

Mission:Wolf

A remote and peaceful refuge for wolves and wolf-dog crosses



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2006 Update

There are few other creatures in the world that provoke such a deep, guttural response from humans as the wolf. The wolf continues to inspire and frighten people simultaneously. All of the videos and books out there about wolves combined cannot give us a true sense of this animal. Everywhere I go, people are not prepared for a personal experience with a wolf... we are so caught up in the myths and meanings of this animal that we don't know what to do when we come eye-to-eye with a live wolf.

This winter I celebrate my twenty-second year caring for and living with wolves. Two decades ago I was incapable of understanding the long term changes I would experience by learning the ways of the wolf. Today, I find the best thing I can do to help wolves is to help people. So many people today live in areas devoid of wildlife that, as a result, we have developed an instinctual need to find a connection



Brothers Obediah and Rasta try to see eye-to-eye.

with nature. No video, lecture or book can replace the feelings one experiences in the presence of a wolf. Our goal is to offer people an experience with a wild animal that ultimately allows them to gain an appreciation and understanding for nature. This connection with nature and a predator like the wolf is what people seek and is what fuels Mission:Wolf.

The refuge was created with an unusual set of priorities that places wolf care and sanctuary at the top, experiential education and visitor needs second, and business last. This has created a facility with many happy captive wolves living for a long time in large enclosures, a visitor and education building, and a small room dedicated as an office. All of us at the refuge, wolf and human alike, would like to sincerely thank you and acknowledge your help and support in helping both wild and captive wolves. It is only through the efforts of kind people like you that we have been able to accomplish so much. We hope that someday soon you will be able to visit the refuge, meet the wolves and staff, and see what everyone's hard work has built.

As typical with life at the refuge, we have been so busy living it we are often too exhausted to sit down and write about it. We hope to finish our next issue of Wolf Visions this summer, but in the mean time, here is a quick update about the wolves and the work and accomplishments of the many people around them.

- Kent Weber, Director



Ned and Druid relax in the snow.



Captive Wolf Refuge

Mission:Wolf provides a peaceful home for up to 40 captive born gray wolves and wolf-dog crosses. Seventeen individual packs live in spacious fenced enclosures that occupy many acres of diverse terrain. Constant expansion of wolf habitat occurs as fencing, land, labor and funds allow.



Day Visits and Camping

Drop-in visitors who survive the dirt roads are welcome from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm all year. A staff volunteer will offer a free tour. Donations are appropriate. Campers have access to thousands of acres of adjoining National Forest land or may choose to camp at the refuge. We ask that you prepare for back-country camping and bring your own food, water, bedding, tent, camper or RV. Bring warm clothes, boots and sun-gear. Gas and phone are a 40 minute drive to Gardner or Westcliffe. Lodging and food are 50 minutes away in Westcliffe. Staff educators are present 24 hours a day to care for the wolves. Informal wolf tours are available as time and interest allow. Driving directions and a map are provided on our website.

Refuge Goals

Our first priority is to provide the resident wolves with as peaceful and natural a life as possible in captivity. Our prime objective is to connect people with nature and foster concern and support for wild habitat protection. Our dream and goal is to educate enough people so that wild wolves and humans may coexist and places like Mission:Wolf will become obsolete, as people learn that wolves do not make good pets.

Interns and Volunteers

M:W provides primitive camping sites and limited cooking facilities to self-motivated student interns and volunteers. Projects range from wolf education, feedings and fence maintenance to cabin construction, cooking and paperwork. No age limits are set, we simply operate by survival of the fittest (and most responsible). If you can endure the 9,300 ft. elevation, provide and cook your food, supply your tent, bag and pad, and still have a positive attitude with energy to spare, we have countless projects in need of help. Full-time staff positions that offer room and board are available on a limited basis.



How You Can Help!



Wish List

Frozen chicken, beef; or wild game; *Boxes of rubber gloves*; Canine stretcher; *XL airline kennels (need 20 more for fire evacuation)*; High quality senior dog and cat kibble; *Minerals and supplements (please call for details)*; 2' dia. steel poles (10'long); *Chain link fence (9 ga., 8' tall)*; HP printer ink - 56, 57, 94, 95, 45, 23; *Photographic and normal paper for ink jet printers*; Portable PA amp and speaker(s); *Wireless microphones (2)*; Copies of Educational Handouts; *Hanging planters, house plants and garden seeds*; Flagstone and sand for pathways; *Log poles for handrails*, Battery powered tools - Drills, sawzall, circular saw, sanders; *Work gloves (all sizes)*

Get a friend to become a member

Please mail to: Mission:Wolf, PO Box 211, Silver Cliff, CO 81252

Other Wolf Organizations

W.O.L.F., CO: www.wolfsanctuary.net
International Wolf Center, MN: www.wolf.org
Wolf Hollow, MA: www.wolfhollowipswitch.com
Wild Spirit Wolf Sanct., NM: www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org
Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center, CO: www.wolfeducation.org
Wolf Education & Resource Center, ID: www.wolfcenter.org
Grizzly Discovery Center: www.grizzlydiscoveryctr.com
Wolf Haven, WA: www.wolfhaven.org
Wolf Park, IN: www.wolfpark.org
Sinapu, CO: www.sinapu.org
White Wolf Sanctuary: www.whitewolfsanctuary.org

Please refer to the "Educational Links" section of our website (www.missionwolf.com) for more information and organizations that need your help today.



Thirteen Moons At Mission:Wolf



THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN LONG AGO TO THANK AND HONOR ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HELP AND LET THE REST OF YOU KNOW WHAT GOES ON IN A YEAR AT MISSION:WOLF

A brief glance at what a few motivated people experienced at M:W in 13 cycles of the moon

OCTOBER 2003 - Arriving fall staff take over as the wolf bus departs for our annual fall tour; roof framing continues on the loft of the new community building; refuge staff collect wood and food to prepare for winter.

NOVEMBER - Surface water freezes as staff adjusts to winter routines; wolf bus returns from a successful 7,000 mile educational journey; wolves romp in new snow.

DECEMBER - Progress on the new community building stops as cold and snow increase; much office work is required to keep up with the holiday season.

JANUARY 2004 - Wolves' activity increases as mating season advances; refuge life becomes exhausting and survival of the fittest is clearly understood as winter sets in.

FEBRUARY - Wolves are in their prime season with expressive courting rituals and thick winter coats; refuge staff is forced to catch up on neglected office work as the temperature drops.

MARCH - Preparations are made for the upcoming spring tour to the Northwest and the arrival of brave college students who volunteer to help during spring break.

APRIL - The Wolf Bus departs for a 3,000 mile educational journey as new staff take over the refuge; the wolves start to molt in the spring sun.

MAY - The refuge comes alive as the wolf bus returns from a successful tour and school busses arrive with students eager for a wolf field trip; new summer staff settle into tipi life.

JUNE - Visitors arrive by the carload and the refuge comes alive with new fence expansions and path improvements; roof framing resumes on the Community Building; new bridges are started to provide easier access for both staff and visitors.

JULY - Fence re-builds, gate installation and building construction gains momentum; youth camp and international volunteer tents fill the hillside and the smell of campfire smores fill the air; laughter abruptly stops as campers are paralyzed by every howl.



Mission:Wolf - Tracy Ane Brooks Copyrights 2006

AUGUST - The Community Building progresses dramatically as volunteers work away at finishing the complex roof and wall systems; wolf fence improvements blast forward with new-found support as teens from the "Road Less Traveled" camps take over the refuge.

SEPTEMBER - Refuge activity drops drastically as summer visitors and staff depart for school and work; winter preparations are delayed as weatherproofing the new building takes priority; school busses once again arrive full of more students eager to see wolves.

OCTOBER - New staff arrive just in time for the wolf bus to depart for a seven week, 8,000 mile tour; the sounds of chainsaws fill the air as the staff works to

gather plenty of wood to survive the coming snow.

NOVEMBER - The wolf bus returns from one of our most efficient and productive tours to find the refuge in great shape with a happy staff and healthy wolves; office life is at a peak as many of us are busy playing catch-up from a long summer, a huge tour and preparing for the upcoming holidays.

SIMPLY STATED - in thirteen months the Wolf program covered 16,000 miles across 20+ states and presented 165 individual programs in 99 days to over 32,000 attendees. Newspaper and television coverage reached millions. Another 4,000+ visitors managed to find their way to the refuge to learn and help. The wolves themselves have consumed over 56,000 pounds of meat that has been purchased, donated, collected, hauled, cut and delivered by volunteers who feed the wolves every three to five days.

Several hundred feet of wolf fencing has been replaced and several gates installed to provide more space and easier movement of wolves. Land payments continue to challenge our budget but once again we managed to pay off \$13,000 on our loan, maintain six vehicles, a farm and feed many wolves and volunteers on a budget of less than \$200,000 per year! Thanks to all of you who helped make this a reality!



The Mission:Wolf Wilderness Preserve



In 1986 Kent signed the papers on 36.5 acres of the most remote land available with the goal of creating a sustainable home. In the years since, Kent's home has turned into an educational nature center and peaceful wolf sanctuary with thousands of visitors each year. To assure the long-term success of our refuge and to help reduce fragmentation of the wild land adjacent to M:W, we created a project called the Mission:Wolf Wilderness Preserve.

This project consists of procuring nearly 2,800 acres of land surrounding the refuge. Our land debt now exceeds \$175,000, yet we have secured 208 acres for the Mission:Wolf refuge and Wilderness Preserve.

You may help Mission:Wolf secure vital land by getting involved in several ways. One is to simply donate (or find a good friend who can) the money to help pay off our current land debt. Another is to donate the land itself or the money to buy a specific parcel (\$25,000 to \$75,000 per parcel). A more complicated yet feasible way for M:W to achieve this goal is to simply encourage individuals to purchase the available land, retain the title and use of the property, while protecting future wildlife with the benefits of a tax deductible conservation trust plan.

If you wish to become part of M:W's Land project, contact Kent at 719-859-2157 or info@missionwolf.com

Sustainable Living

Sustainable living is a lifestyle geared towards harmonious interaction with the natural world. By designing human habitats that are respectful of nature, people can lead a way of life that enhances and restores nature.

As proven true at the Mission:Wolf refuge, necessity is the mother of invention. Due to our remote location, we needed to re-design basic systems of operation (water, electricity, heating, food production and waste disposal) to contribute to the health and vitality of our natural surroundings.

Mission:Wolf has been built almost entirely out of recycled, reused and donated materials. We use xeriscaping (a method of landscaping that uses natural features and native plants) around the refuge and grow our own vegetables and herbs each summer in the greenhouse. With just a little bit of effort put forth, we are able to recycle or compost about 70% of our waste products. The refuge is entirely solar and wind powered. The water system is gravity fed and solar powered. Two of the main goals of Mission:Wolf is to leave as small a footprint on the land as possible and teach other people how to do the same.

One of the most exciting projects we're involved in right now is creating a biodiesel processor. All diesel engines, from tractor to car, can run off of pure vegetable oil. We have found that by collecting used oil from local restaurants and heating and mixing this oil in a processor, M:W can produce fuel for our trucks and buses for about less than \$1.00/gallon! No more nasty black clouds of exhaust coming from our vehicles... now there will just be white clouds that smell like french fries. If you are interested in helping with our biodiesel project or learning more for yourself, please visit the refuge or contact us at info@missionwolf.com.



A Wolf Comes to Town

Mission:Wolf operates a national education program that gives people the chance to meet a live wolf. This experience often instills respect for wolves and other wildlife. Our unique and informative wolf program, featuring Ambassador Wolves like Maggie, annually reaches over 50,000 people and has been viewed by millions via television specials. Our focus is to dispel the many fears people associate with the wolf.

Some peoples' lower jaw drops to the floor when they learn that a live wolf is about to visit their school or business. Often the first response is shock - "what?" The second is - "do they bite?" and the third response is - "can I pet the wolf?" After we have explained what we are doing and why we are there, people still sometimes seem confused. But after they experience a program and observe the response of the wolves and people together, a loud and clear message prevails as each person soon realizes the wolves are not going to eat them. With the fear of the fabled grandmother-eating wolf overcome, people can now understand the difference between wolves and dogs. As it becomes painfully obvious why wolves born to captivity are not suitable to be returned to the wild, the need for wild wolf recovery becomes clear. Now the thought of owning a wolf or a wolf-dog cross as a pet becomes unthinkable.

Each year the wolf bus and Ambassador Wolves travel to the East Coast in the Fall and the West Coast in the Spring. If you are interested in scheduling or attending an event, please visit the educational section of our website (www.missionwolf.com) for more information.



Maggie plays on the road

Maggie - The Ambassador Wolf

September 7th, 2002 was a day to remember. Although we didn't know it at the time, we were meeting our future Ambassador Wolves for the first time. Maggie and her sister Raven arrived at the refuge early in the morning after a sleepless night spent with Kent and Tracy while being rescued. These two four-month old pups had been bred for a movie project, discarded by the producer, and ended up living as exotic pets in the mountains of Colorado. Thankfully their owner realized he was in over his head and called us. Once at the refuge, Raven boldly explored the staff kitchen and every other place she could stick her nose. However, Maggie hung back, watched the people with huge eyes and waited for her sister to make all of the decisions.

It wasn't long before Maggie and Raven were introduced to Rami, our adult Ambassador Wolf, and were adopted as her own pups. Just three weeks after arriving at the refuge Maggie and Raven climbed on the wolf bus and headed down the driveway to meet thousands of people. Raven seemed excited by the whole process, but Maggie just hid in the corner and pretended she was somewhere else. In their first public program, Maggie didn't know what to do with all of the people staring at her.

Now, nearly four years later, Maggie has gone from one of the shyest wolf puppies we've ever worked with to the Queen of the Ambassador Program. Rami and Raven have retired from traveling, leaving the spotlight entirely for Maggie. She's already met over 100,000 people across 17 states and still loves all of the attention. Maggie's been swimming in the Atlantic Ocean, gazed over the edge of the Grand Canyon and howled to the wild wolves near Yellowstone. Everywhere she goes, Maggie's bright yellow eyes, silvery coat, noble bearing and sweet disposition catch people off guard... they are in love before they know it. Our hats are off to this amazing girl and all of the work she's done to teach people that we don't need to be afraid.





Wild Wolves and the Trophic Cascade



This year marks the 10th anniversary of the wolf's return to Yellowstone National Park. We have learned much about the effect large carnivores have on an ecosystem in the past decade. In the past it was thought that an ecosystem was built from the bottom up... with plant life as the basis from which everything grew. Once healthy plants were established, insects, small rodents, birds, larger herbivores and finally the top predators fell into a balance with each other. Almost all conservation and reintroduction efforts were based on this idea. In a damaged area, biologists would first try to rebuild the plant life before doing anything else. However, some ecosystems could not be fixed before reintroducing an endangered top-level animal. In Yellowstone National Park, the US Fish and Wildlife Service was required by the Endangered Species Act to reintroduce wolves before balancing the plant base and herbivore populations.



In the years since the wolf reintroduction, Yellowstone has become a premiere scientific laboratory for wilderness observation and ecosystem recovery. Scientists have come from around the world to watch the effect wild wolves have on the park. We have discovered that an ecological effect called the "trophic cascade" has taken over Yellowstone, with the wolves initiating a more natural ecosystem balance than has been seen in over 65 years.



The idea of a "trophic cascade" is relatively basic. The term "trophic" refers to the different levels of a food chain (with the plants being one trophic level, insects the next, all of the way up the ladder). However, the "cascade" forces us to look at the traditional food chain from a different perspective. Picture a small stream flowing through the woods - then the stream comes to a waterfall, or cascade. As the stream falls over the edge of the cascade, it hits a rock and splits, then each of those waterfalls hits another rock and splinters again. You end up with a single stream at the top scattering out into many cascades. Now, put the two terms together: trophic cascade. We are learning that a large carnivore at the top of the food chain is just like the little stream - the effects on the rest of the ecosystem ripple out

over all of the trophic levels. In other words, when wild wolves return to an ecosystem, by chasing and hunting their prey and competing with other species, they help restore balance to the ecosystem.

Since wild wolves have returned to Yellowstone, the elk and deer seem stronger, the aspens and willows appear healthier and the grasses are taller. For example, when wolves chase elk during the hunt, the elk are forced to run faster and farther. As the elk run, their hooves aerate the soil, allowing more grasses to grow. Since the elk cannot remain stationary for too long, aspens and willows in one area are not heavily grazed, and therefore can fully recover between migrations. As with the rest of the country, coyote populations were nearly out of control in Yellowstone before the wolves returned. Now, the coyotes have been out-competed and essentially reduced by 80 percent in areas occupied by wolves. The coyotes that do remain are more skittish and wary. With fewer coyotes hunting small rodents, raptors like the eagle and osprey have more prey and are making a comeback. The endangered grizzly bears successfully steal wolf kills more often than not, thus having more food to feed their cubs. In essence, we have learned that by starting recovery at the top with predators like wolves, the whole system benefits.



A wild wolf population actually makes for a stronger, healthier and more balanced ecosystem. From plant, to insect, to people... we all stand to benefit from wolves.



What You Can Do To Help Wild Wolves



There are many different ways to help wolves remain in the wilds of the US. Efforts to protect wild wolves need to focus around at least three different fronts... 1) education, 2) political action, and 3) support.

Wolf education is key. The more people learn about the realities of wolves, the more people want to help. It is vital that we dispel the myths that surround wolves. When someone hears the word "wolf" it either brings to mind the big-bad wolf, or they see a spiritual totem animal.



The true wolf is neither... it must kill to survive, but it is also highly social and shares many qualities with humans. So, the more we can talk to people who don't know much about wolves, show them pictures, or let them meet a real wolf, the more the myths and fears will disappear.

The second aspect of protecting wild wolves is taking action and making your voice heard. Wolves are a sensitive political issue and one of the most powerful things we can do is to tell our political representatives that we support wild wolves. Write emails and letters, call their offices, sign petitions... do everything you can to let them know how you feel. Defenders of Wildlife,

NRDC, NWF and WWF are a few of the groups out there that help people find out about political proposals and how to respond to them.

Wild wolves and the communities around which they live need your personal support. Take your vacations in areas with wild wolves and let the community know that you are there because of the wolves. The more tourism the wolves bring into an area, the more local people learn to depend on wolves for their income. Try to rise above stereotypes and realize that ranchers,

rangers, environmentalists and wolf lovers are not what the press make them out to be... we are all people just trying to survive in the world. Wild wolves can be hard on a small rancher, so try to look at the wolves' presence from their point of view, and then try to help by contributing to Defenders of Wildlife's compensation fund. When a wild wolf starts going after livestock for food, take a moment to realize that the rangers and biologists hired to remove them are not the villains... they are doing what is necessary to protect the rest of the wolf population. In other words, we all need to work together to find compromises that allow wolves, livestock and humans to live together peacefully.



Progress Around the Refuge



The new Community Building in 2003

Our long-time dream of building a beautiful and sustainable kitchen is finally being realized. Our infamous **outhouse** has become **obsolete** with the completion of our staff and visitor bathrooms, which include two flush toilets, running hot and cold water, and a shower/ bathtub. Everyone is marveling over the custom concrete countertop, hand-made beetle kill pine cabinets, new six-burner stove and wolf picture tiles in the kitchen. The view of the whole refuge and surrounding Sangre de Cristo Mountains are breathtaking from the second story loft. The radiant floor heating system is up and running, with solar and propane heated water coursing through pipes in the foundation to warm the whole building without the use of a woodstove.

Perhaps the biggest change for those of us who've been at the refuge for a couple

of years is the **running hot water**... no more mornings spent trying to heat gallons upon gallons of water on the woodstove before hauling it to the wolf enclosures. Thanks to the thousands of hours volunteers have put into the new Community Building over the years, it's like we've moved to the Ritz. Though there are hundreds more hours of work ahead of us, the light has appeared at the end of the tunnel. Completion of this **sustainable building** will mean a huge reduction in the resources we need to survive. We will soon be able to spend less time taking care of daily life around the refuge and more time than ever before caring for the wolves.



We're almost finished today!



Love and Loss for the Wolves



Mission:Wolf is a sanctuary for both wolves and humans. We all love the view of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and the sound of wolf howls floating through the night. However, even more than the peaceful snows, blooming wildflowers and yellow eyes of the resident wolves, change is what defines Mission:Wolf. People come and go, buildings sprout up, the sunshine of summer quickly replaces the ice of winter, and the wolves keep all of us on our toes. We have shed tears of loss for some of our best wolf-friends, heaved sighs of relief as elderly, lonely residents have found new mates, and smiled and laughed at the antics of our new puppies.

Life has been a true rollercoaster around the refuge over the past couple of years. Since the publication of our last newsletter the lives of nearly all of our wolves have drastically changed. We have had to say goodbye to too many of our wolfy friends... Yaqui, Shaman, Lucus, Zephyr, Jordan, Peaches and Jazmine. Each one of them deserve an entire book dedicated to their life and memory. Hopefully, in the weeks and months to come we will find the time and strength to bid them farewell properly. In the mean time, we have three new additions to the refuge to keep our spirits up and our thoughts light. No one can stay serious too long when watching Soleil, Orion or Leo galavanting around the refuge.



Rami

All of the coming and going of wolves has caused the staff to step into one of our least favorite roles: matchmaker. One of the hardest things about keeping wolves in captivity is making sure they have suitable companions. They are almost never happy with our choices or ideas, and we can't read their minds, so it is all a matter of trial and error. After many months of planning and many sleepless nights of worrying, nearly all of our wolves seem content with their mates. Sabretooth now spends most of his time flirting with his new girlfriend, Raven. Polar Bear has been reunited with his puppy-hood sweetheart Kestrel, after getting ousted from his pack by his brother Gizmo. Beorn has moved down the hill to be happily bossed around by Nyati, the only female strong enough to keep Beorn in line. At 13 years of age Rami has retired from the Ambassador Program and now lives with Skinny, her first boyfriend. Aurora has finally found a playmate in Rogue - the two of them spending hours on end chewing, wresting and howling together. And even Luna has found a mate in Leo, a *huge* and goofy malamute-wolf cross recovering from a severe broken leg.

Over the years, a few of our other canine friends have left Mission:Wolf. Nali, Gandolph and Saidee are all dogs that were sold as wolves. All three ended up coming to Mission:Wolf because they were hyperactive, destructive and looked like they might have a little bit of wolf ancestry. However, as they grew up, it became apparent that they did not have any wolf content at all, were unhappy living in outdoor enclosures without much people time, and needed new homes. Thankfully, Nali, Gandoalph and Saidee have all found loving people to take care of them and offer them safe and appropriate homes.

Living with wolves is like living in a soap opera... you never know what's going to happen next. Maybe we'll find companions for our lone wolves Maggie, Merlin and Ghosty. Or maybe Ned and Druid will decide they don't want to share Katimik's affections anymore. In the end it all comes down to one thing - wolves do not belong in cages. Our wolves should have been born wild... getting to chase the elk, pick their own mates and disappear into the shadows of the forest as humans approach.



The Ending of An Era...



When Kent moved to the woods of Colorado twenty years ago to give his wolves a peaceful home, the future looked bleak. Although there were once over one million wild wolves in North America, there were fewer than 1,000 left in 1986. People were spending more and more time in the city, leaving wilderness and wildlife behind. Americans seemingly lost touch with the natural world to such an extent that many no longer knew the difference between wild and domestic. There were over 250,000 wolves and wolf-dogs living as exotic pets in cages in the U.S. alone.



Peaches

Mission:Wolf began with the very strong belief that these captive wolves deserved a better home and that education and conservation were the only roads to a healthy future. As the years passed and more fence went up around the refuge, Kent agreed to take in one homeless wolf pup after another. As these first pups grew, their individual personalities emerged - a few of the bold and daring would run up to enthusiastically greet visitors while others turned into timid, wild spirits who preferred the company of their own kind. The bravest wolves became Ambassadors for their species, traveling across the country, meeting thousands of people and teaching them not to be afraid. In the meantime, the shy wolves played and howled back at the refuge, reminding visitors of the meaning and value of wildness. These first pups became the founders of Mission:Wolf, teaching us all what it was to be a wolf and determining our future.

Over the years, these first little wolf pups matured and all too soon, their coats turned silver with age. Nearly all of the founding wolves have now passed away. It has been difficult watching our friends disappear one by one, but we have also celebrated their lives and their new freedom as each left the confines of captivity. This year has been particularly hard on those of us left behind as we said goodbye to three of our beloved friends and realized it was the ending of an era. Jordan will forever be known for her tenacious attitude toward life - never accepting the limits of her world. Peaches spent her life winning the hearts of everyone she met, reaching out to help us all understand a bit better. Jazmine, the matriarch of Mission:Wolf, left behind a legacy in her children (the unexpected result of a clandestine romance) and the memory of her bright and wild eyes.

During the lifetime of these three girls the world of the wolf has drastically changed. There are now over 4,000 wild wolves in the U.S. New laws all over the country are prohibiting wolves and wolf-dogs from being kept as pets. People are starting to look at wolves in a new light... the myth of the big bad wolf is disappearing as we learn to respect the wolf's role in the ecosystem. They will forever be missed, but we like to think that the lives of Jordan, Peaches, Jazmine and our other founding wolves helped to brighten the future for us all.



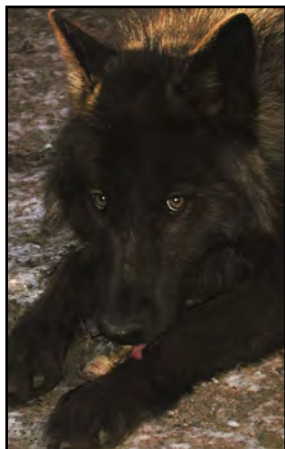
Jazmine



Jordan



... And the Beginning of Another



Orion

Sabretooth and Hina are now the wise old wolves of the refuge - the last of their generation. They spend their days watching the antics of the new youngsters, and we can all understand if they roll their eyes occasionally. Perhaps, like us, they wonder what's going to happen to Mission:Wolf in the coming years. With the dramatic shift in the public's attitude toward wolves, we are all excited about what tomorrow holds.

The next generation of wolves is already doing their best to keep us on our toes. Maggie and Raven have finally called it quits on each other, deciding they would much rather lead separate lives. Raven has moved in with Sabretooth and is just learning what it means to have a boyfriend. Maggie adores all of the extra attention she gets since leaving her sister behind. Soleil and Orion, are now a year old and have turned into the sweethearts of the refuge - trying to work up the courage to greet staff and visitors and quickly capturing everyone's fascination. We hope that Maggie will enjoy the stimulus of traveling as an Ambassador and teaching people about her species this spring. Maybe with her help and yours we can show people that everyone is connected to the natural world.



Soleil

