

# WOLF PRINT



The UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Issue 55 | Summer 2015



## Canis Lupus in The 21st Century

Why the wolf is our past, present and future



## Softly Stepping Wolf

A matriarchal pack leader treads dangerous ground in a minefield on the Israel-Syria border

## Look Into My Eyes

Mesmerising photographs of our ambassador wolves in a sixteen page pull-out supplement



## Two Decades of The UKWCT

A Celebration





## Issue 55 | Summer 2015



Tala and Julia by Veda Kavanagh

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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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## Editor's Letter

It's deep summer now and time to celebrate an impressive two decades of the UKWCT. It's been a joy putting this issue together and particularly to read the memories of people connected to the place: biologists, volunteers and authors, to name a few. It also makes me smile (and feel sad too) to honour the ambassador wolves past and present who have presented to the public the nobility and mercurial nature of *canis lupus*.

My daughter India was a baby when I first became involved with the Trust; I was initially on the education side of things and then writing, finally editing, the magazine. India is now an animal-conservation minded 18-year-old. Watching the Trust develop, grow and thrive in that time has been similar to watching a child burgeon in confidence and ability. No matter what happens in the rest of my life, working with the organisation and their wolves will always be a source of great joy and privilege.

The Trust has managed to give to many projects worldwide over those twenty years. It has never been more needed, as life for the wolf is still decidedly a mixed bag. In some places, there is evidence of tolerance, even attempts at intelligent solution. For example, Washington State has now recruited Francine Madden, executive director of the Human Wildlife

Conflict Collaboration. As a renowned wildlife-conflict specialist, it is hoped that she will help defuse tensions over the state's expanding wolf population. In general, the American wolf population is indeed on the rise. According to the IWC, a minimum of 5,600 grey wolves now live outside of Alaska. Wolves are doing well in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Arizona and New Mexico.

However, we must not forget that despite these encouraging figures, elsewhere wolf populations are in decline. Red wolf numbers in North Carolina have dropped by over 10% in the past two years. Shockingly, there are believed to be less than 90 red wolves living in the wild. The beautiful Ethiopian wolf still struggles and over the past year the population of Alaska's Alexander Archipelago wolves (*Canis lupus ligoni*) has fallen to as low as 60, from 221. It really is all about education, education, education.

So in this issue we will contemplate the 21st century wolf and also read the remarkable story of wolves who live (and thrive) in minefields. There is a magical pullout pictorial of all our Trust wolves. A bumper issue.

*Julia Bohanna*

**Julia Bohanna, Editor**



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As many of you know, we are celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the inauguration of the Trust in 1995. This Wolf Print issue, as promised, contains a special pull-out pictorial supplement with some of the best photos of our current and former wolves. Included are also testimonials and memories from people who have been closely involved with the wolves and Trust and seen it evolve over the years, as well as news of all that has been going on in the last couple of months wolf and event wise on site.



amounted to £6,772 which comprised of membership subscriptions, visit fees for shows and schools and merchandise, and our first seminar made a profit of £633. Occasionally the wolves were used in TV adverts or films and this generally paid well.

Lack of funds was therefore the main problem in the beginning. In 1997, the generosity of the John Laing's Rufford £15,000 donation to the Trust enabled us to build a second enclosure. This coincided with Roger, in the summer of 1997, being diagnosed and operated on for a serious brain tumour. This meant that from then on, Roger was able to devote considerably more time to the Trust. His illness highlighted the need to put in place a management structure for the long-term future.

Roger continued with some non-executive director advisory roles in the city and donated this income to the Trust. Over the next few years, this enabled us to acquire a 12 acre field next to the existing wolf pens; it paid for the building of three further enclosures and an observation room with a large glass window, overlooking one of those enclosures. We were also able to add a food shed



Wolves at shows

It was decided to launch the Trust at Wellington Country Park, near Reading on 8th May 1995 to coincide with a husky racing day, as two of our main supporters, Sue Hull and Mick Brockbank owned huskies, and thought that there would be a lot of interest from the husky-owning public at this event. We took a year-old charismatic Kodiak and had leaflets, plus a rudimentary information board about the Trust and wolf conservation, as well as a small amount of merchandise to sell.

In the Trust's early years, the wolves were taken to many shows during the summer season, travelling the length and breadth of the UK. This way people saw the ambassador wolves: Kodiak, Kenai and latterly Dakota, Duma, Alba, Latea and Lunca; so were thus amazed at how elegant and wonderful wolves are. They then joined the Trust and came to walk with the wolves here at Beenham. I received many a phone call from someone who had seen the Trust

van go by their house, and taken down the telephone number on the side, to enquire where the wolves were kept as they wanted to visit! Members' walks took place in the winter months fortnightly in Englefield woods by kind permission of the Benyon Family. Visitors then came to the Trust afterwards for a cup of tea on the front lawn of Butlers Farm and saw the other wolves. A small amount of merchandise was sold out of our garage but there was no loo etc!

The early accounts record that the Trust ran at a loss. The accounts of 1996 show total expenditure of £11,082. The bulk of the costs were incurred on food for the wolves which was paunch or tripe from the local abattoir in Reading, collected by me in my car weekly, plus tins of a high protein carnivore food used quite commonly in zoos called ZF6. Other costs were the required Dangerous Animal Licence and insurance for the wolves, the building of a new concrete kennel and veterinary bills. The income





Mike Bushell from BBC South with film crew, recording the birth of Alba, Luana, Lunca and Latea



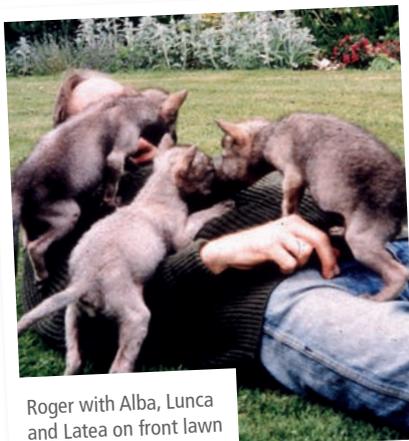
Early photographic days behind Butlers Farm

and pole barn, the latter for parking vehicles. When Roger died in 2004, not only had the Trust expanded considerably, it was also on a sound financial footing and had started being able to donate to projects abroad. There were seven wolves and an employed wolf keeper, so the structure for taking the UKWCT forward was in place.

In 2004 the Trust was still predominantly generating its largest income from the wolves going to shows far and wide and selling merchandise, as well as more frequent members' walks. However, with the initiation of our own website (in 2002), it was no longer necessary to take the wolves to shows to "advertise them". In an ever-changing world, where wild animals are no longer appreciated by the public in circuses, I felt that the wolves, displayed in their travelling cage, with the public surrounding them, was no longer appropriate.

We welcomed increasing amounts of visitors to the Trust: schools, colleges, dog trainers and many children. In 2006 three young wolf cubs, Torak, Mosi and Mai arrived and this coincided with the appointment of our first education officer and our education programme, with presentations being available.

The Trust's highlights over the 20 years have to be firstly the successful breeding of Lunca, Latea, Alba and



Roger with Alba, Lunca and Latea on front lawn

Luana, the first European wolves to be have been born in the UK since wolves were extirpated in Britain in 1680 by Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel. Secondly was giving a home to Massak, Pukak and Sikko in 2011, the first Arctic wolves to ever have been imported in the UK - a fantastic achievement.

However most of all, the enduring memories I have of our 20 years of the Trust are the privilege of successfully hand-rearing and bringing up of the 18 wolves seen on the front cover of Wolf Print and in the supplement. All have or have had such different personalities. These charismatic ambassadors have educated tens of thousands of visitors to the Trust and at the shows they travelled to. Through them we will have achieved donations of £250,000 this year and will share platform time at the forthcoming Wolf Awareness Weekend seminar headed By David

Mech in Edinburgh in September, to talk about the Trust's work and aims.

I have enjoyed getting to know and sharing my wolf knowledge with what must be well over 100 volunteers during this time about the wolves and how to manage them. Two of our many work experience students Pete Haswell (who has contributed to this issue of Wolf Print) and Holly Root-Gutteridge now have full time careers in conservation which started through their experience of working at the Trust. Our goal in the beginning was to



Arrival of Arctic wolves into UK

promote a better understanding of wolves by using them as ambassadors for conservation. Getting close to a real live wolf is worth so much more than seeing them in countless films or books.

*Tsa Palmer*



The Trust recently had a visit from Nicole Williamson, family & friends on Sunday 26th April 2015. The visit was to present donations to the Trust of £2,442 which was raised in memory of John

Williamson, who had been a member of the Trust since 2010. A plaque has been placed on a bench near the Trust pond to commemorate John's birthday. We are very grateful to the family & friends for this donation.



Mai

Spring is always a special time for the wolves - walking among daffodils and bluebells on members' walks and also beginning to enjoy the sun and basking lazily in the favourite spots in their enclosures. They also have a plethora of exciting events taking place. Over the Easter holidays we had a children's Easter egg hunt and then the wolves were given hard-boiled goose eggs which the children had decorated. After that, cardboard eggs, filled with favourite meats, cheese and fish were placed in their enclosures and the children watched as the wolves eagerly ripped the eggs to pieces and enjoyed the contents. I think the photos show how much they enjoyed it all.

Then, as is our custom, at the beginning of May, we celebrated all the wolves' birthdays with an exciting joint birthday party. Our visiting children iced and decorated the specially 'wolf-friendly ingredient cakes' and then watched Mosi, Mai and Torak who are now nine years old, Motomo who is seven and the six youngsters who are all four years old, eagerly "wolfed down" the cakes.



Sikko



Alan Greenhalgh, a falconer for over forty years, is now working with the Trust on Predator Days and also busy holiday Open Wednesdays. He brought several birds to our Easter holidays' busiest open day. Particularly popular were Elmo the Great Grey Owl, his kookaburra and the vulture. Children were all given falconer's gauntlets and taught how to handle the birds and recall them from a perch to the fist. Everyone was enraptured when Alan flew a peregrine falcon, the fastest living creature, to a swung lure which showed the breed's speed and agility. However the favourite of the day had to be the vulture, who landed on the top of the wolf enclosure wire and for a while refused to move, giving the crowd some excitement as the Beenham wolves jumped to try and reach him! Luckily eventually he flew back to Alan. Alan will be back with his birds for a September Predator Day and on Wednesday 28th October (half term) for Howl and Hoot!



Jill Nicholas attended two half term open days in February and May, facilitating children's re-cycling workshops that show enthusiastic children how to make wolf masks from car parts and wolf glove puppets from old socks. The results were amazing.

The May bat evening was warm and balmy, so after a talk about bat species found in the UK and the chance to meet Rosie a rescued pipistrelle bat, the visitors walked around the site and were lucky enough to hear and see in the dusk a good number of bats. The wolves needless to say were howling pretty constantly during the evening to add to the atmosphere. We have several more bat evenings planned during the summer months.

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We find during the summer months that howl nights become less popular; it seems that a large part of the attraction for people is to experience the wolves eerily howling in the dark. A chill in the air seems to replicate the iconic wolf howling in remote cold places. We anticipate our first Halloween Howl night on Saturday 31st October where people are welcome to come in Halloween costumes to be a terrific evening with some special surprises and a howling competition for visitors!

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Meanwhile we look forward to seeing many of you on forthcoming Open Wednesdays during the long summer holidays when we will again have Quirks' animal roadshows with its wide variety of creatures on site, including a tarantula, skinks, snakes, geckos, bearded dragon, as well as rabbits, duck and chickens.

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We are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Trust in early September with a talk from Ian Redman, of Wolf HELP, who was involved in speaking at all our early seminars from 1995 onwards. We have decided for the wolves' sake, not to have a huge event so it will be small with only people closely associated with the Trust over the past 20 years attending. We will be presenting a cheque to the Ethiopian project. The total given by the UKWCT to projects worldwide is now £250,000 to date.

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For the first time we have a moth talk and wolf evening on 7th August run by The Berkshire Moth Group which will show people moths in action on the site! We are anticipating having badger evenings as an addition to our British wildlife programme in 2016.

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Meanwhile we continue with our busy schedule of members' walks, children's events, Wolf Keeper days, Open Wednesdays, Arctic Ambles and Ultimate Predator days See our website for the dates and availability for all these events.



## Helping out at the UKWCT

On Friday 15 May, I and a bunch of my colleagues came to the UK Wolf Conservation Trust to do some much needed work! At CEB (Corporate Executive Board Company - a publicly traded, member-based advisory firm that provides products and services to businesses worldwide). we do this every year. It's an event that is very close to the values that CEB has placed on itself, specifically with the "Spirit of Generosity" value.

For me, it's lovely to work at a company where volunteer work is so highly valued. We are all actively encouraged to participate either in our own volunteer work as well as these global events.

On Global Service Day this all comes together and CEB employees across 50 cities and 25 countries go out and volunteer for a day; giving much needed help in the communities that we live and work in. Whether this is in the form of painting a mural in a kids' home, making a sensory garden for a school, refreshing the look of a homeless shelter, or doing gardening in green areas and community food garden, we all put in an effort.

This year I and about 19 colleagues joined the UK Wolf Conservation Trust to help out. We built a new wolf platform, painted fences, dug the foundation for the new shed and hung up a beautiful new banner. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it and there were many small pauses in the work, mainly to hear or watch the wolves howling (my colleagues still talk about this!). It was absolutely lovely to see the hard work everyone put in; we had a really great group and we got a lot of work done!

Towards the end of the day, when the work was finished, we were taken on a nice walk with Tala and everyone got to see a wolf up close! All my colleagues really enjoyed the day and I have now already been pressed to organise this again next year... I think it was definitely a success and hope that we can do it again next year!

**Cindy Squires**



# Dancing (and Walking) with Wolves!

In the wild, Arctic wolves have to endure months of darkness and positively glacial conditions. With temperatures in their homeland rarely climbing above -22 °F and on the other side of the scale falling as low as -50 °F. *Brr!*

In comparison, at Beenham, even with our British weather, it is positively balmy for our Arctics; they are permanently on a summer holiday and are currently enjoying the long light summer nights. At this time of year they have no need of their underlying wool-like fur below their coarse guard hairs, as they are now well into the moulting stage.

So when walking out with our visitors, while they are posing for the cameras on a fallen tree trunk, we handlers are in the background standing behind the stars and going through the yearly ritual of grabbing tufts of this underfur from their breeches, where there seems a never-ending supply.

Although wolves have a natural tendency to be shy, over many months of patient handling we are seeing our Arctics continue to gain confidence on these

walks. We are even getting the odd howl out of them too, which is a nice bonus. This is not only great news for improving their socialisation but has a knock-on effect for our visitors too. Everyone can benefit from seeing the wolves close up and watch their behaviour towards each other, as they amble along investigating the lie of the land.

Although the Arctics may amble, these "socialised" wolves are not "domesticated" and their demeanour sometimes belies the true wolf that lies beneath; any thing or sound out of the ordinary will be picked up on in an instant so the handlers have to, like the wolves, be on their toes throughout. It's an apt metaphor for the handlers but a natural fact for the wolf, as we humans are plantigrade to their digitigrade! (*Editor's note: a digitigrade animal stands or walks on its digits, or toes, enabling it generally to be quieter*

*and move more quickly. A plantigrade animal walks with toes and metatarsals flat on the ground).*

When, like Pukak, one of the Arctics fancies a scent roll – this is easy when the wolves are loose in their enclosure but with two handlers attached by a long link lead, it is a bit more tricky - for the handlers, that is! Like our other wolves, one of their sensitive areas is their legs. They don't much like it when the lead chain sometimes gets in the way, particularly Pukak. But he does so love his rolls and so proceeding cautiously, we sometimes let him have his way. After all, the more he enjoys himself, the more he'll look forward to coming out with our visitors.

At these times of determined rolling absolute concentration on the handler's part is required to make sure the lead doesn't get in the way. No mean feat,

for as Pukak spins around impressing us with his street breakdancing “windmill” moves, rotating his whole body with one shoulder being used as an axis contact with the earth and then the other (in the opposite direction), the lead must at all times be raised high above his head at an almost vertical position above his nose and away from those flaying legs that can sometimes seem like eight instead of four. And it’s not only Pukak’s legs going like the clappers either, as to retain our correct body/chain position his handlers meanwhile are round the outside doing a quickstep around him like Morris dancers round a maypole!

Once he’s had his go then Massak or Sikko will invariably want to step up to the mark; the ritual starts all over again with a different set of players, as the inquisitive pack mentality being “if he thinks there’s something unmentionable worth rolling in then so do we”. Unfortunately the front handler is usually the first one to get wind of this, which could be anything from fox scat to some diesel spilt from the tractor. One reason for this is to merge into their territory so acting as an olfactory camouflage, but I think another is they just plain like it!

Then later, if the visitors are on one of our ‘Ultimate Wolf Day’ events, they will have the opportunity, if they wish, to prepare the Arctics’ food and take it into their enclosure to cleverly hide morsels of beef and chicken around their platforms, up in trees, in logs or anywhere they think might delay that best sense of the wolf, their nose, from seeking it out too quickly.

Once everyone is out and in position with cameras etc, we release the Arctics back into their enclosure and watch the show as they Hoover up all the food laid down moments ago. They need to be quick as above them, the kites start gathering and the odd one will get rewarded for its bravery when swooping down right in front of wolves, to steal its prize.

Fun for all, to do and to watch.

*Suzanne Fine*

## The Beenhams

Moulting season is now upon us; Tala started shedding her underfur first, as in previous years (and in common with almost all the Trust’s wolves) she started on her legs and now at the end of May she has a sort of ‘water-line’ along her lower body – below this the fur has largely come out – above it there are tufts of underfur coming free, and she loves a bit of attention from a handler who’s prepared to do some wolf-plucking.



It’s amazing how much fur you can collect in a few minutes, and it will be interesting to see what colour Tala ends up after her moult. I expect her to go both lighter and greyer just like mum (Mai) has done with each successive fur-shedding cycle.

Tundra has also just started showing signs of the moult, though it is nowhere near as advanced as Tala’s. Her fur does not seem to be coming out quite as much in tufts as Tala’s is – if anything Tundra is shedding all over. Behaviour-wise, she remains aloof from people on walks but she will still be very friendly with her favoured users. Her favourite trick is – when we are sitting on the logs she will choose someone she likes, put her forepaws on their shoulders, and then use the underside of her muzzle, her neck and shoulders to give the person a very vigorous rubbing. Several handlers have been left with a wet head and sometimes green streaks in their hair because Tundra had been paddling in the pond and had managed to pick up some algae in her fur.

Tala and her brother Nuka are both still very much “full-on” in terms of their exploratory behaviour and their interactions with visitors on walks; we have to be careful when they start investigating the hedgerows as there are sometimes pheasants which ‘explode’ from the undergrowth and can startle both handler and wolf. During spring there were also several dozen sheep and lambs in the top field, which fascinated Nuka in particular – at one point he was out-

stared by a rather large ewe. Once the sheep were gone, both Nuka and Tala enjoyed seeking out the dried sheep-dung, scratching at it and then rolling ecstatically in it for some minutes, which alternately amused and horrified the onlookers.

Nuka also recently discovered the fun that could be had from moles. He’s always shown an interest in molehills but this time he realised that Mr. Mole was very much at home. A few swift strokes of his forepaws and the mole was caught! He played with it for a short time (no handler being prepared to try and take it off him) but soon the novelty wore off and it became something to roll on. I am told that no self-respecting animal will eat a mole.

We have still had occasional days when the Beenhams have turned the whole collaring-up and ‘getting ready for a walk’ into one big game of ‘tag’ – despite use of wolf temptations such as hotdog sausages, at least one walk has had to be abandoned because we could not actually catch any wolves that day. We are still continuing with various behaviour-modification techniques to try and reduce the likelihood of this in future, but we are careful never to use any coercive approaches that would cause the wolves to associate preparing for a walk with a negative experience; we always want them to look forward to walks and ‘out of the enclosure’ activities.

*Pete Morgan-Lucas*



## Update on Mai and Motomo

For the last few months, life with Mai and Motomo has been 'interesting'. During February, the mating-season, both went somewhat off their food, - they were more interested in each other than eating. They spent a significant amount of time indulging in lots of affectionate nuzzling/muzzle-licking and were seen to 'tie' on several occasions. Then, come April, Mai began to excavate a den in the mound - this being one of the first signs of false pregnancy.

not really want to interact with any of her usually favoured handlers either. Motomo soon learned to keep his distance too - he must have wondered what had happened to his usually oh-so-affectionate partner! The vet said that these were all typical pseudo-pregnancy symptoms and that though disconcerting they would pass once Mai's hormones sorted themselves out. Writing this at the end of May it does look like we will soon have the Mai we all know and love back!

As time progressed, she began to defend the den from Motomo - usually by giving a classic 'curled-lip snarl' at him if he came too close.

Throughout much of May, Mai showed all the classic signs of pseudopregnancy - more den-guarding and staying in the den for extended periods, generally wanting Motomo to leave her alone [sometimes reinforced with a growl and a snap!] and on occasions finding objects such as a coconut shell or a log which she 'mothered' as if it was a cub. This extended to include a whole chicken [complete with feet, feathers, head] that she was intended to eat! It must have become somewhat smelly after a few days. She also showed signs of enlarged mammary glands (pseudo-pregnant dogs/wolves may actually start producing milk), displayed some stereotypical stress-displacement behaviour such as sucking/nibbling the inside of her hind legs, and did

Motomo, as previously reported, is now really bold and will readily come up to the fence to see people - though given that he's not socialised we do not interact with him as we do the other wolves. He still does a lot of fence-running with the Arctics in the adjoining enclosure; Massak and Pukkak have yet to learn that if they crouch down at a point along the fence, trying to 'ambush' Motomo, they are large and white and fluffy so they can still be seen rather easily. Motomo has also just started to moult and is trailing tufts of underfur from his belly, giving him a rather shaggy appearance. Mai hasn't yet started moulting [though she shed a lot of the fur from her belly during the pseudopregnancy] - though once her hormones have stabilised, a moult can't be far away.

*Pete Morgan-Lucas*

### DONATIONS:

quarter/annually/overall total

Vladimir Bologov Chisty Les  
Biological Station, Russia

**£5,000**

Balkani Wildlife Society, Bulgaria

**£2,000**

Grupo Lobo, Portugal

**£2,000**

Red Wolf Coalition, USA

**£2,000**

Total for quarter

**£11,000**

Total for year to date

**£29,000**

TOTAL GIVEN IN ALL

**£236,000**

# Update on Mosi and Torak

Summer is fast approaching and the days are getting longer here at the UKWCT, which marks the calmest time of the year for the wolves.

Their breeding hormones have settled down and they spend a lot of time just taking it easy. At nine years old, Torak and Mosi, along with Mai, are now our oldest wolves. As the Trust celebrates its twentieth anniversary, they have been with us for nearly half that time and continue in their important role as ambassadors for wolves worldwide.

At this time of year the wolves moult their winter undercoats and go through a scruffy period before they revert to their sleek summer coats. It's amazing watching them reduce their size by about a third as the hair comes out. They get very itchy and appreciate a good scratch from their handlers who come away with hands and pockets full of fluffy fur. We keep this in named drawers so that when someone adopts one of our wolves they are sent a small vial of their chosen animal's fur in their adoption pack. So anyone can own a piece of our wolves!

Mosi takes wolf middle age in her stride - she is still a gregarious and mischievous animal, always investigating any new situation and keeping an eye on things happening



Mosi



Torak

on site. She has strong likes and dislikes and can be very vocal if something annoys or excites her. For reasons known only to Mosi, she has taken against the contractor who does building work at the Trust and can pick out the sound of his van from a long way off. She will take to the top of the mound in her enclosure and spend the whole time barking while he goes about his business. It is unusual for wolves to bark but Mosi has learned to use it to express her displeasure. She can keep it up for quite a long time! Graham is a lovely man and is baffled as to why Mosi behaves this way towards him. All we can think of is that she doesn't like the sound of his power tools!

Recently we moved Mosi and Torak to the bottom enclosure usually occupied by the Beenhams in order to give them a change of scene. Mosi has been having a phantom pregnancy and had excavated a surprisingly large amount of earth from the mound for a den, which then needed filling in to stop it collapsing. The proximity to Mai, who occupies the next enclosure with Motomo, provided us with some fascinating behaviour from Mosi in the first couple of days as she occupied herself stalking her neighbours. But as Mai is having a phantom pregnancy of her own and is far too preoccupied with that to take much notice of her sister, Mosi soon gave up trying to antagonise her.

Torak took all of this in his stride and was happy to explore his new surroundings or relax on the platforms.

However it soon became clear that it would be difficult to collar up Mai safely with Mosi so close and being in the top enclosure was too distracting for the Beenhams when it came to taking them out for walks, so the wolves went back to their original homes after a couple of weeks. It was obvious Torak was happy to be back - he loped around the enclosure and splashed in the pond, followed by a squeaking Mosi. She can also go back to welcoming the public when they arrive - the Beenhams were more interested in sleeping!

As the breeding season is over, Mosi and Torak are being taken out regularly for enrichment walks. These are a great pleasure for wolves and handlers alike as the wolves scent and roll and explore their wider territory. As the surrounding fields of barley grow taller, the wolves take the opportunity to flush out birds and animals hidden in the crop. On a recent walk, Torak managed to scare off two partridges, several pheasants and a deer! It shows that their wild instincts are still very much to the fore despite coming from generations of captive wolves. The walks are an important part of the wolves' welfare and mean we can keep an eye on their health close up. Torak has started to show signs of stiffness in his legs as he ages and he now has Flexijoint on his food to ward off any problems. He and Mosi are happy and healthy and, as they move into the autumn of their lives, they continue to delight and amuse everyone who knows them.

*Nikki Davies*

## 1995

The UKWCT was launched on 8th May with Denali (born 1991 Port Lympne), Kodiak & Kenai (1994 Woburn Safari Park).

## 1998

Dakota & Duma arrived from Woburn Safari Park.

European wolves Athena, Apollo & Luna were imported and quarantined at UKWCT.

The original enclosure by the house was expanded to two enclosures.

## 2000

UKWCT's site was acquired and two large enclosures, observation room and food shed were built.

## 2004/5

Roger Palmer, Founder, died.

In 2005 the UKWCT donated £1,621 to projects worldwide.

**UKWCT started donating to the following projects:**

- South Kazakhstan Research
- Latvia State Forestry Research Institute
- Balkani Wildlife Society, Bulgaria

1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005

## 1997

A research project in Poland received the first UKWCT donation.

## 1999

Alba, Lunca, Latea & Luana were born at the Trust, becoming the first European cubs to be born in the UK since wolves were extirpated in 1743. (Luana went to Paradise Park).

## 2002

A third wolf enclosure and pole barn were built.

## 2006

First education officer appointed.

Torak arrived from Anglian Wolf Society.

Mosi, Mai & Mika arrived from Dartmoor Wildlife Park.

The student exchange to Bulgaria commenced.

In 2006 and 2007 the UKWCT donated £30,059 to new projects worldwide.

**UKWCT started donating to the following projects:**

- Chisty Les Biological Station, Russia
- Zagreb Veterinary Institute, Croatia
- Ethiopian Wolf Project
- International Wolf Book Project, UK

## 2015

UKWCT donated £230,000 to projects worldwide - at the time of press.

The UKWCT is celebrating its 20th Anniversary, so far it has donated £230,000 to projects worldwide which is expected to total £250,000 by September.

UKWCT started working with Endangered Wolf Center, USA.



## 2007

The Education Centre was opened by Richard Benyon MP and Michelle Paver.

## 2009

The first open day was held.

## 2011

The Beenham pack Nuka, Tala & Tundra were born at the Trust.

Pukak, Massak & Sikko were imported from Canada and quarantined at the UKWCT, becoming the first ever Arctic wolves in the UK.

UKWCT obtains zoo licence.

## 2013

The Trust had 10,000 visitors throughout the year.

UKWCT donated £22,000 to projects worldwide.

5 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015

## 2008

In 2008 and 2009 the UKWCT donated £45,450 worldwide.

**UKWCT started donating to the following new projects:**

- Red Wolf Coalition, USA
- WWF Armenia Branch, Armenia
- Human Dimensions in Wolf Management, Greece

## 2010

UKWCT became a full member of BIAZA.

Motomo arrived from Combe Martin.

In 2010 and 2011 the UKWCT donated £61,881.

**UKWCT started donating to the following new projects:**

- Mexican Wolf Fund, USA
- Friends of Nature, Wolf Monitoring, Nepal
- ICA Livestock Protecting Dogs Project, Armenia
- Living With Wolves Foundation, USA
- Wolf Park, USA

## 2012

UKWCT donated £20,830 to projects worldwide.

UKWCT started donating to Project Grupo Lobo in Portugal.

## 2014

The first Wednesday open day was held.

UKWCT donated £25,000 to projects worldwide.

**UKWCT started donating to the following new projects:**

- CanOvis LGD Research, France
- Wolf Population Study, India



# 20 Years of the Trust



I can't believe that the Trust is already twenty years old. Two people that I wish could still be here to see this anniversary are, of course, the founder of the Trust, Roger Palmer and Erich Klinghammer, the man who inspired it.

In 1985, frustrated by the lack of information on my favourite animal, the wolf, I gathered together a group of similarly obsessed people mostly garnered from the then fledgling sled dog enthusiasts, many of whom had acquired huskies and other sled dogs partly due to their perceived similarity to wolves. The aim of the Wolf Society Of Great Britain, as it was named, was to raise awareness of wolves, that they had been exterminated from the majority of their historic range. Also, to simply have "wolfy" fun by arranging talks, seminars and visits to zoos and safari parks. Even back in the 1980s there was ambitious talk of reintroducing wolves to Scotland. As a society we sorely missed the ability to get involved with the real research and rescue missions in the other areas of Europe that were still home to the wolf. Only two other European societies existed at that time: Varg Gruppen of Sweden where there was a tiny remnant population and Grupo Lobo of Portugal, then run by the late, great Robert Lyle.

We had a particularly useful member, Colin Elford, a deer keeper for a large Dorset estate. Colin had an amazing

range of skills and expertise, including his ability to skin and cook road-killed rabbits. His role in the society was key, for Colin was one of those people who "write letters!" He found a relatively young organisation in America called Wolf Park, run by an academic from Lafayette University in Indiana, Dr Erich Klinghammer. Erich was full of infectious enthusiasm and was booked to give a talk to the young Wolf Society. Only a very small audience of wolf enthusiasts gathered to hear him talk. Erich was a truly larger than life character and had an immense influence on many of us. There were no specialist wolf biologists in this country at that time; we had no wild wolves and they were then not "sexy" animals to study.

I first went out to Wolf Park in 1986, a life changing experience. It is hard to get across to people now just how new it was to study wolf behaviour. There was little chance of studying it in the wild; this was many years before the Yellowstone reintroduction. Biologists could spend a lifetime tracking wolves and never even see one except those that were captured for radio collaring. Farley Mowat's book, *Never Cry Wolf*, was largely believed to be fictitious at the time. It would be a few years yet before David Mech got close to the Ellesmere Island Arctic wolves. Getting up close and personal with the captive packs of Wolf Park was wonderful; my first time meeting a pack of wolves but also to meet wonderful people like Pat Goodman and Monty Sloan. I immediately hit it off with Monty; like myself he had originally studied geology and also had a fascination with wolf/dog hybrids!

I returned a great deal more knowledgeable on wolves specifically, and ethology in general. Erich

Klinghammer had not only known Konrad Lorenz when he was a child but knew most of the famous wolf biologists and behavioural researchers. I returned to the UK with renewed enthusiasm and desire to change the entrenched beliefs of most of our population that wolves are "big and bad"!

A good friend of mine told me about a couple that lived in Dorney, near Windsor who kept wolves: Roger and Tsa Palmer, before they moved to the house in Beenham. I tentatively sent them a Wolf Society leaflet and membership form - they immediately joined. It wasn't long before I turned up on their doorstep and soon we were out walking their two wolves around the village. I was in seventh heaven!

Roger and Tsa were always so very open and friendly, trying to show that wolves are fascinating animals that don't deserve their ferocious reputation. Hand raising and living closely with wolves was not only unique in the UK, it was pretty rare in the rest of the world too!

After my Wolf Park seminar, it was clear that Erich had a lot to offer both wolf/dog people in this country and next, we ran a two day wolf behaviour seminar at Surrey University, the first such event in the UK and very well attended. Amongst those who came was Roger Palmer! Roger was soon in deep discussion with Erich and it became clear that he saw Wolf Park as a model for his own role in helping wolves. Roger went off to visit the Park in Indiana. Various members of the Wolf Society, which at that point was beginning to run into political problems as such organisations invariably do, met up at regular intervals and helped to take



Erich Klinghammer

the wolves to shows and events, gave school presentations at schools and began production of the magazine, even then named "Wolf Print" by founder member Roger Hale (wish I'd thought of that one!) Too many people for me to name here, but you know who you are.

Roger Palmer's first visit to Wolf Park inspired much of what the Trust has achieved to date and I sincerely hope and believe that he would have been proud of what it has become today. The Trust is currently home to ten wolves who live in spacious and interesting enclosures with regular programmes of environmental enrichment as well as frequent walks

in the surrounding over fifty acres of fields and woods. They have seasonal enclosure swaps, a unique management technique for captive wolves in this country. Even our one unsocialised wolf, Motomo, can usually be persuaded to zoom through the gate into a new and exciting space! Wolves are shy and cautious animals but they are also creatures that "travel"! The opportunity to explore and also to engage in that favourite lupine hobby of rolling in scat, so generously deposited by local wildlife, means happy wolves, and wolves that are able to inspire love and a tolerance for large predators in the hearts and minds of the people who visit.

The Wolf Society started the ball rolling but without Roger, Tsa and all the volunteers and helpers at the UKWCT, I doubt that we would have been able to achieve a fabulous home for our ten wolves, inspired countless members of the public and given a quarter of a million pounds to wolf conservation projects worldwide. The Trust has become everything that I hoped for the Wolf Society all those years ago. I hope that it will still be here in another twenty years and beyond. Who knows, maybe by then we will have successfully reintroduced wolves back into the UK!

**Sue Hull**  
*Director*

## 20 Years at the Trust

On a wet October morning I was greeted by three wolves howling a welcome at Butlers Farm: Denali, Kodiak & Kenai, introduced by Roger Palmer. I met Denali, who had cataracts, was wary of things above him and would not accept new people into his territory, from outside his enclosure.

Two of the wolves were only five months old, whereas Denali was an adult. They all bounced up to get attention. Once they had settled, I was able to stroke the wolves under Roger's direction. Their fur was wet outside, but within, it was completely dry. Roger explained their habits, body language and personalities.

I was told that the wolves howl any time day or night - recognising car engines from other visitors, or a sound that humans cannot hear. Next weekend I was back, smitten by Kodiak & Kenai. Over the next seven months I attended every weekend, spending time in their enclosure, getting them used to me. I was then allowed to introduce collars to them, then put leads to the collars, progressing to walking around the enclosure, then venturing outside. We gradually socialised Kodiak & Kenai. Erich Klinghammer, a friend of Roger's from Wolf Park in America, suggested that Roger create a Wolf Trust, to



Colin Thorne and Kodiak

dispel myths and misconceptions associated with this much-maligned animal. In May 1995 the Trust was founded. People became members; the wolves started attending shows, schools and filming.

One proud occasion was when we rehomed a wolf with cataracts, Nakomis. She underwent a series of operations, had a neck funnel to stop her scratching her eyes. She was a loving and charming wolf, but on a



very cold February morning when the wolves were let out of the sleeping quarters, we sadly found her that she had died. It was only eight months after her operation.

In Mid 1998, I accompanied Roger to Germany to look at importing some European wolves, visiting a couple of wolf parks and a private collection of Arctic wolves. It was always a dream of Roger's to have Arctic wolves. We stayed at the Dutch Wolf Recovery Centre, who had 'European' wolves, which were actually wolfdogs /wolf hybrids.

Roger & I returned to the Dutch Wolf Recovery Centre later that year, as European wolves had been sourced: two female Czechoslovakian wolves and a male Romanian wolf. We were told the wolves had received their anaesthetic in their food the night before, to easily transfer them to the trailer for transportation. However, the wolves were bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. Apparently they didn't eat their food, so we had to wait for the vet to arrive with a dart gun to administer the drug. The Calais ferry was booked at 18:00. Eventually the vet turned up and we had to wait for the wolves to fall asleep. We were unable to get the trailer close enough to the enclosure, so we manhandled the wolves one by one in a wheelbarrow to the trailer. We arrived at Calais ferry terminal with barely 15 minutes to spare. Once back in England we made our way back to the Trust in darkness, drove the trailer close to the enclosure, then pushed the trailer into the enclosure and shut the gate, dropped the tail gate of the trailer, and three very timid wolves eventually leapt out.

The next day we were able to retrieve the trailer; the wolves were in the farthest corner away from us. We turned the enclosure into a quarantine area so the new wolves could adapt to their new surroundings. A few more experienced handlers were allowed in to get to know the wolves and vice versa, and over a period of time they came to accept us and would take food from our hands. The male was called Apollo, and the two female

were Luna and Athena - all named after Greek gods.

Following their journey, change of habit and surroundings, we didn't expect them to mate. On the early May bank holiday of 1999 Luna gave birth to six cubs, underneath a wooden shed. We left Luna with her cubs for seven days so that the goodness of mum's milk would go into helping them grow. On the eighth day, six of us entered the enclosure to remove the cubs. The three adults did not make any attempt to defend the young, but unfortunately we believe that one died by Luna rolling on it and suffocating it. Another cub, who had a cleft palate, had also died.



We kept three wolves, a male and two females - but gave the fourth to Paradise Wildlife Park. We did press and TV interviews about our new cubs; the BBC did some research and we had made history: the first European wolves born in captivity for over 200 years. We named the male Alba and the females Lunca and Latea, all names from areas in the countries of their parents' origin.

A willing band of volunteers fed the cubs day and night every four hours. What a privilege it was, sleeping with the cubs, bottle-feeding them, listening to their little whines and whimpers, watching them play to see who the alpha wolf would be. They gained weight and moved to more solid food.

One night in June 2007 when Alba was chasing his sisters around their enclosure, he crashed into a fence post. When he didn't come in for his evening feed, we found him collapsed on the ground. Extra help was summoned and he was carried back to his kennels. Alba let the vet give him a thorough examination and Xrays revealed that he had damaged two top vertebrae in his spine – the same two as the late Christopher Reeve. A decision had to be made: should we put him out of his misery?

We nursed Alba with conventional and homeopathic medicine; he even went in to a hydro pool designed for horses to get his muscles back. Alba regained his ability to walk albeit with a wobble to his back. He enjoyed the rest of his time at the Trust with his sisters and going out on members' walks. One of the downsides in my 20 years with the Trust is always losing wolves to illness or old age, Kodiak, Kenai, Luna, Lunca to name but a few.

The good outweighs the sad though; in 2002 – 2003 we took five wolves: the three Europeans, Duma and Dakota, up to Scotland to film *Monarch of the Glen*. All five wolves were fantastic, they carried out all the tasks asked of them and more, the directors had more wolf footage than they needed. Two months later we returned with just Duma and for close-up shots of the wolves running from and to certain points on the set.

Another highlight was travelling to Devon to collect a male wolf called Motomo from Shaun Ellis, bringing him back to breed with Mai. We bottle fed their three cubs, Nuka, Tala and Tundra. The last highlight was three Arctic wolves coming from Canada. Roger's dream had finally come true.

Having seen the Trust go from strength to strength through these 20 years, I can say it has been an absolute pleasure to be associated with this fabulous organisation.

**Colin Thorne**  
Senior Handler



# Kenai, the Houdini of Wolves (and other tales)



Linda Malliff with Pukak

As we reach our 20th anniversary I can't quite believe where the time's gone! It's been a privilege to work with so many wonderful wolves, all with their own distinct personality and character.

**F**rom Kodiak and Kenai through to our current young adults, each has made me laugh, taught me so much and provided an opportunity to just relax in each wolf's company.

Wolves, like all canines, are opportunists and have terrific problem-solving capabilities which keep us all on our toes.

Our wolves are trained to walk on metal leads and check chains; no other materials are strong enough to resist being chewed! Attached to the collar is a large carabiner clip; this addition to the collar was due to Kenai who was a bit of a minx and loved playing up to her handlers. She learned very quickly to pull forward on the lead sharply, then stop dead - causing the handler to be taken by surprise and still be walking forward. Kenai would loosen the neck chain and pull her head through backwards and out of the collar... then stand and stare at the handler as if to say "so what are you going to do about that then?" We placed carabiner clips on the collars to prevent her from retracting her head; the carabiner clips have been with us ever since!

Duma and Dakota were two of the best ambassador wolves we have ever known. Both girls took their roles seriously: Dakota, the lower ranking of the two wolves could be a joker at times but with a very loving personality. I had to place Dakota on a lead one night in her enclosure as we wanted to move both her and Duma to a different area of the enclosure, as maintenance works were to be carried out. Dakota decided she wasn't playing ball and after attempting to engage me in games of chase for a while I decided to get a lead out as I knew she'd go into a working frame of mind, which she did; off we trotted towards the

holding area. Along the way she was so playful I ended up laughing at her antics so much, forgot to look where I was going and fell flat on my face as I tripped over a tree trunk! Being prostrate on the ground isn't a good place to be with a wolf for obvious reasons; Dakota was staring at me with a quizzical "what on earth are you doing?" look on her face. She then licked and nuzzled me, allowed me to collect myself. Off we went again with no further mishap. She was a very forgiving wolf with a kindly disposition.

Our young European pack Lunca, Alba and Latea came along a year after Duma and Dakota and we then learned just how easily wolves solve problems. They were an extremely close pack with a very strong bond; if two wolves were contained in a holding area the third learned to break them out! One night when bringing them all in to eat, Lunca decided she wasn't coming in. I then spent the next 15 minutes looking for Lunca in a very dark enclosure, then returned to the feeding area. No wolves were inside; the interior gate from the feeding area into the enclosure had been opened. Thinking I hadn't secured the bolt correctly I gathered up the wolves again except Lunca who still wasn't coming in and raced off around the enclosure. I came back empty-handed, the gate was open and no wolves were in the feeding area again! I gathered them up for a third time, went through the same process but this time attached a carabiner clip to the bolt on the gate. Instead of trying to find Lunca in the dark, I hid and watched the gate. After a few minutes there she was, bold as brass, using her nose to move the bolt to open the gate. This time the clip prevented her from doing so. Once she realised she had been rumbled she lost interest in the game and decided feeding was a far better proposition!

Carabiner clips were then placed on every internal gate to prevent any of the other wolves getting in on the act.

Due to a very serious spinal injury Alba, our male European, underwent hydrotherapy at Greyfriars Hydrotherapy and Rehabilitation. I will remember that for the rest of my life: in a pool with a huge wolf who when tired wrapped himself round me and held on for support. Probably the most surreal experience of my life. Although I'd always had a strong relationship with Alba, the moment I really understood what being accepted by a wolf meant and working in this way only made our bond stronger.

Torak, Mosi and Mai came along a few years later, then Motomo, followed by the Beenham pack and finally the Arctics. I'll save stories of our younger wolves to share on our 25th anniversary! We've had lots of memorable moments from cub to adulthood and will continue to update you on the lives and times of our wolves in future editions of Wolf Print.

Each wolf through the years has given immeasurable pleasure to volunteers and members of the public alike. Stories of their antics will be shared for years to come. Each has been a joy to work with and provided people with a greater understanding of what is still a very misunderstood animal.

We at the UKWCT are proud of our wonderful wolves, what we have achieved since our inception. We look forward to continuing to educate and support many much needed wolf projects around the world in the years to come.

**Linda Malliff**  
*Director & Senior Handler*



# Memories of the Trust



I joined the Trust as a member in spring 1997 after meeting Kodiak and Kenai at a local show. I had gone specifically to see them as I was very interested in wolf conservation.

I then visited my first Trust seminar hosted at Beenham School, the day Princess Diana died. The highlight was walking with Kodiak and Kenai. At this stage the enclosures were still in Roger and Tsa's garden; the shop was a few t-shirts hung in the shed. How things have changed.

I became a regular at seminars and over the next few years witnessed the start of Roger's plans to build new enclosures in the field. I saw cubs Duma & Dakota and the European wolves arrive. When I walked around the fields with the wolves I never imagined that one day I would get to handle them.

In 2003 I was recently separated and UKWCT were looking for volunteers. There was an assessment day walking Dakota to see if I was suitable. Nowadays it is a much slower process and volunteers have to work for three months before they get any wolf contact.

On the third visit I was cleaning the wolves' bed blocks when I was paired up with Sean, another volunteer.

We did not live far from each other, so sometimes car shared to save on costs. After about three months we started dating, settling into a routine of me walking Dakota and Sean walking Duma.

Volunteering was much harder in those days. Nowadays we walk the wolves all year round but in 2003 it was generally a winter activity. We took the wolves to the local woods in a trailer and walked amongst forest and pine trees. The highlight was to put the wolves on an extended lead and let them go for a swim in the large lake. The walk was much more vigorous than the walk we do now; we had to cross the lake on what we laughingly called a bridge. In reality it was a few floating logs that were extremely slippery, especially when frosty. A few handlers including myself slipped off into the lake.

Summers were really hard work. We often had to be on site at shows by 7am. If we were lucky, the weekday volunteers would have put the show cage up but if not, it was up to us to erect it on the day; it was a three hour job to set up and an hour to take down. Once the wolves were safely in the cage we would spend time talking to the public, sitting in with the wolves and sometimes taking public in to meet them. Most shows were very busy and time went quickly. Once the wolves were safely away in their overnight trailer we would often have guitar playing, a BBQ and a couple of beers whilst we camped next to the wolves. At one show it rained for three whole days and then a volunteer went home with the keys to the van; we didn't get home until 4:10 am.

We once took the wolves for a promotional tour in Scotland. Travelling with the wolves was always slow but fun. You had to stop every two hours for a break, so we visited

many service stations. Our brightly decorated van and trailer drew attention, and we often had a crowd of people wanting to know if we really did have wolves in the trailer. After a long drive we had a photo shoot at 7:30 am in St Georges Square in Glasgow. We were right in the rush hour and one of our handlers stopped a few vehicles so we could unload the wolves. I unloaded Dakota next to a double decker bus full of people. If ever a wolf was going to panic this was going to be it but she was cool as a cucumber. By the time Duma came out the trailer the square had come to a complete standstill and a large crowd gathered. At the end of the day we walked them over some private heath land, which they really enjoyed.

When appearing at a theatre in London, Sean decided against the lift to get the wolves to their enclosure, so we walked the wolves up the stairs and through the restaurant. It is amazing how quickly people can pick up their food and move when it was announced that two wolves are coming through.

Over the years there have been huge improvements to the Trust. The wolves no longer visit schools and shows; people come to us on open days. The public can see the excellent facilities the wolves have here at the Trust with mounds, woods and ponds in their enclosures. We also have an excellent education centre and some of our students now have careers in conservation. We have a superb shop with a good selection of merchandise. When I first started and you had add the prices up in your head. I also remember suggesting it may be a good idea to get some educational books for the public to buy. We have a whole bookcase now. Our talks at the Trust have also changed. We used to say you would never see a wolf



Cammie with Dakota

in the wild but with Yellowstone's reintroduction and the natural spread of wolves this is no longer the case. I have seen 39 in the wild.

I feel privileged to have spent time working at the Trust over the last 12

years, to be part of a team who has raised so much money to help wolves in the wild. I have completed over 300 walks and walked 16 different wolves, seen the Trust grow from just two wolves to 12 at its maximum. As a volunteer recently said to me, very

few people in the world get to do what we do every weekend. Oh and I also gained a husband. Sean and I got married in 2011.

**Cammie Kavanagh**  
*Assistant Senior Handler*

## UKWCT Memories: the Duma and Dakota years

My first meeting with Duma and Dakota was when they were about three weeks old - before they actually had names. After a walk with Kodiak and Kenai, we were all told to sit in a circle on the lawn in front of Roger and Tsai's house - Roger and his son Johnny disappeared into the house and reappeared carrying the 'new baby wolves' as Johnny described them, put them down in the middle of the circle.

**W**e fed them a mixture of milk and a gruel - then the cubs spent time trundling backwards and forwards within the circle. They hadn't yet understood the need to stop walking when they bumped into things, so they kept on going like little wind-up toys until a helpful human picked them up and turned them round.

The cubs grew quickly - making their first real public appearance at the Newbury Show that year, rapidly becoming the Trust's main 'ambassador' wolves. Duma was always the more dominant; Dakota was by far the sneakiest - with a great interest in looking for anything like a camera-strap or shoelace that she could grab. A decade or more ago the legal and administrative restrictions on taking wolves off-site were significantly less onerous than in these liability-minded times. Over the years 'the girls' travelled the length of the country in their trailer, visiting numerous shows, schools and colleges as well as making many TV appearances on Paul O'Grady, the Really Wild Show and Blue Peter. They also travelled to Scotland to the Scone Palace Game Fair (paddling

in the River Tay) and filmed several episodes of "Monarch of the Glen" along with Lunca, Latea and Alba, the European wolves.

Attending agricultural shows and country fairs with Duma and Dakota was always fun - they were both completely unperturbed by the usual noise and hurly-burly of such events: an English Civil War battle re-enactment (complete with cannon and rifle-fire), a flypast by WWII vintage aircraft, steam engines and brass bands caused them no worries. They were not so happy about Morris dancers, bagpipe players or hot air balloons. On hot summer days in the moulting season it was common for both wolves to lie sprawled out in the mobile enclosure while a friendly handler gently plucked tufts of underfur from them. A tradition of giving them ice cream cornets as a reward at the end of a show day was soon established; the senior handlers invariably arguing over which of them was to eat the flakes (chocolate being bad for wolves). Seeing a wolf with an 'ice cream headache' was rather amusing.

Over the coming decade, many Trust



Duma & Dakota

handlers gained their first experiences of wolf-handling with Duma and Dakota - they were both excellent tutors in that they appeared generally placid but nevertheless were only too ready to spring a surprise on any handler whose attention was less than 100%.

Unfortunately, Dakota was diagnosed with lymphatic cancer and was given a likely survival of only a few months. True to form, she proved the vets wrong and, assisted by steroidal medications and other immune system-boosting foods, she survived another three years. The medications did cause her fur to change its characteristics and accompanied by some steroid-induced abdominal swelling she looked rather like a teddy bear. None of this slowed her down significantly - we had intended to retire her from public events, member walks etc when her illness was confirmed, but she was clearly annoyed at being left behind and she was reintroduced to events, where she once again revelled in the attention though we stopped doing 'meet and greet' sessions with her.

At one point, both Duma and Dakota moved to live in the enclosure with



the by then rather aged and grumpy Kodiak, after the death of his partner Kenai. Kodiak always seemed rather baffled by the flirtatious attentions of the two younger ladies!

One of the greatest challenges with both Duma and Dakota was trying to get them to take any medications they needed – various subterfuges were tried, involving cheese, mashed sardines or tuna and crème fraiche, hollowed-out hot dog sausages etc - but it was quite common for the seemingly well-concealed tablet to be found on the floor afterwards – or for Duma to be rather more interested in eating Dakota’s

medicated sausage than her own.

With the sad but inevitable death of Dakota, Duma was then on her own. Wolves being social animals, this was not a happy situation for her despite her still having daily contact with her human friends. An experiment was tried – she moved in with Lunca, the last surviving of our European wolves. They had lived together a decade earlier when they were all juveniles, and once again they both settled down to live rather like a couple of grouchy and ageing spinsters who tolerated each other but benefited from the company. Even

to the end, Duma retained her sense of being the Queen of the Trust – she could sometimes be seen walking up and down the boundary fence carrying a piece of food in her mouth, deliberately paying no attention to the growling of the wolves in the next enclosure – which only served to wind them up even more.

Even to this day, we all miss Duma and Dakota. Sometimes when looking at Tundra prowling across her enclosure, it’s almost like seeing a ghost.

**Pete Morgan-Lucas**  
*Handler*

# Guardians of the Roof of Africa



There are 500 Ethiopian wolves left - Africa’s most endangered carnivore, the rarest canid species in the world and three times rarer than the giant panda. A wolf in fox’s clothing, at three times its weight, a large version of the versatile red fox of the northern hemisphere. Locals call them *ky keber*.

**A**s the Horn of Africa warmed about 100,000 years ago, and the glaciers receded, relatives of the grey wolf crossed the land bridge from Eurasia and colonised the emerging Afroalpine grasslands. There they would remain, refining their skills hunting rodents, developing longer limbs and muzzles, smaller set-apart teeth, and vivid red and white coats with luxuriant back tails.

Ethiopian wolves rapidly became masters of the Afroalpine - efficient, lean, killing machines targeting mole rats, grass rats and hyrax. In spite of their adaptability there were probably only a few thousand at best. Due to warming affecting the continent, and the pressure of subsistence agriculture on the mountain slopes, now they are restricted to half a dozen tiny mountain pockets in the Ethiopian highlands and not found elsewhere in the wild or in captivity. The Afroalpine meadows are jam-packed with rodents, holding more mammalian biomass than the grasslands of East Africa. At best, there may be as many as three tonnes of rats per square

kilometre. This productive ecosystem also attracts pastoralists with their cattle, goats and their herding dogs, bringing the peril of rabies. The dogs tend to venture off into the rodent-rich meadows, inevitably transmitting this lethal virus to their wild relatives.

I began studying the ecology of Ethiopian wolves in the Bale Mountains of southern Ethiopia in 1987. A BBC film I helped produce was aptly titled “Islands in the Air”, since the mountains were often shrouded in clouds, visibility limited to a few feet, the deep spongy soils soaking in sound and delivering an eerie silence. I felt alone on the roof of Africa, and somehow it was appropriate to think of the wolves as the guardians of those magic mountains.

Once back in Oxford and having completed my doctoral studies, I felt unable to turn my back on these wolves, the mountains or the people. In 1995, I went back to Ethiopia to establish the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme. Now in its 20th year, EWCP employs 35 Ethiopian

nationals and works across the country’s highlands, although the Bale Mountains National Park, home to 300 wolves, is the core area of our work. Generously supported by the Born Free Foundation from the start, we also rely upon many wolf supporters elsewhere to fund our work. The UKWCT started supporting us in 2006 through our *walk for wolves* initiative, and has remained a regular sponsor since, with donations in excess of £37,000. A warm wolf howl from the highlands of Ethiopia to thank their Trust friends in its 20th anniversary!

Throughout these two decades, the risk of a dog biting a wolf and transmitting rabies has been a recurrent concern. When rabies takes control, the infected creature is driven to roam, become more aggressive, and bite other creatures including livestock and humans, eventually reaching wildlife. Rabies is not unusual among Ethiopian wolves and comes around in cycles. The latest cycle of rabies was particularly bad. Major outbreaks typically occur every decade, but are occurring more frequently now. On 10

July 2014 we picked up a wolf carcass. By 11 August four recovered carcasses tested positive for rabies and with support from the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, my team and I began vaccinating the wolves. Unless we vaccinate, the impact is dire. Three out of four wolves in the affected population would die. In this case we found 25 wolves, but more had certainly died. We vaccinated 120 and brought the outbreak under control. The effort involved to capture and vaccinate a quarter of the world population of these rare animals is enormous.

For the last few years we have been trying to move away from a reactive vaccination approach to implement a pro-active approach with a proven oral vaccine placed in meat baits. This could prevent or lessen the impact of future outbreaks and build some immunity in the population. We were testing the oral vaccine when the last outbreak occurred and were able to confirm that all the animals that had taken the oral vaccine survived.

*The work is never done. Rare, restricted wildlife populations require special management, and our actions will have to continue into the future to secure the survival of these creatures.*

Alongside wolf vaccinations EWCP vaccinated 800 domestic dogs inside Bale National Park alone within four weeks. Our aim is to vaccinate at least 70% of the dog population, but due to the mobility of pastoralists new dogs are always arriving; it is almost impossible to provide full protection with the limited capacity we have. EWCP teams educate the herders about the impact of rabies on people and livestock. Ethiopia has one of the world's highest casualty rates for rabies in humans, and it also has an economic impact, with households typically losing about US\$70 in livestock every year, a significant proportion of the meagre US\$200 annual income of a Bale family.

In The Horn of Africa, wildlife shares land with humans, livestock and agriculture. Wildlife conservation cannot happen without taking the local communities into account. While in large wilderness areas elsewhere in Africa, Asia and the Americas - many are working with local communities because it's the right thing to do. In Ethiopia we cannot afford not to.

*While Ethiopian wolves can coexist with pastoralists, rabies is the one thing they are not specialised to*



Ethiopian wolf

*overcome, and without intervention they might very well be extinct by now.*

With the generous support of the UKWCT and other sponsors, EWCP and their Ethiopian partners try to maintain Ethiopian wolf numbers with better enforcement of park rules, education, and vaccination of dogs and wolves. Even with the best efforts Ethiopian wolves will remain rare. Unless we succeed with our conservation efforts they are going to get rarer still.

For more information visit [www.ethiopianwolf.org](http://www.ethiopianwolf.org)

**Claudio Sillero**

## From Web to Wolf

### How Web Designer and Volunteer Darren Prescott fell for the wolves at the UKWCT



I became interested in wolves as a teenager after playing a game called "Wolf" 20 years ago. I started watching TV wolf documentaries and reading books. As the World Wide Web grew I found there were wolf centres in the USA which allowed you to get up close to them.

In 1998 the web was still in its infancy but a quick search showed an organisation called the UKWCT, offering wolf walks and adoptions; being 100 miles away I decided to adopt a wolf called Kenai, not expecting to ever actually see her. The UKWCT used to visit country shows. Each year

I scanned the list of shows eagerly in the hope that the wolves would be coming to Kent. In 2001, they came to Gillingham, half an hour's drive away. The only snag was that it was on the same day I landed back in the UK from a holiday in New York. As luck would have it, my flight was delayed by six

hours, meaning I eventually arrived just as the show was packing up. Nonetheless, jetlagged and dishevelled, I caught a glimpse of some wolves (and handlers!). They were the euro (European) wolves, as my adopted Kenai wasn't visiting shows any more. The way the wolves were dozing alongside



the handlers made a big impression; these were contented wolves!

I eventually visited the UKWCT in 2004, for a wolf walk with Duma and Dakota during a thunderstorm with hail. It may have been soggy but it didn't bother the wolves in the slightest. Back at the Trust I caught a glimpse of Kodiak and Kenai, albeit Kenai was now an elegant white-faced wolf rather than the young wolf I'd first adopted. The wolves all seemed perfectly happy and I decided then I'd try and become a volunteer, not really expecting to be accepted, on account of the distance. Happily for me, I received a positive reply and a month after my members' walk I was seeing things from the other side.

Over the years I've been lucky enough to be able to walk Kenai and in the last weeks of her life she received many a hotdog from me. I watched Kodiak going on his walks with Colin (his final handler), then joined in making

a fuss of him through the fence. The euros with their pack dynamics were a sight to behold, as was the day when Latea and Lunca switched roles. Duma and Dakota were both wonderful ambassadors and nothing seemed to faze them, not even guns being fired a few feet away at county shows!

There's the newer generation of wolves who grew up so quickly - the small puppy phase is over in just a few short weeks. The wolves came back to Kent several times and it was with pride that I explained about the wolves to countless visitors at the Kent County Show. They were one of the star attractions and appeared on TV several times. Since then the Trust has welcomed many tens of thousands of visitors; the Trust's reputation has spread far and wide.

As well as being around the wolves, I've also been involved with the Trust's website. Back in the late 90s it was hosted on Geocities, home to

thousands of small sites, before being taken over and updated by MMS Almac in Scotland. They refreshed the site a few years later, but by then (as I became increasingly involved) we were running into limits with what we could do with the site. The decision was made to move to a new host and run the site ourselves, something which took place five years ago. Now that mobile devices are becoming ever more prevalent, another revamp is required. You'll see the results in the months ahead.

It's been a real privilege to work with the wolves and volunteers and I'm proud of the way the Trust has evolved into a world-class facility. I've visited wolf centres across Europe and North America but the UKWCT has something none of the others will have: wolves that I've seen grow from small cubs to adult ambassadors. Long may the Trust continue to thrive!

**Darren Prescott**  
*Handler & Website coordinator*

I first visited the Trust over a dozen years ago, but I can still remember my astonishment and delight on meeting Duma and Dakota: my very first wolves! The afterglow stayed with me for days. It permanently altered my views on wolves, and had a huge effect on my books, starting with *Wolf Brother*.

It's the effect which wolves have on individual people that's struck me most on all my subsequent visits, and in some ways, I think it's the Trust's highest achievement. Sometimes this effect is obvious, like the out-and-out delight of a child on hearing her first wolf howl. Sometimes it's unexpected, as when you see a parent, who's simply tagged along with their offspring, being suddenly blindsided by the wolves' peculiar charisma.

My personal favourite happened a few years ago. The Trust had run a competition, and the three prize-winning children had come for their own private wolf walk. Two of them were (cautiously) enthusiastic about the large, boisterous wolves, but the third, a boy of twelve, seemed rather disengaged. Oh well, I thought, you can't win 'em all. He was still disappointingly quiet on the train back to London, but when we were saying our goodbyes at Paddington Station, he turned to me and said solemnly, 'That was the best day of my life.'

That's why I want to celebrate the Trust, its staff and the many devoted volunteers who've made it possible over the past twenty years - not forgetting, of course, our very well-loved wolves!

**Michelle Paver, 4 June 2015**



Michelle Paver with cubs

# A Wild and Wonderful Journey with Wolves

By Denise Taylor



Denise Taylor is with Tala, Tundra and Nuka

When I first joined the UK Wolf Conservation almost 20 years ago, following an introduction by Ian Redman from Wolf HELP, I wanted to help out but didn't want to take on too much work at that time in my life, having a young family and working full time.

For those of you who knew the late Roger Palmer, you will perhaps remember how persuasive he could be. I came away from that first meeting as Wolf Print editor – a new international wolf magazine to be launched by Trust. That first meeting, held just a short while after the UKWCT was set up, also involved long term supporters Colin Thorne and the late John Denness. During that period, a whole new organisation was born to take the Trust on to the world stage for its conservation work.

In those early days, the wolf enclosures were a jumbled collection of relatively small fenced areas in the Palmers' garden. From these humble beginnings, Roger spoke passionately about his vision for wolf conservation and plans were laid, funding was raised, and the Trust you see today started to take shape slowly but steadily. Along the way, we all went through a massive learning curve as the UKWCT developed, and over the past two decades we also witnessed the landscape of wolf conservation changing – much of it for the better, with wolf populations across Europe stabilising or increasing and new territories formed. But some of it has not been so good, with the USA seeming to regress back to the dark ages where there is currently a political war being waged on wolves in certain states.

Not long after the Trust was formed, I was appointed as one of the directors, and as well as our growing team building the Trust's infrastructure, we also set about building networks of contacts across the globe. Wolf Park in the USA was our "sister" organisation, with the late Erich Klinghammer having been one of the early influencers on Roger's decision to turn his private collection of wolves

into a wolf conservation organisation. Wolf Print gave me the platform to badger wolf biologists, researchers and conservationists all over the globe for material on the topic of wolves and their conservation. On a budget with zero money available at the time, those first editions relied on volunteer help from writers and designers who were equally passionate about wolf conservation and protection.

Over the past two decades, the wolves themselves have, of course, been the main attraction and incredible ambassadors, helping the Trust to raise significant funds to support wild wolf projects in Europe, Ethiopia and the USA. The money raised has contributed towards valuable research in Eastern Europe and Russia, helped vaccination programmes in the Bale Mountains in Ethiopia and supported numerous aspiring wolf researchers through their studies.

Today, the Trust has strict regulations in place for handling the wolves and controlling their interactions with the general public, staff and volunteers. It wasn't always like this. In the early days of the Trust's development, health and safety wasn't much of an issue where wolves were concerned. Often when I turned up at the Trust I would be handed two wolves on leashes (usually my all-time favourites Duma and Dakota), with instructions from Roger to "just walk them up to the end of the drive and back". Kodiak and Kenai were two of the other ambassador wolves at the time; who can ever forget the magnificence of Kodiak, and the steely matriarch, Kenai. It wasn't long after this, that Roger and Colin made the trip across to Europe to collect three European wolves with a recent wild pedigree. Apollo, Athena

and Luna were not socialised enough to act as ambassadors who interacted with visitors, but they did provide the foundation for a short breeding programme that gave the Trust three more European wolves who held all who met them in their thrall.

I cannot believe that it is over ten years since we lost Roger as our leader, but we were very fortunate that his widow, Tsa Palmer, was equally as passionate as Roger, having always shared his vision for wolf conservation. She has since helped to take Roger's legacy to new levels as an internationally recognised and respected wolf conservation organisation with hundreds of volunteers and thousands of supporters worldwide.

Reflecting on the past twenty years, I can honestly say that life as part of the Trust has never been boring. On a personal level it led me to embarking on and completing my PhD in Environmental Education, but perhaps more importantly it has helped me to forge many strong and lasting friendships with colleagues at the Trust, and with people all over the world. I have travelled to many different countries as part of my own wolf conservation work, and have had many incredible experiences, including coming face to face with a wild wolf in our camp in the Northwest Territories in Canada – surely a pinnacle of any wolf conservationist's career. None of this would have been possible without one of the bastions of international wolf conservation that is the UK Wolf Conservation Trust. It has truly touched the lives of many – both human and canid – and I hope it will continue to do so for many, many decades to come.

**Denise Taylor**  
*Special Advisor to the UKWCT*

# A celebration of Wolf Research

**Ian Redman** was one of the co-founders of Wolf HELP (Helping Education for Lobo Preservation), a British wolf conservation team who have very successfully educated the public about the nature of wolves and wolf society.



Ian Redman:  
WolfHELP

**F**or many years Ian was the main researcher and speaker for the group whilst maintaining strong contacts with many of North America's foremost wolf research biologists, all of whom actively supported Ian and his team on their wolf conservation endeavours. He has had several wolf conservation articles published both in Britain and abroad and is the author of "Savage Freedom: The World of the Wolf" which is currently available on Amazon Kindle.

Throughout the 1990s Ian travelled extensively during his wolf studies and he has spent time in the United States and Russia tracking and monitoring wolf packs utilising a variety of methods. He also took an active part in the Mexican Wolf Recovery Programme with his Wolf HELP colleague Neil Stevenson, thanks to a kind invitation from senior staff at Wolf Haven International. Here he assisted with the capture and veterinary care of eleven captive bred Mexican wolves, several of which were later released into the wild in the state of Arizona.

Between 1995 and 2003 the Wolf HELP team worked very closely with Roger Palmer and Ian is now, in his own words "absolutely delighted" to present 'A Celebration of Wolf Research' at this year's UKWCT Seminar. Featuring 100 of Wolf HELP's finest photographic images, this exciting presentation features the work of such notable North American wolf research biologists as Diane Boyd, Wolf Research in Glacier National Park; Lu Carbyn, The Wolves and Bison of Wood Buffalo National Park; Jim Hammill and Adrian Wydeven, Michigan and Wisconsin's Highway 53 Wolf Studies; David Mech, The Wolves of Denali and Rolf O. Peterson Wolf/Moose Dynamics on Royal National Park.

# Laying Their Heads Where No Humans Tread

Wolves can withstand brutally cold temperatures and go weeks without food, making them a dab hand (or paw) at surviving in extreme conditions. But one pack near the Israel-Syria border makes its home in a different hostile environment. One where it's humans, not wolves, who must tread carefully.

**A**mongst the Golan Heights' 1,000 square kilometres of grassland, open woodland and extinct volcanoes, flash the occasional yellow warning signs of a minefield. Venturing beyond the barbed wire can be fatal for anything heavier than 60kg, as both people and livestock have discovered. But for a wolf pack the reverse is often true.

Most of the Golan is used for grazing, and there is a longstanding tension between the wolves and local ranchers. After a mass poisoning campaign in the 1960s, canines almost entirely vanished from the Golan grasses. Following a boom and cull of the jackal population in the early 1990s, wolves finally began to return, possibly due to less competition and more cattle and carcasses from human waste dumps. But not everyone welcomed them back, and in 1998 there was another mass poisoning, this time killing scores of rare griffon vultures and prompting the Israel Nature and Parks Authority to step in. Wolves have extensive legal protection in the Golan, which has helped their numbers recover from 8-10 in 1979 to 80-100 in 2005 and beyond, but, controversially, they may be shot or trapped in designated areas

to limit their population and protect livestock.

Illegal poaching and poisoning still occur from time to time, as this particular pack discovered when they had a litter outside the fence. Poisoned bait was found in their empty den, and when the family finally returned they had lost their young pups and an adult male. Fortunately this was not the alpha, but the pack's makeup is yet another curiosity. According to wildlife photographer Itamar Yairi, who has closely followed the group, it is the larger, more aggressive alpha female who may be the leader.

This is by no means unheard of. Doug Smith, an expert on the Yellowstone wolves, described she-wolves 40 and 7 of the Druid and Leopold packs as head of the family. Incidentally, Golan wolves are closer in size and colour to their North American relatives, and this seems to be a recent phenomenon. Until the 1960s, most wolves sighted in Israel and Syria were of the smaller desert subspecies *canis lupus pallipes*. After the mass poisoning, the wolves that returned were larger with only minor throwbacks to their desert forebears, such as the occasional fused toes.

Although the minefield is a sanctuary for these wolves, human deaths and injuries are all too recent memories in the Golan, and there have been global calls to clear the mines. So far this hasn't happened, leaving us with the juxtaposition of, in the words of predator researcher Dr. Arian Wallach, "[something that] epitomises everything wrong with the world... [with]...some wild beauty running through it."

*Jessica Jacobs*



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# Twenty First Century Wolves

*"A deep chesty bawl echoes from rimrock to rimrock, rolls down the mountain, and fades into the far blackness of the night. It is an outburst of wild defiant sorrow, and of contempt for all the adversities of the world. Every living thing (and perhaps many a dead one as well) pays heed to that call. To the deer it is a reminder of the way of all flesh; to the pine a forecast of midnight scuffles and of blood upon the snow; to the coyote a promise of gleanings to come; to the cowman a threat of red ink at the bank; to the hunter a challenge of fang against bullet. Yet behind these obvious and immediate hopes and fears there lies a deeper meaning, known only to the mountain itself. Only the mountain has lived long enough to listen objectively to the howl of a wolf."*

Aldo Leopold - *A Sand County Almanac*

**T**housands of years ago, long before the Neolithic, we could meet the wolf's stare.

Humans lived alongside them. Two packs, one biped, one quadruped, pursued the great herds across empty continents. Two species of wandering predators inextricably linked.

It was said that wolf blood ran through the veins of some people. Genghis Khan traced his ancestry back to a wolf and a white doe. To the east of Mongolia, in Kamchatka, it was thought that twins were sired by two fathers: one human and one lupine. Each autumn, the native Koryaks carved a wolf from stone or wood: a symbol of fertility and a charm to protect their children. Other nomadic groups, such as the Pawnee of North America, credited wolves for the birth of humanity.

For them life came from Sirius, the "Wolf Star".

The wolf taught us how to hunt. The Inuit were led to caribou by wolves' pawprints and Native American tribes, such as the Blackfoot, sang invitations to wolves to join their hunting expeditions, believing their presence brought good luck. History is also full of stories of wolf-children: Italy's Romulus and Remus, Germany's wolf-child of Hesse and India's Kamala and Amala. In 1972 it was alleged that a four-year-old boy was found playing with wolf cubs in the jungles of Uttar Pradesh. The truth is questionable but the close connection between wild dog and human is not. In *Snow Wolf Family and Me*, Gordon Buchanan documented his initiation into a family of wild Arctic wolves.

The pack's matriarch even left her whelps in the custody of a television presenter. There is mutual understanding and trust between wolf and human, long been expressed in hunter-gatherer societies.

Stories of human-wolf co-existence are buried beneath a more familiar, less benevolent lupine lore. Every European child has heard of the Big Bad Wolf; the slaving menace in Red Riding Hood, Peter and the Wolf and The Three Little Pigs. Aesop's The Boy Who Cried Wolf teaches our children the dangers of lying but also teaches them fear. These are the stories of agrarian societies. When we turned from nomad to farmers, stopped chasing the wild herds and brought the cattle, sheep and pigs under our yoke, we learned to fear the wolf. As we ploughed and fenced the wilderness, we created a world with less wild prey and more livestock.

There was another factor fuelling our lupophobia; a factor which singled the wolf out from the bear, the leopard or the wolverine - as Nature's most depraved killer. The author of *The Company of Wolves*, Peter Steinhardt writes: 'Of all the rest of creation, wolves reflect our own images back to us most dramatically, most realistically, and most intensely.' Our interspecies

*"The devil bears the similitude of a wolf; he who is always looking over the human race with his evil eye, and darkly prowling round the sheepfolds of the faithful so that he may afflict and ruin their souls."*

T.H. White - *The Bestiary: A Book of Beasts*

similarities in lifestyle and social structure gave rise to the kinship between hunter-gatherers and wolves. But it also fanned the flames of conflict between wolf and farmer. These animals acted like people, their howls sound eerily human. In paranoid medieval Europe people saw a malign intelligence in the wolf's eyes.

Enlightenment took a long time to reach the dark corners of rural Europe. In the Middle Ages, the church was the sole dispensary of formal knowledge. Christian congregations learned that the world was a frightening place full of uncertainties. Evil stalked the countryside. The boundaries between human and animal may be rigidly defined today, but in the mind of a medieval peasant it was perfectly possible that a human could transform into a wolf. Thousands of people were burned at the stake for lycanthropy - being werewolves. Belief in shapeshifting was so pervasive that people concealed their bodily scars for fear of their neighbours remembering wounding a wolf in a similar place. The werewolf superstition is recorded by medieval scribes, referring to those who ran from the law as bearing the wolf's head because, like a wolf, they were fixed with a bounty. Those who sought refuge in the wildwoods developed lupine characteristics.

Today we are an urban species. Our world is brightly lit; minds governed by reason and science. The werewolf trials are forgotten, a footnote in a past society whose belief system we no longer comprehend. We no longer fear wolves as farmers did, or know them as the hunter-gatherers did. We live in artificial environments

of concrete and glass, detached from nature but surrounded by symbols and illusions from the natural world. We are bombarded with lupine heraldry on football shirts, breakfast cereals and anoraks. When not used as a brand the wolf is a totem of the lost wilderness. Projected from the last wild places on earth, their melancholic howls signify a past world when unbroken forest stretched from the seashore to the crests of all but the highest mountains.

Wolves are not simply denizens of unpeopled places. They live in industrial Europe too. As lupophobia fades, persecution wanes. In the last forty years the European wolf population has quadrupled. They skulk around the outskirts of Athens, Rome and Berlin. Some still see the Big Bad Wolf and the resurging population is still dogged by poaching and poisoning. But if we allow their numbers to continue to rise, there is a very real prospect that the wolf might once again become a regular visitor in our lives.

We have an opportunity to forge a new human-wolf relationship for the twenty first century, allowing for coexistence but that will enchant us in the way it did our hunter-

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gatherer forebears. Our generation has lost touch with the natural world. We live tame and predictable existences, devoid of physical challenges. Children no longer play outside and few of us can identify more than a handful of bird species. Who could fail to recognise the howl of a wolf? Who is not electrified by the sight of a lupine silhouette? As they trot back into Europe, through our towns and cities, may we find new stories to tell of how we learned to love the wolves as they brought wildness back into our lives.

*Jamie Curtis Hayward is a writer and filmmaker with a particular interest in conservation. When he isn't treading the shallow money trench of the TV business he makes films that he hopes will inspire people to reconnect with nature.*





An illustration of the extinct Dire Wolf

# THE DIRE WOLF

## (CANIS DIRUS)

The dire wolf has always been a favourite in fiction, most notably and recently in the book series 'A Song of Ice and Fire' by George R. R Martin, which has found huge success having been converted into the TV series 'Game of Thrones'. What surprises a lot of people is that the dire wolf actually existed, having inhabited North and South America up until approximately 10,000 years ago.

In the fictional world, dire wolves can be twice the size of a regular wolf. They are incredibly strong and have a somewhat fearsome reputation. Although not twice as large as current day species of wolf, the dire wolf is the largest known species of wolf and the heaviest canid to have ever walked the Earth. From skeletons found in North America, we know that the dire wolf measured in at 80kg, being 2ft tall and 5ft long. This means that it was a bulky wolf with a heavy build and rather short legs. The skull and teeth are noticeably larger than today's grey wolves.

According to the best estimates, the dire wolf went extinct between 16,000 and 10,000 years ago during the Pleistocene epoch. This era was a time of giants; huge animals roamed all over the Americas. Other notable megafauna living alongside the dire wolf included: the giant short-faced bear which reached up to 11ft tall (standing), ground sloths the size of modern day bears, and mammoths 12ft tall at the shoulder. The dire

wolf was found all throughout the Americas, from the rich grassland in central and southern America, right up to Alaska. The dire wolf and the grey wolf both inhabited the same areas in North America, whereas the grey wolf was found in far fewer numbers. This is possibly due to the fact that the grey wolf is thought to have evolved in Eurasia and crossed the Bering Land Bridge into the Americas, whilst the dire wolf evolved and stayed in the Americas. It is widely believed that the dire wolf kept the grey wolf population limited, controlling them in a similar way as grey wolf populations often control coyote numbers today.

Having long been extinct, we have to rely on fossil records to find out about these impressive animals. Luckily, with the dire wolf having been widespread and abundant, a large number of fossils have been found. Many skeletons have been discovered in one place in particular: the La Brea tar pits in what is today,

Los Angeles. For fossils to form they need very specific conditions and more often than not, these conditions are not met, meaning that skeletons degrade and break down leaving no evidence of them ever having existed. The La Brea tar pits consist of naturally

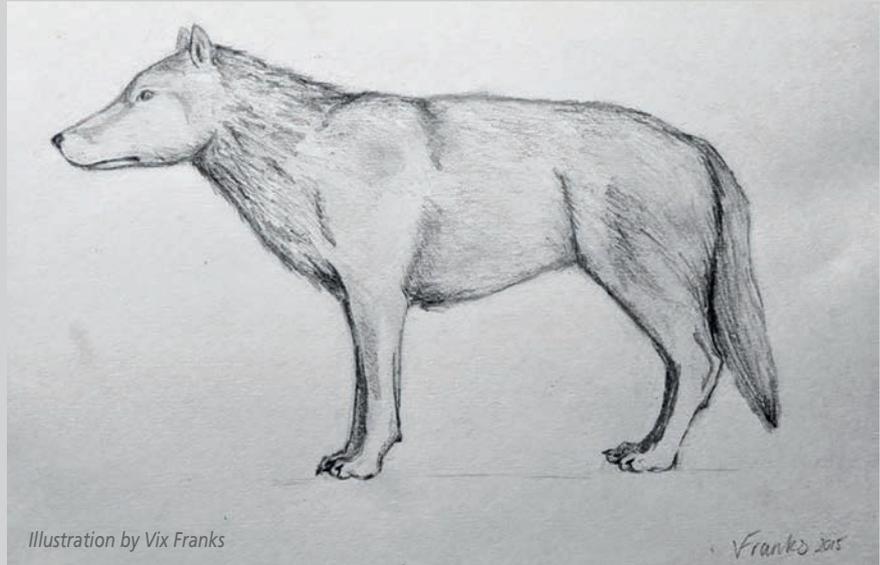


Illustration by Ischia Frank (aged 11)

forming asphalt, which perfectly preserves bones of species that have died in and on them. The La Brea tar pits are second to none in terms of preserving species from the last ice age: to date over 1 million individual bones from 231 different species have been excavated from the tar pits, with bones from dire wolves being by far the most common.

One of the most surprising facts about the La Brea tar pits is that predatory species outnumber the prey species of a ratio of about 10-1; this is the opposite of how nature usually works, with herbivores tending to outnumber predator species. From these pits roughly 200 horses and 300 bison skeletons have been found, yet over 3,500 dire wolf skeletons have been found (along with 15 grey wolves). To many, the image of a tar pit is a deep boggy expanse made up of a very 'liquid' formed tar. This however is not the case; thick tar would have formed a hard crust on the surface that would have melted in the hotter summer months. Animals would have often become stuck, falling through the heated crust into a thick mud like tar. This provides one of the first clues regarding the dire wolves' behaviour; it suggests that they could have been opportunists, taking advantage of trapped animals that would have been perceived as an easy meal.

There is ongoing debate about the behaviour of the dire wolf and whether it lived in packs and how it hunted. Most scientists generally agree that by looking at the jaw and tooth structure, it probably hunted in a very similar fashion to modern day grey wolves. By this we mean that they would deliver a series of shallow bites to wear down the prey's stamina. In modern day canids, it is known that bite power and skull size are directly related, thus leading many scientists to conclude that the dire wolves' bite power was even greater than that of the grey wolf. There is also reason to believe that these heavily set animals would throw their body weight against the prey to aid in the take down, which would be highly beneficial against larger prey animals. This would also suggest they formed social groups



and hunted in packs. Much like modern day grey wolves, it is thought that prey size and abundance may be a discerning factor in pack size, with the abundance of large prey available at the time it has been speculated that the dire wolf may have lived in packs of 30 or more animals. A pack of this size would almost certainly require a social structure.

By using a technique known as Stable Isotopic Analysis, the diet of the dire wolf has been investigated. This process works by using specific isotope signatures from vegetation: once a herbivore eats the vegetation, the specific isotope signature from that vegetation accumulates in the herbivore's bones. If the herbivore is then consumed by a carnivore, the same specific isotope signature is then found in the carnivore bones. Using this technique, the diet of the dire wolf has been found to have comprised of roughly 50% horse and 50% bison, although the odd giant ground sloth and mammoth have also been identified.

Although the dire wolves' strength and size was undoubtedly a huge advantage during the Pleistocene epoch, many believe it was also its downfall. For thousands of years the dire wolf hunted the larger prey species whilst ignoring the smaller, possibly easier prey species such as elk and deer. The exact cause of the dire wolves' extinction is unknown; it

happened very suddenly on a global time scale, possibly as short as one thousand years.

Climate change has been seen as one contributing factor, with another being the settling of early human beings in the Americas. It is thought that they hunted down the large herbivores in such a successful way that numbers were decimated to the point where larger carnivore species could no longer find enough food. It is very possible that because of their large size and success with larger prey, they simply couldn't adapt to killing smaller prey efficiently. The smaller grey wolf however didn't have this problem and this is why it is still alive today. We may never know exactly what caused the extinction of the dire wolf but it seems a lot of factors played their part.

At the Trust, we have recently bought a replica of a dire wolf skull for our education room. We opted for the tar colour replica to remind us all of the story of the La Brea tar pits and the knowledge it has given us from 10,000+ years ago. When you visit, please come and have a look at this skull, especially along with our replica wolf, dog and fox skulls. By comparing these examples you will be able to see how each of these carnivores were, and are, adapted to their distinct life histories.

**Mike Collins**  
*Wolf Keeper, UKWCT*

# Partnership for Wolves Crosses the Pond



The Endangered Wolf Center, the heart of endangered wolf conservation in the United States (situated appropriately in the heart of the country), has partnered with the UK Wolf Conservation Trust to help keep wolves in the wild and educate the next generation of conservationists in America.

Since 1971, the Endangered Wolf Center has worked tirelessly on behalf of wolves and other species of canids in an attempt to realize the vision of its founders, Marlin and Carol Perkins. Marlin Perkins, former director of the St. Louis Zoo and longtime host of American television's "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom," recognized how dire the situation had become for wolves and decided to do something about it.

A partnership between these two like minded organizations helps keep alive the vision of a world where canids and other carnivores are revered for the vital role they play in stabilizing their native habitats.

Virginia Busch, the Executive Director at the EWC sees the partnership as



a reflection of the continued trend toward global partnerships. "Everyone has a stake in the health and wellbeing of the planet," she said, "and we're invigorated by the show of support from the Conservation Trust."

The Endangered Wolf Center has been instrumental in bringing back two species of wolves from the brink of extinction. Red wolves, which once roamed the southeastern United States in the hundreds of thousands, went extinct in the wild in the 1970s. With a combined effort from several institutions across the country, a managed breeding program was conceived for the remaining red wolves left in captivity. And because of those efforts the first red wolves were released back into the wild in 1987.

Similarly, the Mexican wolf, which once had vast populations in much of the southwestern United States and Mexico was reduced to only seven animals by 1980. The latest census of Mexican wolves in the wild (during early winter of 2014) found 83 wolves in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. As of July 2014, about 248 more Mexican wolves were living in institutions in the United States and Mexico.

Even though the red and Mexican wolves have been saved from



extinction, their plight is far from over. Their wild populations have yet to reach ideal, sustainable levels, and in many parts of the country (and world), wolves still suffer the consequences of the negative stereotypes that have been perpetuated for generations. The Endangered Wolf Center is taking a comprehensive approach to saving endangered wolves and is calling on the help of all of its supporters.

Follow the Endangered Wolf Center on Facebook or Twitter, and learn more about its animals, events, and the latest news about conservation. It has about 700,000 followers on Facebook, including more than 30,000 from the United Kingdom.

To learn more about the Endangered Wolf Center, its history, and its team on the Center's website [www.endangeredwolfcenter.org](http://www.endangeredwolfcenter.org).

**Rachel A. Broom**  
Director of Development

From left to right: farmer Eknath (in white), Ashwin Aghor, Rajesh Pardeshi and farmer Gorakh.  
Photograph by Sunil Joshi.



# Update on Indian Wolf Project

Raosaheb Kasar is a teacher at a private school at Parner in the Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra, India. Wildlifer to the core, Kasar has set up makeshift water holes for wildlife at many places in the forest surrounding his village.

He had put up plastic tanks and would fill them with water as and when required. These waterholes soon became regular drinking spots for wildlife like wolves, black bucks, hyena and jackals. Sometimes even a leopard would pay a visit or two to quench its thirst.

Kasar and his friend Santosh Gandhi had just begun to feel the satisfaction of doing something for the wildlife. Their joy was short-lived as one day when the duo went to the waterholes with cans of water, the plastic tanks set up as makeshift waterholes were missing. Initially they thought that only one was missing. But when they visited other spots, they were shocked to notice that all of them had been stolen. After the thefts, the duo somehow managed to keep the waterholes running by spreading plastic sheeting in the trenches made for the plastic tanks, covered it with soil and filled water. They soon realised that this will not help in the long run as the water holding capacity of these trenches was very low and the rate of percolation was very high. This was when I came to know about them from a friend and decided to join them in the cause to protect the Indian wolf.

We began the work on the ground with the resources available with us and simultaneously started looking for organisations that would extend financial and logistical support to the project. Given the vastness of the area and scope of the project, I requested fellow environmentalists at Vanashakti to support the project in terms of expertise such as wildlife biologists. D Stalin, Director – Projects at Vanashakti gladly agreed to help EnviroCare Welfare Society on the project and wildlife biologist Kavita Mallya worked meticulously on the intricacies of the tasks to be undertaken on the ground.

While we were exploring various avenues to generate financial and logistical support for the project, UKWCT gave us a pleasant surprise with the financial support. This was the major boost to the project and real encouragement for everyone at the EnviroCare Welfare Society and Vanashakti, encouraging us to go that extra mile. After the funds were received, the first thing we did was to get the cement tanks made to be set up as waterholes. Once we identified the manufacturer who would make the tanks at economical rates, six tanks

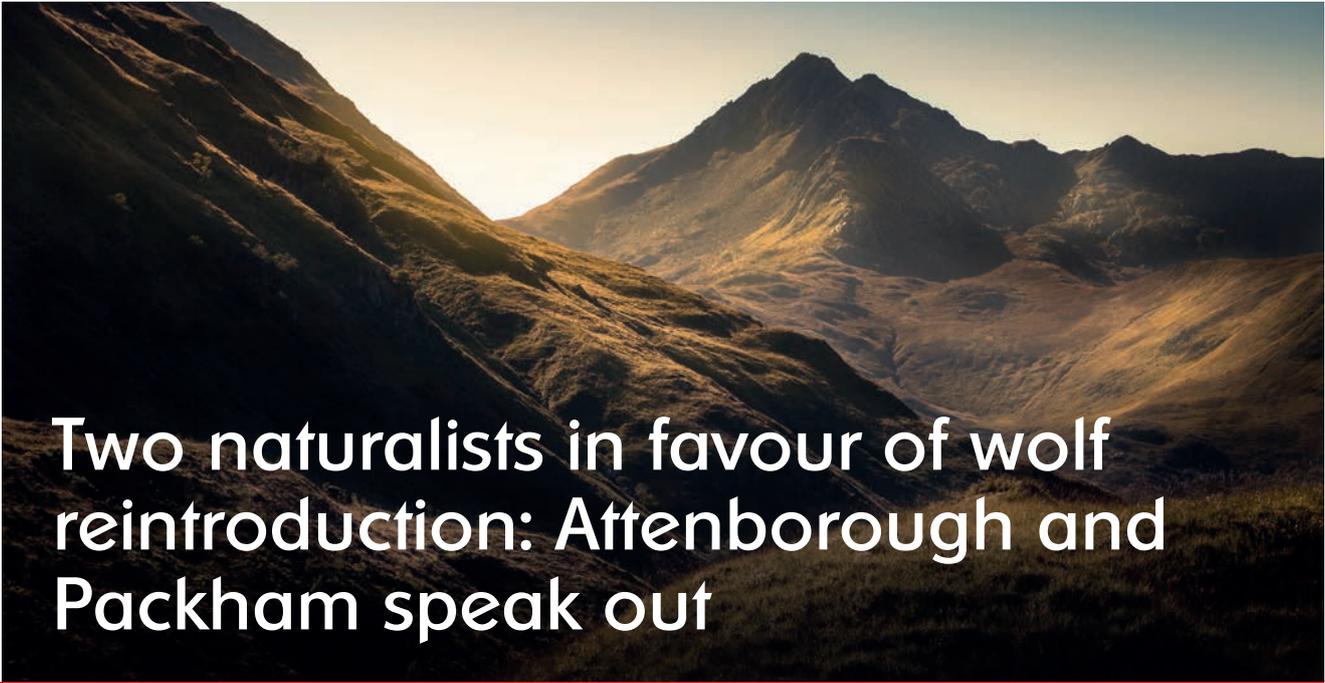
with the water holding capacity of 1,000 litres each were made and set up at strategic locations in the forest. All of them were filled with water. With these cement waterholes the risk of theft has been completely eliminated.

The response from the local residents as well as forest department to the project is overwhelming. Local forest department officials gladly spared manpower to help in loading, transportation and unloading of the tanks. Dattatray Ambule, a local farmer and builder, spared one of his trucks and also arranged for additional manpower needed for transportation of the tanks. According to Ambule: 'It is our duty to protect and conserve the nature and wildlife. We must learn to coexist with them.'

Since this was the first time such tanks were setup as waterholes, keeping the domestic animals away from it was a big task. People from villages in the forest take their cattle for grazing across the grassland. The cattle graze on grass in the forest and drink from the water sources there. The waterholes we set up would come handy for this purpose. To avoid cattle consuming the water, it was decided to fill the waterholes in the evening when all the cattle go back and wildlife, especially carnivores, become active. After much perusal, the local shepherds agreed to keep their cattle away from the waterholes.

The efforts have started bearing fruits. Several birds and animals have started visiting the waterholes. The 'word' has been spread in the forest among the feathered, hooved and other residents of the grassland. All the nine waterholes set up in the project area have already started attracting wildlife. It was on March 9 and 10 that hyenas and a pack of wolves paid a visit to waterhole setup in the forest of Gadagvadi near Parner town, Maharashtra, India.

'This is one of the satisfying moments of our lives. It is the greatest pleasure to see wolves and hyena coming to the waterholes to quench thirst,' says Sunil Joshi, vice president of EnviroCare Welfare Society.



# Two naturalists in favour of wolf reintroduction: Attenborough and Packham speak out

Leading naturalist David Attenborough reckons bringing back wolves into the wild across the Highlands ‘cannot harm anyone’ while also warning that climate change could result in a loss of many native species.

**T**he acclaimed broadcaster said the animals have been unfairly portrayed as dangerous killers. He said: “I think getting wolves back into the wild cannot harm anyone. They have been demonised over the years, but really they’re gentle and very loyal creatures, whose sole purpose is to survive and look after each other. There’s no ecological reason not to welcome wolves back – they shouldn’t be in captivity when there’s so much space for them to flourish in the environment.”

The comments are part of an interview published in the April edition of *The Scots Magazine* in which Sir David also warned that climate change could have a “devastating effect” on Scotland, with the loss of many native species.

He said: “A two-and-a-half degree change in climate by 2050 will have a devastating effect on plants and animals native in Britain, and the Scottish Highlands in particular. Scotland will find itself among the worst hit places, because there are highly specialised species that thrive in

the colder, wetter, windier conditions that so much of the country provides. Take the ptarmigan, for instance, which is so used to its habitat it turns white with the snow in winter. With less snow, it’s more vulnerable to prey, and the plants and insects it feeds on will die out, too. That’s just one example. We need to do all we can to preserve these landscapes and their habitats.”

**Chris Packham has also spoken of the positive factors of reintroduction:** “We need to reintroduce wolves and lynxes into the UK. People are resistant to the idea of them coming back, which is a shame,” says the *Springwatch* presenter. “We have lived without them in the UK for such a long time that people are very resistant to the idea of them coming back, which is a shame because we do know better and we do need them and it would be tremendously exciting.”

Packham believes that lynxes and wolves would have a positive impact on the eco-system and local economy if they were reintroduced into the

UK. The *Springwatch* presenter told *Radio Times* in the latest issue of the magazine that we need large predators to have a “sustainable working landscape”.

“Wolves live in Portugal, Spain, Italy and in Sweden too. There have been only two fatalities since the year 2000, both in the US, and certainly none in Europe. What we would like to move towards is a more tolerant society that understands the fact that to have a sustainable working landscape we need large predators.”

Packham says that persuading the UK to bring back the wolf and lynx was proving a difficult task. “If we did have wolves - which would have to be in Scotland – and lynxes – then lots of people would pay to go and see them and they would be an a great asset to the community.”

**Sources:**

*David Attenborough article: John Dingwall, Daily Record*  
*Chris Packham article: Kasia Delgado, Radio Times*



## DNA gives vital clues to the origin of *Canis lupus familiaris*

DNA hints at earlier dog evolution. Swedish researchers say that dogs may have been domesticated much earlier than some other studies suggest.

**A** genetic study indicates that dogs may have begun to split from wolves 27,000 years ago. The discovery, **in Current Biology**, challenges the view that dogs were domesticated much more recently, around 15,000 years ago as humans changed from being hunter-gatherers to farmers. The study might also explain the deep bond between dogs and humans.

The new study, which was led by Dr Love Dalen of the Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm, challenges the view that canine domestication arose with the emergence of agriculture.

“One scenario is that wolves started following humans around and domesticated themselves,” he told BBC News. “Another is that early humans simply caught wolf cubs and kept them as pets and this gradually led to these wild wolves being domesticated. If this model is correct then dogs were domesticated by hunter-gatherers that led a fairly nomadic lifestyle.”

Peter Smith, chief executive of the Wildwood Trust in Kent, UK, and a former conservation biologist, says that this might have been the start of the relationship between dogs and humans that has developed and

become closer over thousands of years.

“[The study] is showing that the deep, deep connection has existed between man and wolves - now our dogs - for many tens of thousands of years and that is why we love dogs so much. They are part of our own evolution into a modern society,” he told BBC News.

The DNA was analysed from a small wolf bone found by Dr Dalen on the Taimyr Peninsula in northern Siberia which was radiocarbon dated to be 35,000 years old. Dr Dalen and his team were able to identify the rough genetic code of the animal and to their surprise they discovered that its DNA was half way in between dogs and wolves. The results suggest that the split between dogs and wolves happened a few thousand years later. According to Dr Dalen, dogs were either domesticated at that time, or the population split into modern wolves and a wild ancestor of modern dogs that later became extinct. “We think the simplest explanation is that dogs were domesticated at the time of the split,” he says.

*Source: Pallab Ghosh, Science and Environment, BBC News*

## Skeleton Pond – Ancient wolf bones found in Lanarkshire

Builder making duck pond for his two children in the back garden digs up fully preserved skeleton of 20,000-year-old wolf

**S**imon Ferguson and sons Richard, 12 and Adam, 10, were digging a hole for a duck pond at the boys’ home in Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire, when they found bones.

They were initially shocked to see the fangs of an animal emerge from the clay 11-feet beneath their back lawn. Experts have now said the skeleton of an ancient wolf is up to 20,000 years old, meaning the wolf lived before the building of the pyramids and Stonehenge.

Mr Ferguson said: “It was on its side. This type of clay had preserved the bones. When it was in the ground it looked really impressive. When we saw it in the ground the skull looked absolutely unbelievable, it looked pre-historic. The teeth and fangs were all in place. I always knew these bones were going to be old but not 20,000 years.”

The grey wolf became extinct in England in around 1500AD after being hunted out of existence. The one found by Mr Ferguson is believed to have been the size of a labrador and had been approximately three-years-old when it died.

The family are now going to donate their discovery, which is 92% complete, to the Manchester Museum after Adam took it in to show classmates for show and tell.

*Source: Daily Mail Online.*



# Only Isle Royale trio are left

Only three wolves seem to remain in Isle Royale National Park. Researchers from Michigan Technological University observed the wolves during their annual Winter Study, and the lone group, at an unprecedented low, is a sharp decline from nine wolves observed last winter.

**T**he study's report, released today, marks the project's 57th year of observing wolves and moose in Isle Royale. It is the longest running predator-prey study in the world. This year, along with the three resident wolves, scientists estimated 1,250 moose on the island and observed two visiting wolves, which came and then left across an ice bridge to the mainland. This growing gap between the predator and prey populations is a trend that Michigan Tech researchers have tracked over the past four years.

"It's not the presence of wolves that matters so much, it's whether wolves are performing their ecological function," says John Vucetich, an associate professor of wildlife ecology who leads the study along with Rolf

Peterson, a research professor at Michigan Tech.

Last April, the Isle Royale National Park released a statement concerning wolf intervention options. Part of the statement reads: "There is still a chance of nature replenishing the gene pool as wolves are able to move to and from the island when ice bridges form."

But with only three wolves remaining, Vucetich says, "There is now a good chance that it is too late to conduct genetic rescue." He also points out that one of the Isle Royale wolves left on an ice bridge last winter, and this winter, two wolves visited the island and promptly traveled back over the ice bridge.

## Wolf Genetics

To understand Isle Royale wolves, you have to understand their genetics. Inbreeding has greatly impacted the packs over the past half century, which is clear with the three remaining wolves.

The group is most likely made up of two adults and one nine-month-old pup, possibly the adult pair's offspring. But unlike its pack mates, the pup does not appear healthy. It has a constricted waistline, hunched posture and seems to have a deformed tail, the researchers said.

"Those observations suggest that the pup is not well off," Vucetich says, noting that on the last day of the study, Peterson had found the two



adult wolves, but not the pup. "It would not be surprising if the pup was dead a year from today."

Even if the pup were healthy, it would not necessarily be a promising sign. In the case of wolves, three is not a crowd. Such low numbers make the population's natural recovery unlikely. The wolves' numbers started plummeting in 2009, declining by 88 percent from 24 to 3 wolves, which Vucetich and Peterson think is a result of inbreeding. All geneticists who have studied the current situation agree that recovery is unlikely without new genetic material.

With that in mind, even if the surviving adults are a mating pair, their offspring probably would not fair well.

While the researchers are waiting on genetic tests to confirm the wolves' identities and which pack they came from, their best guess is that they are the alpha pair from West Pack. And, as a mating pair, neither is likely to be interested in other potential mates introduced for genetic rescue.

The annual report is available at: [www.isleroyalewolf.org](http://www.isleroyalewolf.org)

**Source:** Allison Mills  
<http://www.mtu.edu/news/stories/2015/april/down-three-wolves-isle-royale.html>

<http://www.ecanadanow.com/84-wolves-killed-in-b-c-cull-to-save-cari>



## Happy Birthday Manilita (AKA F522) The oldest Mexican wolf EVER

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service's Wolf Recovery staff and the official Studbook Keeper for the Mexican Wolf confirm that Manilita, at 18 years, has broken the previous record of 17 years and 3 months of known aged Mexican wolves.

**T**his "senior" wolf was born at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado on May 3rd 1997.

She was released into the wild in 2000 and was returned to captivity after only a few months with her mate George (M728) when they challenged domestic dogs in their new territory. Although Manilita has lived most of her life in captivity, she is still an independent and "wild-acting" wolf and will spend the rest of her years with her long-time friend and mate George.

Congratulations to a wonderful old lady!

**Source:** AZ. Timber Wolf Information Network

# Wolves – A veterinary perspective

As a veterinary surgeon in a very mixed practice, I am often questioned about my most unusual patients. We see all sorts of odd creatures: the polystyrene box full of a writhing mass of illegally imported snakes comes to mind, for example. When it comes to a stimulating challenge, and not just a curiosity, my lupine patients are high on the list. During the eight years attending the Trust, we have been presented with a number of interesting problems, plus the delight of watching six cubs grow and develop.

**A**nimals present diverse challenges when it comes to examination and treatment. Most farmers will have a metal ‘crush’ to hold cows still for examination, to reduce the danger from nervous bovines unused to close human contact. For nervous dogs, muzzles can usually be applied, and professional handlers relied on to control the mastiffs, German shepherds and other guard dogs that may be ready to bite a stranger. For most domestic pets, various forms of chemical restraint are also readily available to facilitate minor procedures. Cats on a short fuse, for example, are readily restrained for a delicate but uncomfortable procedure by being placed briefly in a box full of anaesthetic gas.

## How do you handle a wolf?

With wolves, strong physical restraint or muzzling is not an option; as much as possible is attempted with the minimum of disturbance to the animal. A typical medical consultation starts with history taking, relying on the observations of the regular handlers and volunteers who know the wolves’ behaviour and normal habits. Knowing what is normal behaviour for each individual can alert me to changes that may indicate the start of a disease process. In

some cases, behavioural changes may not be directly related to the clinical problem. Massak developed a tendency to suck his flanks, which could have been a sign of skin or abdominal problems but ultimately proved to be a clinical red herring, the lupine equivalent of thumb sucking. When consulting, I always watch the patient walking through the door; even in a few seconds you can glean a lot of useful information about the animal’s temperament and general demeanour. This is more complicated at the Trust; my patients are wary of a stranger, but observation even at a distance is still an important part of any diagnostic process.

## The examination

The next stage of any consultation is the physical examination, where life becomes interesting! Most wolves that can be put on a lead will allow themselves to be gently examined, and I always try to do this in a manner suggestive of gentle stroking rather than a systematic clinical palpation. It is often quite obvious what can and cannot be achieved; the handler and I carefully monitor reactions for signs of discomfort or agitation. Unfortunately, some examinations rely on pain response to further a diagnosis, such as when examining a leg for

lameness in the absence of visible swelling, where pinpointing the spot is by feeling the animal pull its leg away when the sore joint is tweaked. Gentleness is the order of the day. Many animals suffering severe pain will not display obviously overt signs, but merely show reduced activity and low appetite, rather than vomiting or diarrhoea, which would be the presenting complaint in a domestic pet.

One of the elderly wolves at the Trust died from pancreatic cancer. The onset of overt symptoms was very rapid, although the illness must have been present for some weeks with only slight behavioural changes seen during this time. Eventually she lay down and stopped eating; the handlers saw a major problem and I was called. When examining her abdomen, it was apparent that there was a lot of pain, as would be expected with the condition. Sadly, she died shortly afterwards.

## Treatment options

We make extensive use of oral medication, which usually involves hiding tablets within sausages! Wherever possible, any treatment that might make the patient suspicious of the handler or the vet is avoided. Some wolves are more forgiving than others, but others have a more precise memory: one European wolf, Lunca, having once had a routine vaccination, then retreated to a very safe distance as soon as I appeared. It is usually possible to give injections quite painlessly, as long as the wolf keeps reasonably still, and there are subterfuges we use to avoid arousing suspicion. Topical treatments, such as ointments and antiparasitic preparations, are normally well tolerated. Summer 2014 produced a particular problem with flies giving sores around the ear flaps; repellent lotions were applied, which were well tolerated and appeared to do the trick.



Julian with Tundra held by Clive Readings. She has a broken toe and a plaster cast on. Photograph by Danny Kidby-Hunter

A number of wolves have needed quite long courses of treatment, either antibiotics for infections or anti-inflammatory medications for arthritic older wolves, all of which were satisfactorily administered orally.

One of the more interesting medical cases was Dakota, who developed lymphoma, a cancer of the white blood cells. The first sign was a mammary swelling, which was removed. Five months later Dakota showed generalised swelling of all of her glands, the typical presentation of the disease. Intensive chemotherapy for lymphoma carries a good rate of remission, but the impractical nature of repeated injections and the associated blood sampling for a wolf meant that we decided on oral cortisone therapy. This gave a quick resolution of the symptoms, and Dakota survived with treatment for three and half years, longer than any canine lymphoma I have treated.

### Surgery

Operating on wolves presents interesting challenges. Beside elective neuterings, that can be planned in advance, there have been emergency cases, such as Tala, the cub that got

its foot trapped and had to have a toe amputated. There are no surgical facilities at the Trust, so we have always sedated the wolves on site before transporting them to the surgery. The chance of post-operative complications has to be minimised due to the difficulties in handling, which necessitates operating in the sterile environment of the clinic rather than trying to work on site, which I normally do on a farm when carrying out an emergency caesarian section, for instance. The use of sedatives is something of an art form, as the response varies from one individual to another depending on temperament and bodyweight. Unduly heavy sedation can compromise the subsequent anaesthetic and recovery, whilst too little sedation will result in a wolf arriving at the practice in an excited state, unwilling to submit to intravenous injection!

### Complications

On one very hot June day, two wolves due for surgical procedures were satisfactorily sedated at the Trust and loaded into the trailer, but we encountered major traffic problems en route. Most of the sedative had worn off by the time we arrived, and

we were faced with re-injecting the wolves in the confines of the trailer – not easy, but necessary because attempting to transfer them whilst only slightly drowsy raised too much risk of an escapee, which did not bear consideration! Normally I try and keep the wolves sedated until they return to the Trust so that they recover in familiar surroundings and stress is minimised. So far, all of the routine surgical procedures carried out have had successful outcomes. Neutering is carried out exactly as for a large canine, always using dissolvable skin sutures.

As part of the licensing of the Trust, regular visits are made to check on the wolves' general health and to discuss diet, worming, vaccination and non-urgent problems. In the course of my duties at the Trust, we have managed to repair fractures and lacerations, administer contraceptive implants and carry out pregnancy scans and neutering, so there are always plenty of challenges. The wolves are magnificent creatures, and treating them has always been a uniquely enjoyable and rewarding experience.

**Julian Slater**  
BVSc DBR MRCVS

# A Conservationist's Path

## An Interview with Pete Haswell

### When, how and why did you become involved with the UKWCT?

Well, I'm informed that my interest in canines started young. My first word was 'dog' although I was looking at a cat at the time. Clearly my taxonomy skills needed work but I was hooked from the get go. I first saw the Trust's wolves at a country fair when I was 13 or 14. I was at the fair volunteering for a swan rescue



centre and couldn't wait to go over and talk with members of the Trust. The volunteers were super friendly and answered all my wide-eyed questions about wolves. I was given a pamphlet that I kept for a number of years, later getting in contact. I was completing my undergraduate degree at Southampton and enquired about options for gaining further experience. In 2008, I completed a two week student placement, enjoying myself immensely, learning from the friendly team and consequently staying on through my Easter holiday. I began making arrangements to conduct my dissertation with the Trust.

### What was the subject of your undergraduate dissertation research at the Trust?

I remember desperately trying to think of something that might have some application for wolves in the wild. I had read widely to develop my ideas and wanted to impress the Trust team with a solid research plan. My time at the Trust had really inspired me and made me even more passionate about conservation. After some discussions and advice from the education team we decided on the topic of livestock protection devices. I examined the response of the Trust's wolves to several simple devices such as flagging and wind chimes that might work as additional tools that those farmers without large budgets could apply to help protect their stock when corralled (Wolf Print, Issue 38).

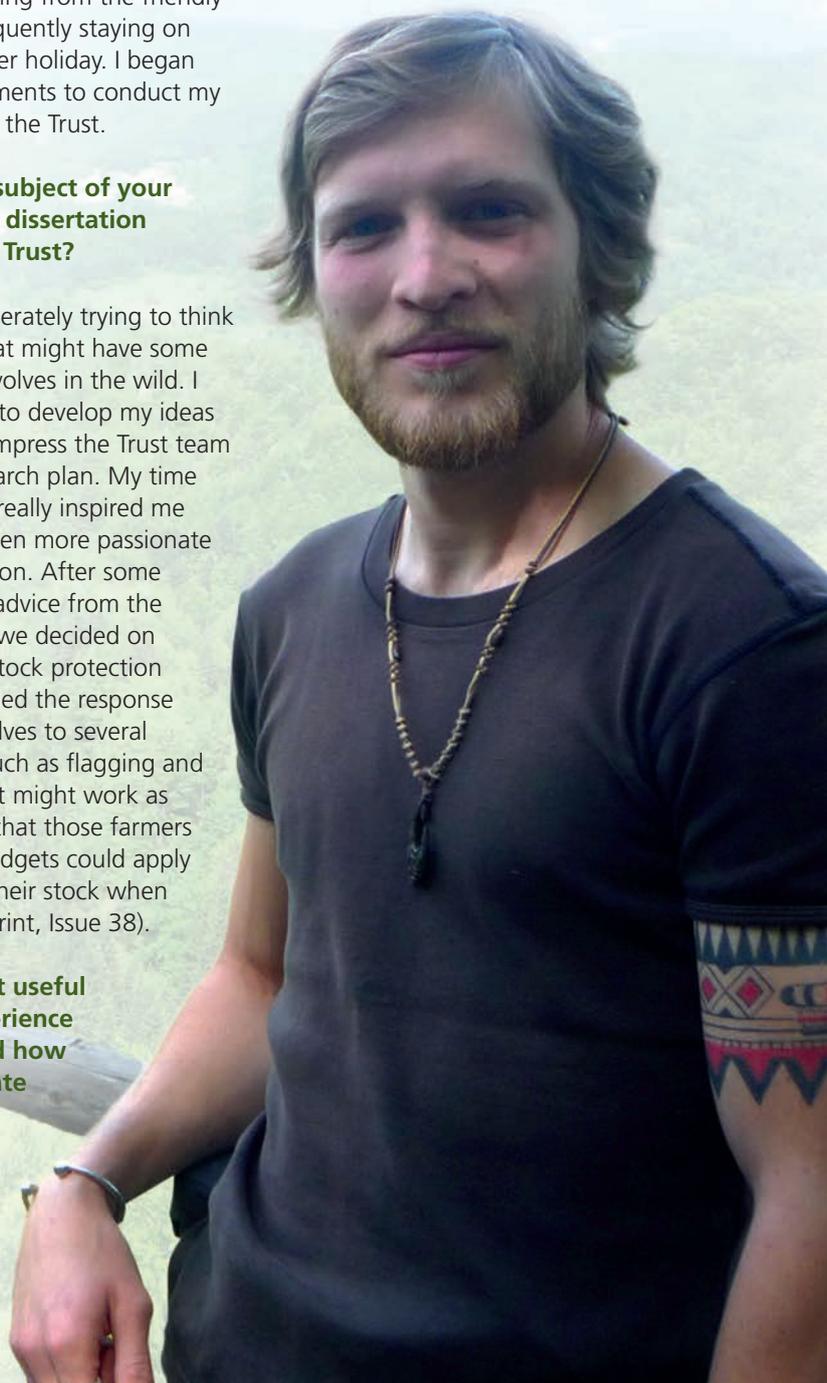
### What was most useful about the experience you gained and how did that translate worldwide?

Hard to put my finger

on just one thing. Certainly being inspired and developing an incredible passion for wolf conservation has been something that has stayed with me ever since. I gained a great deal of experience in animal care, writing articles, creating educational resources and public engagement, to name a few. The most useful thing has to be the knowledge I gained and the platform it provided to further my experience as a researcher.



Pete working with Josip Kusak



I conducted my first scientific investigations at the Trust and learnt more still from my time with Elena Tsingarska on the Trust's exchange programme in Bulgaria (Wolf Print, Issue 40). Through the UKWCT, I have gone on to gain further experience with a number of organisations.

### How did you become involved with Defenders/Wood River project?

Suzanne Stone had been made aware of me through contacts at the Trust and my articles in Wolf Print. There was a vacancy for a wolf field technician on the Wood River Project and she enquired with me to see if I was interested. This project (Wolf Print, Issue 45) is a fantastic example of conflict resolution, so I jumped at the chance! The knowledge I gained about livestock protection during my dissertation with the Trust and my experience with traditional husbandry techniques in Bulgaria set me up perfectly for the role.

By this time I had also begun working with Professor Josip Kusak in Croatia. The experience I had gained with Josip in Croatia and Elena in Bulgaria gave me an extra edge and allowed me to offer a range of wolf survey skills to the project. Through the Trust there had effectively been a long



**“My time at the Trust had really inspired me and made me even more passionate about conservation.”**

chain of international knowledge transfer and collaboration. I'm still collaborating with Suzanne on conference presentations and research papers. I think myself lucky to be an example of how the Trust works on building up a network of like-minded conservationists. I'm even starting to pass on some of the skills and knowledge I have picked up over the years and currently have interns and students from the university helping

with our Croatian research. So it's a network that hopefully continues to grow and include the next generation of conservationists as it has for me.

### Why did you decide on working/studying in Croatia?

After returning from Bulgaria, I continued my pursuits in conservation and further academia. I had read about several of the projects the Trust sponsors and was really interested in Josip's work on green bridges and habitat connectivity. I was put in contact with Josip by the Trust and we began discussing ideas. A student in Croatia had just completed some ▶



Pete working with Josip Kusak



## An Interview with Pete Haswell

work on my initial topic of enquiry but Josip needed for some assistance with activity pattern studies. He made me aware of a training course in Poland and I was awarded a scholarship to attend the course, thanks to my prior experience. We met there and made plans for a research collaboration. Josip is an incredibly knowledgeable man and still amazes me to this day with how he is able to turn his hand to almost anything. I was incredibly keen to assist and learn from him and still do now. A shared passion for conservation has resulted in a long and productive friendship and our research has since expanded into a rather exciting study on interactions between species.

### How has writing for Wolf Print helped you?

Writing for Wolf Print over the years has kept me actively involved in wolf conservation issues, continued to progress my acquisition of knowledge in order to write articles and has offered me a platform to help inform and inspire others, as well as encourage those who I wish to work with of my credibility. But more than that, it helps to keep me motivated in pursuing my goals and aspirations. It's not been a bed of roses over the years, trying to make conservation activities happen and finding a career in the sector is challenging. It's a great thing to know that there are



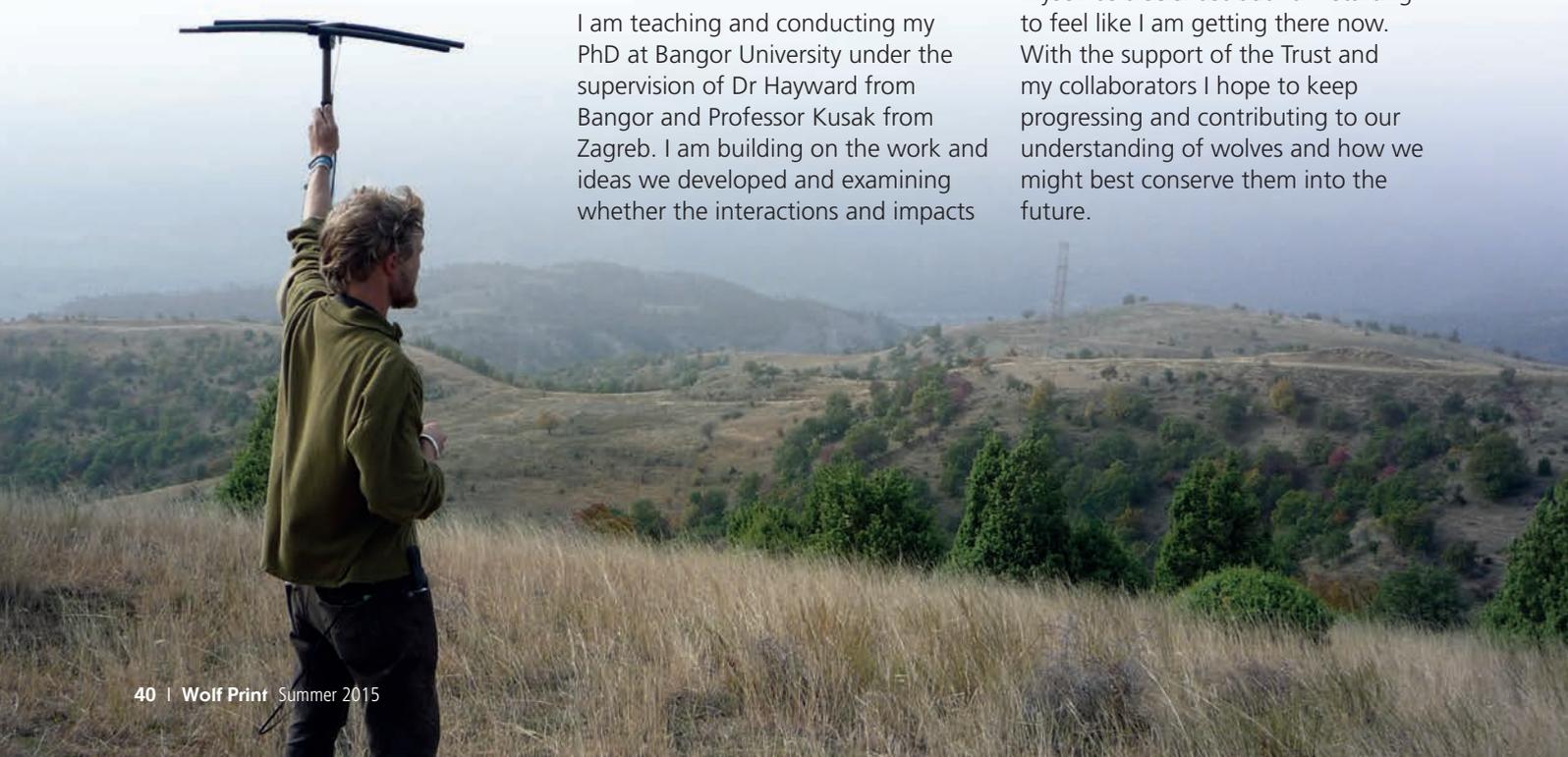
**“I think myself lucky to be an example of how the Trust works on building up a network of like-minded conservationists.”**

so many people reading Wolf Print, supporting the Trust's activities and following the progress of the projects it supports. Having this confirmation from the Trust and its supporters really does let you know you must be doing something right with your work and helps you to keep going.

### What are you doing now and what plans do you have for the future?

I am teaching and conducting my PhD at Bangor University under the supervision of Dr Hayward from Bangor and Professor Kusak from Zagreb. I am building on the work and ideas we developed and examining whether the interactions and impacts

wolves have on other species are affected by human activity. I find the concept of trophic cascades fascinating. It's enthralling to try to understand and help protect the role of wolves in ecosystems. I'll be working on this for the next few years and after that I hope to continue my career in academia and progress my work with wolves even further. It's been a long road establishing myself as a scientist but I am starting to feel like I am getting there now. With the support of the Trust and my collaborators I hope to keep progressing and contributing to our understanding of wolves and how we might best conserve them into the future.





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Tel: 0118 9714411 [www.holidayinn.com/readingwest](http://www.holidayinn.com/readingwest)

\*subject to availability



# WOLF AWARENESS WEEKEND

On September 19/20, at the Lindsay Stewart Lecture Theatre in Edinburgh, wolf behaviour experts, authors, biologists and wildlife cinematographers from across the globe will gather to share lives spent working with and observing wolves. There is much to learn about the future of co-existing with *canis lupus*. Dave Mech, Bob Landis, Carter Niemeyer, Jim Crumley, Sabrina Nowak, Lori Schmidt, Troy Bennett and our own Kirsty Peake will be speaking at the event.

It is a weekend not to be missed. Two fascinating days that will explore in depth the behaviour and habits of the wolf. There will be stimulating discussions and debates aimed at answering questions and concerns that arise from wolf-mankind co-existence. There will also be a review of the obstacles and solutions surrounding the possible reintroduction of the wolf into the Scottish Highlands.

Stunning new film footage of the daily lives and adventures of wolf packs will be presented along with reports on how our European neighbours have learned to co-exist and live harmoniously with wolves in the wild. There will also be a discussion regarding the pros and cons of living with wolves and the use of non-lethal effective wolf management strategy.

A special presentation via satellite from the International Wolf Center in Minnesota will allow you to meet their resident pack and learn what it is like to live and work with captive socialised wolves.

In recent years wolf activity in Europe is gaining momentum as they have begun to occupy territories which have seen their absence for a long time. It has been over 270 years since the last wolf was claimed to have been killed and the howls of a wild wolf pack were heard in the highlands of Scotland. In recent years parts of Europe including Scandinavia, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Poland, Ukraine and The Czech Republic, the wolf has made a comeback.

Since the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park in 1995, wildlife biologists and scientists have observed dramatic changes and improvement to the landscape and a balance to the ecosystem since the restoration of its natural apex predator.

The Wolf Awareness Weekend is open to anyone with an interest in wolves. They welcome students and offer discounted registration fees. Don't delay and register today to ensure your place. This is going to be truly special.

**For full details, please refer to: <http://www.wolf-awareness2015.com>**



## Interview with Geoff Taylor Artist and Illustrator

You have illustrated books for a stellar line-up of fantasy/sci-fi authors, including one of my earliest literary fantasy heroes, Michael Moorcock. Was this always a genre you admired and read?

I used to read sci-fi years before I was first ever commissioned for this genre. I more or less began to get commissions when the sci-fantasy output began to take off. This necessitated me reading a lot of stuff I wouldn't have done through choice. There were however some real gems, and stand out authors such as Robert Holdstock.

Could you tell us about some of the books you have illustrated?

Would be too much of a long story, but you may find something relevant



Geoff Taylor

in the link below. <http://www.geofftaylor-artist.com/node/1689>

It must have been quite an incredible experience to work on the War of the Worlds album. How was that to work on?

TWOTW was an unhappy experience. The art direction was prescribed to such an extent that I felt constrained. It became almost a paint by numbers exercise and I think the job suffered because of it.

How do you go about planning a cover? Do you have a specific process? How much input is given by the author or do some authors completely hand over to your imagination?

This question may not be relevant any more, since the advent of digital art., traditional artists such as myself have gone the way of the dinosaurs. Also marketing research suggests that sci-fantasy covers should be toned down to encourage wider readership. But to answer your question, it used to be thus:

I would accept a commission from a publisher sometimes from the editor or through a designer on the publishing team. I would read the MS [if unpublished], or a synopsis. They might be able to point me in a certain direction, very occasionally they would need me to talk to the author.

The following stage: pencil roughs and reference searching before something more definitive in colour that can be sent for approval. If given the go-ahead the finished artwork is produced. Latterly all artworks scanned and digital images sent to the publisher.

How did the contact with Michelle Paver come about?

The editor of Orion Children's Books contacted me, saying she had a book series that was just up my street. It certainly was, the adventures of Wolf and Torak were well written and a joy to illustrate. This commission was directly channelled through the editor from Michelle Paver.

What was the remit that Michelle gave you for the Chronicles of Darkness novels?

As the above I had no direct contact with Michelle Paver but she supplied me with the necessary reference to the artefacts, and her rough map outlines. She also vetted the rough visuals prior to finished artwork. The covers of the Chronicles of Ancient Darkness are not my artwork, only the illustrations and maps inside.

Wildlife is clearly a passion for you, wolves in particular. Please tell us a little about why they appeal to you, as a human but also as an artist.

I will have to cheat on this one. Instead I hope you are familiar with the brilliant book 'Of Wolves and Men' by Barry Lopez? There is an epigraph by Henry Beston (who wrote The Outermost House'). I beg you to read this if you are unaware of it, because it expresses it all better than anything I could say. (Beston is the writer who said that 'They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations. Nature is a part of our humanity, and without some awareness and experience of that divine mystery man ceases to be man.')

<http://www.geofftaylor-artist.com>



# The Wild Beyond

Piers Torday

Paperback 325pp Quercus Fiction

RRP £7.99 ISBN-13: 978-1848668485

*'So this is our party. Three children, a flock of scatty pigeons led by an eagle, a wolf, a silent toad and a dog with crystal jaws who might or might not be our friend.'*

It's a sad day, but in the triptych of Kester Jaynes' adventures, this is truly the final chapter. After the wonderful buzz, humour and pace of *The Last Wild* and *The Dark Wild*, we are in *The Wild Beyond*. The second of *The Wild* trilogy received the Guardian Fiction Prize; it was clear that Kester and creator Torday had hit their stride. In this third installment, the planet has never been in more need of a hero, of heroes – as it struggles to sustain life and thrive in a destructive age.

In the city of Premium things do not look good – the earth is dying and it is important that life, in the guise of a DNA from a precious iris, is found. But will it be a sea mammal, the wise and enigmatic whale, who points the way to a utopian Faraway where the true answer might be found?

Our red-haired hero Kester has come a long way in his fight for survival, for answers. His raggle-taggle band of animal companions have broken the laws of nature – the one that dictates that they hunt one another – simply to help Kester in his quest. Of course, they can also talk and the ugly and lesser loved creatures are drawn by the author with as much respect and empathy as the prettier, fluffier or loveable ones.

Last late year Torday, in an interview with *The Guardian*, remarked that: 'I think we need to value all nature not just the beautiful ones.' It's a pertinent modern message, in an age where cuddly animals seem to receive a disproportionate amount of attention and controversially, the lion's share (no pun intended) of donated charity.

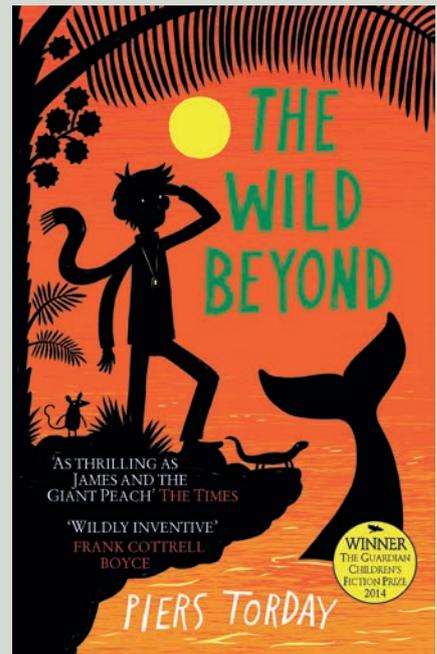
Why not love the cockroach or the toad?

*The Wild Beyond* is a meaty and excitingly paced read, where the biggest threat to the planet is from evil Stone, who is determined to encourage those who can afford it to leave and let it rot. Facto, the food company, are still holding all to ransom with their foul slop and this certainly makes a pertinent point about food monopoly, genetically modified foodstuffs and our destructive wastefulness. It's not a pleasant prospect for a future, in fiction or in reality.

Kester has two fiery companions: Aida and Polly, who are beautifully drawn and very much girls of the modern age – opinionated and strong; one streetwise, the other more of a country lass. Kester is also growing up quite significantly, developing his independence and formulating his future independently of his father.

His mother may be gone, her voice and her influence are still in Kester's head. The author is gentle but realistic when dealing with loss; there is a sensitivity, warmth and sense of kindness at the core – a sense that good and nature should triumph – throughout.

A hero would not be a hero without trials and inevitable tribulations. Kester has to face some toxic characters old and new – such as a less than cosy 'auntie'. The depiction of villains has been a particular strength in this trilogy but to balance, the introduction of each new species



and their particular characterisations is part of the fun too. The dolphins are somewhat pompous, wielding their vocabulary in their over-schooled way. The lizard-dragons were most definitely my favourite – true lounge lizards that are so laid back, they probably wink by opening one eye. Their attitude to life is most definitely: 'Cool. No problemo.'

Lupine-wise, the young wolf continues to play a central role and it's hard not to fall in love with him. He is an equal hero to our Kester. Yet will they ever see *The General* (a cockroach) again, or will Mouse, who used to dance, survive? That deft humour will certainly be appreciated by young teens: the mouse, when she is asked what kind of dance she is doing replies: 'A Dance of You Took Your Blooming Time!'

Recommended for any conservation-minded and animal loving young teen.

*Piers Torday's The Last Wild* was shortlisted for *Waterstones Children's Book Award* and nominated for the *CILIP Carnegie Medal*, as well as numerous other awards. His second book, *The Dark Wild*, won the *Guardian Children's Fiction Prize*.

<http://www.pierstorday.co.uk/me>



# Interview with Kay Sexton Author of Gatekeeper

(at Tate Modern Members' Room, London)



*“There was one species that could do it...engage me, open the debate and would fairly represent both sides... it had to be wolves.”*



Kay Sexton

## What was the starting point for Gatekeeper?

Over 20 years ago I was sitting round a dining table; I can't remember whether it was the revolving restaurant in Kuala Lumpur or in the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome)...with a bunch of people working on the exciting and sexy genetic diversity in staple food crops component of a research programme, of a think tank that I was running. I am absolutely fascinated by this. I love growing my own food...these guys were literally saying how can we make this sexy? My job was to organise the travel, make sure their rooms were OK and note down what they said. I was an administrator/raconteur. I didn't then know that I wanted to be a writer... It was vitally important to me that we preserve the teff and the cassava and the sorghum and all of these varieties that were keeping whole countries alive... I wanted everybody to get what I had got which was that incredible enthusiasm for the diversity, richness and power of this planet and

awareness of what we were doing, to destroy everything in a few generations that we as topline predators have become something that nothing had prepared for...we have done something that has changed the course of nature... I knew I had to write the book that would make environmental protection sexy...

## The novel feels carefully researched. Who did you consult?

I researched for three years ...and then I carried on researching for another two years while I was writing. I can't say names... the people that I was dealing was on one level: Forest Stewardship Council, Marine Conservation Society, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth... were a tiny step from the people who weren't welcome at the table... people working with Zapatista rebels down in Mexico... sometimes they were the same people on both sides of that line... a lot of those conversations when we went from the dinner table down to the bar moved from global governance to direct action... I did not deliberately mislead people because I didn't know what I was going to do with what they gave me... I held purse strings, I could fund projects... I gave and they gave... Some of those people are in prison now... Claire is just somebody who says: 'I've got the skills, I've got nothing to lose.'... the organisation that Claire gets into... it has become covert for its own sake. These are people who have been pushed outside of normal structures of society... marginalised. Fear pushes and radicalism pulls. If you allow someone to be pushed and pulled, they cannot get back in.

## Claire is a strong woman. Was your intention always that the Gatekeeper should be a woman?

Yeah I never had any doubt – for all kinds of reasons and I am going back to that very first dinner table conversation. The building blocks of society are around agriculture, nurture, shelter - at the most primary level it is women who do this stuff... they negotiate... they plant seeds, they harvest the crops... this is a female-focussed level of survival... I wanted to look at how it begins that we have to negotiate with our environment... it can be a brutal decision and I have known many many women have to make unbelievably tough decisions... the gatekeeper had to be a woman because we had to be able to see the negotiations going on... male heroes come down to character, not principles. We never talk about James Bond's principles... it ends up in the personality of the guy... so it was much easier to put that debate where there is a woman doing the debate because then we understand why she is torn... and sometimes why she reverses her decisions... that is the negotiation with the environment... I wrote this book on one level as a metaphor for *we can make a change*.

## What has been your experience of wolves in your life?

I did a reasonable amount of literature-based research - like Claire I watched a wolf pack on remote camera for over a year...a captive pack in the States but I watched them twice a day: early morning, early evening. I went to a couple of organisations that let you do wolf walks. One of which I was very impressed with, which was the UK Wolf Conservation Trust... I have met some wolf keepers from zoos and safari parks... I met some individual wolf keepers in Europe. Some of whom were licensed – they were interesting people and some of whom who were not licensed – they were really interesting and not comfortable to be around... scary guys...

## What did you find the trickiest part of the novel?

The trickiest part of the novel was Claire – nobody liked Claire. So many people liked the novel but said she

was not likeable. Too right – she’s not meant to be likeable - she wouldn’t have got there if she was likeable... I intended her to be *believable*. There is a whole trope in literature about why people insist that female characters be likeable. I was watching Breaking Bad... where Skyler White - the character - was being vilified in the

media for how controlling she was, for her lack of sense of humour... her husband is a drug dealer who has been lying to her for years and you think she should be nicer! ...We just don’t like strong women who say no.

**What have you found to be the general reaction to Gatekeeper?**

Amazing. I had come to the point as I think you do when you receive a very large number of rejections... I had fallen out of love with the book... I asked Hilary (Mantel) if she would read it... she came back with a very nice blurb for the cover... I needed one person to say that I took a difficult thing and did my best.



## Wolves on the Hunt

The Behaviour of Wolves Hunting Wild Prey

L. David Mech, Douglas W. Smith, Daniel R. Macnulty  
Hardback 187 pp The University Of Chicago Press  
RRP £50.99 ISBN-13: 978-0-226-25514-9

Since Yellowstone biologist Doug Smith spoke about it at a Trust seminar last year, I have been eagerly anticipating *Wolves on the Hunt*, which Smith co-authored with Dave Mech and Daniel Macnulty. Three experienced wolfy folk, scientists to the bone, with such amazing and lengthy exposure to wild lupines, were always going to produce something fascinating and valuable.

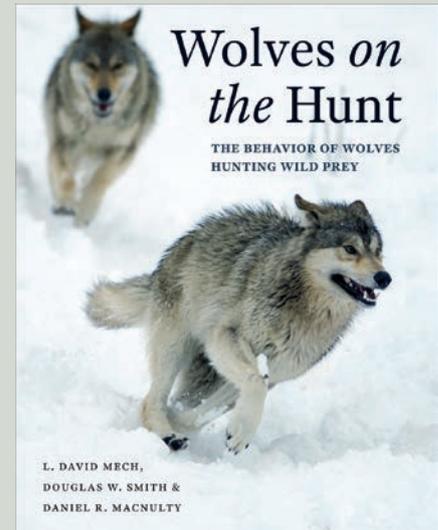
I was not disappointed. In carefully researched chapters, there is a meticulous set of hunting accounts collected over many years, neatly filed under the respective prey animals. Some accounts – which are a wonderful testimony to good, old-fashioned notetaking, stretch back to the 1930s – obviously well before the authors’ lifetimes. It reminds us too that science, rightfully, replaces assumptions and theories with fact – particularly when distinguishing patterns from purely random formations. Pure observation will always be tainted with human prejudice and agenda.

Theories will change and grow. The whole picture – those missing parts of the jigsaw that give us the whole picture of hunting behaviour, are now completed with ‘aircraft, radio tracking, blood analyses and genetic assessment.’ It is very much a visceral detective hunt. How old is the prey carcass? Did it carry disease or infirmity that would make it a more likely victim? As a ridiculously sensitive soul, I was a little worried

about exploring the more graphic side of the hunting process. I generally don’t enjoy suffering of any kind – even in written accounts. However, I managed to be detached and interested, even with the photographs – which were not gratuitous but simply illustrated the methods of track, trap and kill for each species. It is indeed the patterns that the wolves create that give valuable clues to how they treat their prey, teach their young.

I think people are always surprised when people in the know contradict the fact that the wolf is a very successful hunter. When hunting, the wolf is often thwarted, even injured. Prey animals can be vicious, assertive with hooves and horns, or just plain crafty or swift. Wolves are often on the verge of starvation – the longest a wolf has been without food is known to be 17 days, but when the food is there, a lupine will manage up to 10kg at one time. Wolfing it down indeed.

Hunting accounts in *Wolves on the Hunt* cover deer, moose, caribou, elk, bison, mountain sheep and goats, musk oxen and other various prey species. Bravery on both sides is very apparent – particularly when a wolf dares to approach a huge creature like the bison, or when any species chooses to face a determined predator like a wolf. It has been long known that wolves can pick up on almost imperceptible signals about vulnerability, but they also use ‘gaze cues’ where they watch



to see which animal is looking where. Ultimately, they are attuned to the natural world around them in a bid to survive and thrive.

I learnt dozens of fascinating things, such as elk preferring to flee across burned forests, where their dexterity gave them an advantage over lupine pursuers. Or the positives and negatives of creatures fleeing into water. It was always hard not to feel sorry for an animal hunted by any predator, particularly one who has been chased to exhaustion.

The book is an important reminder that to love the wolf, it is best to appreciate the whole animal – whether that be fairytale forest shadow, hunter or socially competent family-orientated creature. This impressive book is one for academics, scientists but also for the curious. Not to mention those among us who love to win arguments with good strong facts and stories. A book to admire and one that should make us appreciate that the wolf does not have an easy life, even if it is an apex predator.



# Mission: Wolf Rescue

Kitson Jazyuka/ Daniel Raven-Ellison.  
RRP £12.99 ISBN-13: 978-1426314940  
(For sale at the UKWCT £7.99)

One of the most exciting books I have read in a long time. *Mission Wolf Rescue* inspires and encourages children of all ages, and even adults, to explore their world.

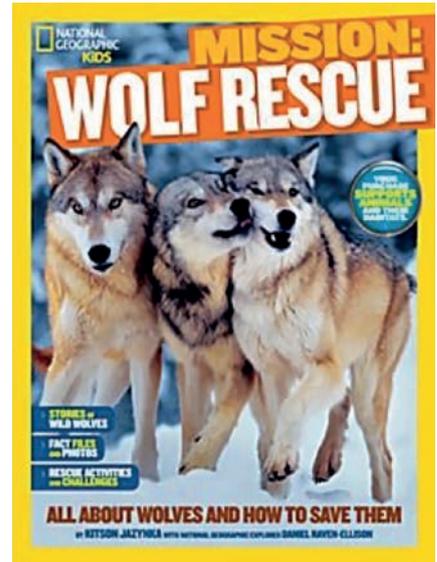
It gives informative ideas on how to be pro-active in saving the environment and the amazing animals, some of whom are critically endangered.

Dr Doug Smith, wolf biologist at Yellowstone National Park says: "We need to adopt the attitude that other animals besides humans are important too".

The back book cover explains to children that their mission is to learn all about how wolves live, the challenges they face, and what they can do to help rescue them. There are amazing adventure stories, breath-taking photography, superb graphics,

and exciting hands-on rescue activities all tied together with educational information and fun facts. The book lists additional resources in print and online for children wanting to explore further. Famous scientists and explorers are interviewed; myths and legends explored.

Jim and Jamie Dutcher, co-founders of Living with Wolves state that: "The ability of wolves to experience compassion and empathy is the single most important message about wolves we can share". Dave Mech, possibly the most famous wolf biologist of all, is quoted as saying: "The wolf is neither man's competitor nor his



enemy. He is a fellow creature with whom the earth must be shared."

This extraordinary book shows that wolves have lives just like humans - they have good times and bad times, lessons to learn, work to get done and families to raise. It is time to learn more about wolves so that we can help to ensure their future.

Wendy Brooker



# Wolf Totem Jiang Rong

PB, 544 pp. Penguin Books;  
Reprint edition. (March 31, 2009)  
RRP £12.99 ISBN-13: 978-0143115144

When student Chen Zhen is sent to "educate the nomads" in Inner Mongolia during the Chinese Cultural Revolution, he discovers more about the balance of nature and spirituality than he bargained for. According to wise old Bilgee, wolves stop grazers destroying the plains, send humans to heaven via "sky burial", and provide food with their enormous hunts. But in their drive for more farmland, headquarters want them eliminated at all costs, plunging man and wolf into an increasingly bloody war. To learn more about an enemy who frightens and fascinates him, Chen captures a cub to raise in captivity. Will it be the only wolf to survive the reaping of the grassland?

In Jiang Rong's semi-autobiographical novel both nomad and wolf are spiritual and savage. The former would rather freeze to death than sleep on a wolf pelt, but hunt and skin wolves for population control; the protagonist flits between scientific curiosity and guilt over the cub. And on one occasion, the wolves "speak" to heaven using the blood of the herd of horses they just slaughtered.

However, for all their brutality, the wolves are still the victims, and the story shows the harsh and tragic price of environmental ignorance. As the Chinese officers and migrants blunder into the grassland with traps and firecrackers, the wildlife is scattered and the plains turn to desert. In fact,



the outsiders have as much malice and depth as the traditional "big bad wolf" character.

At the same time there is a glimmer of hope at the end of the tale and in its popularity; purportedly the second best-selling book in China, *Wolf Totem* was successful enough for Chinese directors to approach Jean-

Jacques Annaud for film adaptation *Le Dernier Loup*, despite misgivings over *Seven Years in Tibet*.

This book pulls its weight but certainly not its punches. It's at pains to remind us that the battle for the wolf is far from over, but it's a fascinating glimpse

of a world where it's seen as a key player in the ecosystem and worthy of our respect. And until that world becomes a reality, it's more than worth stepping into. If you have a stomach as strong as the animal's.

Review by Jessica Jacobs

*Note: The film adaption of the book was released in China in February this year and elsewhere in the following months. There has been no UK release as yet but we hope to review the film in a further issue of Wolf Print.*



## The Wolf Border

Sarah Hall

Hardback 434 pp Faber & Faber

RRP £17.99 ISBN-13: 978-0-571-25812-3

The case of UK wolf reintroduction is a hot topic at the moment, amply aided by high profile conservationists with positive viewpoints like David Attenborough and Chris Packham. So it's interesting that this is the second novel I have reviewed on the subject this year and thankfully, another intelligent literary novel that explores the case for wolves in the UK but refuses to take the sensationalist route. The book was also serialised on Radio 4 back in May/June.

The *Wolf Border* is a novel where we are immediately strongly invested in Rachel, who is very much a lone wolf. She has family issues – particularly with her prickly, critical mother who is '...all bone and breasts under her coat...a body made to ruin men.' Her brother too is troubled, possibly sick. Rachel may be studying wolves in Idaho, being purposeful – but she is not in place, never home. Idaho is depicted as a brutal place for the wolf, which will have most of us nodding in recognition.

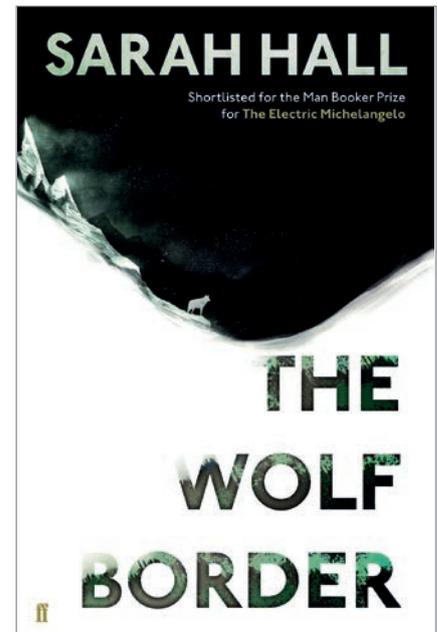
Back in the UK, Rachel is approached by Thomas Pennington. The aristocrat has a vision, a project and the money, to achieve another kind of placement altogether – an apex predator family into Cumbria. 'Sometimes,' he says 'a country just needs to be presented with the fact of an animal, not the myth.' He is a little cavalier about the risks and problems, not the most comfortable fit for the project and in fact a 'liability'. Yet the project

eventually pulls Rachel in – a project that involves a pair of breeding wolves to be placed in enclosures deep in Cumbrian countryside, with the idea that they will at some point be reintroduced to the landscape.

Author Sarah Hall has an impressive pedigree and has already been shortlisted for The Booker Prize, for an earlier book, *The Electric Michelangelo*. For *The Wolf Border*, she researched at the UKWCT.

Combined with evocative writing about place and people, the accurate research imbues the whole story with a sense of credibility and depth. Hall writes beautifully about the burden and gift of being a mother, a daughter and sibling. Particularly in the former, you can see the baby's plump legs, smell the milkiness of its head and truly hear its needy mewl. But most of all, you sense a carnivore on the wind when Rachel can, sense that there will be problems with holding things in, containing the wildness within borders of any kind and protecting our own.

This is a book about family, kin and belonging – a story that will leave a smoky resonance in your heart and head as you leave each page. It's hard to forget a wolf like Ra who 'glows in the winter gloom like halogen' or is 'like the blaze of a matchhead'. Named after the sun god, wolves are indeed described with exquisite dedication. If they wore t-shirts, I am sure that their title of 'God of all dogs' would be a perfect slogan.



There are plenty of personal boundary issues and the politics of power in *The Wolf Border*, as pups arrive and the possibility of success grows ever closer. It has a simple, powerful ending which like the rest of the book, is not overdone or cloying. Fundamentally this is about the grey wolf, but also about how much of ourselves we wish to trade and how many borders and boundaries we create, to retain our sense of privacy and sense of self. I loved the way it was written with a delicate, poetic hand – it made me ache for mountains, wilderness and wild places. A truly stunning book that has real feeling for the wolf at its core.

*Sarah Hall was born in Cumbria and has accumulated many awards for her work, including a Betty Trask Award and Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Haweswater. The Electric Michelangelo was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, The Carhullan Army won the 2006/07 John Llewellyn Rhys Prize.*

# Gifts, clothing and wolfy souvenirs



## UKWCT Wolf Coasters £4.00

Treasure a coaster of your favourite wolf. High-quality gloss and cork finish. Size: 9.5cm square.



## UKWCT T-shirts £16.00

100% cotton t-shirt, hand-drawn images designed by Ralf Nature.

Arctics are on navy t-shirt, Torak is on black, Motomo is on sand, Tundra is on olive green and Nuka is on brown.

XSmall	Chest size 96cm
Small	Chest size 100cm
Medium	Chest size 106cm
Large	Chest size 112cm
XLarge	Chest size 116cm
2XL	Chest size 124cm

*There is no XS for Motomo and Tundra.*



## Cut-Out Wolf Earrings £29.00

Evocative howling wolves, presented as stunning sterling silver earrings. Size: 2cm.

## Wolf Face Earrings £29.00

A handsome wolf face, set as sterling silver earrings. Size: 1.5cm wide x 2cm high.



## Mini-Wolf Running Earrings £22.00

Beautiful running wolves, hand-crafted as sterling silver earrings. Size: 1.5cm wide x 1cm high.

## Standing Wolf Pendant £50.00

A raised design, sterling silver wolf. Size: On clasp measures 2cm wide x 4cm high. Chain not supplied.

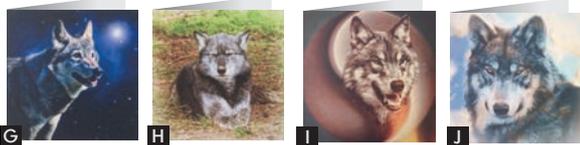


## Massak & Sikko Keyring £5.50

A silver-coated keyring featuring Massak & Sikko. Presented in a box. Size inc. ring 6.5cm.

## Turquoise Wolf Face Pendant & Necklace £55.00

A sterling silver pendant with inset turquoise stone. Wolf face, leaves, flower & feather engraving. Pendant length 4cm.



**Cards featuring the Trust's Wolves £2.40**

Various cards of Trust wolves, designed by Lorenzo Guescini. Blank inside for your own message, supplied with envelope. Sizes: All 15cm x 21cm, except Duma, Torak, Tala & Nuka, which are 15cm square.

- A. Solitude
- B. Light
- C. Moon
- D. The Valley
- E. I See You
- F. Dreamtime
- G. Stargazer
- H. Contemplation
- I. Yin Yan
- J. Air

- Mosi
- Motomo
- Sikko
- Mai
- Tundra
- Massak & Pukak
- Duma
- Tala
- Torak
- Nuka

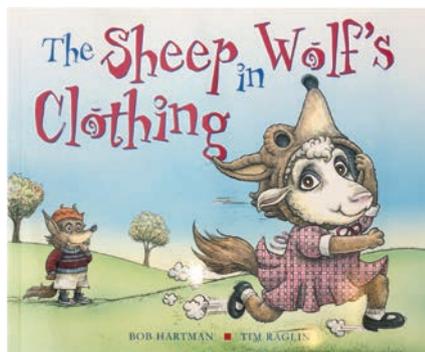


**UKWCT Bottle Top Opener £7.00**

A bottle top opener with images of all of the Trust's ten wolves. Length 9cm.

**Cut-Out Silver wolf pendant £20.00**

Sterling silver wolf cut-out pendant. Size: 2cm wide x 2.5cm high. Chain not supplied.



**The Sheep in Wolf's Clothing £5.99**

A pun-filled twist on the famous fable, humourously illustrated. Paperback 28 pages.



**Wolf & Moon Badge £4.50**

An embroidered patch of a wolf standing under a moon. Can be ironed or sewn onto all materials except leather. Size: 8cm wide by 8.5cm high.

**Wolf Face Badge £4.50**

The bold gaze of a wolf, as an embroidered patch. Can be ironed or sewn onto all materials except leather. Size: 7cm wide by 9cm high.

**10" Red Wolf £13.00**

A soft plush red wolf that has info attached on label about the breed. Detachable eyes & nose, so only suitable for ages 3 & over.

**20cm Cuddlekins £9.00**

A plush wolf that can be moved into different poses. 20cm height & length. Detachable eyes & nose, so only suitable for ages 3 & over.



**20th Anniversary T-shirt £14.00**

Pale blue t-shirt designed exclusively for the Trust featuring 20 years of UKWCT's wolves. Names inscribed within the paw prints.

- Small Chest size 94cm
- Medium Chest size 104cm
- Large Chest size 112cm
- XLarge Chest size 122cm
- 2XL Chest size 128cm.



**ORDERING & DELIVERY**

To view and order any of these items and our other stationery, clothing, books, 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.



# Howl Nights

Feel your backbone tingle and your ears vibrate with the sound. The evening starts 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! (Don't forget to dress up warmly for an evening under the stars). The event usually finishes from around 9 to 9.30pm.

**1 1th September, 3 1st October**  
(Halloween costume allowed), **1 3th November**  
& **4th December, 7pm – 9.30pm**

£10 per person. Age 8+ – Booking essential.



# Wolf Keeper Experience Days

See behind the scenes at the Trust and shadow the keeper in tasks including cleaning out the wolf enclosures, preparing food and feeding the wolves. Learn more about the Trust and the worldwide wolf conservation projects it

supports. Get involved in our wolf enrichment programme, walk with wolves, snap up great photo opportunities, watch our resident kites circling overhead at feeding time and receive a souvenir event certificate of your day.

**Thursdays, 10am–4pm**

Please check website for dates.

£150 per person. Maximum 8 people per day. Age 18+ – Booking essential.



# UKWCT Wolf Centre 'Visit Wednesdays'

Visit Wednesdays give you the opportunity to come and see the Trust without pre-booking, unlike our other events. You will be able to observe our ten very charismatic wolves – from our three Arctics with their amazing white coats, to our enigmatic black Canadian wolves – and have a guided tour with one of our knowledgeable volunteers. There will be fantastic photographic views of the wolves in their large, natural-looking enclosures and you'll

have access to the raised photographic platform on site. If you're lucky you may even hear them howl! We have picnic areas for warmer days, a gift shop for you to browse for books and souvenirs, and plenty of free parking.

Learn of the wolf conservation work and projects the trust supports (watch the trust video). Nature trail / quiz. Children's activities in education centre.

**Wednesdays – Open from 11am to 4pm**

ADMISSION: Adults – £8; Members, children (age 3-12) & OAPs – £5; Children under 3 – FREE. Tickets on the gate only. Sorry, no dogs on site.



## MEET QUIRKS ANIMAL ROADSHOWS

Come along on 22nd July, 29th July, 5th August, 12th August, 19th August, 26th August and meet snakes, bearded dragons, skinks, geckos, spiders (including tarantula), rabbits, ducks and chickens.





# Arctic Amble

Enjoy a walk with our magnificent Arctic wolves and the wonderful photographic opportunities they provide. View all of the Trust's wolves and spend time getting to know the handlers who work with these amazing animals. Afterwards, there will be time to shop for a wolfy souvenir! Maximum 16 people.

**9am – 11am**

Please check our website for dates.

£60 per person.

Age 18+ – Booking essential.

# Predator Day

**The ultimate experience for animal and wildlife enthusiasts:**

Spend a whole day with the world's most powerful and enthralling predators... wolves and raptors. The morning includes a two-hour walk with wolves around the Trust in beautiful Berkshire countryside. There will be ample opportunities for photography on the walk as well as handling and flying the birds of prey in the

afternoon. There will also be time to see and photograph all the wolves at the Trust including the UK's first Arctic wolves. Our Predator Day is the only way in the UK to walk with wolves in the morning and fly a hawk in the afternoon. Please bring a packed lunch.



**Saturday 12th September, 10am – 4pm**

£120 per person.

Age 16+ – Booking essential.



# Wolf Viewing & Bat Walk

- Tour the Trust and see the wolves up close
- Wolf photography opportunities and howling session
- Presentation by an expert on the life of bats in the UK
- Walk round the Trust at dusk to see long-eared bats flying

The Trust is home to many bats, many of which live in nesting boxes on trees.

**Saturday 18th July 8pm,  
Saturday 15th August 7pm &  
Saturday 19th September, 5.30pm.**  
£15 per person. Age 8+ – Booking essential.



# THE ULTIMATE WOLF DAY: a magical lupine experience

- Spend an amazing day at the UKWCT in the company of our ten wolves
- Walk with both the Arctic and Canadian wolves
- The day involves **TWO** walks, allowing you to get up really close and watch the wolves investigate the countryside around the Trust
- Photograph the wolves as they: interact with each other, investigate various scents, paddle in the pond or stream and howl to the other wolves left behind
- Together with our experts, you will then feed the wolves and get involved with our wolf enrichment programme
- See close up how we care for these magnificent animals
- Learn about the support the UKWCT has given to worldwide wolf conservation in the last 20 years



**Saturday 19th September & Sunday 11th October, 10am to 3.30pm**  
 £175 per person, £300 for 2 people. Limited spaces. For adults 18+

## Moth Talk and Wolf Viewing

Moth talk presented by Les Finch of the Berkshire Moth Group

- Welcome and introduction
- Tour the Trust and see our wolves up close
- Presentation on moths
- See moth lights in action
- View live moths

**Friday 7th August, 7.30pm**

£10 per person. Minimum age 10 – Booking essential.



## Photography Day

Held in the winter months when the wolves look their best in their thick winter coats, the day starts with a brief presentation about the history of the Trust, the worldwide wolf conservation projects we support and the stories of our ten resident wolves.

Each of the four wolf packs can be photographed from an adjoining enclosure where there are specially made holes for cameras, giving great results. Expert handlers

will encourage the wolves to stand in the best position in their enclosures. You will also be able to use our special raised photography platform.

You will be taken on a walk with the wolves in the fields surrounding the Trust, which includes some wooded areas, a small pond and a stream for some natural shots. 10am to 4pm (refreshments but not lunch included, so please bring your own).

**3rd October & Sunday 1st November, 10am – 4pm**

£150 per person. INCLUDES WOLF WALK. Suitable for all abilities – Booking essential.

