



The HOWLING REPORTER

FALL 2020

FEATURED
RESCUES

OBI
AND
KENAI

PAGE 10

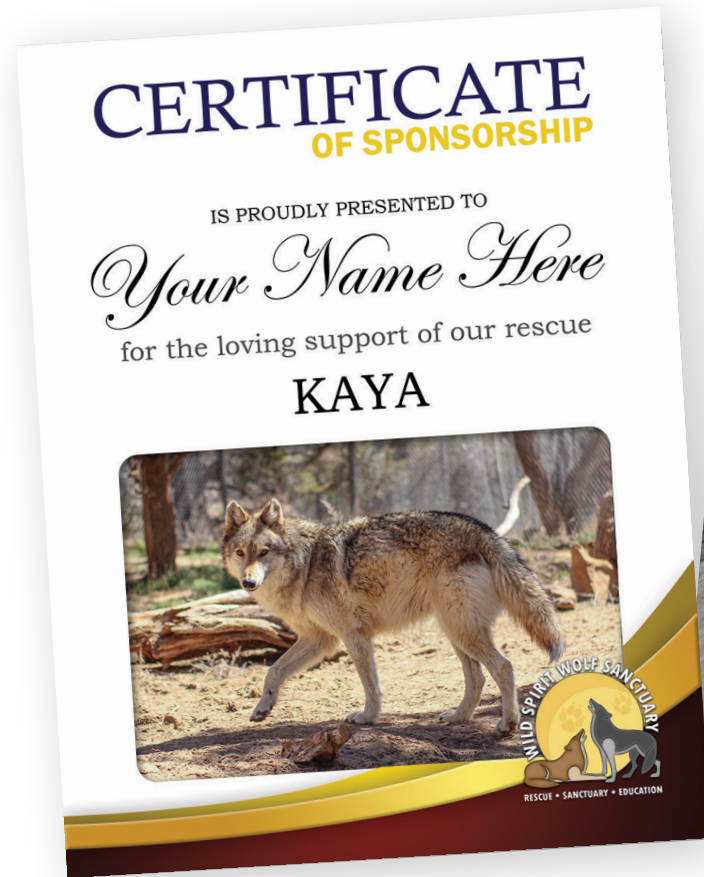
High-Content Wolf-Dog, Draco

HAVE YOU SPONSORED A RESCUE?

Sponsoring a rescue is a great way to support our mission!

When you sponsor any of our rescues, you can choose to create the sponsorship in your own name, in honor of an animal lover you know, or as a gift!

As a thank you for your sponsorship, you may choose to receive an 8.5x11" full-color certificate of sponsorship, a 3x4" magnet commemorating your rescue, or both!



Items are not shown to scale



2020 T-Shirt Shown

BONUS!

Sponsor a rescue and have the option to buy the Official Membership T-Shirt for only \$10!

That's a \$15 discount!

www.wildspiritwolvesanctuary.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Ann Stravalle-Schmidt, *Board Chair* • Brian J. Spinnato, *Co-Chair & Treasurer* • Thomas Reiss, *Secretary* • Jan Ravenwolf • Christine Crawford
STAFF and VOLUNTEERS Brittany McDonald, *Executive Director* • Brian Adkins, *Building & Maintenance* • Mike Budd, *Building & Maintenance* • Stephanie Grenadier, *Housekeeping* • Jared Kain-Woods, *Animal Care Specialist* • Kendra Kain-Woods, *Animal Care Supervisor* • Stephanie Leitch, *Gift Shop Attendant* • Hannah Lind, *Wolf Kitchen Assistant* • Shaina Miller, *Animal Care Specialist* • Josh McNitt, *Guest Services and Human Resources Assistant* • Lisa McNitt, *Bookkeeper* • Megan Murphy, *Social Media & Outreach Coordinator/Animal Care Specialist* • Molly Shaw, *Animal Care Specialist/Donor Relations & Development Coordinator* • Victoria Uliano, *Animal Care Specialist* • Tim Waite, *Multimedia & Outreach Coordinator*

Special thanks to our printer, The Printer's Press! www.printerspressinc.com

Dear Readers,

Even before I arrived at Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary to take on my new role as the Executive Director, I found myself reflecting back on the years with a deep sense of gratitude for every moment that led me to this place; every position that helped shape me into the leader that I am today; every encounter that taught me the value of my teams; and most importantly, for every animal that put each of those lessons into perspective for me. And let me tell you, when it comes to lessons in leadership and team building, the wolf is the ultimate teacher.

Here are a few of the things they've taught me over the years:

The Strength of the Wolf is the Pack

The life of a wild wolf is far from easy. Every day is a constant struggle for survival as these animals work to patrol miles of territory, take down large and dangerous prey, face harsh elements, and battle the constant threat of illness, injury, and disease. While it is possible for a lone wolf to navigate these challenges successfully, the odds of survival are drastically increased for wolves living in a pack and working as a team. If you think about the numbers alone, it makes sense that ten wolves would have a much easier time taking down a full grown elk than one wolf would, but it isn't merely an increase in numbers that influences a pack's chances of survival; it's also about how wolves live and work together within these groups that makes a difference.

My favorite example of what makes wolf packs so well-suited to any challenge is their unique style of cooperative living, which requires each individual member to contribute equally toward the group's shared responsibilities. This lifestyle works to alleviate the pressures on not only the pack leaders, but on every member of the family, allowing for greater rest and recovery and in turn, yielding a greater potential for success in navigating the obstacles of their wild and dangerous world.

When it comes to humans these same concepts hold true. We can generally accomplish more working as a team than we can independently, but again, it isn't just about numbers. In order to truly thrive, teams must learn to work cohesively and understand that it's not merely the leaders that are responsible for the success of the unit. Instead, each member must be expected and allowed to contribute equally, and encouraged to utilize their individual strengths to best benefit the group. When properly applied, these methods can help human teams to navigate their own workplace challenges in a way that allows everyone within the team to not only survive, but to thrive.



BRITTANY McDONALD WITH WOLF-DOG, LEIA

The Only Option is to Persevere

Despite the fact that wolf packs are much better equipped for survival than wolves living on their own, success is never guaranteed. In fact, when it comes to hunting, wolves fail in making a kill far more often than they succeed. On average, packs land themselves a meal approximately one out of every ten hunts. Imagine for a second how a human might feel in a similar situation, having put hours of time and effort into a group activity that ultimately resulted in failure... I expect that a lot of negative emotions come up just thinking about it: anger, disappointment, blame. Wolves, however, have no use for these feelings. Placing blame on their pack mates won't result in a meal. Instead, they analyze the group's mistakes in order to learn from them, adding to the pack's collective wisdom over time and in doing so, increasing the entire group's chances of success in the future.

Unlike wolves, humans are often quick to place blame onto others, rather than accepting a collective responsibility for the group's shortcomings or failures. I've found that these practices will only serve to weaken a team, but if we can begin to see mistakes as opportunities for learning as wolf packs do, it becomes far easier to discuss ideas for improvement openly and constructively without the threat of hurt feelings. Mistakes will always be made; we're

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

only human, after all. But if teams can learn to embody the mental and emotional fortitude of the wolf, whose only chance of survival relies on his ability to get back up after every failure, they can begin to grow as individuals, as well as a group.

Communication is Key

Wolves rely on a wide array of vocalizations, facial expressions, and body postures to clearly communicate boundaries, warnings, appeasement, and even the desire to play. They are incredibly direct when it comes to expressing their wants and needs and will generally do so in a way that leaves little room for misunderstanding. This straightforward approach to communication is crucial for setting rules, social bonding, sharing critical information, and preventing conflict within the group. In addition, wolves on the receiving end of a message are generally respectful of what the other is conveying—a task made easier when they're able to understand them clearly.

Just the other week one of our Animal Caretakers and I were discussing how humans seem to have an incredibly difficult time dealing with conflict, especially in the workplace, and she shared a thought that really resonated with me. She said, "When wolves get into a confrontation with one another, it's big, it's loud, and it's immediate, but then it's over. Wolves don't hold grudges or nurture hurt feelings. They address the issue and move on. If we could learn to react to controversy like wolves do, it would be a whole lot easier to walk away from uncomfortable conversations with a sense of calm and resolution and with fewer hurt feelings."

These words really stuck with me. After years of studying and working with wolves, I knew that what she had said was undoubtedly true and that the lesson hidden within her words held tremendous value. I also realized, however, that this was a lesson I had been ignoring for years due to my own discomfort surrounding confrontation. In the



days following that conversation I was forced to re-evaluate a major aspect of my leadership style, especially as I began to realize how this might be affecting my current team. While the idea of embracing direct and immediate communication in regards to conflict was absolutely terrifying, I allowed myself to trust in what I knew the wolves could teach me. Spoiler Alert: I survived the change and today, the human "pack" at Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary is stronger and more unified than when I first arrived all those months ago!

A Pack that Plays Together, Stays Together

As you can see, there are a number of foundational principles that are needed if wolf packs—or human teams—can hope to live and work together collectively. The above are just a few examples, but there is undoubtedly one more. It's a lesson that often gets overlooked in regards to human beings, but one that I believe is vitally important.

When it comes to team building, wolves do a tremendous job of showcasing the numerous benefits of a healthy work-life balance, especially when bolstered by play. Wolves use play as a means of having fun, fine-tuning their communication skills, learning how to trust and rely on one another, and ultimately, to further strengthen their bond as a family.

Through engaging in play-based group activities both in and out of the workplace, human teams can also experience growth within these areas! An increase in trust, communication, and social bonding can work to reduce work-related stress and anxiety and lead to higher achievement, greater productivity, and increased commitment to the organization as a whole. (Ask any member of the Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary team and I guarantee that this lesson is one that we can all attest to!)

In Conclusion

At Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary, we understand each of these lessons and have been working hard to apply them in ways that will work to benefit our incredible organization: We recognize that each member of our human pack is entirely unique and we all bring our own strengths to the table, but are willing to share equal responsibility in all areas as needed. As a collective unit, we work to learn from our mistakes in order to grow and improve as we move forward into a promising new future. We communicate openly and respect the voice of every individual. We know how to work hard and play hard and have developed a high level of compassion for one another. Most of all, we have made it our mission to nurture a culture that values the same qualities that our wolves do: patience, respect, love, and support.

Finally, a huge and heartfelt thank you to the dedicated supporters of Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary! Your love and support has allowed us to provide lifelong care to wolves, wolfdogs, and other canines in need across the country. More than that, it has created an incredible opportunity for us to discover just how much wolves can teach us about being human.

Sincerely,

Brittany McDonald
Executive Director

MEET AUSTRALIAN DINGO AUSSIE

Animal sponsorships are a great way to help us support our rescues! Sponsorships go towards helping cover the costs of vet care, food, medication, and dietary supplements for each rescue. Currently it takes 15 sponsors to cover costs of care for one rescue for an entire year. To provide our lovely howling supporters with new content in our bi-annual magazine we wanted to start featuring some of our lowest sponsored rescues, we hope you enjoy!

This edition's featured rescue is adorable Australian dingo, Aussie. Aussie is one of three brothers that came to Wild Spirit along with their mom back in 2013 when they were only a year old. While he may be the shyest of the bunch, once he gets comfortable this golden boy is a total sweetheart. He loves going on walks with his two brothers, Glacier and Uluru, as long as it is with people he knows and trusts. Once he is comfortable with a new caregiver, he has been known to come closer and enjoy some light pets and sneak a few kisses in while his more social brothers are getting attention. At the time of writing this, our sweet Aussie only has two sponsors! Make sure to visit our online gift shop to sponsor sweet Aussie today.



Would you share your opinion?

Completing our Howling Supporter survey will help us give you more of what you'd like to see! Click the link near the bottom of our web site and tell us what you think!

[Privacy Policy](#) [The Howling Reporter Survey](#)

Copyright © 2010 - 2020 Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary | All rights reserved.

Quarterly Enrichment Events

Spring Baskets & Summer Coolers

Every Quarter we have an extra special enrichment event for our wild-spirited rescues, themed for the season. Our four events are Present Toss in January, Spring Baskets in May, Summer Coolers in July, and Pumpkin Toss for Howl-O-Ween in October! Enrichment is really important for innately wild animals who live in captivity, and plays a big role in their mental, physical and emotional well-being. It can be provided in many ways such as giving them new things to smell, taste, or look at, or by giving them problems to solve such as boxes or pumpkins to open and find treats or food inside.

For just \$35 you can sponsor one of these special enrichment treats for any of our rescues to enjoy. On the day of the event we will live stream some of our rescues receiving their enrichments on Facebook, so be sure to follow us on Facebook (@thewildspiritwolfsanctuary) for notifications! In the meantime, here are some photos of rescues enjoying their Spring Basket and Summer Cooler enrichment treats from this year, and if you wish to sponsor an enrichment please visit: wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org/giftshop and look under the Memberships & Sponsorships section!



This past April Wild Spirit hosted our first annual Art Pack April event! The inspiration for this event came from our late founder, Jacque Evans. Jacque was not just the founder of what was at the time The Candy Kitchen Wolf and Wolf-Dog Rescue Ranch, she was also an artist who featured many of the rescued wolves and wolf-dogs in her beautiful art.

The Wild Spirit Team came up with four prompts, one for each week,

and challenged our Facebook and Instagram followers to create and submit art using the hashtag #ArtPackApril. We were so pleased with the amazing submissions we received. Winners of each prompt received stickers with all 4 Art Pack April winning designs which are also available now for purchase on our online Gift Shop!

Stay tuned next April when we have a whole new set of prompts for another month of creativity!



WEEK 1 PROMPT, "BORN TO BE WILD!"
Artist: Anna Gombos



WEEK 2 PROMPT, "VIXEN SCREAM"
Artist: Anna Gombos



WEEK 3 PROMPT, "SURREAL SINGING DOGS"
Artist: Suzanne King



WEEK 4 PROMPT, "FULL MOON"
Artist: Mary Smith

1st Annual Art Pack April Contest Winners

BIG PACK IN THE SKY



FOREST



CHEYENNE



GOLDIE



NIMOY



NIKKI



SIoux

Welcome Kenai & Obi

Brittany and Kendra introduce two of our newest rescues! You can read about Obi on page 12.

Introducing Kenai, by Brittany McDonald

Two-year old low-content wolf-dog Kenai was rescued from Ohio in June of 2020 after his owner, who had been diagnosed with a severe and sudden illness, reached out asking if Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary would be willing to provide him with permanent placement. After learning more about Kenai's personality, we agreed to take him in hoping he might be a good match for high-content wolf-dog Savannah who had lost her companion, Sioux, just a couple months before.

Kenai was the second of two rescues to take place in June, and Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary team members conducted back-to-back road trips to rescue he and low-content wolf-dog Obi and bring them safely to their new forever home!

Following his arrival at the sanctuary, Kenai took several days to fully settle in, and understandably so. As you might imagine, life in the desert, surrounded by the sights, smells, and sounds of over 50 other rescues was a dramatic change after two years of living in a home. In addition, Kenai was exposed to a number of new faces as he observed our team from afar, and despite being raised as a pet, he showed very little interest in socializing with the vast majority of our Animal Caretakers.



One thing Kenai did show an interest in, however, was our lovely Savannah! After an initial meet-and-greet through the fence line showed positive responses from both parties, Savannah was allowed into Kenai's enclosure for a face-to-face meeting. The staff conducting the introduction were originally anticipating a short play-date to assess the pair's compatibility, but the meeting was so successful that Savannah never ended up leaving, instead saying goodbye to her old home and hello to a new start with Kenai!

With a new companion to help him feel more at home, Kenai began to show greater comfortability around people, but any physical interactions with humans remained very limited. As such, it was a huge surprise when he allowed me to pet him all over his face and body on our very first

meeting! Soon after, I became Kenai and Savannah's primary caretaker and this handsome boy continued to surprise me by allowing trust-based interactions, including walks around the property with his lovely lady following closely behind! Recently, Kenai has begun to demonstrate a strong desire to play with both Savannah and me, and for the first time ever I watched as he ran straight up to the two of us and dropped into a play-bow, waiting expectantly for our response. As an older girl, Savannah was less excited about the interaction, but I decided to engage by making a quick jumping motion in Kenai's direction.

The result was explosive! In a flash, Kenai took off running, demonstrating what can only be described as a major case of "the zoomies" that took him zipping all around the enclosure before coming back and repeating the entire process all over again!

Just as recently, Kenai has started to show an interest in playing with sticks, half-heartedly following their movement with an open mouth while waiting patiently for me to hand it over to him. While he is likely not a great candidate for playing fetch, I expect that he might enjoy a friendly game of tug-of-war, especially with a rope toy! Now that our handsome boy has started to show this new side of him, I

look forward to discovering what other quirky characteristics he's been hiding.

In time, I'm confident that Kenai will blossom into an incredibly sweet and playful animal, especially with his strong and confident companion by his side! You can learn more about Kenai and the Savannah by visiting our website and following our Facebook and Instagram pages for future updates as well as photos and videos! You can also assist us in providing either of these incredible animals with lifelong care by choosing to sponsor one or both of them! Your donations help to off-set the costs of vet care, enrichment, and a number of other husbandry-related needs!

KENAI



OBI

Introducing Obi, by Kendra Kain-Woods

It has been an absolute delight getting to know Obi since he was rescued this past June, and developing a relationship with him as his Primary Caregiver has been extraordinary. A three-year-old low-content wolf-dog, Obi comes to Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary from Washington state in excellent health as an owner-surrender. While Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary is Obi's 6th home, it is his final home.

Over the past several months, I have watched Obi gain confidence and develop his own unique bond with high-content wolf-dog companion, Kaya, who was rescued towards the end of September in 2019. Both young animals, Obi and Kaya expel a ton of energy together in the mornings as Kaya initiates tag with Obi, chasing him around their habitat. When I am inside cleaning, Obi will dash over to me to hide behind my legs— "Help, Kendra!"

While Kaya had lived a relatively solitary life, especially prior to coming to Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary, it is obvious that Obi quickly became her crush and dear friend. Unlike Kaya, who is still developing her self-confidence and trust with people (as unfortunately, Kaya's history is marred by abuse), Obi is a socialite and absolutely adores going for walks. Whenever Obi and I venture out on a leashed stroll, Kaya can be seen watching intently to ensure he returns, and upon his return Kaya is always overjoyed— tail wagging, body low and wiggling, and sometimes she can even be heard making her iconic "squeaking" noise in excitement.

Recently, due to an injury to my arm, I had to take a temporary step back from my daily animal care responsibilities. Upon my return, Obi has been exceptionally pushy about receiving attention, so

much so he tends to plop his entire body into my unprepared lap. Fortunately, I have not been knocked off balance, but he may just succeed yet! An adorable, sweet little love-bug, Obi enjoys being pet all over and often will flip onto his back to request I rub his tummy. Cueing from Obi, Kaya has been increasing her demands for attention, as well, and has even begun to attempt to sit in my lap.

Developing relationships with the rescues is one of the beautiful blessings provided to the Animal Care Team, and in its unpredictability it is fascinating to see which animals essentially "choose you." While sometimes it may be because of a caregiver's particular energy or way in addressing the animals, sometimes it is completely random and without apparent reason as to why a rescue decides they need to be close with one of the team. While I was heavily involved with assisting Obi as he first settled into his new sanctuary life, I cannot explain his exceptional comfort and adoration for me as a caregiver, but the love is mutual, and I am honored to share special moments with both Obi and Kaya every day. I cannot wait to watch as they continue to grow as individuals and as a couple. If one-day Kaya wishes to join Obi out on a stroll, I will be so, so happy for her! It would be a momentous step for this understandably anxious girl.

As newer additions to the Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary Family, both Obi and Kaya still do not have many sponsors helping to off-set the costs for their veterinary care, regular enrichment, and over all well-being. If you have fallen in love with this amazing duo as I have, consider checking out our website to sponsor either or both!





The Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary Team is excited to announce the details for our Second Annual Howling Poetry Contest! Serving as a creative and fun way to support our rescues, the contest is open to all ages, and this year there will be two categories judged separately: "The Pups" group, for beginners; and "The Wolves" group, for more experienced writers. Participants choose which category they would like to be judged in when submitting their poems.

Our Second Annual Howling Poetry Contest will open for submissions on November 1st and it will close on November 30th for judging by the Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary Team. One winning poem will be selected from each group, and the winners will be announced on December 15, 2020. Submissions will be judged based on the poem's relation to and interpretation of the prompt, the poem's inclusion and representation of Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary's mission, and its unique flare.

No matter your experience or skill level when it comes to crafting poetry, we encourage everyone to have fun! Submitted poems must be an original and not previously published. International folks are welcome to participate, as well.

To submit your poem, please visit our website and complete the online submission form. Donations of \$5.00 help support our rescues and will be required to participate. Multiple submissions are welcome and can be entered through the completion of a single submission form.

The two winners will receive publication on the Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary website, our social media platforms, as well as in the 2021 Spring Edition of The Howling Reporter, arriving in February.

Reminders will be shared on our website and social media platforms. Even if you may not wish to write a poem, consider your crafty and creative friends and family who may greatly enjoy this unique way to support the rescues of Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary.

We cannot wait to read your poems!

OUR 2021 CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE!

A 28-page, glossy, full color wall calendar featuring photos of several of our rescues is available from our online gift shop! Limited quantity!



Crow is a high-content wolfdog. He lives with his low-content companion Honey, and he was born in April, 2014.

JANUARY 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 NEW YEAR'S DAY	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6



Holiday Gift Shop



WARRIOR T-SHIRT

WARRIOR TOTE BAG

WOLF ECLIPSE T-SHIRT



WSWS CAP WITH LOGO

9" TALL DIRE WOLF PLUSH FROM THE GAME OF THRONES SERIES

16 OZ BISTRO STYLE WIDE BODY COFFEE MUG

Special offer for our Howling Supporters! Enter the following code at check-out on our online gift shop to receive a 10% discount on your entire order!

HRFALL20

wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org/giftshop



Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary

HC 61 Box 28
Ramah, NM 87321

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
ABQ NM
Permit No. 674**

WILDSPIRITWOLFSANCTUARY.ORG

Visit us online for information about our various tours and how you can help us continue our mission.
Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit corporation licensed and regulated by the USDA, as well as a
Class C exhibitor. Federal Tax ID # 85-0424026

**LOW-CONTENT WOLF-DOG LYCA ENJOYING
HER SUMMER COOLER ENRICHMENT**



IRWIN

**COMING IN THE WINTER 2021 ISSUE
MEET OUR NEWEST RESCUES, IRWIN & SOX!**