

Wolf Print

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Issue 48 Spring 2013



DUMA
1998–2012

■ NEWS ■ EVENTS ■ MEDIA AND ARTS ■ REVIEWS



Editor's Letter

Firstly, I must offer my sincerest apologies to photographer Jimmy Jones whose beautiful image was on the front cover of Edition 47 but was incorrectly credited. In this edition, there is an interview with Jimmy with more of his lovely images featured.

Christmas has come and gone and we are into another New Year, looking forward to all that it has to offer. The wolves are entering the breeding season and although we don't allow the wolves here at the Trust to breed, their hormones still rise and fall in time with the seasons. During February both of our pairs Mosi and Torak, Mai and Motomo are given some time to themselves in their enclosures. Find out all that they have been up to in the wolf update on pages 8 to 10. It's a fantastic time of year for our students to watch the wolves' courtship and mating behaviours but it can prove a little tricky to explain to some of our younger visitors just what the wolves are up to while 'tied.' With this in mind we have included an article on wolf cub development on page 14.

This time in Wolf Print we will be remembering Duma who we sadly lost in November. She was a true ambassador for her species. In tribute to an amazing wolf, Duma is featured on the front cover and there is a summary of her life and work on pages 16 and 17. She will be greatly missed. We are also remembering a dear friend and volunteer Joan Paddick who sadly passed away in December and have launched a photography competition in her memory (see opposite). Our thoughts are with her family at this time and she will be very much missed.

The nights are finally getting longer now and spring will soon be with us, so my thoughts have turned to our half term and Easter children's activities. We have some creative ideas this time to help you keep your children occupied during the school holidays. We are also looking forward to our first Open Day of 2013 on bank holiday Monday May 27th. For full details of all our events please see pages 31 and 32.

Wishing you all a happy New Year and the wolves and I look forward to seeing you here during 2013.

Vicky Allison-Hughes

Education Officer / Assistant Senior Wolf Handler / Wolf Print Editor

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WOLF PRINT

Published by The UK Wolf Conservation Trust, Butlers Farm, Beenham, Reading, RG7 5NT.
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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.

Download Wolf Print, including back issues, from www.ukwolf.org

Design and artwork by Business Pluspoint: www.businesspluspoint.co.uk | 01305 457084

Printed by: Pensord, NP12 2YA. www.pensord.co.uk on FSC paper from sustainable forest sources.

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The Joan Paddick Photography Awards 2013

WIN

A signed copy of
Living with Wolves
and a UKWCT
Photo Day



Ever dreamt of following in the footsteps of greats like Monty Sloan, Jamie Dutcher or Art Wolfe and pursuing a career as a wildlife photographer? If so, this new photography competition may be just what you need to help you on your way!



The Competition

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust is excited to announce the launch of its new annual wildlife photography competition, in memory of Joan Paddick, who was a keen photographer and valued volunteer of The UK Wolf Conservation Trust (see obituary on page 6). Joan was known for her quirky images and in light of this, freshness, originality, creativity and innovation will need to be in the forefront of entrants' minds while they are lining up their shot and should be reflected in all submitted images.

**Competition open from
Monday 4th February to Monday 5th August 2013**

The Theme

This year's theme is **'British Wildlife.'** The competition is open to everyone with a camera and a passion for wildlife! We are looking to promote an eco-friendly ethos while out photographing wildlife in their natural environments, therefore entrants must bear this in mind and consider the welfare of their subjects to ensure that they do not do anything to injure or distress any animals or destroy their habitat in an attempt to secure an image.

The Prizes

Exclusive photography day for the winners on Saturday 12th October 2013

An exclusive photographic experience at The UK Wolf Conservation Trust. The winners and one accompanying guest will spend the day with the Wolf Trust team learning about wolves and photographing the Trust's ambassadors. Winners will have access to the photographic viewing areas and platform throughout the morning and then will join some of the wolves on their afternoon walk.* The day will finish back at the Trust where the winners can watch the wolves being fed and will go away with a memento of their day.

The prizes are as stated and the winners will be notified by 9th September 2013.

The overall winner of the Joan Paddick Photography Award 2013 will also receive a signed copy of Emmy Award-winners Jim and Jamie Dutchers' *"Living With Wolves."*

* Due to UKWCT policies, the winner of the 6 to 12 years category will be unable to attend the afternoon walk on 12th October but will be awarded a place on one of our children's wolf walks.

How to Enter

One entry per person. Print or digital entries accepted.
See page 6 for full competition entry details.



The Rules

See page 6 for competition rules.

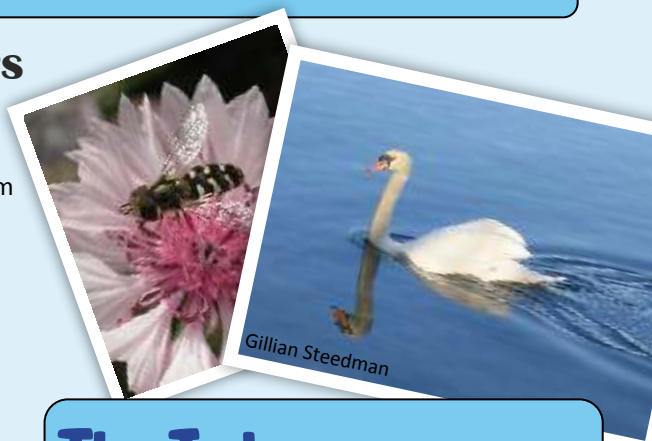
The Categories

18 years+ (excluding Wolf Team category below)

6 to 12 years (age as at 5th August 2013)*

13 to 17 years (age as at 5th August 2013)

The Wolf Team (UKWCT employees, volunteers and their immediate families)



The Judges

Tsa Palmer – UKWCT Director and co-founder
Danny Kidby-Hunter – Assistant Education Officer/Assistant Wolf Keeper, editor of Wolf Chronicle, amateur photographer
Vicky Allison Hughes – Education Officer, editor of Wolf Print, amateur photographer

Guest Judges

Jamie and Jim Dutcher – Emmy Award-winning filmmakers (www.livingwithwolves.org)
Bob Brind-Surch – naturalist and wildlife photographer (www.naturesphotos.co.uk)

Trust News

2012 Wolf Awareness Week

WOLF AWARENESS WEEK in 2012 celebrated the wolf in science, art, sculpture,



photography and literature, with a whole assortment of events taking place throughout the week.

The seminar was a great success and it was fantastic to see the Education Room full of enthusiastic faces ready to learn, and four fantastic speakers. Read more about the seminar on the next page.

CHILDREN'S WRITING DAY

We had a day with Michelle Paver and students from two local primary schools eager to learn literature, research and writing from this fantastic author; a lucky few also had their work reviewed and commented on by Michelle.

WILD ART DAY

Following on from this we had our first Wild Art Day at the Trust with students from a local college learning new techniques in stone sculpture, 2D and 3D artwork as well as sharpening their photography skills. We were lucky enough to work with three brilliant teachers: Bob Brind-Surch, wildlife photographer, who worked with



the photography students, Andrew Hood who taught the art of stone sculpture to small groups of students for whom it

was the first time they had tried working with a chisel and hammer, and Paul Robbins who taught sketching and 3D ceramic work to groups of fine art students, giving them the chance to sketch the wolves from real life.

OPEN DAY AND WILLOW WORKSHOP

We also enjoyed our last open day of 2012 during the

week and had many visitors to tour the Trust, speak to our volunteers, photograph or just enjoy watching the wolves in their enclosures.

Visitors were encouraged to pop into the barn where a willow workshop was taking place run by artist Caroline Gregson.

Each participant took home an animal that they had created, and amongst their work was a rabbit, a pheasant, a duck and many others.

Caroline also created a third willow wolf to join our existing pair, a lovely little cub in a play bow pose.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those that supported us by attending the events and we hope to see you again.

Vicky Allison-Hughes



2012 Annual Seminar a great success

The UKWCT's annual seminar, on the theme of 'Predators, Prey and People' was held during Wolf Awareness Week and featured four internationally acclaimed speakers:

JIM MCNEILL is the very definition of intrepid, having spent 29 years in Arctic adventures but also in the desert – two of the toughest terrains on the planet. He is a survival expert, but also interested in tracking climate change, biodiversity and animal behaviour. 'To document change' is his stated aim but there is something deeper, more soulful in the way he talks about his experiences – as being 'All from the heart.' He also describes himself as a 'plastic spoon explorer' rather than one born with a silver spoon.

Jim showed us some incredible pictures of Arctic wolves close to camp that he unashamedly anthropomorphosed – like Lucy and Mac, who liked to steal things and hide them. They clearly showed playful behaviour, like the wolf who rounded up so many white Arctic hares (with hilarious pictures of ever-increasing hares) – was daunted by the sheer number and simply wandered off. He drew a vivid picture of a harsh but beautiful environment – where birds and animals like skewers, polar bears, foxes, hares and musk ox struggle for survival.

To questions like 'How do you poo in the Arctic,' Jim was quick to tell us 'very quickly.' His combination of humour, compassion and knowledge was impressive, quite hypnotic. He also talked with huge respect about heroic BBC cameramen like Mark Smith – men who sit in a hide for over 12 hours in the pursuit of excellence. After such a stint, they need to be stretched out.

A remarkable man with a tough but wonderful job.

Jim McNeill: www.ice-warrior.com

◀ 2012 Seminar report

NATHAN VARLEY is clearly a lucky individual. He exuded happiness. We could all certainly envy him his environment – growing up as he did in Yellowstone Park. He gave a fascinating and well-structured talk about the history of the park, recovery, community ecology, population dynamics and, finally, the human dimension – which as we know, is always a huge factor in any wolf reintroduction or management. There was a discussion about the challenges faced by wolves in the park, including territorial grizzly bears that hoard carcasses ‘like dragons on a pile of treasure.’ Some of the health issues and challenges for *canis lupus* in Yellowstone were highlighted, such as canine distemper, mange and same-species violence.

Nathan also described surprisingly large litters of pups – up to 17, as well as 37 individuals in one pack. He showed as an aerial photograph of such a large litter. He also talked about bison as alternative (to elk) for the wolf. It had been noted that the larger the prey killed, the larger the wolves became.

Nathan also talked about the political element of the wolf... how hating it is used for political point-scoring. But also how tourism adapts – a photo showing a Super 8 Motel proclaiming ‘I Welcome Wolf Watchers,’ was a case in point. Also, he noted an industry that has grown up around wolf watching, such as wildlife tours. I sense that a lot of us were wishing that if we haven’t already, we could visit Yellowstone.

Nathan Varley:

www.wolftracker.com/varley/index.htm

JOSIP KUSAK is a multi-tasker – researcher, conservationist, manager, vet and tourist guide – in Zagreb, Croatia. He talked about the practicalities of an ever-increasing wolf number and the parallel conservation-related problems. He educates ‘damage inspectors’ so that they can recognise real wolf predation but also talked about the perception of wolf researchers in the area. This included seminars in the laboratory or out in the field. Some people considered them to be night smugglers or drug dealers and their very hostile reception included verbal attacks, spiked tyres and smashed windows. All possibly to be expected in a place where people are in fierce and hungry competition for meat with the wolf.

Josip talked about Hilda, a tracked wolf that some of you may remember from an



FIRST 2013 SEMINAR SPEAKER ANNOUNCED

The first of our 2013 seminar speakers has been confirmed as Douglas Smith. Doug is currently the project leader for the Yellowstone Gray Wolf Restoration Project in Yellowstone National Park. He worked as biologist for the project from 1994 to 1997 and has been with the programme since its inception.

Doug has studied wolves for 23 years. Prior to Yellowstone, he worked on Isle Royale with wolves from 1979 to 1992 and also with wolves in Minnesota in 1983. He received his Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology from the University of Idaho in 1985. His coursework and fieldwork from 1985 to 1988 earned him a Master of Science in Biology from Michigan Technological University. Doug received his PhD from the University of Nevada, Reno in the program of Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology.

We are very excited that he has agreed to travel and speak in the UK for the first time at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust. Booking details for the autumn seminar will be in the next edition of Wolf Print.

earlier edition of Wolf Print. She was the only wolf from 23 tracked wolves and seven dispersed wolves, who succeeded and lived for quite some time. He also spoke about hybridisation and that such encounters always mean a female wolf and a male dog – never the other way around.

There was a lot of hope and progress in Josip’s talk, such as a ‘green bridge’ that has been built, as well as viaducts... to stop things like bears being hit by trains. He also showed some of the quirky things he had to deal with, such as a lynx kitten who climbed a tree and had to be rescued. But for all Josip’s shy dry humour – no one of us could doubt his dedication and passion.

Josip Kusak here: tiny.cc/josipkusak

Many of the talks had parallels and overlaps. **PROFESSOR GARRY MARVIN**, an anthropologist lecturer at Roehampton University, talked about the wolf as a ‘cultural animal constructed within human frames.’ He delved into why they are reviled and revered in equal measures. He discussed simple connections that some people make – such as ‘wolves intrude and thief and thieves need punishing...’ or ‘The deceitful and dissembling wolf is seen to trick people.’

Professor Marvin also talked about the religious connotations of the wolf – which in Christianity in particular has always been negative and predatory. Shepherds are seen as symbols of morality – ‘I am the Good Shepherd’ – with the ‘ravening’ wolf



Josip Kusak speaking at this year’s seminar

as an immoral, treacherous creature. Professor Marvin also talked in more general terms about the wolf as sexual stalker or, as Teddy Roosevelt once stated ‘the beasts of waste and desolation.’ Ultimately, it all offers a wealth of legitimate reasons for killing the wolf. Even the name of the wolf has been used to paint a bleak picture – such as the original Red Riding Hood tale, where the animal, usually a werewolf, is a groomer and stalker.

On the flip side – as we were relieved to hear – the wolf has often been viewed as charismatic and connected with indigenous people. Lupicide versus lupiphilia. There was also a fascinating analysis of why wolf researchers are often detested – as local people see a gang of middle-class educated people coming in and telling people what to do. It added a great dimension to the day and lots to think about.

Professor Garry Marvin:
G.Marvin@roehampton.ac.uk
(Department of Life Sciences)

Julia Bohanna



Joan cuddles the newborn Tala

Joan Paddick 1944 – 2012

as her overriding interest on the holiday. The highlight of her South African trip, which she took a couple of years ago, was sleeping under the stars with Charlie, her husband, on his birthday in a game park with all the noises of the animals around them. She proudly showed us all the photos of the animals she had taken, wherever she had travelled. She desperately wanted to visit Kenya and booked a trip but then she fell ill.

Joan was a true supporter of the work here at the Trust. Generous with her time, and willing to help out with any job that needed doing, she was involved with hand-rearing Mosi, Mai and Torak as cubs as well as Tala, Nuka and Tundra in 2011. One of the tasks she enjoyed most was spending time with the young wolves.

She passed on her love of animals and photography to Hannah, her granddaughter, who often came to the Trust and attended our children's events.

We owe a huge debt to the work Joan did at the Trust, whether cleaning or helping out with Open Days or talking to visitors and work experience students. She had time for everyone. In her quiet way she contributed so much. She was always buying the wolves little treats; she truly loved them.

Joan lived in Thatcham with her husband Charlie, with their two children and grandchildren all very close by. Our sincerest condolences go to all her family at this sad time.

Tsa Palmer with additional contribution from Vicky Hughes

Joan gets an affectionate lick from Duma



Joan Paddick, who had been a volunteer at the Trust since 2005, passed away on 14th December 2012 in the West Berkshire Hospital. She had been unwell for several months with cancer which she fought bravely and with determination until the end. Joan first started at the Trust several years ago. She loved all the wolves but if she had favourites it was probably Duma and Dakota, so it is nice to think of them reunited.

She was a self-taught accomplished photographer. Not only did she take some fabulous pictures of all the wolves – patiently spending hours waiting for the perfect shot – she loved travelling, particularly to Yellowstone, which she visited several times with photography

The Joan Paddick Photography Awards 2013 competition rules (see page 3 for further details)

- 1 The subject for the UKWCT's Joan Paddick Photographic Awards 2013 is 'British Wildlife'. The theme is open to individual interpretation but entries must have the natural world at its heart. Photographs of animals in captivity (such as zoos or safari parks) and family pets are not eligible.
- 2 Entries must be taken in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.
- 3 Entrants can submit one photograph in either digital or print format, in colour or black and white. If entering digital images, they must be sent in high resolution jpg/jpeg format with the photographer's name as the image name. Prints must be A4 in size and printed on photographic paper.
- 4 Images may be digitally enhanced to remove spots or scratches, enhance the picture to make it brighter, clearer etc, but not manipulate the content. The objective is to remain faithful to the original experience, and not to deceive the viewer or misrepresent the reality of nature.
- 5 The competition is open to international entrants but it is the responsibility of all winners to be in the UK at the time of the prize-giving. Employees and Volunteers of The UK Wolf Conservation Trust, as well as their immediate families are not eligible to enter the main category.
- 6 Entrants must not be professional photographers and, for the purposes of this competition, a professional photographer will be considered to be someone who makes more than half their annual income from the sale of their photographs.
- 7 Each entry should be marked with name, address, contact telephone number, a brief description of the content and where the photo was taken and which category you are entering.
- 8 Entries should be sent to: UKWCT Photography Competition, The UK Wolf Conservation Trust, Butlers Farm, Beenham, Berkshire, RG7 5NT or ukwolfconservationtrust@googlegmail.com with UKWCT Photography Competition as the subject.
- 9 The competition is open from Monday 4th February 2013 and closes at midnight on Monday 5th August 2013.
- 10 No entries can be returned and proof of posting is not proof of receipt. The organisers accept no responsibility for entries lost, damaged or delayed in the post.
- 11 All entries will be judged by a panel of judges. They will consider a range of factors including composition, technical ability, originality, interpretation of the brief and the commercial appeal of the photographs. The judging panel's decision will be final.
- 12 Entrants must be mindful of the welfare of animals and safe-guarding the environment and ensure that they do not do anything to injure or distress any animals or destroy their habitat in an attempt to secure an image. If the UKWCT Judging Panel suspects that an image has been achieved through the use of cruel or unethical practices, the entry will be disqualified and the UKWCT reserve the right to report the entrant to the applicable authorities.
- 13 All entries must be the original work of the entrant and must not infringe the rights of any other party. The entrants must be the sole owner of copyright to their photograph entered and must have obtained permission of any people featured in the entries or their parents/guardians if children under 16 are featured. Further, entrants must not have breached any laws when taking their photographs.
- 14 Entrants will retain copyright to the photographs that they submit to the UKWCT. By entering the competition all entrants grant to the UKWCT a non-exclusive irrevocable licence to publish and exhibit their photographs in all media associated with The UK Wolf Conservation Trust including, but not limited to:
 - the UKWCT's website
 - Wolf Print, the UKWCT's magazine
 - Wolf Chronicle, the UKWCT's children's magazine
 - Material promoting the competition, such as posters and leaflets
 - Wolf Trust merchandise such as calendars, greetings cards or clothing
 While we make every effort to credit photographers, including in printed reproductions of their work, we cannot guarantee that every use of the photographs will include photographers' names.
- 15 By entering, entrants will be deemed to have agreed to be bound by these rules and the UKWCT reserves the right to exclude any entry from the competition at any time and in its absolute discretion if the UKWCT has reason to believe that an entrant has breached these rules.
- 16 The UKWCT reserves the right to cancel this competition or alter any of the rules at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, and if circumstances arise outside of its control.
- 17 If the winner is unable to be contacted after reasonable attempts have been made, the UKWCT reserves the right to either offer the prize to a runner-up or to re-offer the prize in any future competition.

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

PEOPLE HAVE sometimes asked me over the years whether captive wolves are ever happy.

I think what they actually mean is, how can you justify keeping a wolf in captivity and, in their eyes, perhaps only irresponsible and possibly even cruel people do this. In their opinion they may even think we are forcing wolves to live an artificial life constrained by the size of their enclosures and the wild animal licensing laws of the UK. I know that they are mistaken and, having had forty years firsthand experience and evidence in keeping over 25 wolves, believe that our captive wolves have led full and meaningful lives and we know that the work they do here at the Trust has made a difference to wolf conservation worldwide. Furthermore, I hope with the help of some of the Wolf Trust volunteers to write a book about the history of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust, the wolves that we have been privileged to know and the projects we work with, to be published in 2015 in



celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Trust.

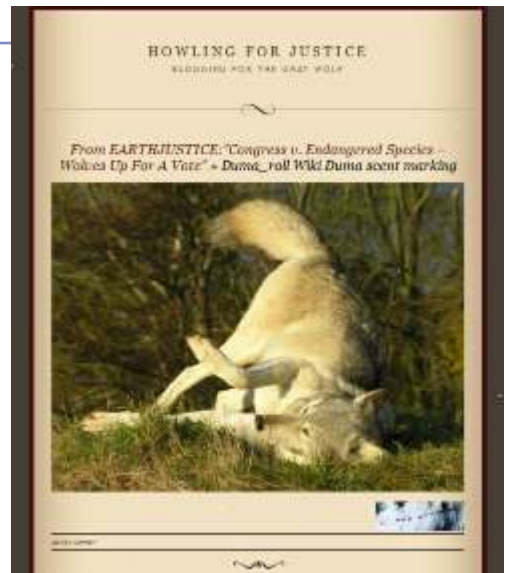
DUMA

Duma was the epitome of a happy relaxed captive wolf. Brought here with her sister Dakota from Woburn Safari Park in May 1998 she lived at the Trust for 14½ years. She was the last of the wolves that my late husband, Roger and I hand-reared in the basement of Butlers Farm together with her sister Dakota. Our children, then aged 14, 11 and eight, were also involved.

There is a testimonial to her life and the scale of the ambassadorial work she undertook for her cousins in the wild set aside in this edition of Wolf Print. She will be much missed not only here at the Trust by all of us who cared for her on a daily basis, but worldwide. Such was the scale of her fame that if you Google “Duma the wolf” you will find several pages on the Internet with clips of YouTube footage, newspaper articles, blogs, photos and even her image used

on a site “Howling for Justice” blogging for the gray wolf.

Duma was able to behave largely as wolves do in the wild. She enjoyed enrichment food trails and life in a pack, initially with her elder siblings Kodiak and Kenai and latterly with Dakota and Lunca for company,



naturally playing and interacting with them. She has hugely helped educate tens of thousands of people who have walked with her at the Trust – or who met her when she went out to schools, and TV studios, or to hospices to visit terminally patients and disabled visitors in their wheelchairs – about the true nature of a wolf. She was affectionate with not an ounce of malice in her but with an inquisitive and cheeky personality.

The only other recent development at the Wolf Trust is that after 18 years of working out of a room in the house the office staff – who now number four – have moved into a converted building on site at the entrance of the Trust. This will make it much easier for the education staff in particular to be on-site for visitors on a daily basis.

Happy New Year and I hope we see you soon at either an open day or another wolf event.

Tsa Palmer

2012 Donations

Our final donations for 2012 were made to the Balkani Wildlife Society in Bulgaria £1,000 and Friends of Nature in Nepal £3,000 (right: a project which has an article in this edition starting of page 20). This brings our total donations for the year to £24,830 which was split between eight different worldwide projects in the following countries: Bulgaria, Russia, Croatia, Ethiopia, USA, Spain, Portugal and Nepal.

We couldn't manage this without the help of our supporters who visit us and take part in our events, so thank you all for your help; I know our colleagues at each of these projects appreciate it.



Vicky Hughes

UPDATE ON THE TRUST WOLVES

The recent snowy cold period has seen our wolves in their element and our Arctics were even featured playing in the snow in the Daily Mail online (see <http://tiny.cc/rxvkrw>). Autumn passed in a damp haze for the wolves and humans at the Trust and both species became used to having first mud and then snow as accompaniment to the events happening on site. The wolves as always took everything in their stride with their warm and waterproof coats, but there is no such thing as a waterproof coat for humans!

THE BEENHAM PACK

Nuka is turning into a wonderful ambassador wolf with his sweet temperament and playful nature. He is maturing quickly and, at 18 months old, grows better looking by the day. His head is massive but not

For all his impressive physique, he loves nothing more than one of his human friends rubbing his belly for him.

Nuka was neutered in November and recovered rapidly from the short operation.

their many games of chase. Tundra has recently started to try and dominate her sister with more serious intent than before – tail high in the air and hackles up. As hormones rise in preparation for breeding season, it may be that she is

going to challenge Tala for top female position in the pack. This would happen in the wild as females challenge each other for breeding rights and it will still happen with Tundra and Tala, even though Nuka is neutered. Both girls will be routinely spayed next year which will have multiple benefits for them.

Tala, the black shadow! She is the only one to inherit her mother's colouring and is very beautiful, with her black coat contrasting so vividly with her captivating amber eyes. Tala is quite a reserved wolf, not quite so boisterous in her greetings to human friends, but she loves



Nuka, Tundra and Tala by Julia Brown

overdone and is in harmonious proportion to the rest of his well-muscled body. Nuka has finally grown into the huge paws he had even when a very young pup and his legs are sturdy and strong. Nuka is very happy to meet and greet the public and thrives on the attention, standing tall and impressive, but then his gentle side often gets the better of him and he will cover the hand of the lucky person with slurpy licks. His physical strength is impressive but he is learning to control this when interacting with his handlers. However, he still likes a joke and sometimes when being visited by volunteers in the enclosure, will take a flying leap off the platform, over the head of the nearest person then turn around on a sixpence and jump back on the platform again, leaving the volunteer quite dizzy from trying to keep an eye on him.

Tundra is still the same quiet, wary little wolf on public events but is delightfully affectionate with people she knows and trusts. Recently this affection has involved mud, and lots of it, as she likes to interact with her humans in a very physical way. It seems that Tundra has become a bit braver on public walks as, instead of hanging back almost out of sight of the public, she is now happy to walk just behind or to the side of people. She needs her handlers to understand her feelings and to allow her to push her own limits, but only if she chooses to. Tundra has the same beautiful colouring as her brother Nuka, but does not have his build. Her head is of finer proportions as is her body, and she is slightly smaller. Both she and her sister Tala have a delicacy and nimbleness of movement that Nuka does not have and they can be seen running rings round him during

a rough and tumble with her siblings as much as they do. Tala will consent to do meets and greets with members of the public but it is quite clear that she is doing you a favour and that you should be suitably grateful. Someone may get a lick on the hand if she feels like it but people are generally content with a glance from those eyes. For some months, the rivalry between Tala and her sister has been ongoing but not particularly serious. If Tundra started a squabble with her then Tala would give as good as she got and all would be over very quickly. Recently it seems that Tala is allowing Tundra to dominate her and, while not actually submitting, Tala's tail is not as high as Tundra's and she does not retaliate as she used to. But Tala is a very intelligent wolf who thinks about things, so who knows what will happen in the coming months...

MOSI AND TORAK



Mosi, by Danny Kidby Hunter

Mosi and Torak are now seven years old and as lively and healthy as ever.

Mosi remains the same – a wolf with charisma and attitude! She hasn't changed a lot in appearance, still with her thick, multi-coloured coat of black, silver and all shades of brown. Maybe she is a little grey round the muzzle now but Mosi doesn't let that get her down. Mosi and Torak now go out on enrichment walks with their special handlers. Mosi thinks this is a great event and powers along the whole walk at great speed. The only time she stops is to mark her territory and then do a vigorous scrape with her back legs to spread the scent far and wide so that everyone knows she was there. She gives the impression that she would soon sort out any other wolf who disputed ownership of this territory. Mosi is not

Torak is now very eager to come out on his special walks and is often first to come on the yard to have his collar put on. He still knows who he likes and who he doesn't, so if there is someone on site who he doesn't like he will go and hide at the back of the enclosure until that person can no longer be seen. Torak is a big, handsome wolf with tremendous strength but really quite a joy to walk with if a handler he trusts has him on a lead. He loves to

yet spayed so will come into full season soon. No doubt she will do her usual pestering of Torak until he gets fed up and tells her off. This is the only time you will see Mosi submissive!

stalk around the Trust's acres with his partner Mosi and attendant humans, sniffing and marking as he goes. If wolves could have a feeling of dread, that would be Torak as breeding season approaches. Mosi makes such a nuisance of herself, fawning over him, licking his face, not letting him walk more than a few steps without tripping him up. She is trying to persuade him to mate with her but Torak will choose his own time and will not do this until she is ready. He seems to know this better than she does! Torak, of course, is vasectomised, so no pups can result from any mating that takes place.

As usual, Torak and Mosi will not be coming out for walks until after the breeding season is over. They will be left to behave naturally and interact with each other, without having to bother with humans.



Torak, by Danny Kidby-Hunter



Lunca, by Vicky Hughes

LUNCA

On Wednesday 9th February, after a short period of ill health, Lunca was examined by the vet. It was discovered that she was suffering from liver cancer and was put to sleep to prevent further suffering.

A full spread will feature in Edition 49 (Summer 2013) looking at Lunca's life.

MAI AND MOTOMO

What a change from the shy, almost invisible wolf who came to us three years ago!

Motomo has gained such confidence over the years, no doubt helped in part by siring a litter of pups. From catching occasional glimpses of him at the back of the enclosure, to seeing him three feet away on the other side of the fence is still a wonderful and exciting experience. He will now come down to the fence line to see people as they arrive and spends

very adept catcher of food as it is thrown over the fence to him. He stands, muscles tensed, watching the trajectory of the meat, then opens his mouth... and down it goes. Our visitors love to see him do this and he is happy to oblige, after all, it is food.

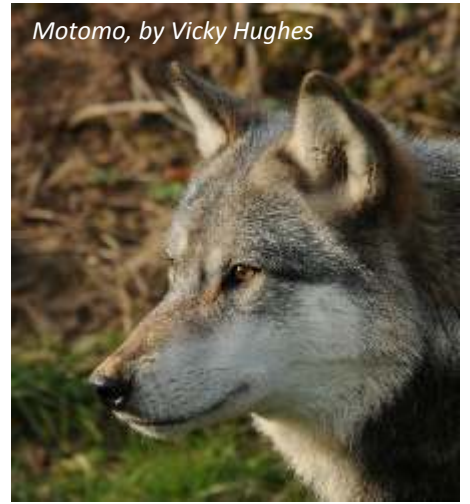
Mai is turning into a silver wolf, every year her coat boasts more silver colour. It would be known as grey but this is Mai, so the colour must be called silver because it is more distinguished. At

seven years old, she is looking stunning and is in peak condition. Mai often goes out with her handlers on a walk and is usually very happy to leave her partner and see her human friends. The duration of Mai's walks depends on how she is feeling at the time; they can last five minutes as she suddenly decides she wants to get back to Motomo, or an

hour when she apparently feels like a change of scene. Her wishes are always honoured, even though handlers love to spend time with Mai and are a bit put out when she does a quick turnaround to get back to her partner. Motomo has become used to her going out but will



much of the day in full sight, reclining on the mound or enjoying a game of fence-running with the neighbours, Mosi and Torak. Motomo is our only unsocialised wolf and as such he can't come out on walks but we are more than happy that he is now so settled. He has become a



still howl mournfully until she comes back when there is a great reunion ritual. Mai will be sniffed all over and, if she has rolled in something horrible, has to put up with Motomo trying to get this scent all over his own fur. Mai will then rush off to the neighbours' enclosure where Mosi and Torak live and engage in some energetic fence-running with her sister, accompanied by a great deal of growling from them both. Motomo and Torak take a perfunctory part in this display but soon lose interest and wander off to do their own thing. Mai will probably not want to come out on walks as breeding season approaches. After her operation, which can most easily be described as a 'female type of vasectomy', she will still want to be near Motomo and to mate with him, even though no pups will result.

THE ARCTIC PACK

The Arctics with a new friend, by Danny Kidby Hunter



The first Arctic wolves in the UK, Massak, Pukak and Sikko are fast approaching their second birthday. They currently live in the first enclosure that the public sees when coming to the Trust, which is a wonderful way to start a visit.

regular enrichment and training walks, gradually increasing the number of volunteers on the walk to try and get the wolves used to groups of people. The essential period of quarantine they had to go through happened at an important stage in their development and they

Sikko, the only female, is a charming creature. She is small compared to her brothers and has a fine-featured face which is often full of mischief. Sikko can be quite wary of people she doesn't know but with her handlers is very generous in her displays of affection. With her brothers, Sikko has been taking part in

were only able to socialise with ten people for six months. The training and socialisation has been a long but worthwhile task and all three Arctics are now much happier, although there is a way to go yet.

Pukak is cheekiness personified. Although he is usually the first to greet his handlers in the enclosure he has recently been flexing his muscles just a little bit and a greeting can sometimes turn into a hard stare followed by a low growl. Pukak has also been testing the water with Massak, until now the undisputed leader of the pack. He has yet to get the better of Massak but has never fully submitted to him either. It will be interesting to see how this develops in the coming months.

They said it couldn't be done, that wolves and sheep together on public lands in the American West would never work.

Wood River Wolf Project's Suzanne Stone disagrees



Giving peace a chance: Wolf coexistence in the American West

The return of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) in the 1990s is one of the most ecologically successful, politically controversial and

wild national forests in the country, where could they?

The project began with a phone call. Mike Stevens, then president of Lava Lake Lamb, called me to discuss the situation. We had already been working together for several years near Sun Valley to help Lava Lake successfully avoid sheep losses to wolves. However, that was one producer with about 4,000 sheep. This time the conflict involved more than 12,000 sheep moving in segmented bands across wide swaths of backcountry forests. It seemed hopeless, especially when the kill order had already been made to remove the whole pack.

I asked Mike what he thought of the idea of creating a field team to help the herders protect the sheep. We could test some of the nonlethal measures like turbofladdy (electrified flagging) and alarm systems to see if we could effectively protect the sheep from more predation.

THEY SAID it couldn't be done, that wolves and sheep together on public lands in the American West would never work. Certainly, the constant barrage of news stories focusing on the worst incidents proved their predictions. Across the Northern Rocky Mountain region, more than 1,600 wolves have been killed in response to the loss of approximately 3,000 sheep and 1,500 cattle over the last 25 years. State governments are driving wolf numbers down through hunting, trapping and snaring in large part to address livestock conflicts. But does it really have to be this way?

socially polarized wildlife restoration efforts undertaken in the western United States. Yet a new collaborative project has taken root in central Idaho that is blazing a new trail toward peaceful coexistence between wolves and livestock.

In 2007, the Phantom Hill wolf pack began killing sheep in central Idaho's "sheep superhighway" on the Sawtooth National Forest during the summer grazing season. The pack was immediately targeted for lethal control – a nicer way of saying that the whole pack would be killed by government agents. But if wolves couldn't survive in the Sawtooths, one of the most pristine and

◀ The Arctic Pack continued

Although all three wolves were neutered in October 2012, the instinct to want to be 'top wolf' is still an integral part of their natures. Pukak loves to play the clown but handlers must be able to read his body language well to tell the difference between play and potential dominance.

Massak is the biggest of the three and very imposing. He can give the impression of being stately and dignified – until he wants to play when his behaviour is akin to that of a young pup, an extremely large pup! Handlers will keep out of his way when he is in playful mode and hurtling around the enclosure. Massak is still the wariest wolf in the

pack but is getting a little braver as his curiosity gets the better of him. On his walks though, he dislikes people walking behind him and will stop until everyone has gone past, then he is happy to continue. In his occasional squabbles with Pukak, he growls in a very intimidating way and raises his tail as high as he can to indicate dominance. The squabbles don't last very long and Pukak usually walks away with his tail between his legs, but there is definitely a



The Arctics in their element, by Danny Kidby-Hunter

feeling of unfinished business between the two. Sikko wisely keeps her distance during these altercations. We are proud and happy to have the first Arctic wolves in the UK.

Angela Barrow



Wolf coexistence in the American West

◀ The biggest hurdle would be the state and federal agencies, which had already decided to kill the wolves. The US Fish and Wildlife Service advised the state that the situation was truly hopeless and that nothing could be done to stop the killings once wolves developed a taste for sheep. But, to our surprise, the state said they'd be willing to try nonlethal methods if we could stop the depredations.

Thus, the Wood River Wolf Project was born.

Some expected we would fail, while others provided a great deal of advice and field support. Every night our team was in the field guarding the sheep was nerve-racking. If our methods failed, the agencies would remove the pack, and critics of nonlethal methods would point to our failure to justify their reliance on traditional lethal control programs.

No-one had ever tried to resolve sheep predations on such a large scale before. We started

at 120 square miles the first year, and we didn't lose another sheep to wolves during the run of our project, though just a few weeks after our project ended and the nonlethal measures were removed, the pack killed sheep again. It was clear that the nonlethal methods were preventing sheep losses while they had been in place, but our skeptics said we couldn't do it again. They thought that our efforts

were just a lucky fluke.

In 2008, we formalized a pilot project with our partners to test the methods for three more years to see if they were right. That year, we lost one sheep out of 10,000 to wolf predation. Even our

critics started paying attention. In 2009, we lost more than a dozen sheep in one night because of a miscommunication that left one band of sheep unguarded in our 700-square-mile project area. However, the rancher (and former president of the Idaho Woolgrowers Association) took responsibility for the losses and asked that the wolves not be killed because of the mistake. Our losses remained extremely low and were always a result of human error, not the failing of the nonlethal deterrents. Each year, we learned how to operate more effectively and got better at using the tools in our arsenal. We also increased the use of social conflict management techniques to strengthen our community-model approach to

managing the project.

These included regular stakeholder meetings, open discussions and evaluation, community events, and one-on-one meetings to validate concerns and gather feedback on our efforts.

During the pilot phase of the project from 2008 to 2010, we lost a total of 16 sheep out of more than

No-one had ever tried to resolve sheep predations on such a large scale before



30,000 collectively, and no wolves had been killed as a result of livestock conflicts in the project area. We held a wrap-up meeting and celebrated a victory previously unheard of before our project. But our project partners wouldn't let us stop there. By that point we had involved ranchers, state and federal wildlife agencies, county commissioners, university researchers, wolf conservation supporters, and a number of field team members from a wide range of backgrounds including wolf biologist Pete Haswell from the UK. They all wanted us to keep going in order to spread these deterrents to private lands and cattle ranches across the county. So in

2011 we began a new site evaluation system to help sheep

and cattle producers determine how to address potential predation risks and we began holding field training in the use of nonlethal deterrents for our team and local ranchers. We even added our first university intern, who became one of our best field technicians to date.

In autumn 2012, we celebrated the end of our fifth successful season and our best year yet, which culminated in the annual Trailing of the Sheep parade. There were a total of 27,305 sheep in our project area this year, and we lost only four sheep one night when a band bumped into a new pack of wolves that no one knew existed. We responded with the nonlethal deterrents and didn't lose another sheep to wolves in the project area – which now covers 1,200 square miles – for the rest of the grazing season.

Five years after we began this effort, documented sheep losses to wolves in the project area are 90% lower than Idaho loss-

rates reported by the USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS). Specifically, our loss rate averaged 0.014% compared to 0.54% in the NASS statewide estimates during the same period. Best of all, no wolves within the project area have yet been lethally removed because of depredation conflicts.

Our ranching partners are reporting that their losses to coyotes, bears and cougars are down as well. Other benefits of the project include reduced management costs, reduced social conflict, and increased ecological functionality and pack stability of wolves. For example, we don't need helicopters, sharpshooters, traps or even radio collars. Just some elbow grease, common sense and a few tools to implement our deterrents. And our project is a model for new projects in Oregon, Washington, Montana, Wisconsin, Arizona, New Mexico, Europe and even dingo conservation in Australia.



Pioneer pack: alpha female and pups

IS THIS THE END OF THE STORY?

Are we done? Is the project finished? Not even close. There are other areas in the county that still need to be addressed. And on a broader scale, we believe that our model should be adapted at the national level to reform our federal wildlife agency programs to make them more cost-effective and more humane. Our federal government kills millions of animals every year to “protect” livestock. We believe our model offers a far better solution that significantly reduces both livestock and wildlife losses. As project partner and Blaine County Commissioner Larry Schoen says, “If you can prevent depredation in the first place, that's the least costly alternative, and the safest alternative.”

Suzanne Stone

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

SUZANNE STONE is project manager for the Wood River Wolf Project and Northern Rockies representative for Defenders of Wildlife, a US-based wildlife conservation organization dedicated to the protection of all native animals and plants in their natural communities.

Life and behaviour of wolves: Wolf Pup Development



Pete Haswell looks at the four key stages in the development of wolf pups to maturity.

BIRTH IN WOLVES is much the same as in dogs; an obvious distinction being that while dogs have multiple seasons, wolves can only produce one litter per year. Pups are born from late March to early May. Birth often coincides with that of the main prey species, providing an abundance of food which helps when there are extra mouths to feed. Climate also plays a timing factor, with wolves south towards the equator giving birth earlier and Arctic wolves sometimes giving birth as late as June. With an average litter of five or six, wolves bear relatively smaller litters but larger pups than other canids. Larger pups may be resistant to cold, wet weather but they also require more nutrition from their mothers.



Mai tends her pups. Photo: the late Joan Paddick

THE PACK plays an important role in caring for young. Pups are supported indirectly by their father, who defends the home site as well as increasing his hunting activity to provide the mother with food. Later the parents and other relatives provide the pups' food, although some studies have found other pack members to be half as likely to regurgitate food for the pups than parents.

Single mothers and even fathers have been observed to successfully raise pups but assistance may increase the likelihood of survival. The help provided by other pack members decreases the necessary exertion of the parents in obtaining food. This allows them more time to protect and care for the pups. Mothers are permitted to spend lots of time at the den especially during important times such as cold nights

when the pups need to be kept warm.

After about three months the parents' activity gets back to normal and the pups can be left safely at rendezvous sites.

There are a number of theories for why non-breeding family members provide assistance with pup rearing. One of the most obvious is that of genetic survival. Providing the parentage is the same, then last year's offspring will share as much of their genetics with their siblings as they would their own offspring. The pups are the future of the pack so helping them survive may yield benefits in future hunting success and minimise loss of food to scavengers. Juvenile animals are still learning and would be inexperienced parents so by sticking around to learn how to successfully raise offspring it may help increase their own future success. Whatever the motivations, the system seems to work.

Development in wolves is similar to that seen in dogs. There are four key stages of development to maturity:

"Little heat-seeking missiles."

Photo: Vicky Hughes



Neonatal period

Wolf pups are born with their eyes tight shut and have many similar features that are maintained to adulthood in some of our modern dog breeds: their ears are floppy and faces squat with the head generally having a rounded appearance. The fur is often dark and the pups are capable of little more than crawling around like little heat-seeking missiles. The pups suckle as a reflex within hours of birth, relying heavily on their sense of touch and smell. Mothers provide warmth and nourishment as well as cleaning pups and consuming eliminations, in order to keep the den clean from mess. Routines do begin to form but behaviour is generally very simple at this age with some basic vocalisations such as crying when hungry or cold. Ideally during this

period other pack members will be around to bring food to the nursing mother.

Transition period

Usually pups' eyes open somewhere between 12 and 14 days and are blue. They progressively change to the characteristic yellowy orange by eight to 16 weeks of age. Once their eyes open pups begin to stand and walk for short periods. They steadily become bolder – exploring further towards the den's entrance and eventually braving short ventures out into the outside world. Once they begin to lose their uncertainty they can then be found hanging out at the mouth of the den. Muscles, coordination, size and senses develop rapidly at this stage. Pups learn to recognise familiar individuals and even begin to understand some vocalisations during the rapid learning of the transition and socialisation periods. The stage is set for sociality and learning later in life.



Socialisation period

After 20 or so days when pups are exploring the mouth of the den they begin to interact and elicit care from other pack members. They also begin to wean to solid food. As they get older they venture further and interact more and more with the adults. When needed the mother carries the pups to safe areas or alternative den sites, but as they mature they begin to follow the nursing mother if she is disturbed during feeding. This behaviour later evolves into following any pack member making an assertive departure. Once they are five weeks old this enables the pack to move the pups



The Arctic pups sharpen their teeth on ice cubes

between home sites. At this age they are still small enough to be carried but large enough to travel short distances

(usually less than 0.5km).

The senses become fully developed and milk teeth enable the pups to chew small pieces of meat. Suckling bouts become shorter and intervals between feeds longer. Sharp milk teeth quickly encourage the mother to wean the pups to solid food. By ten weeks, solicitation of milk almost completely stops and pups begin to focus their attentions on whichever pack member

appears bearing food. The classic "lick up" behaviour of rubbing and licking an adult's muzzle to stimulate food regurgitation is common practice for the pups. This behaviour is also maintained as an appeasement gesture into adulthood. At this age, pups are capable of following adults to kill sites and searching around home sites for cached food.

The socialisation period is pivotal in a wolf's behavioural development. Their experiences at this stage help form and shape the bonds and associations they will have with their environment and social interactions. Pups learn to interact with each other and the pack. Levels of activity such as play increase, building fitness and rehearsing many movements and routines that will become useful later in life.

Juvenile period

The longest period lasting from 12 weeks until maturity is another crucial learning phase. Social skills have already become highly developed but the need to provide for themselves becomes more important with age. From the moment pups begin following adults departing the home site they begin to build on their innate abilities and develop associations with the scenarios presented to them. Chasing and capturing small moving animals appears pre-programmed as it occurs without practice or teaching. How and where to take down larger prey safely, however, is something that must be learnt and perfected. Although still not fully grown, juveniles join adults on hunts between four and ten months old. Adult teeth are present by six to seven months. Hunting skills become perfected through practice and necessity as getting first dibs and provisions from other pack members starts to cease.

Juveniles generally tend to act in a modest manner towards adult pack members. Older wolves effectively intimidate and discipline younger

wolves but litter mates may squabble over food or during play. Conflicts

are more likely between members of the same sex, particularly during the winter periods of heightened hormone activity. Food resources play an important factor in social tolerance of maturing juveniles. Food sharing appears to be conditional, affected by prey availability, maturation rates and social conditions. When packs remain larger (usually under conditions of abundant food and larger prey) juvenile dispersal is caused by sexual competition, incest avoidance and breeding suppression by older pack members. Death and disease, fights with neighbouring packs and hunting by humans further disrupt stability adding to the dynamic forming and dissolving



The Beenham Pack. Photo: Danny Kidby-Hunter

of family packs. Such factors can give non-dispersing offspring or siblings the prospect of territory inheritance and breeding opportunity.

There appears to be a trade-off between the risk and benefits of dispersal or remaining with the pack. However, sometime between nine months and three years of age most wolves will usually disperse from their natal pack. Finding a mate and territory to begin a new pack or being accepted as step-parent in a disrupted pack may take several years. The risks of lone hunting, conflict with neighbouring packs and traffic collisions all make dispersal a difficult period in any wolf's life but if successful, the benefits are numerous.

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

DUMA: A True Ambassador

DUMA WAS BORN at Woburn Safari Park in May 1998 and with her sister Dakota moved here to the Trust at just nine days old.

They were the first cubs to arrive at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust which was formed in 1995. The pair was hand-reared by Roger and Tsa Palmer in their basement rooms at Butlers Farm.

At around four weeks they were moved from the basement to a stable and walked every day past the wolf enclosure – often with the Palmers’ Jack Russell terriers for company – to get them used to more people and the outside world. They also became accustomed to travelling and experiencing new places, first in an estate car boot and then in the trailer.

At six months old the sisters were introduced to, then moved in with, older brother Kodiak and sister Kenai, who were born in 1994 at Woburn Safari Park to the same parents – Monty and Epsom. In 1999 the four wolves were introduced to the new European cubs Alba, Lunca and Latea.

Kodiak and Kenai were later moved out into their own enclosure leaving the five youngsters living together. Dakota caused trouble within the pack when trying to make a bid for power – she was subsequently injured and lost the tip of her tail. As a result, she and Duma were moved out and into an enclosure of their own. It is because of these early bonds that in 2006 the girls moved back in with Kodiak after Kenai’s death. In 2011, Duma moved back in with Lunca.

DUMA THE CELEBRITY

Right from the start Duma was destined for fame. Appearing in her first newspaper article at just a few months old, the subsequent list of newspapers, magazines, TV shows and films in which she featured is vast. TV shows included the BBC series Predators, The Paul O'Grady Show, Blue Peter, The Really Wild Show, Monarch of the Glen, Countryfile and many more. Duma's trust in people and her ability to adapt to strange circumstances allowed her to cope with whatever was asked of her. Some of the most memorable events with Duma were with the young people from Hampshire Youth Services. They would often arrive not willing to communicate with anyone new, but after an afternoon with Duma, they usually left us chatting and thanking us for the day.



DUMA THE AMBASSADOR

During 14 years in her ambassadorial role, Duma won the hearts and minds of thousands – even tens of thousands. Whether attending one of the many county or small shows visiting schools and standing patiently on stage whilst a hall full of children listened to a talk about wolves, or walking fearlessly into the National Geographic Society in

London to stand on stage and launch the Trust's DVD 'Ambassadors of the Wild,' she was a star. Duma loved meeting anyone from six years up. Even walking sticks or wheelchairs didn't faze her – she would welcome young and old alike. Everyone who ever had the privilege of meeting Duma would remember her and have a tale to tell. Amongst her many fans were some well-known names, for example World Darts Champion Martin 'Wolfie' Adams, Paul O'Grady, Michelle Paver, Sir Ian McKellen, Ricky Gervais and Newbury MP Richard Benyon. I'm sure they will always remember their close encounter with a wolf called Duma.

DUMA – QUEEN OF THE WOLF TRUST

In her later years she was fondly given the nickname of 'Queen of the Wolf Trust.' Although attempts were made on numerous occasions to allow her to slow down and retire from her public duties a bouncy happy Duma would wait at the gate for her human friends to collect her. She never tired of meeting people and during early spring to summer she could be described as somewhat of a flirt. She would select some of her visitors to rub against. She might roll on your feet or, if she really liked you, she would occasionally scent-mark you by urinating on your shoes (this marked you as hers).

Duma finally retired in summer 2012 to enjoy the quiet life and peaceful walks with those she knew best. On November 11th she was diagnosed with sudden and acute pancreatitis and was treated with painkillers and antibiotics. Sadly she passed away that night in her sleep. She had kept her illness – pancreatic cancer – hidden right to the very end, which is common in predators like the wolf.

Of all the wolves at the Trust we have loved, worked with and then had to say goodbye to, Duma is the one whose paw prints touched the most hearts. Those beautiful amber eyes will never be forgotten. Run free Duma. Thank you for all that you did to represent your species.

Vicky Hughes

Pictures:

Left: Duma greets a visitor, by Danny Kidby Hunter
From top: Enjoying the winter sun, by Pat Melton
A young Duma relaxing, by Pete Morgan Lucas
Duma with sister Dakota, by Pat Melton
Duma in springtime, by Darren Prescott



Student work experience



Work experience is vital for any student wishing to enter into the animal care industries in science, behaviour and conservation. Competition is fierce. Education Officer Vicky Allison-Hughes reports.

The majority of people who work with animals now need a relevant degree and experience before being accepted into a trainee position. They can then further their qualifications and skill on the job.

At the UK Wolf Conservation Trust we had 65 students join us on work placements this year. They received valuable experience during a minimum of two weeks to a maximum of six months. The demand for these placements increases every year. The task of interviewing and allocating the spaces is now the responsibility of Assistant Education Officer and Wolfkeeper Danny Kidby-Hunter. Places fill up at least 12 to 18 months ahead, so it is no small task.

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

During their time at the Trust, students are given the opportunity to get involved

at the Trust

in all aspects of our work: they help with school visits, wolfkeeper and photography days and other special visitor events, joining them to listen to any talks taking place. They assist with preparing enrichment sacks and boxes for the wolves as well as hands-on daily jobs like feeding the wolves, first gutting, cleaning and weighing rabbits and deer brought to the Trust, then cleaning the kennels and general maintenance of the site. There are also other essential jobs that may not always be considered when thinking about animal care, such as cleaning the education rooms or preparing and stuffing envelopes for Wolf Print and other mailings that need to go out.

LOOKING AFTER THE WILDLIFE

If this wasn't enough, we also encourage our students to get involved in the care and observation of the wildlife on site. This includes putting out our camera trap to monitor any animal life other than wolves, checking our sun traps to monitor the number of grass snakes on

site, carrying out bird box surveys, to see which are active and what species are using them during spring and summer and planting trees. All of this is important, giving us a good picture of the wildlife the site attracts and how best to preserve and improve the site for these animals.



In 2012 our students began building our bug hotel by the pond, to give the small creatures somewhere to hide and nest. This will be finished this year and we hope that in dry weather we can build sand traps to monitor the tracks of the creatures passing through certain areas of the site.

WHAT DO OUR STUDENTS GAIN FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE?

When we ask the students what experience they hoped to gain by completing a placement at the Trust, we generally find that the majority are looking to improve their care skills or/and to gain familiarity working with a new species. There are not many places where a student can work specifically with wolves and at such close proximity, so it is the practical jobs in which students are most interested.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

All students are encouraged to complete some research work during their placement and the Trust has a library resource and computers to help them with their projects. They pick a new subject and complete an information poster for display to our volunteers and



demonstrate what they have learnt about our ambassador wolves, including any interesting stories during their time with us.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM OUR STUDENTS?

There is a growing number of students who are now enquiring about carrying out their studies at the Trust. This is something we have always encouraged, especially non-invasive observational research. This could include watching the interactions between specific animals or a whole pack, observing wolves' reactions to different forms of enrichment or looking at how they use the space in their enclosures. The latter gives us ideas for improving the wolves' environments. A copy of the research is usually submitted upon completion, so that we can make use of the findings if appropriate. We have had students from National Diploma to PhD level studying the wolves.



visitors. They could design a leaflet that may, if appropriate, be used on site, or give a presentation on the subject in which they are most interested. At the end of their placement, every student is asked to give a member of the education team a tour of the Trust. At this point, they can

work-experience students have a full and varied placement here with us and hopefully gain valuable experience that they can take with them into the future.

Vicky Allison-Hughes



RESEARCH AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES AT THE TRUST

Anyone interested in a placement or wanting to carry out a research project at the Trust is encouraged to visit the Education section of the Trust's website www.ukwolf.org where full application details can be found.

Wolves in Hugu-Kori: truth or myth?

An update from the UKWCT-sponsored Nepal research project by Raju Acharya, Yadav Ghimirey and Bidhan Adhikary

After completing the first phase of our ethno-wolf study in Upper Mustang in central Nepal of an altitude above 3000m in July 2011 (reported in Wolf Print issue 46) we carried out the second phase at lower altitudes south of the Annapurna massif, in January and February 2012. Following a lead from one of our local informants, we arrived at Sikles – a beautiful *Gurung*¹ village in the lap of the rolling hills of Hugu-Kori to continue our ethno-wolf survey.

BIO-PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDY AREA

HUGU-KORI is located in the Parche Village Development Committee (VDC) of Kaski District, Nepal. At an altitudinal range varying from 1500m to 3000m (see fig 1), this area represents a biodiversity hotspot and is home to the ethnic community of *Gurung* people. The majority of the landscape of the study area is covered by broadleaved temperate mixed forest. The rest is shrubland and grassland.

There are three small settlements close to the Hugu-Kori area – Sikles (269 households, see picture above right), Parche (40 households) and Tangting village (168 households).

The livelihood of the local people is based primarily on livestock farming and agriculture. Apart from this, to sustain their families, some people work in the British army, the government service



Study area: Sikles Village

sector or business and foreign employment. There is a slow but increasing trend of tourism with a growing trend for *home-stay*².

In Nepali dialect wolves are commonly referred to as “bwaasho.” However, during our study we referred them with a different name: in Gurung dialect, wolves are called “pyaau.”

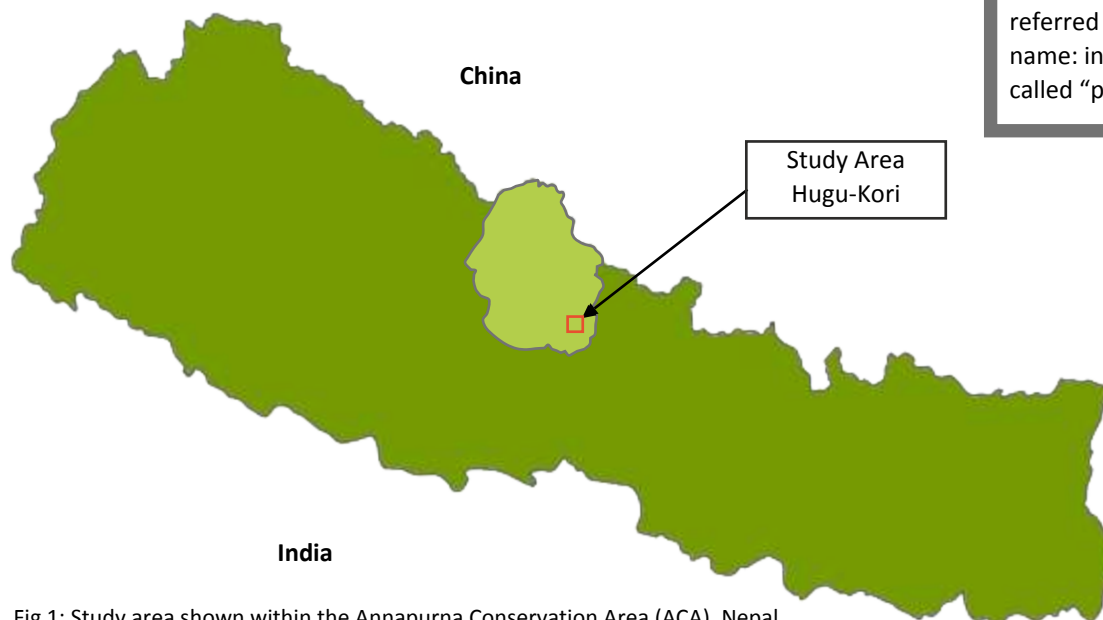


Fig 1: Study area shown within the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA), Nepal

¹ *Gurung*: One of the ethnic groups in Nepal, who are very cooperative, helpful and united in socio-cultural activities

² *Home-stay*: Tourists stay with local people and enjoy their facilities and home-cooked food

METHODS

Over a week, our survey questionnaire was targeted at people who spent considerable time out in the forests and fields (e.g. farmers, livestock herders, woodcutters and hunters) and so had an intimate knowledge of the Hugu-Kori region. We took questionnaires to each of the three settlements. The structural questionnaire for the ethno-wolf relationship was administered to approximately 15% of the total households, i.e. in 70 households of the study area. A survey was conducted in the Sikles and Parche villages of the Parche VDC and the Tangting village of Namarjung VDC of Kaski district. The survey primarily focused on male family members, as they generally do the herding and fuel collection in this region.

Apart from the survey, key informants were identified and interviewed using the snowball sampling method. We also carried out informal discussions with Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) officials and local people.



Principal researcher undertaking social survey

RESULTS

Characteristics of the respondents:

A majority of our respondents, approximately 85%, were from the Gurung ethnic community. Males constituted 77% of the total respondents, whereas 23% of the respondents were female. 54.29% of the respondents were aged over 60, whereas respondents aged 36 to 60 and 16 to 35 made up 31.43% and 14.28% of the total respondents respectively.

Agriculture and livestock farming were the major occupations among the respondents followed by service sector/governmental office jobs and business/commerce.

Buddhism was the major religion among the respondents followed by Hinduism, at a ratio of 7:3.

Ethno-wolf relationship:

When asked if they have seen wolves or heard wolves howling, 50% of respondents answered that they had both seen and heard the wolf, whereas the remaining 50% said they had never seen or heard them. 70% of the respondents believed that wolves are no longer present in the study area, whereas 23% of the respondents thought that wolves were still there. 7% were not sure.

All the respondents believed that the wolves live in packs rather than as solitary creatures. When asked what the suitable habitat for the wolf was, over 90% responded that they preferred both the mountainous/hilly terrains and forested areas. The remaining 10% stated either hilly terrains only or forests only.

Each respondent was asked to list and rank five wild animal species that preyed on domestic livestock, in the order of most to least harmful (Rank 1 to 5). Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) topped the poll. Contrary to the team's belief, none of the respondents even mentioned the wolf in their rankings. This could be because of their absence in the locality.

54% of the respondents were not sure whether or not wolf had any medicinal value, while the remaining 46% claimed that different parts of wolf could be used to cure various ailments.

As for the religious importance of wolves 78% said that they were not sure if it had any religious importance or not, 16% said that wolves did not have any religious importance and only 6% of the respondents said that wolves had any religious importance. Some people believed that *canis lupus* has a parental linkage with the Hindu god Rama's dog, while the other belief was that if you worship wolves they would not attack your livestock.

When asked whether there were any cases of human-wolf conflict, 31% of the respondents said that there had been several incidents in the past where the wolves had killed their livestock – mainly cows, buffalo, and sheep.

All the respondents agreed that the absence of *canis lupus* would have some impact on the area. Almost all the respondents said that it would make their livestock safer, while one respondent suggested that it would result in an increase of the leopard population in the area, which would ultimately prove detrimental to livestock. The wolf was ecologically insignificant according to 69% of the respondents and 17% thought that they have ecological importance while 14% were not sure.

71% of the respondents felt that wolf conservation was impractical, whereas 29% were very positive towards this issue.

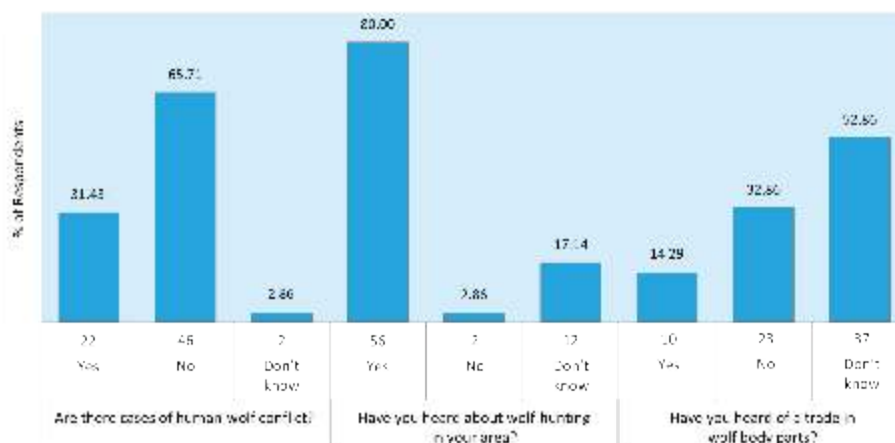


Chart 1: Human-wolf conflict, hunting and trade

Wolves in Hugu-Kori: truth or myth?

◀ MEDICINAL VALUE OF CANIS LUPUS

Based on various informal discussions and interviews with key informants, the following information was compiled related to the medicinal application connected to various wolf body parts:

Table 1: Medicinal use of wolf body parts in the study area

S.No.	Wolf parts	Medicinal use	How are they used?
1	Claws	For treating wounds and warts	Nails are ground into fine powder and applied or made into a thick paste with water and applied to the affected region.
2	Blood	Malaria/Fever/Cancer	Blood is drunk directly or cooked, then consumed.
3	Skin	Various skin diseases/body pain	The same part of the wolf-skin as the affected part of the human body is ground and the paste applied to the infected area.
4	Bone	1. Arthritis/Wound 2. Body pain	Bones are ground and powder is applied or taken orally with water.
5	Tongue	Wound on tongue	The wolf's tongue is rubbed into the wound.
6	Meat	Malaria/Fever	The meat is cooked and eaten.
7	Fat	Arthritis	Fat is rubbed into the affected region.
8	Bile	Unknown	Bile is dissolved in water and consumed.



Other interesting local sayings/beliefs:

- Restlessness is sometimes symbolized by the wolf.
- If livestock is disobedient owners curse their cattle saying, "You should be killed by wolf!"
- If someone kills a wolf, he is warmly welcomed and celebrated as a hero by the villagers, as they believe their livestock will be safer now.
- The wolf moves like the wind.

◀ Key informant interview

CONCLUSION

THERE IS a high possibility that the wolves of Hugu-Kori are now found only in myth and folktales. Unfortunately, social and field surveys (camera trapping) point to that conclusion. Local villagers think that wolves have no ecological role and that wolf conservation is pointless. Collected data about human-wolf conflict and the abundant indigenous knowledge of the medicinal value of canis lupus further suggests that these could be the main factors in their disappearance. The wolves do not even have religious immunity.

The result of this survey, which indicates the disappearance of a species from the local area, is a serious matter and a challenge for conservationists worldwide.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are indebted to the UK Wolf Conservation Trust (financial support), the National Trust for Nature Conservation, the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (NTNC/ACAP) (research permission), the Conservation Area Management Committee, Parche (logistic support), Friends of Nature (logistic and financial support) and NTNC/ACAP, Unit Conservation Office, Sikles (logistic, field gear and other) for their generous support to carry out the research. We are very grateful to Geraldine Werhahn, Angelika Appel, Vicky Hughes, Raj Kumar Gurung, Yem Bahadur Gurung and Pranaya Birjung Rana, for their support to complete the research work.

The authors are associated with Friends of Nature (FON Nepal), a youth-led wildlife conservation organization in Nepal.

Visit www.fonnepal.org or www.facebook.com/groups/fofnepal/ for details.

wolves of the world

NORWAY'S PLAN TO KILL WOLVES EXPLODES MYTH OF ENVIRONMENTAL VIRTUE

A proposed cull is indicative of the brutal treatment predators receive in Scandinavian countries

Norway is famous for the size of its aid budget, the maturity of its decision-making, its reasoned diplomacy and above all its defence of the environment. Of course there has been for a long time a fundamental contradiction: Norway's image as the saviour of the ecosystem is somewhat undermined by its massive oil industry. You might already be aware of other contradictions, such as the clash between its protection of wild fish stocks and its destructive farmed salmon industry.

NORWAY'S 19TH CENTURY ATTITUDES

But what I am about to relate cuts to the heart of Norway's image as a broadminded, liberal, green nation. It repudiates those advertisements emphasising the country's natural beauty and astonishing wildlife and suggests that the sensibilities of Norway's current political class are no more sophisticated than those of the frontiersmen of the wild west in the late 19th century.

On Wednesday [21/11/2012] there will be a meeting between the Norwegian and Swedish governments, at which Norway intends to lay claim to some of the wolves which live on the border between the two nations. This may sound like a good thing. The government's purpose is anything but.

If it can classify these wolves as Norwegian, even though most of them breed in Sweden, it can go ahead with the extermination of wolves elsewhere in the country. It can claim that, due to the newly nationalised border population, it is still meeting its international obligations to maintain the species.

Wolves are very popular in Norway: surveys suggest that around 80% of the public – in both urban and rural areas – want to keep them at current or higher



Photo: Vladimir Bologov

numbers. But as so often with rural issues – in Norway and in many other parts of the world – the dominant voices are those who belong to a small but powerful minority.

JUST 1.5% LOST SHEEP DOWN TO WOLVES

Every year some two million sheep are released into the forests and mountains of Norway without supervision. Around 1,500 of them – as a maximum estimate – are killed by wolves. The farmers are richly compensated for these killings.

Far more sheep – some 100,000 – die for other reasons: falling into crevasses, drowning, infectious diseases, being hit by trains. But as has happened in so many countries across so many centuries, the wolf is seen by some landowners as encapsulating everything that's wrong with the world. It is, whatever the evidence might say, perceived as a bundle of concentrated evil, which must be contained and destroyed if humankind is to emerge from the darkness of the past.

Nothing we have learnt about wolves over the past few decades – the marvels of their social structure, the very low risk they present to people and even to most livestock, the remarkable extent to which they shape the ecosystem, allowing other species to flourish – has altered attitudes among the hard core of people determined to exterminate them.

WOLVES ARE A POLITICAL ISSUE

Politics in Norway tend to be local in character. For people who possess an almost religious aversion to wolves, the persistence of the species is an election issue. But those who like wolves tend to

vote as most people do, on issues such as the economy, tax and, perhaps, broader environmental policy.

The Centre party (which is well to the right of centre) currently holds the environment brief in the ruling coalition. It has been chasing the votes of sheep farmers and hunters. It appears to see the wolf – and the international obligations to protect it – as an issue of Norwegian identity: if we want to kill them we damn well will. This is reminiscent of the Japanese political attitude towards killing whales and dolphins.

Just last month [Nov 2012], at the latest summit on the Convention on Biological Diversity, Norway agreed a strategic plan to halt biodiversity loss. Almost immediately afterwards it announced tomorrow's meeting [21st Nov], whose purpose, as far as some political parties are concerned, seems to be to extirpate the wolf.

HUNTING QUOTAS DON'T ADD UP

Already, the situation of predators in Norway is grim. Just 1% of the country has been designated a "wolf zone," in which the animals are allowed to exist. But only three litters a year are permitted: once three pairs of wolves have bred, all the rest can be shot. There are currently just 25 wolves in the country. The hunting quota for this winter is 12. More than a century ago, before state bounties were paid for the killing of wolves, the population in Norway was more than 1,000.

As the government is aware, 25 – or 13 – is far from being a genetically viable population. Even if it were allowed to remain at this level, the wolves would eventually die out through inbreeding. ►

Shock as Yellowstone's most famous wolf is shot dead

832F, ALSO KNOWN as the 06 female, Yellowstone National Park, and possibly the world's most famous wolf, is dead. Legally shot as part of the state of



Photo: 06 Female, Yellowstone National Park, by Doug Breakwell

Wyoming's wolf hunting season when the pack wandered out of the safety of the park. She was killed in the Clark's Fork Drainage area in Northwest Wyoming, 15 miles from the park and in a similar area to where 754M, a large male wolf, was shot.

She came from an impressive lineage. Daughter of the former Agate Creek alpha male – the huge 113M – and granddaughter of the legendary Druid

Peak alphas 21M and 42F (wolves are given identification numbers when they are fitted with a radio collar with the suffix M for male and F for female).

She had joined two brothers 754M and 755M to form the Lamar Canyon Pack and become its alpha female. She was a great favourite with the wolf watchers because she was a little different. Normally the males are the best hunters in the pack but in the Lamar Canyon Pack they had a mighty huntress; her great size and strength, inherited from her father, made her the best hunter. She could bring down large prey on her own and was seen doing so on numerous occasions.

I have fond memories of this wolf. I was in Yellowstone when she was fitted with her GPS radio collar and watch with mild amusement as the park biologists kept an inquisitive herd of bison away from two sedated wolves while they were waiting for them to come round. I also had a close encounter with her after I climbed up to a saddle half way up Druid Peak to photograph her and her



Photo: 06 Female, Yellowstone, by Jimmy Jones

pack. She stared straight at me, which was a little unnerving to put it mildly, but it was a look of curiosity combined with "what you looking at?"

Her death brings to a close wolf hunting season in that part of Wyoming as the quota has been filled with eight wolves. So far this season, at least 87 wolves were shot in Montana, 120 were shot or trapped in Idaho and 58 were shot in Wyoming.

Biologists say more than 80 wolves are still living in Yellowstone, a healthy population from the standpoint of species preservation. But that that number is likely to drop as hunting and trapping continue outside the park.

Not all mourn her passing. Gary Marbut, president of the Montana Shooting Sports Association, likened the admiration for 832F to romanticizing "a psychotic predator stalking Central Park and slitting the throats of unwary visitors."

Doug Breakwell

◀ [NORWAY PLANS TO KILL WOLVES]

But if the border wolves are re-designated as Norwegian, the extermination of the last population in Norway proper will take place even more swiftly, as politicians can then argue that the animals in the wolf zone need no longer be protected.

This new policy, if it goes ahead, will be indicative of the brutalisation of the treatment of predators in Norway over the past few years (a process which has also been taking place in Canada). The government has launched a programme of what it calls – in its eerily clinical language – "den removal." What this means is digging wolverine cubs out of their hibernation dens and killing them. Wolverines, like wolves, are on the "red list" of endangered species, yet they are still being killed for political reasons.

The government issues permits for the shooting of golden eagles, if they are considered to have killed reindeer. For the first time since 1932, last year the government permitted "spring hunts" of

brown bears. The animals are shot from a helicopter when they have just emerged from their winter dens and hardly know if they are coming or going. These bears are also on the red list: there are only around 120 in Norway.

Such practices were regarded as barbaric and unacceptable until recently, even among hunters and farmers. Now they are taking place without any public debate or social consent.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS WRITE TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS

Today [20th November 2012] a large coalition of environment groups in Norway, Sweden and Finland is writing to their three governments, requesting a joint plan to protect big predators across the three countries, and allow their numbers to rise.

Their letter – and the stark facts it contains about the continued suppression of these species in all three countries – exposes the myth of Scandinavian policy towards the natural

world, which we have allowed ourselves to believe is better than that of almost any other nations. It is striking that across the Balkans, eastern Europe and Germany, the protection of wildlife and the readiness to allow the number of large predators to rise is far more advanced than in Norway, Sweden and Finland.

The extreme nature of what the Centre party and a hardcore of its rural supporters is trying to achieve may turn out to be the best thing that has happened to the wolf population in that country. By exploding the myth of Norway's environmental virtue and embarrassing the country internationally, it might force Norwegians to wake up to what is being done in their name, and turn their passive support for the nation's wildlife into something more active.

www.monbiot.com
The Guardian – <http://tiny.cc/z3okpw>

News from Red Wolf Country

by UKWCT patron
Cornelia Hutt



rascals? We are hoping! We need to pin two big hearts to the fence to give the handsome parents inspiration to raise another family.

With the help of volunteers and a fundraising campaign, the Red Wolf Coalition added a beautiful pollinator garden to the Wolf Exhibit property. This is another way to teach about the importance of biodiversity in an ecosystem. And Betty and Hank like the

landscaping feature in view of their woodland habitat!

WANT TO SEE how cool red wolves really are? Now everyone will have a chance to view two red wolves, a mated pair, in their spacious, shaded habitat at the Red Wolf Coalition's brand new wolf exhibit in the heart of red wolf country.

Affectionately called "Betty and Hank," this pair (above) had a beautiful litter of pups three years ago. Who knows what magic the rites of spring will produce – another litter of little



Photos: Betty and Hank by Cornelia Hutt; American Lady butterfly by Becky Bartel

RED WOLVES ILLEGALLY SHOT

Bad news follows good. Seven red wolves have been illegally shot in the five-county recovery region in north-eastern North Carolina in the past three months. Red wolves are federally protected under the Endangered Species Act, and we hope the people who shot these rare and critically imperiled animals will be caught and prosecuted to the full extent of the law. The Red Wolf Coalition and three other environmental groups won a court order suspending the nighttime hunting of coyotes in the five counties where only 100 red wolves live in the wild. Visit www.redwolves.com for more details.

THE RED WOLF IN PRINT



The red wolf is the subject of an excellent feature article in *Natural History* magazine, the

periodical published by the Museum of Natural History in New York (article available at tiny.cc/v6mmpw).

And if you're looking for a comprehensive book about red wolves, watch for DeLene Beeland's *The Secret World of Red Wolves* in April 2013.

This book is thorough, accurate and fascinating, a must-read for both scientific and popular audiences.



Julia Bohanna will be reviewing the book in the next edition of *Wolf Print*.



ENVIRONMENTALISTS and a group of scientists are criticizing a draft proposal that outlines options for releasing Mexican gray wolves into the wild. The

Mexican gray wolf release proposal draws criticism

plan deals with releasing wolves from captive breeding facilities into the wild in Arizona to replace wolves that are either killed illegally or die from natural causes. The document suggests the replacement wolves be selected to maximize genetic diversity of the wild population in Arizona and New Mexico.

The scientists and other critics have sent a letter to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, saying releases are needed but

the plan doesn't do enough to boost the wild population. They also argue that release decisions should hinge on the federal agency rather than guidelines from the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.

There are around 58 wolves in the wild along the New Mexico-Arizona border.

<http://www.mexicanwolves.org>
<http://tiny.cc/q9jmpw>

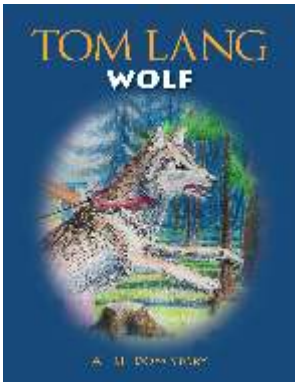
Making Tracks

wolves in the media and the arts, brought to you by Julia Bohanna

WOLF – A FREEDOM STORY

Tom Lang

Paperback, 60pp, Boudelang Press
RRP \$6.95 ISBN 978 096497 424 1



WHEN IT comes to the wolf, a lot of us try to teach, persuade people to 'come into the light.' We just can't help

being elegiac. Tom Lang has tried something different – humour. This is a lupine undercover James Bond, where a plan from the wolf world is to ensure their survival, their co-existence with man:

'We would train ourselves to behave as domestic dogs so we could be taken in by human packs where we would be protected until it was safe to go back into the wild.'

And that is exactly what happens. Throw in a coquettish Chihuahua and a world that feels truly real, a world that makes you care deeply. The animal characters are visceral, not Disney. Lady and the Tramp on acid:

'Every wolf pup in Alaska grew up hearing the adventures of Loco Lobo. He was missing a leg and he wore an eye patch over his right eye.'

There is blood, vomit, danger...it doesn't shy away from the real problems, the true issues of conservation and perception of the wolf. But it also uses facts and statistics with sly skill, within a finely paced, engaging read. The humour is dry but when it needs to, it also packs a punch.

The ending – which of course I will not give away – is neat, moving, resonant. This is clearly a work of passion. Lupine passion.

www.tomlangbooks.com



THE WOLF PRINCESS

Cathryn Constable

Paperback, 278pp, 19.8 x 12.8cm, Chicken House
RRP £6.99 ISBN: 978 1 90353 4 7

THIS IS so much more than Tolstoy for slightly older little girls. It kept my interest as an adult reader, which says a lot about the quality of the writing. Becoming lost in Russia, our heroine Sophie, chic Delphine and bespectacled Marianne, meet a mysterious princess. Sophie has strange haunting memories of her father telling her the story about a wolf: *'I will take you home, says the old grey wolf.'*

The Volkonsky Winter Palace has *'Wolves carved into the mouldings, their paws cast in bronze as door handles.'* Wolves were once guardians of the Palace but have now disappeared from the woods. Or have they? Constable conjures the place beautifully, making Russia both romantic and visceral: *'The cold was as sharp as a wolf's bite.'* Good descriptive prose. Slow-burning at first, then effectively pacy.

If I was a teacher as well as a wolf conservationist, I might deduct marks for the old cliché about wolves howling at the moon. But I would return them for Sophie's anti-hunting stance and bravery when she confronts the Russian general on the evils of hunting: *'They're just cowards. It's not even a fair fight.'* Throw in lost diamonds, peril, a mystery solved and lines like *'She thought too she heard the cries of many wolves, as though they were singing her to sleep'* – you have a great Narnia-style adventure story.

At last a story where wolves are heroic. Not cuddly, but nevertheless positively drawn.

DRAWING & PAINTING WILD ANIMALS

Vic Bearcroft

Paperback, 128pp, Search Press
RRP £14.99 ISBN 978 1 84448 694 6

SOME KNOW Vic from his regular pastel workshops at the Trust. He has produced not only a book with beautiful photographs and illustrations, but one with a logical and easy to follow layout. This book would give hope to even the most artistically inept. I include myself in that category.

Firstly, he talks about the materials to use and then breaks down the techniques to the basics to make it less daunting: namely simple shapes that can be created with a sweep of a pencil. Yes, you too can draw a rhinoceros! ▶



These wolf sculptures, from ceramic partnership Ostinelli & Priest, are created from an unusual combination of bubble wrap, wood, shrink-wrap, clay and coloured glazes.

Animal Magic

Gaynor Ostinelli, of ceramic partnership, Ostinelli & Priest, talks to Julia Bohanna about the challenges of sculpting animals.

Gaynor, can you tell me a little about your artistic backgrounds?

Paul Priest studied graphic design, illustration and photography before working with ceramic sculpture, before starting our working business relationship as Ostinelli & Priest. We sell nationally and internationally, in galleries and major ceramic exhibitions.

You have a very interesting technique to your work... how is it achieved and what materials do you use?



The work is formed over wooden armatures which are then wrapped in bubble wrap to form the desired sculpture. Wooden dowelling is wrapped in shrink wrap to form the legs, which is burnt away in the kiln for the first firing. Clay is applied over the bubble wrap to get the desired effect. The pieces are coloured with oxides, coloured slips, under glazes and minimal stoneware glazes. They are coloured many times over.

How long does it take to do each piece?

It takes, depending on the piece, approximately one day to form, then the piece has to be dried before the first firing, then fired many times to get the desired colours building up the colour each time.



Do you work from life/photographs/video or a combination of more than one?

We work from photographs.

Is there one particular animal that you loved doing more than the others?

Probably the animals at the moment we like making most are our dogs, but this changes every week.

Did you find the wolf challenging?

No, we loved making the wolves.

What did you know about wolves before your contact with the Wolf Trust and how did that contact come about?

Our contact with the Wolf Trust came about when somebody from the Trust bought one of our wolves.

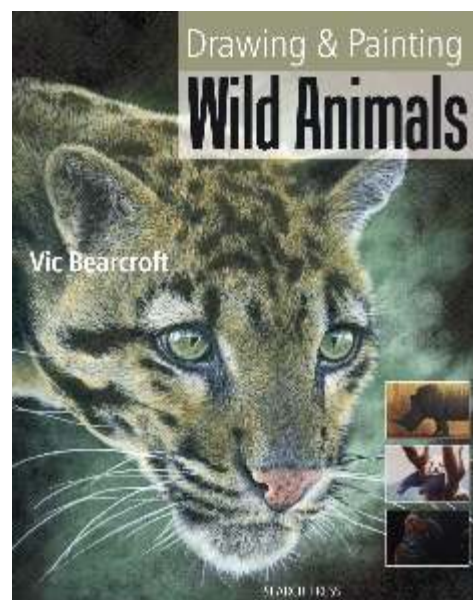
www.ostinellipriest.co.uk

◀ Drawing & Painting Wild Animals

Vic gives various tips on some pages to improve techniques or offer solutions – such as squinting at your near-finished work to get a tonal sense of it.

I found one step by step element inspiring: when it comes to sketching eyes, it is too easy to produce something lifeless that ruins the whole effect. Eyes are tricky elements when trying to capture the heart and soul of wildlife. I had a go and produced an animal's eye that actually looked real, with some personality. There is also a great selection of animals – zebras, pandas, chimps, elephants and, of course, wolves. Vic calls them 'precious animals.' His guide would suit a beginner or someone who wants to improve or pick up some excellent tips. Highly recommended.

Vic Bearcroft (www.vicbearcroft.co.uk) is a self-taught artist who specialises in pastel on velour. He is particularly passionate about wolves and has been working with the Trust since 2007.



Jimmy Jones

Wildlife photographer



'Wildlife photography is much more than taking pictures. It's when passion, skill and luck come together.'

Julia Bohanna discusses 'the thrill of the hunt without the regret' with wildlife photographer Jimmy Jones.

Q – Can you remember the first photograph you ever took and with what camera?

A— THE FIRST PHOTO I remember taking was on Christmas day when I was about eight or nine years old. I don't remember what the subject was – probably one of my five sisters. I do however remember it was with a Kodak Brownie 20 Flash camera.

Q— Why wildlife? They move, they are unpredictable...not the easiest subjects at all!

A— I LOVE NATURE and wildlife. Wildlife photography is much more than taking pictures. It's when passion, skill and luck come together. The novelty never wears off. Every time I venture out, I feel the excitement of the possibilities. Some may think, how can you sit out there for hours on end? Don't you get bored? To me it's the thrill of the hunt without the regret. I never know what I'm going to see, plus what I do see, I get to bring back with me! I always think about the blank c/f card I start out with, and wonder what will be on it at the end of the day. It's that 'not knowing' that keeps it exciting!

Even when I don't come back with anything, the time I spend out in nature, is priceless. I realise I'm alive when I'm in nature. To know something, and to realise something, are two different things. Not to mention the fact, I learn something every time I go out, no matter what I bring back. To actually see large animals in the wild is an experience few get to have. Through my photography, I hope to share my experience with others. The more people see wildlife, the more they'll want to preserve it.

Q— You say that you are self-taught... what particular kinds of challenges does that involve?

A— PHOTOGRAPHY is something I have always wanted to do, but unfortunately I didn't get serious about it until eleven years ago. At that point I decided to teach myself as much as I could about it. Once I started I never looked back. Being self-taught has its challenges, but there is an enormous amount of information one can obtain from the Internet, books, and magazines.

The first thing I had to learn was the fundamentals of photography. Once that sinks in you can start to apply it in the field. Your mistakes become your best teacher. Then you need to become your worst critic, and try to always remain objective. Being objective is perhaps the most important aspect. Every time I'm in the field, I hope to get my best shot yet. Photography is a continual learning experience.

Q— You speak of a particular passion for the wolf, which of course all we lupine lovers can appreciate. But when and why did it start for you? Were there any books that you read or films watched? Or was it purely through the animal in nature?

A— WOLVES HAVE A MYSTIQUE and folklore that makes them synonymous with the word wildness. To receive the gaze from a wolf is a feeling like nothing else. When they look at you, you feel as if they are looking into your soul. Just the word wolf makes a shiver go up the spine of some. They may think these animals are the manifestation of evil, and if they were ever to encounter one, it would attack and eat them. Fairy tales about 'The Big Bad Wolf' have planted deep seeds

early in the lives of many. The truth is wolves are predators, a necessary and important part of nature. Nature has many faces. None are evil.

The Gray Wolf has always been my favorite. It was only natural that my love for nature and wolves would come together and launch my passion for photography. The wolf is the most misrepresented animal in nature.

In 1995, wolves were returned to Yellowstone Park. Since then they have revealed just how important they are to the ecosystem. Being a keystone predator they have a positive cascade effect on their environment. Their presence in Yellowstone has demonstrated how important they are in maintaining the balance of nature that was disrupted when they were removed in the early 20th century.

Sometimes we as humans think we can make that balance better by changing it. It seems the only time our intervention has a positive impact, is when we correct something we damaged by trying to change it. This is a lesson those who have accepted the responsibility of stewardship over wildlife and wild lands need to learn.

Q— Have you had any ‘hairy moments’ with photographing large predators?

A— I HAVEN’T HAD ANY moments I would call ‘hairy,’ but I have had some very exciting moments. Most of which were close encounters. Sometimes you get just what you are looking for:

I was on the south fork of the Kern River looking for bobcats. There, standing in the trail just one hundred yards in front of me was a bobcat! I had left my big lens and tripod in the jeep. I took some handheld shots and slowly walked down the trail. As I approached, it crossed the trail into the tall grass, so I continued down the trail. It came back out of the grass on to the trail. Then another cat came out from the grass, and then another! I was shooting the entire time, walking slowly. It was a mother with two nearly grown cubs. The larger male cub circled around to my right, watching me all the time. The male was just thirty feet from me! He was relaxed and even sat down as I was shooting away. Finally he realised mom was gone so he did a slow side step in her direction and walked off into the



Agate, a female yearling

woods, bathed in the golden morning light.

I was able to spend so much time with this cat because I never stressed him or made him feel trapped, all the while monitoring his comfort level. I also never looked at him other than through the lens or peripherally. Eye contact can sometimes be threatening to an animal.

Q— Why Yellowstone? Why is it such a special venue for photographers?

A— YELLOWSTONE IS THE BEST PLACE in the lower 48 states to see an intact ecosystem. With the reintroduction of wolves, it has become the premier location for wolf observation in the world. This park is the place to be if you want to see nature as it was and as it should be. The opportunity to observe interspecies interaction is unparalleled in North America. When someone mentions a photographer’s paradise, Yellowstone is usually in the same sentence.

Q— Is there any creature you have never managed to capture and would love to?

A— THE ONE ANIMAL on my ‘To Get List’ is the elusive mountain lion. This is perhaps the most difficult animal to photograph in the wild. I live in southern California where there are mountain lions, but I have only seen one, and that was at night. Hopefully one day.

Q— Do you have one photograph in which you have a special pride?

A— ONE CALLED ‘SNEAKY FEMALE.’ So many people go to Yellowstone to

watch wolves and this shot (see picture and news update on page 24) has the Lamar Canyon 06 Female watching them as they look for wolves. They had no clue she was there.

Q— Do you have any tips for would-be wildlife photographers?

A— SIT STILL. Wildlife photography takes planning, knowledge of your subject, skill, luck, and most of all, patience. You have limited control of the situation at best. Be aware of the light, the background, composition, and the direction of the sun. Focus on the eyes of your subject and wait for the catch light in the eye if possible. When looking through the viewfinder at the moment things are happening, have

the presence of mind to compose the shot. Imagine what the entire photograph will look like, not just the subject. Be aware of your camera settings. You should know your camera gear and how to use it before you are out there. Seconds matter.

Read books and magazines, visit photography websites, educate yourself on the animals you want to photograph. Never do anything that stresses an animal or makes them feel trapped. Be a good steward of the wild lands you shoot in. Be humble and objective. Learn from your mistakes, and practice, practice, practice. Have fun!

Q— While you are out and about waiting, what is the worst kind of weather for you?

A— IT DEPENDS on what you’re trying to shoot. Even bad weather has its merits. I suppose pouring rain has the least appeal.

Q— What ambitions – photography and beyond – do you still have left?

A— IN ADDITION to moving to Montana my ambition is to stay healthy, live a long life, never stop growing as a photographer and someday have a gallery. I would also hope that my photography, even in a small way, will contribute to the awareness of wildlife conservation not just for the wolf, but all wildlife.

jimmyjonesphotography.com/bio
www.blurb.com/user/Shutterjockey

Julia Bohanna

T-Shirts and Wolf Gifts

The Mountain® T-Shirts £18.00

100% cotton crew-neck t-shirts from the heart of New England. Pre-washed, pre-shrunk and hand-dyed with eco-friendly dyes.

A – Moon Soloist B – Wild Spirit Maiden C – Wolf Roots D – Wolf Spirit Warrior

Adult sizes: Sizes M (38"), L (40"), XL (45") and 2XL (47").

E – Find 6 Wolves F – Find 10 Wolves G – Find 13 Wolves

Adult sizes: M (38"), L (40"), XL (45"), 2XL (47").

Child sizes: S (27"), M (30"), L (32"), XL (36")



A



E



B



C



F



D



G

3D Wolf Family Postcard £1.65

A 'Livelife' postcard featuring two adult wolves and their young pup in a snowy scene. If you can bear to part with it, the reverse is printed with the standard postcard message and address sections.

Size: 16cm x 12cm.



3D Wolf Family Magnet £2.50

A 'Livelife' magnet featuring the same scene as the postcard. Size: 9cm x 7cm.

(Look at the upper wolf – can you see the difference between the two pictures?)



3D Howling Wolf Magnet £2.50

A 'Livelife' 3D magnet. Size: 9cm x 7cm.

To view and order these and our other stationery, clothing, books, gifts and souvenirs, visit our online shop at 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.

Forthcoming events at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust



Children's Events



NEW!

• Family Tours - Thursday 21st February, 10.30am to 3.30pm

February is an important month for the wolves: it's the middle of their breeding season and for that reason there are no children's walks at this time of year. We are, however, offering the whole family a chance to join one of our tours to see the wolves in their enclosures and to chat to our volunteers. Children will have a quiz to complete as they walk round.

Adults (non-members) £5, members, concessions and children up to 12 years £4. Children under 3, free. Booking required.

• Eggstatic Spectacular -

Wednesday 27th March at 11am

Have you ever wondered what the wolves love to do at Easter? Well, they do enjoy hunting for eggs! Come for a walk with the wolves and then decorate some eggs for their very own wolfy Easter Egg Hunt – the wolves love it and so will you! Please book early for this popular event.

Cost £15 per person, 6 years +

• Children's Wolf Walks - Thursday 4th April, Wednesday 29th May, at 10am

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

• Children's Art Day - Wednesday 3rd April, 10am to 2pm

We have a brand new event this Easter: come and get creative and walk with a wolf! Artist Susan Smith is here to help create some wolfy artwork with you. Susan, a retired local Head of Art and Design, loves getting creative with colour and texture – ideal for creating great wolf pictures and collages.

First of all you'll gather some inspiration for your piece of work by going on a walk with our ambassador wolves. Then while the grownups enjoy some tea and coffee, the children will join Susan in the Education Centre to begin their artwork. During the lunch break kids and adults will meet up again and once you've enjoyed your lunch, grown-ups can accompany their children back to the education centre to see what they've been creating and help put on the finishing touches. **£25 for 1 adult and 1 child** – Booking essential. Please bring your own lunch.

Wolf Keeper Experience Days

Thursday 25th July, Thursday 1st August, 10am–4pm
£100 per person, age 16 or over. Booking Essential.

See behind the scenes at the Wolf Trust and shadow the keeper in tasks such as cleaning out the wolf enclosures, preparing food and feeding the wolves. Get involved in our wolf enrichment programme, walk with wolves, meet a wolf, great photo opportunities, souvenir event certificate.

Maximum 6 people on each day.

Check our website for other dates, full details and to book

Friday
Night
is
Howl
Night!

22nd March at 6.30pm
26th April and 24th May at 7.00pm

Feel your backbone tingle and your ears vibrate with the sound. 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!

£15 per person. Booking essential
(Don't forget to dress up warmly for an evening under the stars).



PREDATOR DAY

Sundays 10th February, 17th March and Saturday, 13th April from 10am to 4pm

The ultimate experience for animal and wildlife enthusiasts:

Spend a whole day with the world's most powerful and enthralling predators... wolves and raptors.



The morning includes a two-hour walk with wolves around the wolf centre in beautiful Berkshire countryside. There will be ample opportunities to photograph visitors meeting and interacting with the wolves as well as handling and flying the birds of prey in the afternoon. There will be time to see and photograph all the wolves at the Trust including the UK's first Arctic wolves, which look magnificent in their thick white winter coats.



Our **Predator Day** is the only way in the UK to walk with wolves in the morning and fly a hawk in the afternoon.

£120 per person. Minimum age 16
Booking essential Please bring a packed lunch

WOLF VIEWING & BAT WALK

Saturday 8th June and
Saturday 21st September

7pm • £15 • Booking essential

- Tour the Trust and see our 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



NEW!

UKWCT Wolf Centre Open Days – Monday 27th May, Monday 26th August and Sunday 6th October. 11am to 5pm



- See our wolves up close!
- Wolf photography opportunities
- Ask the experts about living with wolves
- Listen to the wolves howling
- Birds of prey flying demonstrations
- Quirks' Animal Roadshows
- Dog agility displays, Hug-a-Husky
- Children's activities including face-painting, nature trail and pond-dipping and bouncy castle
- Archery
- Refreshments and picnic tables available
- Booking not required • **FREE PARKING**
- **Sorry: no dogs on site**



ADMISSION Adults: **£8** advance or **£10** on the day, Members, children (3-12), OAPs: **£5**, Children under 3: **FREE**
Family ticket: (2 adults, 2 children): **£24** advance or **£30** on the day. **Tickets available online or call 0118 971 3330**

NEW!

Arctic Amble

14th April, 18th May, 1st June, 7th & 20th July,
3rd & 18th August. 9am to 11am

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 8 people. Booking essential. **£60 per person, age 18+**



Pastel Workshop

with Vic Bearcroft
Monday, 4th March

Join award-winning British wildlife artist Vic Bearcroft on this special pastel workshop. Suitable for artists of all abilities, **you will learn how to paint wolves in pastel on velour paper.**

You will be painting one of the UKWCT's own wolves from a selected reference photograph, in sight of the wolves themselves.

You will also have the chance to meet a wolf at very close quarters, feel the fur and take some fantastic reference photos.

For further information and to book, email Vic Bearcroft at vicbearcroft@tiscali.co.uk or telephone 01636 651699 www.vicbearcroft.co.uk

Photography Day

Saturday, 20th April, 10am to 4pm

Photograph all 10 of the Trust's wolves, including our amazing Arctic trio.

Our photography workshops are held when the wolves are at their most charismatic. We start with a brief presentation setting the scene and giving you background information of the wolves and the centre. You will then have time to photograph the wolves either in their enclosures or out on a walk.

Open to photographers of all abilities and standards of equipment. Participants must be 18 years or older. Full details on the website.

Spaces are limited – so book early. **£100 per person.**



Fathers' Day Walk

Sunday, 16th
June at 11am

Stuck for that special gift for a Dad who has everything? Why not get him the ultimate gift – walking with wolves?

The event includes a photo opportunity with the wolves and a gift for Dad.

£75 for two people. Open to children age 12 years plus; £10 extra per additional child, subject to availability.

