tongue with his thumb, his thumb will possess medicinal magic. The person will then be able to treat the pain of others (including swelling, and wounds in tongue), by touching the patient's tongue with his magical thumb.
6	Meat	To reduce joint pain (arthritis)	Fry or make soup of meat Make alcohol from the meat
7	Lungs	To reduce asthma	Fry or make soup of lungs
8	Brain	To become clever	People eat wolf's brain mixed with different herbal plants and believe it will help them to become clever like the wolf.

## THREATS

### Poaching and illegal trade.

Hunting exists in the study area. However, its nature might be either purposive (to meet the demand of the illegal wildlife trade in Tibet) or retaliatory (as a result of livestock depredation). However, the study area is adjacent to Tibet which is popular for being a huge market for illegal wildlife products. This makes killing of some wildlife very lucrative to the local people whose income level is relatively low.

### Medicinal Use

Different body parts of wolves are used as medicine to cure different ailments in humans. Killing of animals for medicinal purposes is also a threat in the area but since most of the people have started believing in allopathic medicines, the threat is not as significant compared to poaching and illegal trade.



Local herders after the group discussion

### Weak wildlife conservation monitoring from concerned authority

Annapurna Conservation Area project undertakes the conservation and development activities in the study area and is responsible for any conservation measures conducted in the area. However, it is not fully able to control wildlife hunting and trade.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*We are most grateful to the UK Wolf Conservation Trust and Friends of Nature for their financial support and National Trust for Nature Conservation/ Annapurna Conservation Area Project for permission to carry out the entire study.*

## SUMMARY AND SUGGESTIONS

- Only one wolf, which was black with whitish under-parts, was recorded during the study. However, 57.73% of the interviewed people believe that there are two types of wolves i.e. white ones and black ones in the area. The responses of local people shows there is a distinct possibility of grey wolves and Himalayan (white) wolves co-existing although we have no concrete evidences of the white wolf in the area.
- Having no religious significance means wolves are much more sought after for retaliatory killings compared to snow leopard; H. H. The Dalai Lama (former religious and political head of Tibet) had urged Tibetan people to conserve snow leopards whatever it takes. The reduction in the demand of snow leopard pelts in Tibet is an indication of this.
- Formulating a conservation strategy in the study area is a must since local hunting and trade is very common. Immediate introduction of conservation awareness campaigns for local people, production and distribution of conservation materials to local people and conducting media-based conservation program on a landscape level is recommended.
- The repetition of the same survey in the adjoining areas is highly recommended. In 2010 local people killed 17 wolves in the Dolpa District alone. This number indicates the high intensity of hunting in Nepal. The reason behind the killing of such large numbers of wolves and the method of killing should be documented which can help spread public awareness and pressurise policymakers for conservation now and in the future.
- Wolf research is in its initial stage in Nepal thus allocation of some funds for the students to conduct research on wolves will considerably increase the network of wolf-lovers.

# Wolf Gifts and Merchandise



## The Mountain® Tee-Shirts **£18.00**

100% cotton crew-neck tee-shirts from the heart of New England. Pre-washed, pre-shrunk and hand-dyed with eco-friendly dyes. Sizes M (38"), L (40"), XL (45") and 2XL (47").

**A** – Eclipse Wolves

**B** – Autumn Encounters

**C** – Phoenix Wolf

**D** – Moon Wolves Collage

**E** – Wolf Runner



## UKWCT Hoodie and Tee-Shirt

Both the hoodie and the tee-shirt feature an exclusive wolf silhouette design to the front and 'Wolf At Night' on the back. 100% cotton.

### Tee-Shirt **£18.00**

Sizes: S (92cm), M (102cm), L (118cm), XL (122cm) and XXL (130cm)

### Hoodie **£29.99**

Elasticated hem and cuffs, drawstring hood and includes two front pockets and concealed wiring hole for iPhone, etc. Sizes: S (106cm), M (118cm), L (128cm), XL (134cm) and XXL (140cm).



Actual size

**H**



Actual size

**J**

## Sterling Silver Pendants and Necklace

### **H** Moon Wolf Bead Pendant **£19.00**

Man in the moon, howling wolf and amber-coloured bead combination. Wolf size (nose to tail) 2cm. (chain not supplied).

### **J** Wolf Face Necklace **£15.90**

A stylish necklace featuring a wolf's face with silver chain (15in) made of tiny silver tube segments and finished with silver and haematite beads. Wolf face size 1.5cm.

### **K** Wolf Head and Turquoise Pendant **£55.00**

This lovely pendant features a turquoise gem set beneath an engraved wolf's head and leaves. Supplied with a 44cm/17½in chain. Pendant size 4.5cm.



**K**

## UKWCT Souvenir Pen **£2.00**

Lovely ball-point pen with black ink featuring some of the Trust's wolves, the Trust's name, website address and telephone number. What more could you want?







Actual size

**Arrowhead Sterling Silver Jewellery**  
We are delighted to bring you this lovely range of Sterling Silver jewellery inlaid with turquoise and decorated with wolf and paw motifs.

**Howling wolf and paw**  
**A** Stud earrings – size 1.5cm **£13.00**  
**B** Pendant – size 2.5cm (chain not supplied) **£25.00**

**Wolf head and paw**  
**C** Hook earrings – size 2cm **£25.90**  
**D** Pendant – size 3.4cm (chain not supplied) **£28.00**



Detail

**Gentleman's Watch £125.00**  
Silver bracelet strap and watch with stainless steel back. Two turquoise and two coral stones inlaid into the elasticated strap with wolf head and leaf feature either side of the watch face. The watch face has glow-in-the-dark hour, minute and second hands. Watch face 3cm. Quartz movement. Supplied boxed.

Actual size



**EXCLUSIVE**

**Cards by Onnie**  
**Large: £1.60 each**  
**Small: £1.20 each**

Six new cards featuring each of our youngest wolves in original artwork by artist Onnie Burford-Roe.

**Available in two sizes:**  
Large: 15cm x 21cm  
Small: 10.5cm x 15cm

Supplied with envelopes.

**E** – Massak  
**F** – Pukak  
**G** – Sikko  
**H** – Nuka  
**J** – Tala  
**K** – Tundra

### 3D Postcard, Magnet and Bookmark

These fascinating items (printing just doesn't do them justice) are very unusual wolfie gifts or souvenirs. **3D Postcard** (16cm x 12cm). **£1.65**



**3D magnet** (9cm x 7cm) **£2.50**



**Bookmark** (15.5cm x 5.7cm) **£2.00**



To view and order these and our other stationery, clothing, gifts and souvenirs, visit our online shop at [www.ukwolf.org](http://www.ukwolf.org) or call 0118 971 3330.

Please note: all UK orders are subject to a minimum P&P charge of £4.50. For overseas orders, please contact us.

# wolves of the world

news from  
around the  
world

Wolf by Vladimir Bologov



## This year's Ethiopian wolf pups make an appearance



After a canine distemper outbreak that swept through Bale's wolf population in 2010, we were anxious that the surviving wolf packs would have a good breeding season this year, helping to boost numbers in the population. Our monitors have spent many weeks in the field visiting our focal packs, eagerly looking for signs of mating, pregnancy and birth, and were rewarded in November with the first sightings of a new batch of wolf pups from the five packs in the Web Valley. At four months old, these pups are now weaned and are following the adults out on their foraging excursions, practicing the essential hunting skills that will see them through this next difficult period of independence.

The Sanetti wolves typically breed a little later than the Web packs, and it was only in December that our monitors reported the emergence of the first set of tiny, three-week-old pups from the BBC pack den. Since then, we can confirm that four more packs in Sanetti have produced pups, and we now have 23 pups in Sanetti and 17 in Web. Our monitors will be keeping a close eye on all of these wolves, as we head into the rainy season in Bale.

[tiny.cc/tit1dw](https://tiny.cc/tit1dw)

Picture: [burrard-lucas.com](https://burrard-lucas.com)

## Wolf walks 3,000km looking for love

**A MALE WOLF** that made headlines by becoming the first of its species in more than 80 years to be found in the wild in California has crossed back into the Golden State on its determined quest for a mate.

The grey wolf, designated OR7 by wildlife managers, has travelled more than 3,219km since leaving its pack in north-eastern Oregon last September and heading south, paying its first visit to California in late December. The animal, which wandered back to Oregon in early March, returned to California last Friday and was still roaming a forested area in northern Siskiyou County on Thursday, said Karen Kovacs, wildlife programme manager with the California Department of Fish and Game.

Young male wolves like OR7, that will turn three in mid-April, must leave the home range of their parents to find a female companion and reproduce because only the dominant pair in each wolf pack forms a mating bond. *"What happens is they leave looking for love. And when they don't find it, they keep walking – because the love of their life is just over that hill,"* said Ed Bangs, a wolf expert who spearheaded the US Fish and Wildlife Service's reintroduction of wolves to the lower 48 states in the 1990s. *"He won't stop doing that until he dies. Or he finds the love of his life."*

### FIRST WILD WOLF

OR7, fitted with a tracking collar, gained worldwide attention after entering

California on 28 December, making it the state's first wild wolf since the last one was trapped and killed in 1924 in Lassen County.

The newcomer loped along the crest of the Cascade Mountains, crossed highways and rivers, including the Deschutes and Klamath, and travelled to within 24km of the Nevada border on its journey. OR7 spent about two months in northern California before heading back to its home state in early March. The grey wolf is listed as an endangered species in the Pacific Northwest, making it protected under federal law.

Steve Pedery, conservation director of the environmental group Oregon Wild, said there are at last 29 wolves inhabiting Oregon.

California wildlife officials were surprised to learn the wolf had returned. Most wolves travel less than 161km in search of new territory and mates. About a dozen grey wolves are known to have travelled distances of 290km or more since the species was reintroduced in the continental United States. One female wolf was documented to have roamed 4,828km from Wyoming and back again, Bangs said.

OR7 presumably has picked the wrong direction by heading into California, where no others of his kind are known to exist in the wild. *"He doesn't know there's nobody south of him,"* Bangs said.

[tiny.cc/l3t1dw](https://tiny.cc/l3t1dw)



## Reward offered to find wolf killer

German hunters offered a reward Monday to find the killer of what was believed to be the first wolf spotted in a southwestern region in more than a century.

The Hunters' Association of Rhineland-Palatinate state said it would hand over 1,000 euros (\$1,300) for information leading to the person who shot dead the animal which was found at the weekend in the Westerwald low mountain range.

Amid widespread outrage in the region over the shooting, DNA testing is to determine whether the remains are in fact those of a wolf and not a wild dog, local authorities said.

If so, it is believed to be the first of the species seen in Westerwald in 123 years.

"If it proves to be the case that the animal that was shot to death is the wolf often spotted in Westerwald, it would be sad news for our region and a setback for species conservation," state environment minister Ulrike Hoefken said in a statement.

Hoefken said wolves could "live in peaceful co-existence with people" in her state and that there was no justification for shooting the animal.

The Hunters' Association said it was "shocked" by the killing.

"The wolf shooting must be cleared up and the person who is responsible must be brought to justice," said its president, Kurt Alexander Michael, calling it a "serious violation of nature conservation laws".

Germany's wolf population was wiped out by over-hunting in the 19th century and destruction of its natural habitat.

But it has gradually made a comeback in recent years due to migration from the east since the end of the Cold War, when border obstructions began to be removed.



Wolves have been a protected species since 1990, the year of national reunification.

[tiny.cc/iby1dw](http://tiny.cc/iby1dw)

*The picture above, taken on April 21st and handed out by the police, shows the dead animal lying on the forest floor near Gensingen, western Germany. As the environment ministry of Rhineland-Palatinate announced, a genetic testing should clarify if the shot animal is a wolf that has been spotted recently and that was the first wolf for 123 years to have settled in the Westerwald region.*

### Mexican grey wolves gain ground in 2011

The number of endangered Mexican gray wolves surviving in the south western United States increased in 2011 to 58 wolves and six breeding pairs, up from 50 wolves and two breeding pairs the year before, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced.

The following is a statement from Eva Sargent, Defenders of Wildlife's Southwest program director and Mexican gray wolf expert: "While the increase comes as good news for these highly endangered animals, the small population of 58 lobos is still extremely vulnerable. Wolves are smart, adaptable animals, but they can't make it alone. New releases of wolves in Arizona and New Mexico are urgently needed to ensure a healthy population.

"The US Fish and Wildlife Service must build on this momentum, moving forward with several releases that were planned for 2011, but never happened. There are wolves eligible for release in Arizona and New Mexico right now, and they are desperately needed. Some of these wolves have been specially conditioned to avoid preying on cattle and deserve a chance at life in the wild."

[tiny.cc/6my1dw](http://tiny.cc/6my1dw)

### Proposed Wildlife Resources Commission rule could harm listed red wolves



Coyote by Rebecca Richardson

Since 1993 it's been legal to shoot coyotes during daylight hours throughout North Carolina any day of the year, but a new rule proposed by the state's Wildlife Resources Commission seeks to expand state-wide coyote hunting opportunities to include the dark cover of night. The proposal would also allow the use of predator calls and artificial lights to lure coyotes at night anywhere hunting's currently legal. No permit would be required, and there would be no bag limit. To the untrained eye, red wolves and coyotes can be hard to differentiate. Juvenile red

wolves are most at risk for being mistaken for a coyote between their first autumn and second year when they are still immature and have not reached their full body size. Although they are occasionally spotted during the day, red wolves are most active at night. There is concern that the critically endangered red wolf could be mistakenly targeted by hunters if the proposal is put in place.

[tiny.cc/b8v1dw](http://tiny.cc/b8v1dw)

# ISLE ROYALE WOLVES MAY BECOME EXTINCT



**T**he US's Isle Royale National Park's grey wolves, one of the world's most closely monitored predator populations, are at their lowest ebb in more than a half-century and could die out within a few years.

Only nine wolves still wander the wilderness island chain in western Lake Superior and just one is known to be a female, raising doubts they'll bounce back from a recent freefall unless people lend a hand, Michigan Tech University wildlife biologists Rolf Peterson and John Vucetich said in a report obtained by The Associated Press.

There were 24 wolves – roughly their long-term average number – as recently as 2009. “The wolves are at grave risk of extinction,” Mr Vucetich said in an interview. Their crash apparently results from a run of bad luck rather than a single catastrophe. A shortage of females has cut the birth rate, while breakdown of several packs boosted inbreeding and weakened the gene pool. Other troubles include disease and starvation from a drop-off of moose, the wolves' primary food source. Their population is the smallest since biologists began observing their interactions with moose in 1958, beginning what became the world's longest-running study of predators and prey in a single ecosystem, Mr Vucetich said. Previously, the closest they came to extinction was during a parvovirus outbreak in the 1980s when their numbers plummeted from 50 to 12.

Unless the wolves rebound quickly, the National Park Service will face the thorny question of whether to intervene. Officials could bring in reinforcements from the mainland to salvage the existing population. Or they could let nature take its course and, if the wolves

die, start over with a new group. They also could leave it to the wolves to repopulate the island if they can. Agency experts have begun analysing their options, Isle Royale Superintendent Phyllis Green said. “We don't want to make a decision

based on a single species without evaluating the effects on other species that have been a part of the ecosystem through time,” Ms Green said.

Scientists believe the island's first moose swam there from the Canadian mainland, 15 miles away, in the early 20th century and were so prolific that the island's balsam firs, aspens and other trees were severely over-browsed. Wolves crossed an ice bridge to the island around 1950 and eventually formed packs that helped keep moose numbers in check.

## *Wolf sightings are rare*

Although wolf sightings are rare, their presence is treasured by park visitors who hope to catch a glimpse on a backcountry trail or hear their eerie howls at night. “People like to know the wolves are there,” said Mr Peterson, who joined the study team in 1970. “It could be argued that this is the wolf's greatest refuge in the world. It's the only place they've never been killed by human beings.” Because Isle Royale is a federal wilderness area, hunting and trapping are prohibited. Mr Vucetich, Mr Peterson and other scientists spend seven weeks on the island each winter, monitoring the wolves and moose by air. During their recently concluded visit, they discovered the wolf population had dropped from 16 last year to nine. The only intact pack had six members. One wolf wandered alone, while a couple – including the only known female – staked out territory and apparently mated.

The wolves' best hope may be that the female will bear a healthy litter of pups next month and help form a new pack, Mr Peterson said. Another positive sign: moose numbers rose from an estimated

515 last year to about 750. But a shortage remains of elderly moose that are easiest for wolves to kill.

Prospects are increasingly remote that more wolves will find their way to Isle Royale without help, Mr Vucetich said. A male is believed to have made the crossing on an ice bridge in the late 1990s and sired offspring, temporarily reinvigorating the gene pool. But a study published last week found that Great Lakes ice cover has declined 71 percent over the past 40 years. Mr Vucetich and Mr Peterson said they'd prefer to let the wolves determine their own fate – even if it means extinction. But if that happens, the park service should airlift more wolves to the island to prevent moose from running rampant and damaging the ecosystem, they said. Otherwise, “we'd be taking a vital wilderness and turning it into an overstocked barnyard”, Mr Peterson said. Restoring wolves also would enable continuation of the study, which has yielded a wealth of discoveries about both species, he said.

In an essay scheduled for publication next month [Apr 2012], Mr Peterson and Mr Vucetich acknowledge some scientists consider it unethical for humans to manipulate wildlife populations in wilderness areas. But they contend people have already changed Isle Royale's environment and the primary consideration should be protecting the ecosystem, for which wolves are essential as long as there are moose. David Mech, a wolf expert with the US Geological Survey, advocated a hands-off policy unless the wolves die out. Even in their diminished state, they could last a decade or more and may pull a surprise comeback, he said. “This is a really unique opportunity to see what they can do,” Mr Mech said. “If there's any intervention, it destroys that potential.” But if more wolves were brought in before the existing ones disappear, they could interbreed to the benefit of all, said Philip Hedrick, an Arizona State University conservation biologist. “Having the wolf eliminated for some period of time may result in secondary effects that would make it difficult to re-establish a population,” he said.

[tiny.cc/8p82dw](http://tiny.cc/8p82dw)

Image: Michigan Technological University



# In the dead zone of Chernobyl animal kingdom survives

In the months since the Japanese tsunami we've heard a lot about Chernobyl as a worst-case example: here's how bad Fukushima could have been. Now PBS's "Nature" offers another vision: Chernobyl as a best-case demonstration that life abides despite the human race's efforts to eradicate it. As long as the life in question isn't ours, that is.

"Radioactive Wolves," the 30th-season premiere of this documentary, goes inside the 1,100-square-mile "exclusion zone" straddling Ukraine and Belarus that has been virtually uninhabited since the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986. Film crews accompany naturalists and biologists who make short, tightly controlled research trips, investigating what has happened to animals and landscape since the rapid removal of several hundred thousand people.

The paradox of Chernobyl is that it became a haven for unsuspecting wildlife by virtue of its being poisoned. Tests of animal bones, where radioactivity gathers, reveal levels so high that the carcasses shouldn't be touched with bare hands.

But the prognosis, coyly withheld until the end of the hour, is positive. (Skip to the next paragraph if you'd rather enjoy the suspense.) While the rate of slight birth

abnormalities is twice as high as normal among the zone's growing animal population (but still in the single digits), overall health appears to be fine. It wouldn't be an acceptable situation for humans, but the dormice and eagles and gray wolves don't appear to be bothered.

The research is all well and good, and a soulful Belarussian wolf expert named Vadim Sidorovich is a great character; in one spine-tingling scene, he cups his hands and lets loose a haunting yowl that draws several packs of puzzled wolves within camera range. But the real pleasure of the episode is more purely voyeuristic.

For those, like me, who enjoy a good computer-generated facsimile of what the earth might look like without people, "Radioactive Wolves" goes one better. When the camera isn't focused on critters, it's showing us haunting, confounding images of the abandoned habitations, like a post-apocalyptic Hollywood blockbuster, but all the better for being real. The concrete high-rises of the city of Pripjat sit like islands in a green sea of towering trees; plants force their way up through the floors of empty schoolrooms.



Abandoned village near Pripjat, close to Chernobyl

Within this strangely pastoral setting the animals go about their business, sometimes finding uses for what we've left behind. The wolves rise up on their hind legs to peer through the windows of houses, looking for routes to the rooftops, which they use as observation posts for hunting. Eagles build nests in fire towers.

And beavers, forced out decades ago when the landscape was engineered for collective agriculture, have already undone much of man's work and restored one of central Europe's great marshlands. Just think what they could do if they had the whole planet.

[tiny.cc/kx82dw](http://tiny.cc/kx82dw)

## No fear of the 'Big Bad Wolf': *Feeding habits of German wolves investigated*

Scientists of the Senckenberg Research Institute in Görlitz have been investigating the feeding habits of wolves in the first eight years since their appearance in Germany. The results are reassuring: The proportion of livestock on the menu lies at less than one percent. The related study was published recently in the journal *Mammalian Biology*.

For a long time, wolves had been wiped out in Germany; now they are slowly getting back home. But not everyone is happy at the return of the wild animal. The feeding habits of *Canis lupus* are the subject of many legends and fables. Wolves that tear sheep apart, eat household pets and even attack people; the return of the predators to German regions awakens fear and generates

conflict amongst its inhabitants, hunters and farmers. *"The dietary habits of wolves has been the greatest point of contention with their return to Germany and it induced us to examine in closer detail the feeding habits of the wolves that migrated to Lusatia over ten years ago,"* explains Hermann Ansorge, head of the Zoology Department at the Senckenberg Museum of Natural History in Görlitz. *"We took a look at what was on the menu for the wolves and how this has changed since the appearance of wolves in East Germany."*

For this purpose the scientists collected over 3000 samples of wolf scat and tested them for undigested evidence of the animals' prey, such as hair, bones, hooves or teeth. Using this information, supplemented by the findings of the



Wolf by Vladimar Bologov

remains of prey, it was possible for the Görlitz zoologists to determine the nutritional intake of the carnivores in detail. Wild ungulates accounted for over 96% of the wolves' prey, according to the investigation.

Ansorge said *"As long as sheep and other livestock are well protected and there is a sufficient supply of wild animals, the wolves will not risk confrontation with electric fences and guardian dogs."*

Read the full article here: [tiny.cc/xv1dw](http://tiny.cc/xv1dw)

# Forthcoming events at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust

## Children's Events



### • Children's Wolf Walks –

**Wednesday 25th July and Monday 20th August, 2pm to 4pm**

Take a walk with the UKWCT wolves. This event includes a short talk and tour of the centre. **£13 per person, 6 years +** Booking essential. Limited parent spaces.



### • Children's Wolf Keeper Day – Wednesday 29th August, 10am to 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.

**£30 per person, 10 years +** Booking essential.

### • Wolf Picnic – Monday 30th July and Wednesday 22nd August from 11am

Take a walk with the wolves then spend the afternoon making them some special tasty treats.

**£15 per person, 6 years +** Booking essential. Limited parent spaces.



### • Creative Writing Workshop with Michelle Paver – Thursday 2nd August, 1pm to 5pm

Find out how Michelle researches her work. She will then guide you through writing a short piece of your own, gather inspiration out on a walk with the wolves and finish the day by reviewing some of the work. Michelle will also be available to sign copies of her books.

Book early as this event is extremely popular!

**£20 per person, 8 years +** Only one parent per child/group.

### • Photography Day – Wednesday 15th August, 10am to 3pm

This is a chance for kids to have a go – we may even discover a wildlife photographer of the future! The morning will consist of a short talk about the wolves and the Trust followed by some photography hints and tips. It's then off outside to photograph the wolves from our holding areas or photographic platform with guidance from our experienced volunteers. Fancy cameras are not necessary and point-and-shoot camera can be just as good.

**£15 per person, 12 to 17 years** (sorry, no adults). A packed lunch will be required.



Kriss Szkurlatowski, 12frames.eu



## Mobility Walk

**Wednesday 5th September, 2pm**

For those unable to come on our full two-hour walks due to mobility issues, we offer special mobility walks at the Trust.

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

**£75 for two people.**

Booking essential



## Wolf Keeper Experience Days

**Thursdays 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th August, 20th and 27th September, 4th and 11th October 10am to 4pm.**

If you – or someone you know – is a wolf lover, then this is a unique experience: during the day you will see behind the scenes at the Wolf Trust and shadow the keeper in tasks such as cleaning out the wolf enclosures, preparing and giving medication and get involved in our wolf enrichment programme. There is a maximum of 6 people on each day.

All participants will also have a walk with the wolves, meet a wolf, have the opportunity to take photos, and receive a souvenir certificate at the end of the day.

Please bring your own packed lunch. Tea, coffee and squash available.

**£100 per person, age 16 or over. Booking Essential.**

You are advised to have an up-to-date tetanus immunisation.



# UKWCT Wolf Centre Open Day – Monday, 27th August, 11 am to 5pm



- Look around the Trust
- See our wolves
- Wolf photography opportunities
- Ask the experts about living with wolves
- Listen to the wolves howling
- Birds of prey flying demonstrations
- Quirks' Animal Roadshows
- Other animal exhibits
- Children's activities incl. face-painting
- Nature trail • Pond dipping
- Bouncy castle
- Refreshments
- Picnic tables available
- Booking not required
- **Sorry: no dogs on site**



**Admission: Adults and non-members: £7, Members, children (3-11) and senior citizens: £5, Children under 3: FREE**

**NEXT WOLF CENTRE OPEN DAY: WORLD ANIMAL DAY Sunday 7th October** – including other exhibits and activities (see website later in 2012)

**Family ticket** (2 adults & 2 children up to age 12) – **Advanced: £18, On the day: £25. Adult ticket** – **Advanced: £8, On the day: £10.**

**Member, child (3-11) or senior citizen ticket** – **Advanced: £5, On the day: £5. Child under 3 – FREE. See also Wolf Awareness Week overleaf**



## **PREDATOR** to **PET** Workshop

Join us for an exciting and fast-moving workshop developed in association with Wolf Park of Indiana. You will:

- examine the genetic evidence of the relationship between dogs and wolves
- look at domestication vs socialisation
- learn about the taxonomy of canids
- walk with ambassador wolves, seeing firsthand the ancestor of today's dogs
- receive a gift as a memento of the day

This hands-on workshop will chart the domestication of dogs from their wild roots to the present day... and much more besides.



**Saturday 9th June and Saturday 13th October** – 10am to 2pm

A walk with ambassador wolves is included, allowing you to see first-hand the wild ancestor of today's dogs. You'll also receive a gift as a memento of the day.

**£50 per person**

**places limited – booking essential**

**Members' special offer:**

**10% off this event for 2012 dates**

## **Friday Night is Howl Night!**

**15th June, 20th July, 24th August at 7.00pm  
7th September, 19th October,  
16th November  
and 14th December at 6.30pm**

If you've ever dreamed of standing near a wolf and hearing it howl, this is a once-in-a-lifetime 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!

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**

## **NEW! PREDATOR DAY**

**Saturday 14th and Sunday 22nd July, 10am to 4pm**

The ultimate experience for animal and wildlife enthusiasts: spend a whole day with the world's most powerful and enthralling predators... wolves and raptors.

This unique experience gives our guests the chance to get up close and personal with not just predators on four legs but those that hunt from the skies as well! Take a walk with some of the Trust's ambassador wolves then meet the magnificent birds of prey that you will be handling and flying. These include Harris hawks and owls, and you will also witness the queen of the skies – the falcon – fly in a demonstration.



The **Wolf Trust Predator Day** is a truly unique experience and memorable day out that will be remembered for years to come.

**£120 per person**

**Minimum age 16**

**Booking essential**

Please bring a packed lunch

# Wolf Awareness Week – 13th to 19th October 2012

## PROGRAMME

**SATURDAY 13th: Predator-to-Pet Workshop** (see page 30)

**SUNDAY 14th: The Annual UKWCT Seminar – Predators, Prey and People**

**Speakers confirmed so far:**

**Dr Nathan Varley and Linda Thurston**

Dr Varley grew up in Yellowstone National Park in the tiny community of Mammoth Hot Springs. Nathan studied biology at Montana State University where he earned BS and MS degrees. Wildlife studies took him among moose in Alaska, guanacos in Patagonia, and pine marten in Idaho. His trails have led home as often as afar, where Yellowstone's coyotes, bears, river otters and gray wolves became primary study subjects.

As a contributor to the historic Gray Wolf Restoration Project he has often been in the field tracking wolves. His research at the University of Alberta focused on the relationship between wolves and elk after wolf reintroduction. With his wife, Linda Thurston, Nathan owns his own wildlife touring business group, The Wild Side, LLC, which specialises in outfitting groups to view wolves, other wildlife, and all that the Yellowstone wilderness has to offer.

**Professor Garry Marvin**, social anthropologist and Professor of Human-Animal Studies at Roehampton University.

Feared, reviled and revered, the wolf has always evoked powerful emotions in humans. It has been admired as a powerful hunter; feared for its supposed threat to humans; reviled for its attacks on domestic livestock and respected as a potent symbol of the wild.

"In children's literature, it was depicted as the intruder from the wild that preys on the innocent. And in popular culture, the wolf became the animal that evil humans can transform into – the frightful werewolf. However, with the development of scientific understanding of the wolf and its place in ecological systems, as well as the growth of popular environmentalism, the wolf's place in the natural world has changed, with a legion of new supporters who regard it as a charismatic creature of the newly valued wild and wilderness."

Further speakers to be announced shortly via the website and Facebook page.

**Seminar £20 Non Members, £15 Members and Students** (Students must show ID to get this rate).

Why not book a lunch time wolf walk and stretch your legs for £20 per person? (limited availability so early booking is essential)

**MONDAY 15th: Schools Day – Creative Writing Workshop – FULL**

**TUESDAY 16th:**

**Photography Day, 10am to 4pm**

Our photography days are held in autumn and winter, when the wolves look their most charismatic and are open to photographers of all abilities and standards of equipment. A short talk about the Trust starts the day before heading out to the enclosures to photograph the wolves from some unique vantage points. The day also consists of a wolf walk with the opportunity to have wolf contact. It's the perfect opportunity to get close to the wolves and take some photos you will cherish.

**£100 per person. Participants must be 18 years or older. Limited places and booking is essential.**

**WEDNESDAY 17th: Art/Photography Day for GCSE & A Level students, 10am to 4pm**

Spend the day on site observing, sketching, sculpting or photographing our wonderful ambassador wolves and the visiting birds of prey. This is a unique opportunity for students to add something different to their course work.

The half-day workshops are:

- Photography with professional wildlife photographer Bob Brind-Surch.
- Clay Tooth and Claw run by our artist-in-residence Paul Robbins.
- Stone sculpture with Andrew Hood a resident sculptor at Englefield Garden Centre.
- Willow artist Caroline Gregson will be onsite during the day creating a willow wolf. Students will have the opportunity to watch and learn from her.

**£10 for the first workshop, book a second one for half price.**

**Booking required.** Further details on the website.

**THURSDAY 18th: Open Day, 11am to 5pm plus pastel and willow workshops**

Open Day admission: £5 non-members; £4 members, senior citizens & children up to 12 years. Children under three, free (booking not required)

**Jane Absolom Pastel Workshop, 10.30am to 4pm**

Students will receive expert tuition and guidance from well-known wildlife artist Jane Pascoe-Absolom throughout the day. This year the star of the workshop will be Massak, whose photo you will be drawing. Massak is the larger of our two arctic wolf males and at just one year old is a striking animal full of personality. The cost does not include art materials which you will need to bring with you; an equipment list will be provided. Hot and cold drinks available but bring a packed lunch with you.

**£25 per person. Booking Essential.**

**Caroline Gregson Willow Workshop, 10am to 4pm**

A workshop suitable for complete beginners and those with some experience of willow weaving. Caroline will show you the methods she uses in all her willow animal sculptures and will help you make a bird sculpture to take away. Previous workshops have produced herons, pheasants, hens and all manner of ducks and geese. Feel free to be creative with your ideas. You can have a look at some of Caroline's work on her website [www.carolinegregson.com](http://www.carolinegregson.com). Caroline has created both of the UKWCT's willow wolves during Wolf Awareness Week in 2010 and 2011. She will be adding a new addition to the pack this year.

**£65 per person. Booking required.**

**FRIDAY 19th: Howl Night, 6.30pm – £10 per person. Further details page 31.**

**Advance booking ([www.ukwolf.org](http://www.ukwolf.org)) is required for all events except the Open Day on Thursday 18th.**