

# THE HOWLING REPORTER



SPRING 2006

## Our Mission

To provide permanent, safe sanctuary for abused and abandoned captive-bred wolves and wolf-dogs.

To educate the public on the wild wolf, the complexities of wolf-dog ownership and the excellent care and treatment of all animals domestic or wild.

## This Issue

Quite simply, we couldn't do this without you. Thank you members for keeping us going through another year.

- **LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION**  
Cheyenne's acting debut in the film "The Flock" starring Richard Gere! pg 2.
- **SPRING FLING 2006!**  
Your participation in our fundraisers is vital to our operation & gives our furry family an uplifting day of fun. pg 7.
- **SPONSOR ME PAGE**  
Three wolves seek an extended pack out there & campaign to become TopDog. pg 9.
- **ISIS-A FORCE OF NATURE**  
Co-founder, Barbara Berge, remembers our Isis. pg 3.
- **DEATH BY OPINION**  
Some thoughts on the Wolf Recovery Program at its five year review. pg 10.



Cheyenne & Richard Gere  
Photos: Jan Ravenwolf

## about us

WILD SPIRIT WOLF SANCTUARY  
501(c)(3) non profit organization  
Accredited by TAOS  
Licensed by the USDA  
FID# 85-0424026

### WE ARE -

Jacque Evans ————— Founder  
Leyton Cougar ————— Director  
Gary Fuller— Animal Care Supervisor  
Kris Clync ——— Facilities Director  
Angel Bennett ——— Admin Assistant  
Georgia Cougar— Newsletter/Office

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS -

Jacque Evans, Jan Ravenwolf, Chip Stites, Edward Benevidez, Dick Thayer

### BUSINESS/LEGAL ADVISORS -

Lynn Wilkinson, Norma Young, Chuck Young, Rene Stapf, Phil Sonier, Mace Loftus

## contact us

### PHONE NUMBER

505.775.3304

### ADDRESS

378 Candy Kitchen Road  
HC 61 Box 28  
Ramah, NM 87321

### WEB SITE

[www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org](http://www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org)

### E-MAIL

[info@wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org](mailto:info@wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org)

## visit us

### WE ARE OPEN FOR TOURS

Tuesday - Sunday  
11am 12:30pm 2pm 3:30pm

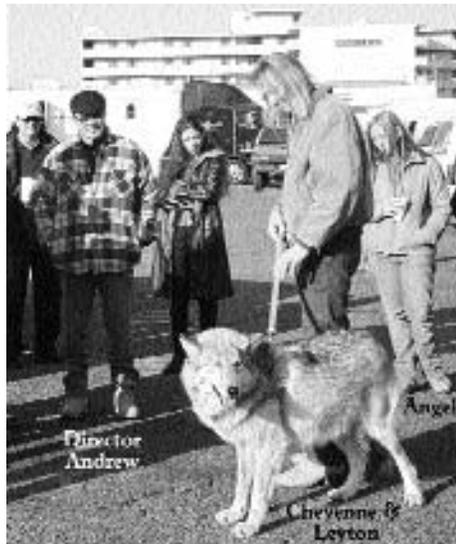
### CLOSED MONDAY

SEE MAP ON BACK COVER

# Lights, Camera, Action!

## Or, I'm not really a pet: I just play one in the movies

BY LEYTON COUGAR



New Mexico has around 20 movies scheduled to be filmed in 2006. Kicking off the new year, Albuquerque played host to award winning Asian director Andrew Lao and one of his first American movies, "The Flock," starring Richard Gere, Claire Danes and Cheyenne. Ok, she's not the star of the movie, but she is our star for sure.

We got their call on a Wednesday. They needed a timber wolf that fit Cheyenne's description and they needed one on Friday. It sounded like a dark movie, when I asked about the plot, and what they wanted our baby to do. Cheyenne was to play the bad guy's pet wolf, but we decided it would be invaluable exposure for the sanctuary and an interesting challenge. Our only question was would Cheyenne cooperate at all? Three other wolves had all played different scenes as the pet wolf, including an attack scene. We did not get the opportunity to meet Cheyenne's four-legged co-stars. We were told they came from Canada and needed to get home. When we arrived on the set, our good natured Cheyenne jumped up on the director's chest and kissed him on the chin when she met him. She fell in love with stunt coordinator, Tony, and let him do anything he needed to do around her. He made a special harness for her to wear and hooked a cable to her so she was never off lead. The cast and crew were exceptionally respectful to us and Cheyenne. They built a special holding pen filled with fresh hay for their wolf star. Angel and Jan kept her company and comfy amongst the hundreds of people stopping by to see the wolf in down town Albuquerque. Of course Animal Humane was there to insure we were treating our baby well.



To our surprise, Cheyenne played her roll like she had rehearsed all her life. Jumping in the back of the truck was too tough, however. Her stunt double Monty, the wolf-dog, did the jumping in, Cheyenne did the riding (much more fun).

With the help of Angel and Jan, Cheyenne was coaxed to move from room to room of the rundown building which served as a set, and run behind her co-star down a creepy dark hallway. With the lure of fresh hamburger, she pretended to eat a dead chicken and on cue, growled at what will appear to be Claire Danes. Ah, the magic of movie making!

My wife Georgia and our 4-year-old daughter, Lakota, stopped by the first night and I took them on a tour of the set where we filmed earlier that day. This was a great chance to show Lakota that movies are all make believe. Cheyenne did not actually eat real chickens; they were fake and nailed to the floor and the blood was just strawberry syrup. Even the magazines were fake. The smoke was made by machines and the sun light coming in the windows came from huge lights outside.

## Sweet Soul

We said goodbye to Loki at the end of the winter. We estimate he was around 14 years old. He was a gentle, very handsome boy whose champagne colored eyes caught the attention of many of our guests while on their tour. Loki's early life was a mystery. What we do know is that about 12 years ago, a woman was taking a walk in a park near Santa Cruz, CA. When she returned to her car to leave, Loki leapt into her back seat. Believing that he was a dog, the woman took Loki to the local SPCA facility. Upon arrival, she was told they could not take the animal because they



suspected he was a wolf. Loki found his way into our care in 1994 and spent a quiet, happy life with his companion Zoe. It's hard enough for us two-leggeds to lose one of our furry family, but it's harder for the four-legged who is left behind. We are thrilled to report Zoe is now companion to Ishi, who lost Osa late last year. They are very happy together which is a great blessing to everyone involved.

We also lost Isis (see article below). I still find myself looking in her old pen to see how she is doing. It eases our pain to know that her companion, Napi, has moved in with long-time neighbor Shunka and they are a blissful, playful couple. Although we suffer from our losses, we are extremely grateful for the easy transitions and perfect matches which resulted. As always, thank you for your sympathy and for opening your hearts to this once abandoned & abused pack of brave souls.

## Isis- A Force of Nature

BY CO-FOUNDER BARBARA BERGE

When I heard from Jacque that Isis had died in her sleep, I was surprised. I had always imagined her going in mid stride - hackles raised, teeth bared as she taunted Shunka at the fence line. For she had a warrior spirit. Obsessive, possessive, intelligent, unique - are there enough adjectives to describe this first generation, high content, super alpha wolf-dog who tried all our patience and kept us on our toes? For me she represented all that is complex, challenging, difficult and inspiring in the day-to-day interaction between humans and dominant alpha animals.

Isis would have been fifteen in April. I have not seen her go downhill these last two years, so for me, she is still the life force known as Isis who came into our lives in February of 1993. Raised in a loving environment, Isis quickly exhibited her alpha nature, challenging her people at every opportunity. After her mate died of cancer, Isis developed acute separation anxiety manifested by extremely destructive behavior. This behavior proved too much for the couple that raised her and we were called for help. Unable to be left alone, Isis had to go everywhere with Jacque, and if left alone in the van for a short period of time, Isis would proceed to rip up the seats, seatbelts, anything she could get her strong jaws around. She tunneled under fences; she broke out of a secure kennel at the vet's; she ripped out gates and windows. She was a handful!

She was, however, very social and loved kids, so she became our ambassador



thank you



We could not be here without each and every one of our supporters. Thanks to our tireless and passionate staff and volunteers, Gary, Kris, Angel, Shawn, DJ, Jennifer, James, Hallie, Tony and Jill! Thanks to founder Jacque Evans for her boundless generosity, special thank you to Norma & Chuck Young, Jan Ravenwolf, Wanda Langlet, Rene Stapf, Lisa and Printer's Press, David Dorsey, Ann Wallace, Dick Thayer, David A Becker, Darleene Edwards, Kimberly Richie, Ty Lift Enterprises who gifted us with an animal transporter suited for rough terrain, The Boy Scouts of America, Cindy at Green Valley Meats, Helen Garner, The Community Pantry, Pine Hill Market, and our monthly supporters Rebecca, PK, Dr Planitz, Nancy, Melodie, Sonja, Eileen, Katharine, Margaret, Scott & Joyce, Helen, and Dennis our United Way supporters, Tim & Delma, Ron & Rachael, Kandice, Nancy, BJ, & Eric.

continued pg. 5

# Wolf Wisdom



Loyal fans, it's Coco here, your Wolf-dog of Wisdom, with breaking news! Ishi loses TopDog status to Van Gogh! Controversy rises in the compound- WHO WILL BE TOP DOG OF 2006?

Throughout 2005, Ishi enjoyed his cushy seat as Top Dog with a record-breaking 19 sponsors! However, with your generosity, Van Gogh rockets into Top Dog status with 29 sponsors! A little competition has been sparked in the compound.

When questioned of his recent victory, Van Gogh responded with assertion: "I want to express my deepest thanks to the members. It was only a matter of time," he proclaimed, raising his tail with pride, "until the good subscribers of the Howling Reporter graced me with this title. I give all four-leggeds hope that they can survive seemingly insurmountable sadness and emerge triumphant." Waya, his loving companion and now, campaign manager, swelled with pride as her beau spoke, then meekly stated, "He's always been TopDog in my book."

Some of the residents at the sanctuary seem to think that Ishi has fallen from position due to personal issues. "After losing Osa," Artemesia, his past neighbor, commented, "Ishi just wasn't himself anymore, and couldn't hold up to his previous standards." However, others have faith in Ishi's return. "I've known Ishi for many years," Angel, his neighbor on the other side, proclaimed, "While he has been in mourning, I know that he will gain his strength in honor of Osa, and triumph as TopDog once again!"

Recently, two mournful souls have been united, & Zoe has moved in with Ishi. "Ishi's helped me through a rough time," said Zoe, "And now, together we will triumph again, appeal to the people & Ishi will reclaim his role of TopDog!"

Here in the compound, the opinion is fairly evenly split. Over the year that Ishi spent as TopDog, he has kept the commitment of many of the residents. "As far as I'm concerned, Ishi has proven himself as most deserving of his title and should be reelected as quickly as possible," stated long-term resident Nakona. Others, however have a different view. "Ishi has had his time, VanGogh deserves this honor" Zeus declared.

In such a close race, it's definitely important to look closely at either party's platform. When questioned of his future goals as TopDog, VanGogh expressed great interest in the arts, Medicare, and rural development. "As an artist myself," he began, "I feel that the residents of Wild Spirit need an opportunity to express themselves more. Future plans include the development of paw-print murals and self-inspired statues." VanGogh, suffering from thyroid issues, also expressed a concern for those residents requiring med-

ication. "While the bipeds of the facility have offered our medication in hamburger balls in the past, in the future I hope to encourage the humans to provide full T-bone steaks when delivering medication." As one of the residents whose enclosure is off the tour path, VanGogh also stands behind the importance of rural placement. "We in the back enjoy the peace and quiet we are afforded. As TopDog, I hope to maintain this tranquility by warding off all intruders with my impressive vocalizations. I will continue my efforts of chasing the two-leggers around my house, in order to express this concern."

Ishi stands on a very different platform. Harmonious communal living, elderly care and community service are all top priority for Ishi. "After moving down front at the Sanctuary, I've become aware of the importance of offering compassion to our strangely vertical counterparts. It is important for us of wolf kin to accept humans and offer our services charitably to those less fortunate. In the future, I hope to unite and offer these visitors more howling and activity in order to better educate them." As one of the most senior residents, Ishi is also well aware of the needs of the elderly residents. "As our neighbors and friends age, it becomes increasingly more important to offer them a more easily digestible diet. I am currently in collaboration with the biped residents working toward the development of chickens with more easily crunchable bones." In his compassion for those of the homo-sapien persuasion, Ishi is also working toward community service projects to benefit these less fortunate. "While in my youth I was wary of our hairless, gawky caretakers, but they have proven themselves generous and caring, as evidenced by my former reign as TopDog. I realize that we must offer these bipeds some enrichment. As I take them for walks, I set the example for the rest of the pack to begin these fulfilling acts of compassion as well."

Luna, one of the upper-compound residents, feels Ishi is taking too passive an approach. "All this 'compassion' and 'sympathy' for the bi-peds is taking it a little too far! Ishi's too much of a sap to be TopDog! We need a strong leader with the interests of the pack in mind, like VanGogh." Others, however, stand firmly behind him. "Ishi is a kind soul reaching out to those less fortunate and attempting to build community harmony-these are the traits most needed in a leader. VanGogh is too selfish and close-minded to lead our residents," Natasha stated. Others, still, seem to be indifferent. "Personally," Greebo said, "I think I should be TopDog."

Will VanGogh maintain his new victory as TopDog? Will Ishi as the new under-dog reclaim control? Will Greebo inspire anarchy and rise in their place? Will an under-dog come from nowhere and surprise us all? Time-and you faithful readers-can only tell.

"Isis" cont.



for a few years until Nayati and then Raven came on the scene. As she settled down to life at the sanctuary with her companion Ril, she also accepted Jacque as part of her pack. Being a super alpha, she would not allow Jacque to assert dominance. All Jacque had to do was point a finger and say "Shame on you, Isis" and Isis would leap on her, growling and snarling while seizing Jacque's arm in her mouth. It was a formidable, scary display of ritualized challenge behavior and although she never drew blood because she inhibited her bite, she did bruise Jacque considerably. We used

this display to show people what they may have to deal with in a dominant animal. In presentations, audience members shot back a foot when Isis leapt on Jacque.

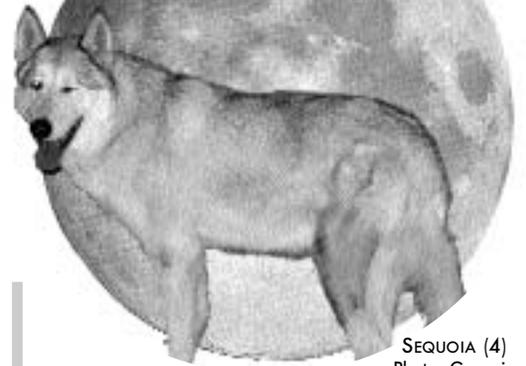
For me, one incident with Isis stands out above all the rest. I was in the visitor's center getting ready to leave for the day. Also in the center were visitors back from a tour, a couple of volunteers, Ril and Isis. As I opened the door, Isis tried to leave with me and, without thinking, I gently put my hands around her chest and stopped her. Big mistake! The next thing I knew, I was being backed into a corner of the Hogan with Isis clambering around on top of me, growling and gnawing on whatever she could grab hold of. I had to turn into the wall and stand totally still before she let me go. Everyone got very quiet and watched in amazement as Isis stalked around the room, tail flagged, staring at me, her eyes burning with fury. I will never forget that look. I quietly explained to the visitors the mistake I had made with Isis. Thinking it safe to move, I turned to leave and Isis leapt across the room, forcing me back into my corner and there I stood, like a disgraced child in detention. Her furious presence was palpable behind me. The volunteers, who knew Isis only too well, were loath to intervene - fearing the same treatment.

So she paced the room and I stood frozen in place. Finally, in a small voice I asked a volunteer to somehow distract Isis and get her into Jacque's kitchen and he was able to do that. I have to say that she scared me that day.

I feel honored to have known and interacted with such a commanding presence. She was well named. She was also fortunate to have come to a place where her alpha status was respected. I wish that were so for all those captive-bred wolves and wolf-dogs struggling with their alpha natures against an intolerant world.



## MOONLIGHT SPOTLIGHT



SEQUOIA (4)  
Photo: Georgia

This big, beautiful girl of ours "blew-out" her knee, which means she tore a ligament off and it needed to be surgically re-attached. Our best guess is that she hyper-extended her leg while enjoying an afternoon of entertaining herself by tossing and chasing one of her toys. As with most wolf-dogs, Sequoia showed little sign of the tremendous pain she must have been experiencing. Leyton says she's just too full of love to notice. So, it was up to us to notice she wasn't putting any weight on her back leg. A trip to the vet revealed the extent of her injury. Our brave girl came through her knee surgery with flying colors, although her companion, Manu, was an emotional wreck without his girlfriend. Sequoia spent some time as the office wolf-dog where we all noticed for the first time how huge she is. Seven weeks later, Sequoia still isn't putting her full weight on that leg, but is gradually getting better. Her vet bill, however, has left us limping a little bit. Her total to date is \$1200, and she is scheduled for a follow-up visit. If you would like to help out with Sequoia's vet bill, we would be most grateful. In the past, your inspirational generosity has completely covered these unexpected expenses. Thank you so much for blessing us all with your incredible care and help.



"Lights" cont.

"Why was Cheyenne in the movies?" Lakota asked. "Well," I responded, "she had to pretend she was a pet wolf, along with all the other pretend stuff in the movie set that I showed you."

All too often, people forget that the movies are not real. Of course I get concerned that people will get the wrong idea about wolves as pets when they are portrayed as such, or that they are vicious because they played a vicious roll in a movie. Perhaps I should have more faith in the good sense of movie goers and not think that a simple movie won't give them the wrong idea. But alas, I don't have that much faith.

My faith lies in our members and supporters who know the truth and have good sense! Sorry, I didn't mean to go on a rant.

All in all, our 2 day movie experience was tiring, very cold and lots of fun. Cheyenne was surprisingly cooperative, treated like a queen and she made \$2,300.00 to help out our Educational/Outreach program. Thanks to Andrew Lao, Richard Gere, Tony, our own Angel Bennett and Jan Ravenwolf for all the help with our little star, Cheyenne!



Those of you who check our website often may have found that there have been some major changes going on. While we are still learning, long-term volunteer Sean, and Hallie, a short-term volunteer from Vermont, have made great progress on the site so far.

We've also developed two new endeavors to give people a more personal look at our animals & life at the sanctuary. We've begun a blog on Sanctuary life with blogger.com. The blog has become a forum for those of us at the Sanctuary to discuss current happenings, the daily life of our animals and volunteers, and the feelings we experience when working with this magnificent creatures. Our blog can be found at [www.wildspirit-wolves.blogspot.com](http://www.wildspirit-wolves.blogspot.com)

We also found a forum for sharing pictures of our animals & networking with other wolf lovers on Flickr.com. This is a photo sharing site where you can post an unlimited number of photos for an annual fee. Within only days of using the guest account, WSWS was sponsored with a pro-account and since, we have posted over a hundred current photos of our residents. Take a moment to check it out at [www.flickr.com/photos/wildspirit-wolfsanctuary/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/wildspirit-wolfsanctuary/) This site also offers an option for photo-sharing groups. The WSWS group is open to all wolf/wolf-dog pictures and can also be used as an educational forum.



## Updates

### FEATURED ANIMALS

Your astounding generosity lifts our sanctuary to new heights! Van Gogh catapults to Top Dog status with a record-shattering 29 sponsors (see article on page 4 for details)! Cove now has hits the double digits with 12, Bao makes a fine showing with 8, and Fenris now has 7 sponsors. We can't thank you enough for your thoughtful care for these critters. New candidates are on page 9 and expectantly await the blessing of new friends and their shot at becoming our next TopDog.

## The deaf composer by Chris Husted

Montana, old wolf dog of the north  
flops on the flagstones  
like a body going dead.

But, worst of all, she is deaf  
and we thought this a blessing at first-  
no more thunderstorm damage  
as she tried to dig in through  
the house to hide.

Now we can't get her attention  
and there's no more night music-  
those howling songs that used to raise hair  
and then our spirits  
when she led the dark time chorus.  
Without our conductor we've all fallen silent.



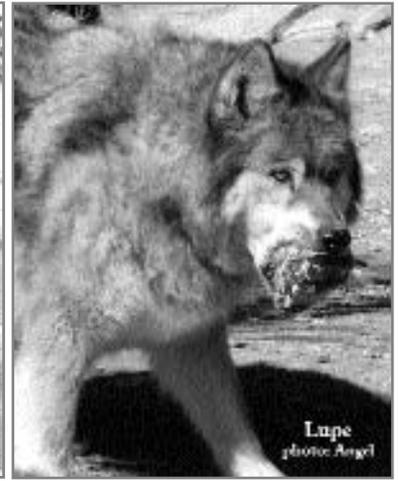
Plucked from the air like a baseball in a pro's glove.



"I'm shrinking! Oh, it's a turkey!"



"Where's my bucket of dipping sauce?"



Unavailable for comment at this time

# ENRICHMENT FUND-RAISER

# SPRING FLING 2006!

You once again enriched the lives of our furry family through your kind hearts and deep pockets. Thank you for providing a delicious day of joy and bone crunching. Now, we look forward the the first enrichment/fund-raiser of 2006, the Spring Fling. This enrichment fund-raiser provides top-notch care for the first quarter, highlighted by the excitement of a whole stuffed chicken for breakfast! We suggest a \$35 donation, but all support is most welcome and so greatly appreciated. Due to the full mouths around here, let us speak for our furry family by saying we need you and we thank you for blessing us all with live-sustaining support.



"My deathly silent approach & razor sharp stalking skills allowed me to close in upon my prey without the slightest detection."



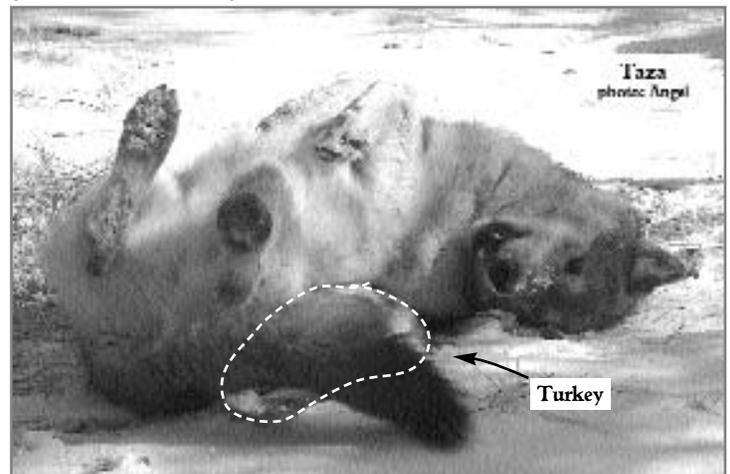
"Okay, I got my tongue unstuck from this turkey-cicle, but now it's my foot"



"Gary, I can put away this turkey & your leg if you come any closer"



"If you're happy and you know it, Stomp Your Bird!"



"My beautiful poultry prize, how do I keep you & eat you too? I must be dreaming. Let's get away, just the two of us."

# Special Thank You

There are always so many people to thank. This sanctuary has continued only through our combined efforts. We hope we are successful at expressing how grateful we are to each of you. Here are just a few special folks we'd like to mention.

## THE OFFICE MIRACLES

We've had some wonderful volunteers over the years, but never in recorded WSWWS history have two individuals graced our office the way Angel Bennett and Jennifer Woods have. Although Jennifer moved on in January, the memory of Jenny's willingness to be of help still warms us. This bright volunteer repeatedly came into the office at all hours to ask if she could help. She once came in and said something like, "I have several minutes before I leave for vacation, is there anything I can help you with?" It was this un-heard of enthusiasm which led us to heap great piles of data entry upon her capable shoulders, which she not only tackled and completed, but discovered new ways to improve our system. Thank you Jenny for lightening a load which seemed too heavy to carry, and saving us hours upon hours of work. Thankfully, we are still blessed with our Angel. This shining star is proving herself to be the most helpful person to ever set foot in our office. From scholarly papers to poetry, Angel continues to reveal her many talents. Thank you Angel for your ray of hope, humor, general brilliance, and for your tireless and creative efforts.

## DAVID A BECKER

The sanctuary received an unexpected and much-needed financial boost from David A Becker who blessed us with a lovely check last fall. Thank you, David, for following our progress over the years and believing in our organization.

## CHRISTMAS CAMERA FUN

Just before Christmas, Raven and the Outreach crew were invited to TJ'S Camera and One Hour Photo for a holiday photo fund-raiser. Hordes of people stood in line to get their pictures taken with the ever so lovable and extremely patient Raven. Teri Casias has been processing our board member Jan's fabulous wolf photos for quite some time now. After seeing hundreds of wolf photos coming through their lab, it took little coaxing from Teri to get Tom and Jennie, the owners of TJ's Camera, to invite us in. Jan and Tom took photos for hours at both of their stores on Montgomery Blvd. in Albuquerque. All the staff at TJ's are great if you live in the Albuquerque area and need anything in the way of photos stop in and see Krista, Drew, Roxanne and Emily. I am certain you will find them friendly, knowledgeable and ready to serve.

We all had such a good time at their stores. People of all ages stopped in, even a Boy Scout troop showed up to get their pictures taken with Raven. A hardy thanks to all the people who came and had their picture taken and to those that just stopped by said hello and gave a donation. Thank you to Tom and Jennie Mc Mann for your hospitality and generous hearts!

## TJ'S TWO LOCATIONS

Louisiana Plaza  
(505) 881-0383

Montgomery at Louisiana  
7200 Montgomery Blvd  
ABQ, NM 87112

Glenwood Village  
(505) 299-5330

Montgomery at Tramway  
12611 Montgomery Suite A6A  
ABQ, NM 87111

## OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to those up-beat, tireless volunteers who come and help us with our outreach tablings around the state. We could not be successful without your terrific help.

# Good Intentions Fall Behind

With life at the Sanctuary as hectic as ever, sometimes things don't go quite as planned... Recently, in order to assist us in our typical late winter donation slump, we decided to institute a Valentine's Day Fund-raiser. With much planning and effort from the staff and volunteers at WSWWS, we were able to produce a beautiful set of Wolf Poem Cards and Valentine's Minis to be purchased in order to support our furry residents. After we sent out our flyers in early January, weeks went by with no response, and we began to worry that our newest fund-raiser had become a flop. Around the first of February, we began receiving calls from members who had just received their flyer. It seems that somehow, our Valentine's Day advertisement had been lost in the mail... To all of you who received this late notification, we apologize for the delay. Many of our members were gracious enough to order Valentines, while knowing full-well that their delivery would be after the holiday. Thank you all for deciding to support our residents, even with the belated mail problems! We'll be ready for next year!

While we at the Sanctuary have been desperately attempting a move into the age of technology, and achieving this goal slowly, we are still behind on some of the things we have promised. To those of you who have requested to be put on our E-Newsletter list or WSWWS updates list, we send our greatest apologies. After playing around a little more, we've found that doing these types of bulk e-mails without a program such as Mail Loop, would cause a large percentage of them to be immediately filtered into the junk mail folder. While we are otherwise prepared, the purchase of this program is a little down the list of financial priorities. Please be patient with us as it is still on our minds! We apologize for the delay, and thank you again for your support.

# PLEASE SPONSOR ME

Here are three of our wolves who are looking to become someone's special wild child. Currently, the wolf-dogs lead the pack in number of sponsors. Animal Sponsorship is \$125.00 per year and includes a certificate and a magnet with your animal's photo and our membership T-shirt. We calculate it takes \$2,013.00 per year to care for one animal (not including medications or vet bills). Simply fill out the form we have enclosed and mail with your check, credit card number or money order. Your heartfelt generosity truly makes a difference for our animals and this unique labor-of-love. We all thank you!



## DOC

Doc came to WSWS in 1999 along with wolves Mandi, Cody, Oprah and Whitney. These five wolves had been raised by an unlicensed exotic animal dealer who had been thrown out of many states for cruelty and neglect of his animals. During the summer of 1999, the five wolves were kept in a two-stall horse trailer in Las Vegas, NV. Eventually they were moved to two 8'x20' pens at an exotic animal facility and cared for by a part-time caretaker. A broken water pipe kept their small pens ankle-deep in mud and they paced and fought. Their story eventually came to the attention of a local investigative TV-reporter. Outraged, the reporter contacted members of the Las Vegas Animal Rescue and Humane Care Community. WSWS was contacted in October 1999 and through the concerned people in Las Vegas and our thoughtful members, we were able to raise enough money to build "the Homestead pack" a large enclosure. Doc and Whitney are the only two left from this inspirational pack. This handsome boy's records estimate he is 18, but we think he's more like 13. Doc has one current sponsor, Christine, and we would all love to see him showered with your wonderful care.

## HAWK

Hawk is a beautiful white wolf who came to us on Earth Day 1996 from Ohio. He was bred in Pennsylvania, bottle raised and well-socialized with people. At 18 months he was sold to a woman in Ohio who badly abused him along with the wolves and wolf dogs in her compound until an escape caught the attention of the local Humane Society. All her animals were seized and impounded, while she was prosecuted for cruelty and neglect. Hawk spent nine months in a little cage at the shelter. The authorities did not want to euthanize the animals and sought rescues to take them. We agreed to take Hawk and Continental Airlines donated his flight to us. Hawk, though shy with strangers, is very needy of affection, which can be intimidating as he has huge teeth and likes to grab hold of clothing and not let go. Hawk is quite notorious for luring in the ladies with irresistible charm only to administer an unexpected love bite. Our charmer may be as old as 14 & has one current sponsor, Douglas, but we'd love to find him a pack of friends.

## LYCEA

Lycea was one of the seven "babies" born on Easter Sunday in 1996 and raised at Wild Spirit after their mother died of gastric torsion shortly after their birth. Our own Napi, a young wolf at the time, was a wonderful surrogate for all the babies, and helped raise them in Jacque's house, along with Jacque, Barbara, and the current volunteers. The babies were all eventually placed in compatible pairs. Lycea is a timid, beautiful girl who lives with her brother Taza in a pen next door to her siblings Zeus and Shakti. She is quite affectionate through the fence, although usually shy. Lycea has one current sponsor, Ed & Kate, and we would all love to find her an extended pack.



# Death By Opinion

a five year review

BY ANGEL BENNETT & GARY FULLER

Recently, we had the opportunity to attend the Five Year Review of the Mexican Gray Wolf Reintroduction Program. While the majority of attendees were pro-wolf, local ranchers also attended, expressing concerns for their live-stock as well as their discontent with the reintroduction efforts. The ranchers, representing a minority, were generally well mannered, yet made statements at times that were beyond the realm of plausibility. A claim by one rancher that a pack containing five Mexican Grays, including two yearlings, was responsible for 1,300 deaths in his cattle herd, was without question unreasonable. Another seemed to blame the drop of 20% in his calving rate solely on the Mexican Grays located in his area. One rancher claimed that his business suffered such radical losses due to the reintroduction of a wolf pack in his area that his "dude ranch" had to be shut down. While these three examples were quite extreme, others were very well founded. In an area of the United States where cattle production is an important segment of the economy, those realistic concerns must be addressed if the reintroduction program is to be successful.

By far the largest opinion group at the review was the Pro-Wolf group. Representatives of national organizations, like Defenders of Wildlife and The Center for Biodiversity as well as other local wolf organizations, all brought their agendas to the meeting. Most of the presentations were very broad-based and illustrated concerns for future reintroductions as well as a critique of past performance by the committee. While blatantly agreeing that the reintroduction program was accounting for the decline in the Mexican Gray Wolf population, contradictory cries of "Release them all!" were expressed by the same organizations. While again some areas of concern were quite well founded, there were misinformed and sometime contradictory extremists that offset the voices of legitimate concern.

Ordinary citizens, expressing their desires for successful reintroduction, represented about half of the total group, yet consistently spoke on platforms of misinformation. While this segment of the pro-wolfers have the potential to carry the greatest impact, their erroneous concerns and unreasonable requests no doubt greatly reduced this effect. It was not from lack of dedication, yet more from a lack of credible information and understanding of the true process required, that many of the voices were muted. We must all take an active roll in formulation of a successful program, but to be a benefit to this program, we must first educate ourselves and understand the obstacles we must overcome.

Thankfully, there were those at the review who attended just for the purpose of educating themselves. Without a current opinion, they attended to become

informed. Coming from all walks--ranchers to shop owners--they came to understand. They were willing to cooperate if they only knew how. They came there thirsty, but found no fountain to drink from. With a swirling of misinformed opinions stifling the little factual information provided by the Reintroduction Board, those who came to learn were given little opportunity.

The reintroduction committee explained the reintroduction process and its progress over the last five years. Included in this agenda was an overview of the future revision of the current program, both in 2006 and long term. This was well presented and very factual. A complete copy of the five year report was made available to all in attendance and is currently available to the public upon request. A moratorium on releases was to take effect when the breeding population grew above six breeding pair. This was not accomplished last year, with only five breeding pairs counted. The current population of 35 wolves remains too distant from the total population targets of 100 wolves to allow this figure to be presently considered.

To date, branches involved in the reintroduction of the Mexican Gray Wolf have spent a total of over 14 million dollars toward this end. The results of these expenditures and combined efforts regrettably show a reduction in the wild wolf population over the Blue Range area. Reintroduced wolves are given a specified safe area, or boundary. As long as they stay within the bounds of this designated area, it is illegal for anyone to kill them. As one protesters sign wisely states, "wolves don't read maps." Those wolves, who unwittingly went out-of-bounds, represent a high percentage of animals who were killed and these deaths are considered the greatest failure of the program. Unfortunately, the program still seeks to place pack territory as close as 3 miles of occupied dwellings and five miles from towns. This situation forces the wolves' interaction with humans and prompts concerns from people on the boundaries of these territories. In an effort to establish areas acceptable for reintroduction, it is not the needs of the wolf but the availability of land that continues to dictate these sites. While opinion would point to as many causes as opinions polled, the results remain the same: We have found no profound answers to successful reintroduction, and the road to extinction is being paved by good intention.

As we force these animals into confrontation with man, we continue to watch their numbers dwindle. We seek to save a vanishing species, yet our enthusiasm to do so appears to be accelerating it to its extinction. We expect an animal such as the Mexican Gray Wolf to behave in a way dictated by public rules and laws. The process of formulating a program of successful reintroduction cannot continue on a trial and error basis if the Gray wolf is to survive in the wild. We must consider the wolf's terms in this process and conform to its needs or consider the possible failure of this multi-million dollar experiment in behavior modification.

# OUR WISH LIST!

First, thank you for your thoughtful contributions last year! We've got exciting new landscape projects in mind! With your help, we plan to develop an educational walk and tour. We want to plant native flower beds as well as develop hummingbird and butterfly gardens! If you love xeriscape (low-water) gardening, we need you! Help with landscaping, be a project leader, or just share your knowledge. Consider coming out for a day, weekend, or even a week to help landscape. Put us in your camping plans for this spring and summer, and help us bloom! We would also love to be blessed with the following:

## MAINTENANCE

Gift cards from walmart  
 Gift cards from home depot  
 160 tons more of base coarse gravel  
 Latex Gloves (Size XL)  
 Work Gloves (All Sizes)  
 Leaf Rakes  
 Garden Hoes  
 Garden Rakes  
 Heavy Duty 5/8" Garden Hose 100' Length  
 Hose Spray Nozzles  
 Wheel Barrows  
 Potted Flowers and Bedding Plants  
 Wild bird feeders  
 Hummingbird feeders  
 Commercial Outdoor Benches  
 New Heavy Duty Gas Powered Weed Eater  
 Single Bit Ax Handels

40 # Bags of concrete  
 10 Ft Lengths of 1 1/2 Inch PVC  
 3/4 Inch PVC  
 1/2 Inch PVC  
 Cans of Expandable Caulk  
 Commercial meat grinder  
 5 gallon buckets  
 3 Inch Pipe Cutter  
 10' x 12' shed  
 Working 40 or 60 Gal Air Compressor  
 18 Inch Chainsaw

## OFFICE

3 laptop computers:  
 512 mb ram  
 80 gig hard drive min  
 Envelopes:  
 3 5/8" x 6 1/2"  
 6" x 9"  
 First class stamps (thanks Sonja!)

Mail Loop internet program  
 generic printer ink refill kits  
 Clip Boards  
 New ink pens  
 (where do they disappear? We love the G2 Pilot gel pens, by the way)

## FROM THE RENTAL CENTER

One Week Rental of  
 Commercial Trencher  
 Heavy Duty Chipper  
 Gas Powered Log Splitter  
 Two Week Rental of  
 Backhoe  
 Bobcat with Post Auger

## NEEDS OF THE FLEET

Newer Model full-size 4 WD pick-up Truck  
 16 Ft Flatbed Trailer- Dual Axel  
 Small Enclosed Trailer

# WHAT TO BRING

## THINGS TO BRING WITH YOU WHEN YOU VISIT

People always ask, "I'm coming out this weekend, what should I bring?" We made a list of things we always need.

## WOLF LOAF INGREDIENTS

Ground Turkey  
 Beef & More dry dog food (Sam's club)  
 Bragg's liquid aminos (Whole Foods/Wild Oats)  
 Frozen French Cut Green Beans (5-10lbs)  
 Shredded Carrots (5-10lbs)  
 Rolled Oats (50lb SW Cash & Carry Only)

Frozen Chicken  
 Ground Beef Chubs

## SUPPLIES

Sponges  
 Large trash bags

## WISHES DO COME TRUE! HUGE THANKS TO-

Two lawn-mowers  
 Printer from Gordon  
 Heavy duty leashes & choke collars  
 Pruning Shearers from Mr Metnik & Mr Mann

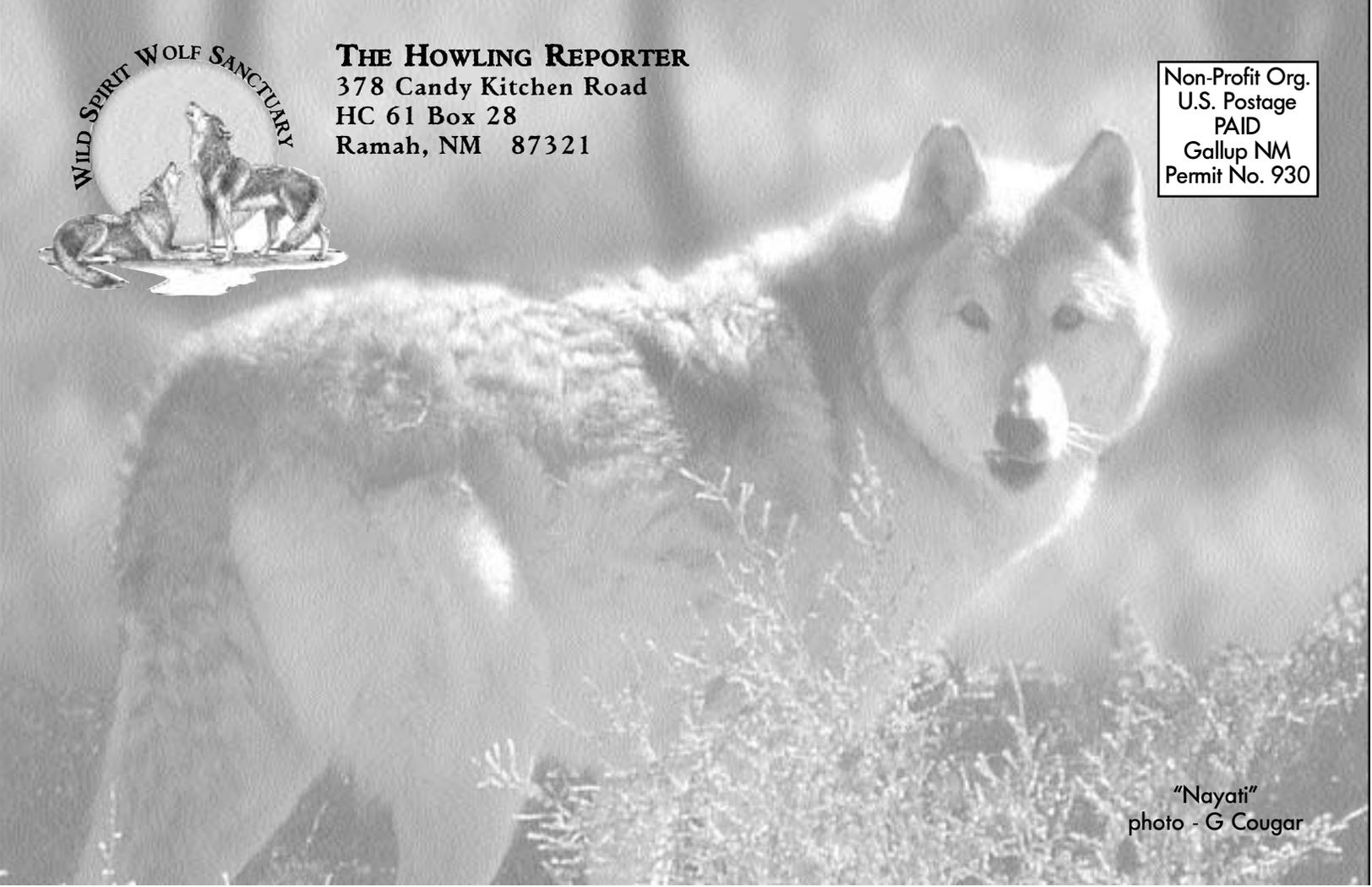




**THE HOWLING REPORTER**

378 Candy Kitchen Road  
 HC 61 Box 28  
 Ramah, NM 87321

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 U.S. Postage  
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 Gallup NM  
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"Nayati"  
 photo - G Cougar

**TAKE A GUIDED TOUR**  
 Tue- Sun 11am, 12:30pm, 2pm & 3:30pm  
 CLOSED MONDAYS

**FROM ALBUQUERQUE**

I-40 West to Grants, take Exit 81. Turn left onto Hwy 53, go about 44 miles. About 2 miles past El Morro, look for a sign for Mountainview & Pine Hill. Turn left onto BIA 125, go 8 miles (through Mountainview). Turn right onto gravel road BIA 120. Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary is 4 miles down on the left.

**FROM GALLUP**

Hwy 602 South, stay on 602 to intersection for Hwy 53. Turn left. Go through Ramah, then 10 more miles to BIA 125. Turn right onto BIA 125, go 8 miles (through Mountainview). Turn right onto gravel road BIA 120. Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary is 4 miles down on the left.

**CAMP WITH US**

Experience the magic of howling wolves under a canopy of stars.



**our address**  
 Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary  
 HC 61 Box 28  
 Ramah NM 87321

**phone number**  
 1-505-775-3304  
**fax number**  
 1-505-775-3824

**e-mail**  
 info@wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org

**web site**  
 www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org