

THE HOWLING REPORTER



SPRING 2007

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

Thanks to your generous support, WSWS continues to improve. We look forward to more positive changes in 2007.

• PHOTO MAX

If you love photos of wolves like we do, wait until you see this creative new way to help support our residents. pg. 2

• PUPPIES MAKE ME BARF

Raven shares his unique experiences with the youngsters in his new column. pg. 4

• RESOLUTIONS

Some of our residents embrace changes in their lives and loves as our Sanctuary continues to evolve. pg. 5

• BUNNY BASKETS 2007!

Our first enrichment/fund-raiser of the year gets a fun face-lift. pg. 6



SAVANNAH
photo: Angel Bennett

about us

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

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visit us

WE ARE OPEN FOR TOURS

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

CLOSED MONDAY

SEE MAP ON BACK COVER



So Many Pictures

BY LEYTON COUGAR

Over the years, we have collected hundreds, possibly thousands of photographs of the many animals who have lived at our Sanctuary. Some photos, of course, are not very good but many are fabulous! We have had quite a number of professional photographers come to our Sanctuary and many have given us the pictures they have taken on their visits. Just about all of us who work here, and half our volunteers, spend a good amount of time with cameras in hand.

Last December, we bought a pair of external hard drives to store all our photos, & have slowly begun to view & categorize each one. We have many more to go.

While going through some photos recently, I got the fun idea to create a screen saver for my computer. As I made the screen saver, I realized there are some great stories that go along with the animal photos I was viewing. I love to go through our wolf puppy photos. Seeing the kids today at ten months old and nearly 75 pounds is such a contrast to the little grubs they were at two weeks old. Just watching my screen saver makes me smile or chuckle to myself.



Seeing some of the amazing moments in time that have been captured by the lens can send shivers up your spine. Knowing how sweet and friendly some of the wolves are with me, then seeing them in one of their serious "I am a wolf" moments caught on camera reminds all of us that we are privileged to be around these powerful creatures.

Realizing that we were sitting on a virtual gold mine in pictures got me to thinking. I thought maybe other people might get the same joy from our pictures that I do. But how could I share all these unforgettable moments in time with other people? If I could share them, I would want to do it for free...but if it were possible I would also like to raise money with the photos at the same time.

Not knowing how in the world that could be done, I put the idea on the shelf for a while. Then, along comes my friend Dan Latrimurti with the perfect solution! He showed me how we could sort and store all our precious pictures and video that we have collected over time in a secure place, safe from fire, flood and most any natural disaster, for life-- best of all for free!

Then he showed me how we could share all our photos, the great and the not so great (but fun ones), and make money as well! It sounded hard to believe at first, but after Dan showed me how simple it was, it was easy to see that sharing photos with anyone who would like to see them and giving those people the opportunity to create their own unique gift items with our pictures would be a great way to raise money for the wolves & be able to share at the same time.

So today, Dan and I are preparing to launch a PHOTO filled fiesta of fun called PhotoMax, your new best friend and a new way to help the wolves of Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary! To learn more on how you can help the wolves of WSWs and create some really cool gift items, just log on to our website and put your name and e-mail in the box with Napi sitting on top. Then within a few days we will show you how you can have fun, share photos, and help our wolves. I think you will like it.

There is another way you computer users can help us raise money with out opening your wallet: Good Search! Good Search is powered by Yahoo and is just as easy to use. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and follow their simple and quick instructions. They will then ask you to download the Good Search tool bar. Then we get paid a penny per search. We are currently over the forty dollar mark. Just imagine if a thousand people did two or three searches a day! That could turn into significant help.

I also want to thank everyone for their patience with our website. It is up and running with a few bugs to work out. It will always be evolving, so keep an eye on us. There are even some fun videos on YouTube and Google.

Big Pack In The Sky

BY ANGEL BENNETT

KAMIA This past winter proved to be yet another difficult time for many of our older residents, and several of our animals have joined the "Big Pack in the Sky" this quarter. We had one very unexpected loss, however, when one of our newer & younger family members passed suddenly. Kamia came to WSWs only last summer when we accepted her and her sister, Maki from the Richard E. Flauto Wildlife Foundation in Ohio. The sisters had blessed one lucky boy with two fine lady friends in a beautiful enclosure on the hill, and had already captured the hearts of many visitors and one volunteer, Allison, in particular. We are uncertain what caused Kamia to pass away. She showed neurological symptoms only a few days prior to leaving us, and thus, we were unable to acquire a diagnosis before her passing. While we are all saddened by this sudden loss, we are comforted knowing Kamia had found a beautiful, loving home with all of us until her very last days. Now, Maki is living with handsome, young Nikki who was introduced last issue. (See pg 10 for more on Kamia)



KAMIA photo: A Bennett

NAPI A familiar face to many of our members and supporters, Napi, also passed away this winter. Napi was just shy of his 13th birthday when he passed away. He had lived at the Sanctuary for many years, and had been well known as one of the members of the original "house pack" at Candy Kitchen. Napi had also been known for his ambassadorship with Jacque, and of course, for his witty "Napi's News" column. After the loss of Isis, Napi moved in with Shunka next door. Many of us felt it was as though two "long-lost-loves" had finally found their way back to one another, and we are certain that until his last days, Napi was enjoying Shunka's company and peacefully finishing his life here at Wild Spirit. Napi's passing is of course very upsetting to us here at the Sanctuary as he was one of our original folks and saw so many changes throughout the years. We are thankful he lived a long, healthy, happy life in our care, and was blessed with a peaceful passing.



NAPI photo: A Bailey

NAYATI Nayati was a magnificent wolf who touched the hearts of visitors, supporters, and volunteers at Wild Spirit throughout the years. Nayati had spent time as an ambassador for our Sanctuary and his striking photos graced banners, brochures, and membership items. As a sweet, sociable boy, his "wolf kisses" will forever be in the hearts and memories of those who had the special opportunity to meet him first hand. When we discovered Nayati was suffering from liver failure, we were shocked and upset. We are thankful that with the help of Angie, a wonderful volunteer, vet-tech and friend, we had



NAYATI photo: A Bennett

time to prepare for his loss and give him only the best care and TLC during his last days. When Nayati passed, he reminded us once again of his true "wild spirit" and left us all with inspiration and a beautiful memory. (See pg 8 for more on Nayati).

MANU Manu's horrifying story of abuse and neglect was seldom forgotten by visitors and members of our Sanctuary. His story never failed to help educate and inspire those who heard it. He was a constant reminder of the need for rescue and a symbol of our mission here at Wild Spirit. While Manu's life had been rough before he was rescued, he spent many long years at our Sanctuary with his companion, Sequoia, enjoying a large enclosure complete with a pond, and being offered only the best care available. Now, we are so thankful that Manu has finally moved on to a better place, free from the scars of his past.



MANU photo: D Cougar

LUPE Lupe had been a member of the Wild Spirit family longer than most of our residents. Our sweet, shy and handsome Lupe passed away at around 19 years of age. One morning, this older fellow became paralyzed from the waist down. His last days were spent in the office where he was offered 24 hour supervision and TLC from our volunteer staff. He was put to sleep peacefully on the third day, and until the end, appeared as robust, handsome, and stunning as ever. When Lupe first arrived at our Sanctuary, he had a striking gaze that caused many to fear him. After time, however, it became clear that this timid boy had nothing but shy, subdued affection to offer. For those few



LUPE photo: A Bailey

who had opportunity to interact with Lupe, he grasped their hearts & attention in a way few animals could. We are heartbroken to lose our special boy, but are honored to know he enjoyed a great life here, as do all our residents thanks to the blessing of your thoughtful support. We all thank you.



SASSY photo: A Bailey

Your generous involvement is crucial to our Sanctuary. Thanks to our tireless and passionate staff and volunteers, Angel, Chris, Jim, Sean, Allison, Christina, Jason, Rebecca & Maya, Special thank you to Norma & Chuck Young, Jan Ravenwolf, Wanda Langlet, Dick Thayer, Rene Stapf, Lisa and **Printer's Press**, David Dorsey, Ann Wallace, **Cynthia De Costa**, Darleene Edwards, Jill Jacobs, Mike & Ronda Sofia, Cindy at **Green Valley Meats**, **TJ's Camera**, **Weems Artfest**, **Bosque del Apache**, **Art Helping Animals**, The Manns, Helen Garner & Liz Parr, Jim Harlin & **The Community Pantry**, **Pine Hill Market**, Gem & Mineral Show, Petco, and our monthly supporters Rebecca, Dr Planitz, Nancy, Melodie, Sonja, Eileen, Katharine, Margaret, Scott & Joyce, Helen, Dennis, Jean & Caryl, plus our **United Way** supporters, Tim & Delma, Ron & Rachael, Kandice, Nancy, BJ, Eric, Mercedes, the Anonymous ones, and Megan,

We love to show our appreciation, so please let us know if you or someone you know needs to be mentioned.



Puppies Make Me Barf!

BY RAVEN

I've been here going on ten years now and think it's time to say a little something.

Hello, my name is Raven and I am a timber wolf. I arrived at the Sanctuary when I was about two years old. Since my arrival, I have been working with that old man, Leyton (I call him Dad). He's forty six years old. That's 322 in dog years. We are always going here and there, and Leyton talks to people while they marvel at me. It's hard work and not always the best of fun for me, but I know that my job is very important, I just feel it.

Things changed for me last spring, though. I felt as if it was time to take it easy. My bones are getting a little achy and I'm slowing down. I'm pretty sure I need to retire...okay, semi-retire, but spend more time at home, none the less.

So, here I sit at Leyton's keyboard writing my first column in the *Howling Reporter*. I shall call my first article: "PUPPIES MAKE ME BARF!" Before you call me uncouth, please allow me to explain...

Early last May, Leyton brought home six young pups. I saw them when they were, oh, maybe five weeks old. Leyton would take me by to see them every week or so. Then he introduced me to five more, can you believe it? Eleven of 'em! You can guess what happened next. Leyton started spending more time with those pups and less with yours truly! Call me a softy, but I hold no grudge. Kids need good raising and the folks here are dedicated. I am certain that the staff and Leyton were giving those young pups the lovin' and care they needed.

I started really looking forward to seeing those kids. Then, Leyton kind of slacked off and didn't take me over as often. So I gave him a friendly reminder

one day. Little did I know what awaited me.

I got on Leyton's leash, Cheyenne, my wolf companion, got on Angel's leash, and we trotted off to see the kids. I wasn't quite expecting to actually go into their enclosure. We usually just visited from the outside. But the gates opened, and Cheyenne and I were unleashed into a swarm of pups.

It was quite exhilarating! We were suddenly surrounded by half a dozen, overly rambunctious little runts. It was so much fun, I found myself running around like a young man. But, Cheyenne and I are the adults, and so we immediately took charge of the disorderly young nippers. I know, it looks ferocious, but we never hurt the kids.

We all galloped around together like a wild pack throughout the enclosure. Then, the pups began to grovel, submit and lick Cheyenne's face. As I watched, I got this strange feeling in my gut. Then, Cheyenne let loose her breakfast! "What?!" I thought. I took a step forward, two pups leaped



towards me and began to lick my lips. I tried not to, I really tried. I barfed, tossed my cookies, lost a good meal.

I told you I am a softy. I couldn't help it; it's nature at work. We are here to take care of the children. I am sure that the Saint Bernard, Savannah, or the dog, Sequoia, never gave up their breakfast when visiting the pups, no matter how many

times they were licked. No, it's a wolf thing. It's just our unique way of showing how much we love the kids! For us wolves, both the male and female nurture the youngsters. That's just one of those many traits that makes me so different from a dog. You'll rarely catch a male dog being such an involved parent.

Anyhow, that's why the title. I look forward to writing again next issue. I might not see you out & about anymore, so please make plans to come visit me & all the other folks here at our Sanctuary.

Thank you for helping nurture your furry family.

Raven



Resolutions

BY ANGEL BENNETT

Spring is often a time of new beginnings. As the winter snow begins to melt away and the sun begins peeking out of the clouds just a little bit stronger, many of us are filled with feelings of rejuvenation and inspiration. Spring cleaning takes priority, and all of those "New Years Resolutions" begin to take their course. We at Wild Spirit are no exception to the rule, and we've all been busy trying to improve our organizational abilities, "clean up" the winter mess, and improve our fund-raising strategies to make 2007 the best year yet! Through it all, though, we two-leggeds have to remember, we're not the only ones with goals...

OSCAR'S RESOLUTION: "NO MORE BACHELOR PAD... IT'S TIME TO SETTLE DOWN."

While life with his brother had been a testosterone-driven, care-free, bachelor pad "ride" for many years, as the two have matured, Zeus II & Oscar have both begun going in different directions. Oscar's finally decided it's time to say goodbye to the single life, and find a woman to share his days. Luckily for him, after King's passing, Gaia was looking for a handsome fellow to cuddle up with at night. Life with Gaia has been an easy transition for Oscar - She's taken over the dominant role Zeus II played, & she's just as rambunctious and playful, with a little less testosterone in the mix.

MEEA'S RESOLUTION: "EMBRACE MY INNER DOGGY.."

Meea, a beautiful white German shepherd mix, came to Wild Spirit as a youngster simply due to being mislabeled as a wolf-dog. She spent several years with Fenris, one of our older wolf-dogs. Meea has entertained volunteers and visitors at the Sanctuary with her playful antics and loving personality, and has always seemed a "doggy-dog" in the wrong place. Well, Miss Meea finally has the opportunity to "embrace her inner dogginess." She's been adopted by a loving family where she gets all of the TLC, play, mischief, and fun she can handle! Dick & Barbara Hawkins, two wonderful WSWs supporters, have opened their home to Meea where she stores her toys on the living room table & sleeps in the big bed. Now Meea can feel free to chase her tail, play with her Incredible Hulk Doll & sit and shake hands when asked, without being made fun of by her wolffy neighbors!

FENRIS'S RESOLUTION: "DATE WOMEN MY OWN AGE."

After several years of putting up with Meea's antics, Fenris has finally reached the point of maturity where he's ready to settle down with a woman of his own age. Luckily, our Shunka was looking for a retirement companion as well. Since moving in with one another, the two are enjoying long, peaceful days of sunbathing, talking about the young whippersnapper-puppies next door, and loudly scolding Leyton whenever he passes through the compound.

EMBLA'S RESOLUTION: "DATE MEN MY OWN AGE."

On the flip side of things, Embla's finally reached a point where she's looking for a strapping young man as a companion. After coming in as a pup and spending time with two older men, then living with Lupe, she's decided its time to spend some time with a boy who's up for some rough-housing and energetic play. Luckily for her, her resolution came just in time to coincide with another resident's.

ZEUS II'S RESOLUTION: "BECOME MORE SENSITIVE TO OTHER'S FEELINGS."

After many years of living in the "bachelor pad" with his brother, Oscar, Zeus II took the plunge and found a steady girlfriend. Unfortunately, with little lady-experience, Zeus II thought it was perfectly appropriate to eat both his and his companion's breakfast, kick them out of the doggy-house when it was bedtime, and bite them when they were trying to play. It took him a little while to realize, that it wasn't the lady-wolves that were the problem - it was time he started being a little more in-tune with the opposite sex's interests. As Embla reentered the dating circle, Zeus II was ready to try getting in touch with his sensitive side, and now, the two are found sharing shelter at night and frolicking through the enclosure. While Zeus II still has a problem deciding between an extra helping of breakfast and the love of a fine lady, Embla's helping him with this decision pretty quickly!

SKYE'S RESOLUTION: "EMBRACE MY INNER PUPPY."

Skye, a rambunctious wolf-dog who lived with Nayati, has been a puppy for many - MANY years. After Nayati's passing, she went through a bit of self-realization thinking back to her many hours of harassing Nayati and various human visitors to her enclosure. While at first she considered "growing up," it didn't seem like a very fun choice. So, instead, she's spreading the mischief by moving in with Brutus & Sassy, two of the timber pups. While Skye thought embracing her inner puppy was going to be just as easy as ever, it seems as though she's getting a taste of her own medicine from the pups, and all three, while still extremely playful, are settling down a bit!





Bunny Baskets

Our clever volunteer, Christina, decided our Spring Fling enrichment/fund-raiser needed a little sprucing up. Yeah, chickens are tasty and all, but are they truly festive? Our wolves and wolf-dogs enjoy fresh chicken quarters

every week. Wouldn't, say, an edible basket filled with eggs and a "wolf loaf" shaped like a bunny be a howl? Enrichment developer/webmistress/photography whiz, Allison, and master bunny-shaped-loaf maker/all-around-good-at-everything, Christina, have lifted our old Spring Fling to new heights of fun.

Please participate in our first annual Bunny Basket fundraiser. We suggest a donation of \$35 dollars per treat, but will gladly accept any amount you care to give. With your help, proceeds from our enrichment/fund-raisers cover food for the quarter. We will deliver the baskets with our cameras ready to capture all the spring hilarity. Thank you for supporting our enrichment programs and for helping us continue to provide the best care possible!

Membership 2007

We think a membership package to WSWs makes a great gift for that person who seems to have everything. Memberships make unique, meaningful gifts for younger folks, too. Ray-of-sunshine-volunteer, Becca, is modeling our 2007 membership T-shirt. This year's shirt is black, and features a wolf family around a full moon. T-shirts are yours free with donations of \$100 or more. The great-looking shirts run a little bit big, and are available in adult and children's sizes. You can also purchase shirts through our website gift shop. Our 2007 membership magnet features Cheyenne and two of the wolf pups, and the 2007 card is Whitney howling in the snow. Feel free to choose any or all of the items available with your membership, and know that your thoughtful involvement is vital to our Sanctuary and our wolves and wolf-dogs. Thank you for opening your hearts to our furry family.



photo: A Bailey



Updates

MEEA GOES HOME

Meea has been adopted into dog paradise at the Hawkins' house! We thank this great couple for taking in our sweet girl and giving her the dog life she craved and deserved. We still hope Greebo and Hooter will be blessed with a dog's life, too.

OUR LONG AWAITED WEBSITE

Our website is up and running! We will continue to work on it over the next few months to polish it up, fix typos and refine it. Please take a few moments to look it over for us and let us know what you think. We welcome all critiques and suggestions. www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org

E-NEWSLETTER

We can now send you *The Howling Reporter* as an e-mail, if you like. Computer challenged? Don't worry, we'll still send you your newsletter by mail. Please fill out the enclosed form with your e-mail address, or send us an e-mail requesting the e-newsletter. We will then remove your name from our regular mailing list.

PUPPIES GET FIXED

A howl of thanks from WSWs staff to member Stacey Hollars! Stacey covered the whole vet bill, and the puppies will be spayed and neutered by the end of April. Thanks to Sharon & Lory, too.

NIKKI, OSCAR & ZEUS II

Your care for our furry family always inspires us. Our new boys all found sponsors, and girlfriends too. Nikki now has 13 sponsors and lives with the lovely Maki, Oscar found himself 7 sponsors and is settling down with gorgeous Gaia, and Zeus II is blessed with 6 sponsors and the beautiful, wooly Embla.

PLEASE SPONSOR ME

Two of our older boys would sure appreciate some more sponsors. Sponsorship is \$125 per year and comes with our beautiful membership T-shirt, plus a color photo magnet and full color certificate featuring the animal of your choice.

SUNBEAR



We first met SunBear when his owner brought him to stay for a while. When she never came back, SunBear became part of our furry family. This sweet, often noisy boy had a little ear trouble a while back, and now has one floppy and one perky, but as you can see, is still very handsome. SunBear lives in an enclosure that is not part of the tour at our Sanctuary, so he doesn't get to meet any potential sponsors. We would sure love to find SunBear a few caring folks to help us take care of him.

ZEUS

Zeus, one of the wolf babies bottle-raised at our Sanctuary, is now 12 years old! You may remember this regal boy was featured on our 2006 membership magnet, and his piercing gaze is unforgettable. We guess folks must assume he has a huge fan club, but the truth is, the handsome one is not top dog when it comes to sponsors. We would love to see him find some more extended families. A howl of thanks for your help!



photo: Jan Ravenwolf

ENRICHMENT FUND-RAISER

PHOTO ALBUM

THANKS FOR TURKEY TOSS 2006!



SELENA
photo: A. Bennett



SHAKTI
photo: A. Bennett



RAIN
photo: A. Bennett



DAKOTA
photo: A. Bailey



EDGO
photo: A. Bennett



DUCHESS
photo: A. Bennett



SUGAR
photo: G. Cooper



LAKOTA
photo: A. Bailey



HAWK
photo: G. Cooper

TO CATCH A TURKEY -- Starring Gaia



GAIA
photo: A. Bailey





Wolf Therapy

By Angie Albrecht

My first encounter with a wolf was just over 10 years ago. My entire life I had a connection and love for all animals, and a special interest in wolves. I knew at an early age my calling was to work with animals.

Although my dreams of becoming a veterinarian slowly diminished, due in part to limited financial stability and a lack of self-discipline throughout high school, I have been a veterinarian assistant for over 13 years. I thoroughly enjoy what I do and am aware of the fact that I am a better person due to my work with animals. I am also certain that I have made a positive difference in the animal kingdom.

After working in the field for three years, I read an article about Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary, which was then known as Candy Kitchen Wolf and Wolf Hybrid Rescue Ranch. I made a trip to the sanctuary with a veterinarian I worked with occasionally. I knew instantly that I had found a place I would be involved with for my whole life. We were in awe as we stepped out of the visitor's center. The wolves began to howl, greeting their new visitors.

On that day, I met my soul mate, Nayati, a large magnificent wolf. He was a newcomer to the Sanctuary himself. From the moment our eyes met, he captured my heart. I knew instantly that we would be friends for life. As the months wore on, I began to spend as much time as I could at the Sanctuary, volunteering any free time I had.

Eventually, Nayati became the ambassador wolf for the Sanctuary. I was able to take part in some of his outreach programs. We always enjoyed our adventures together. After his retire-



ment from his ambassadorship, I remained in close contact with him and continued to visit the Sanctuary. Nayati has touched me to the depth of my being, and there he will forever be.

Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary is more than just a sanctuary for these animals. It is a wonderful place to go, relax and unwind. Throughout my life, I have battled depression. Yet when I sit here, surrounded by all of these incredible creatures (including the cats that bravely roam the grounds) and am able to spend the day with all the wonderful volunteers who share the same passions as I do, my troubles seem to fade. The howls of the wolves, the spirit and energy they possess...that is truly therapeutic.

I have learned so much from the wolves, including but not limited to: love, loyalty, respect, boundaries and to live with spirit! For anyone who needs a little "boost" in life, a reminder of just how special life can be, or maybe you would just like to have a special smile placed upon your face; pack a lunch, bring your camera (and lots of film!) and take a tour. Then, sit at the picnic tables, enjoy your meal and listen to the howls. Take it from me; you will get a little wolf therapy!

Light Flurry of Snow

As you may imagine, much of our lives at our Sanctuary can be far from glamorous. However, once in a while, something magical happens. Nayati's passing was one of these moments. As Nayati declined due to liver failure, we were determined to make his last weeks with us as comfortable as possible, and as always, kept careful watch to prevent any lengthy suffering. One morning, Nayati's longtime pal, Angie, had a dream about her wolf friend, and called Leyton at 5:00 am, feeling certain that Nayati was near passing. A few hours later, a volunteer noticed that Nayati appeared to have taken a turn for the worse. Angie immediately set out for the Sanctuary to be at Nayati's side. Arrangements were made for our majestic boy to be euthanized. Angie, Angel and board member Jan Ravenwolf were all inside Nayati's enclosure as he lay quietly, but no longer able to move. Angie had brought along a meaningful song to play for Nayati before he was euthanized. As the song came to an end, the atmosphere suddenly changed. The sky had grown dark, but amazingly, a streak of sunshine came through and shone directly on Nayati's body. Even more incredibly, a light flurry of snow began scattering in the air. The compound became silent, and Nayati raised his head to Angie. At that moment, Nayati took his last breath, and passed away, without the assistance of euthanasia. The light flurry of snow subsided.





And How's Nana?

by Savannah Bennett, St Bernard Nanny

Busy. I thought my mom, Angel, said I would be helping to raise *puppies*. They smell like puppies, they act like puppies, but have you seen the size of these kids lately?! Talk about growing up fast! These kids are as tall as me now. I've really got my paws full. Five days a week, I go and visit with the youngsters. Dakota doesn't listen to a word I say any more. I'm afraid he might have some difficulty with authority, and has some obvious sharing issues. But Forest is my angel and our special bond just fills my heart with joy. I'm running here and there, stopping squabbles, playing wolfy games, and dishing out discipline. I also try to find a few moments for myself to scarf the delicious treats sent my way from you wonderful members. Thank You! I hope someone is working on creating those extra hours for the day; we all need 'em. Gotta go, Sabine



fell off the swings, Dakota ate Powder's breakfast, Savannah put sap in Storm's fur, and Sugar needs another drink of water.

Thanks for all your help with these big bundles of joy.



Grandmother Natasha

The Navajo and Zuni people in our area call all older folks Grandmother or Grandfather. It's a touching extension of family offered to anyone who has reached their Golden Years, whether or not he or she is an actual relative.

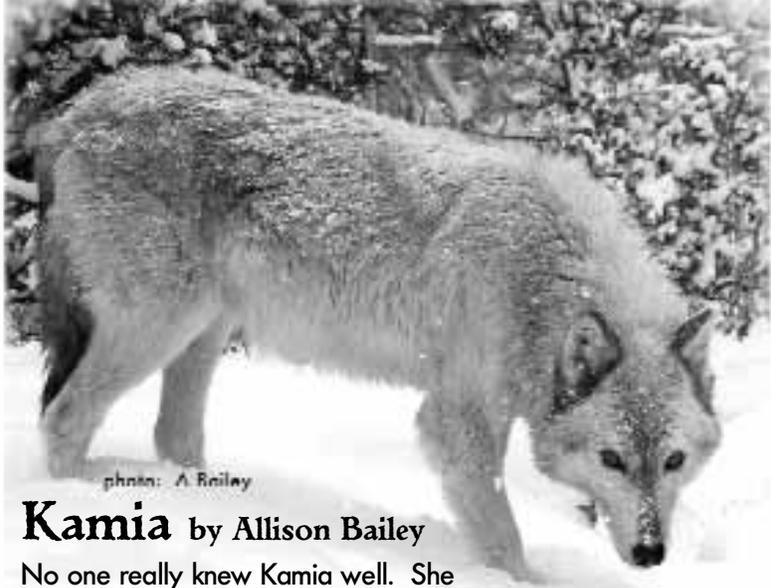
We said goodbye to many of our Grandmother and Grandfather wolves and wolf-dogs last year. Some of our oldest residents to date have been Lupe, who lived to be about 19 years old, and Valhalla who lived to be around 17, although we don't have exact birth dates. Wolves in the wild are given a life expectancy of around 6-9 years. It's harder to "get up in years" when your food fights back and no one is bringing you fresh water or antibiotics, as Leyton says.

Over half of our 54 residents at WSWS are over 10 years old. Our current Senior Grandmother is Waya, at 15 years old. Our 13-year-olds include, Mr Shyloh, Nakona, Doc, Princess, Whitney, Van Gogh and Shunka. Our first litter of wolf "babies", who were bottle-raised by Jacque, Barbara and volunteers, are now 12 years old.

Natasha is a 14-year-old wolf who has been a resident of our Sanctuary since 1995 when she was rescued. About three years ago, we took Natasha's name off the list of animals to be sponsored because she gave us a scare with her health, and we thought we would be saying goodbye to her at any moment. Volunteer/webmistress, Allison has taken special interest in Natasha, and has captured some of the best pictures of our super shy Grandmother in the ten years she has lived at our Sanctuary. Allison captured a fun moment during the Turkey Toss when Natasha had to keep one eye on her bird treat, and the other eye on the Raven bird intent on sharing it with her, uninvited.

Our beautiful Natasha has become quite rejuvenated by the arrival of spring and her new puppy neighbors. Her enclosure now borders two others where she can mingle with Storm, Savannah, Thunder, Forest and Alice. Lately, Natasha has been playing surrogate mother to her stuffed animal, carrying it around like her baby and cuddling with it. Pen-mate, Lakota, was apparently annoyed by the new bond, and was seen trying to drown the toy in the water bucket, which was thankfully frozen over. Allison rescued Natasha's baby, and the cuddling continues. We apologize for writing off our old girl before her time. We wish her many more healthy years and maybe some new sponsors to welcome a Grandmother Wolf into their extended families.





Kamia by Allison Bailey

No one really knew Kamia well. She was a brand new resident at the Sanctuary and lived here only eight months. Her life was fairly normal in comparison to some of our other residents. I, however, will never forget the seven months I knew her.

Kamia was one of our more shy residents, and it took me several months before she would eat out of my hand. Our first several encounters consisted mostly of her pacing and me gently singing to calm her nerves. After a while, she would come up to investigate the area around me, but any sudden movement would quickly drive her back. Finally, after many visits to her enclosure, she finally would greet me at the fence in hopes of a treat.

Life became even better once Kamia moved to her brand new enclosure on top of the hill. She wasn't by herself anymore; overnight she received two new companions. Ironically, the shy little girl became Alpha over her small pack and my pride in her was never stronger. But shortly after, her new mate Mr. Cheyenne passed away. I could see Kamia's grief, and I shared it with her. She still had her other companion, Maki, but that quickly went downhill. Within the month the two began to challenge one another and their final encounter ended in a bloody fight. Kamia and Maki were separated, and once again Kamia was by herself. She became desperate for company, and I spent as much time as possible inside her enclosure. We grew closer in those weeks than ever before.

I was coming up to say 'hello' when I saw her. Right away I knew something was not right. She seemed lethargic and confused. Other volunteers came when I called, and we all came to the agreement that something happened. Instantly I became dedicated to making Kamia comfortable in hopes she would get better. I delivered her water and food right next to her nose, but her appetite and strength quickly vanished.

I remember clearly the day before she died. She seemed very peaceful and tranquil. I was sitting right next to her, wishing I could do something to ease her pain. That's when I found myself reaching out to pet her. Normally, she would have reeled back, but this time, she continued to lie there calmly. Gently, I placed my hand on her back and began to stroke my sweet girl, the first time I had ever been able to touch her. Reluctantly, I pulled myself away and continued on with work, but the magnitude of the moment still stuns me to this day.

The next day seemed normal enough. Once again I placed

her food next to her head and then returned to care for my other animals. I came back in the afternoon to see if she had eaten. Her body was stretched underneath the roof of her house, still in the relaxed position I had seen her in the day before. My eyes swelled as I raced to her side, calling her name, begging. For the second time ever, I reached out towards her, this time burying my face into her coat. It was silent, until I heard them. The other animals began to howl as I sobbed for my sweet girl. My hope is that they were sending her off to the sky where she can run free.

I still miss Kamia greatly, but the lessons she has taught me, from humility to patience, have made me appreciate the few months I knew her here on earth.

Special Thanks

Without each of you, we would not be able to provide the quality care we feel our animals deserve. We thank you all for making it possible.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF MELANIE DEUS

We send our sympathies & prayers to the family & friends who generously sent contributions in loving memory of our wonderful member and hero to animals, Melanie, who originally rescued our Zoe. KAMIA SPONSORS- Steve & Leontine, Sally, Lee, Tara & Mike, Ernie & Loraine

NAPI SPONSORS- Robert & Michelle, Paula, Mae, David & Meg, Sharon, & special thanks to Chris & Bruce, who have Napi's sister.

LUPE SPONSORS- Richard, Nan, Gay & Paul, Joe & Helene, with special thanks to Mae who was his best supporter and remembered her special boy at every treat day.

MANU SPONSORS- Barbara, Billie, Christine, Lisa, Kerry & Melia, James, Marion, the Bowser Family, Jim & Carolyn, Bernadette, Nilda and Andrew, special thanks to Kevin and Ronald & Rachael, Manu's faithful supporters over many years.

NAYATI SPONSORS- Connie, Sandy, Barbara, Kerry & Melia, Pam, Chuck & Judi, Susan, Bonnie, Mike & L Kay, Nicole, Cathy & Thomas, Alan & Rayeann, Patricia, Mtn View School, Linda Sue, Robert & Michelle, special thanks to Nayati's dearest sponsors over the years, Jo-Annette and Cherigene, who also helped rescue him.

DIANE DELBRIDGE Thanks for the big box of goodies for two-leggeds and four-leggeds

TURQUOISE TRAIL MARKET Thanks for the chicken

DAVID & SUSAN Thanks for the fun toys for Forest & the pups

BILL MOORE AND LORI MOORE of Advanced Communications Thanks for blessing us with working radios!

BERNICE & WALTER DALBY Walter & Bernice Dalby blessed us with tons of gravel to vastly improve our grounds. What a joy!

LUIS BANDEIRA Thanks for the copy paper

MIKE & RONDA SOFIA Thanks for coming out with great goodies and being such a great friend to our Meea.

BIG BEEFY CHECKS from: Cynthia DaCosta, Stacey Hollars, Robert Bruni, Ellen Hickey, Marjorie Ault, Higgins Foundation, Joyce Alexander and Steve & Leontine Bailey.

ADAM & BRIAN MOLLEY thanks for setting aside some of your allowance for our wolves!

MESA- Thanks to everyone involved in MESA for inviting us!

TIM MARTING director of business development for NM Scorpions, thanks for having us!

ALLISON, SHARON & MARION Thanks for the Valentine cards!
JIM HARLIN Thanks for finding us chicken at a price we can afford!

OUR WISH LIST!

We thank you for blessing us with many past wish list items! If you don't have any of these current items, maybe you know someone who wants to donate any of these items, or maybe you have a talent for persuading other people to donate any of these items. Also, please check our wish list on our website! Your thoughtful care is what keeps us going and what makes our wishes come true.

MAINTENANCE

10' X 12' SHED *Urgent need
Gift cards for Wal-Mart
Gift cards for Home Depot
160 tons more of base coarse gravel
Enough mulch for all the enclosures
2 x 4s & 2 x 8s
Plywood 4 x 8 x 1/2" & 1 3/4"
6' cedar privacy fence panels
POWDER-FREE Latex Gloves (S,M,L)
POWDER-FREE vinyl Gloves (S,M,L)
Leaf Rakes
Garden Hoes
Garden Rakes
Commercial Outdoor Benches!!

2 new Ryobi gas-powered Weed Eaters
Single Bit Ax Handles
Lots & lots of 80 lb bags of concrete
Commercial meat grinder
(5 or more horse power)
(see website wish list)

OFFICE

1 laptop computer:
2 GB RAM
140 gig hard drive minimum
Envelopes:
3 5/8" x 6 1/2"
6" x 9"
First class stamps
Generic printer ink refill kits
5th Wheel Travel Trailer

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 Axle
Small Enclosed Trailer
Water Heater 40 gallon
(HIGH ALTIITUDE PROPANE)
5 drawer dresser for Jason

WHAT TO BRING

A special thanks to all of you who have come out to visit with arms, trucks and bags full of goodies for our wolves and wolf-dogs, and often, the two-leggeds as well!

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 (we use 960 pounds per week)
Ground Beef Chubs

SUPPLIES

Bleach
Liquid hand soap
Large industrial strength trash bags

ONE OF OUR FAVORITES





WILD SPIRIT WOLF SANCTUARY
HC 61 Box 28
Ramah, NM 87321

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Gallup NM
Permit No. 930



DAKOTA
photo: Angel Bennett

TAKE A GUIDED TOUR

Tue- Sun 11am, 12:30pm, 2pm & 3:30pm

CLOSED MONDAYS

FROM ALBUQUERQUE

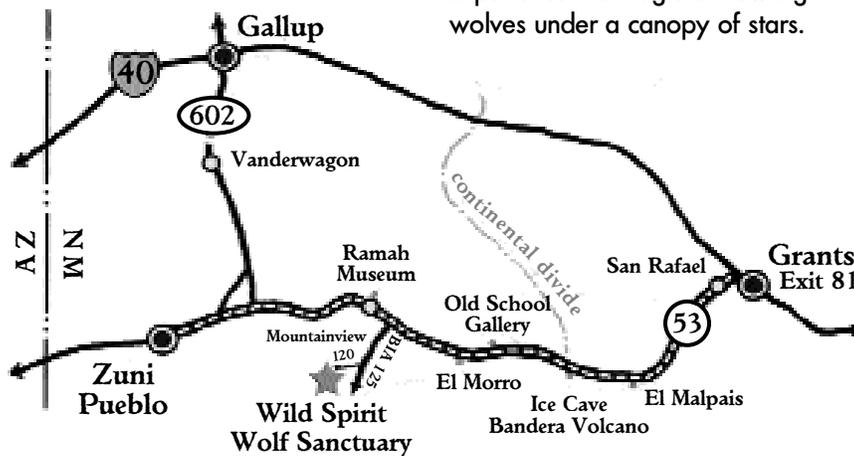
I-40 West to Grants, take Exit 81. Turn left onto Hwy 53, go about 44 miles. About 2 miles past El Morro, look for a sign for Mountainview & Pine Hill. Turn left onto BIA 125, go 8 miles (through Mountainview). Turn right onto gravel road BIA 120. Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary is 4 miles down on the left.

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

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HC 61 Box 28
Ramah NM 87321

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1-505-775-3304

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1-505-775-3824

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