MISSION: WOLF CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

On January 7th, 1988 we put 36 acres of land in the wolves name and Mission: Wolf was created. January 2013 marked our 25th year as a tax-deductible 501(c)3 non-profit. For 25 years, we have been working to help people understand wolves, connect people with nature, and inspire the next generation to care about our environment. We are proud of our accomplishments over the past 25 years, but our work is far from complete.

Over the past two years, we have made improvements in our facilities and continued our efforts to educate visitors at our sanctuary and people worldwide.

There are over a quarter of a million wolves and wolf-dogs in captivity in the United States, while current estimates indicate that there are around 6,000 wild grey wolves in the continental United States. We work every day to educate as many people as possible about the realities of living with wolves. If we do our job as educators, hopefully the need to provide a home for captive-born wild animals will decrease and wild wolf populations will continue to recover. Thanks to the hard work and kindness of countless supporters, we have been able to continue educating the public across the United States through our Ambassador Wolf Tour. Our traveling education program takes wolves into classrooms, colleges, museums, and other public arenas. Despite mechanical challenges with our Wolf Bus, your support has enabled us to continue our work as educators in places where wilderness is dwindling and where people need to reconnect with nature.

Inside, you will meet some new members of our wolf pack. We also say goodbye to some beloved friends. Learn about the progress we’ve made, projects we are currently working on, and where we hope to go in the future. Discover important information about wolves in the wild and find out different ways that you can get involved.

Whether we see you on the road or at the sanctuary, or hear from you by phone, mail, or the internet, we appreciate all that you do for our mission and these animals. Thank you for your continued support!

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/missionwolfcolorado
Mission: Wolf is open for educational tours every day of the year from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. After a guided tour of the sanctuary by one of our educators, you are free to explore, take photos, and browse the visitor center. We try to take all of our visitors in to meet the Ambassador Wolves face-to-face.

We encourage visitors to pitch in and help out around the sanctuary. You are welcome to stay and volunteer from a few hours up to two weeks. In addition to feeding the wolves and other daily operations, common projects include gardening, landscaping, and building fences. We do not charge a fee for visits, tours, or camping, but we appreciate donations to keep Mission: Wolf running.

Near our parking area, we have a primitive campground with communal picnic tables. Due to our limited resources, visitors need to bring their own food and supplies and pack out their trash. While we are happy to provide guests with drinking water, be aware that our water supply is fed by a solar-powered pump and is limited. We encourage visitors to bring their own water.

At 9,300 feet of elevation, Mission: Wolf can experience sudden storms, intense summer sun, and powerful winds. Bring sunscreen and remember to drink plenty of water. The sanctuary is about a 45-minute drive from the nearest town (Westcliffe), and an hour from I-25 and Walsenburg. Be prepared for fifteen miles of dirt roads between Mission: Wolf and the nearest paved road. While it’s usually possible to drive in and out in a two-wheel drive vehicle, the dirt roads can be impassable due to rain or snow. We look forward to seeing you here on your next adventure!
In the spring of 2012, we installed an industrial-sized solar hot water heating system in our community kitchen building. During the day, water is pumped through five solar-heated panels on the roof, heating hundreds of gallons in our storage tank to almost 200°F.

Before our new system was installed, our water heater and boiler were propane hogs. Between our volunteer staff, the wolves, and the horses, we used about $2000 of propane each year to heat water. In addition to showers, dish washing, and cleaning, we use hot water by the bucketful for cleaning up after feedings and thawing wolf drinking water in the winter. Using propane for hot water wasn't financially or environmentally sustainable.

Our staff also recently designed and fabricated two new solar-electric arrays: one for the sanctuary and one for the farm. Now, we almost never run our propane generators. We also run one of our trucks on vegetable oil, which we process into a usable fuel using passive solar heating. With these new systems, we're saving money and reducing our impact on the planet.

At Mission: Wolf we embody and teach sustainable ethics, striving to show what you can do without fossil fuels.

**RISING STAR**

Zeab is still enjoying life as an ambassador for his species. At three years of age, he's finally grown into his huge paws and now stands the tallest in the Ambassador Pack. With guidance from Maggie and Abe, the two wolves who raised him, Zeab has become quite the gentleman. He calmly greets visitors at the sanctuary and eagerly climbs aboard the Wolf Bus to meet people across the country.

Though his rambunctious adolescent side occasionally comes out when Zeab tries to steal someone's hat or sunglasses, he has proved to be a wonderful and patient teacher for Tiger and Rosie, the newest additions to the Ambassador Pack. The two pups look up to “Uncle” Zeab; Tiger reflects his calm attitude, while Rosie never leaves his side. Zeab seems to be enjoying all of the attention, happily showing Tiger and Rosie the ropes of the sanctuary with a wide smile on his face. Playing with the pups occasionally gets Zeab in trouble with Maggie and Abe, but he quickly rolls on his back and tries to convince the alphas that he's still just a puppy too.

**SUSTAINABLE SOLAR**

A special thanks to Dave & Crew at Metro Solar and Pat at Solar Solutions for all of their help!

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As h & Ce p h i rA

Cephira arrived at Mission: Wolf in October 2011 after being confiscated from a private owner in Utah by Salt Lake City Animal Control. She originally came from North Carolina, where she was sold to a family as a red wolf. Upon arrival at the sanctuary, Cephira was immediately friendly with our staff and new visitors, although she was definitely too wild to live in a house.

Later that winter, we received a call from Colorado Springs that a pet wolf had jumped a 6-foot fence and was seen running near I-25. Fortunately, Ash returned home the next morning. We agreed to take Ash in and two of our staff members drove to the big city to pick him up.

At nine months old, Ash proved to be much more of a handful than Cephira. We quickly put him fence-to-fence with Cephira, hoping the two youngsters would hit it off. A few days later, we introduced them with great success. Ash and Cephira are now one of our most playful couples, romping through their hillside enclosure together at all hours of the day.

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This April, Mission: Wolf received an unexpected call from a private wolf sanctuary in Florida. An unplanned litter of pups was born on March 12, 2013 and Mission: Wolf agreed to take two of them in. Mission: Wolf staff members Robyn Pike and Pietro Castelli drove across the country to pick up the pups. Robyn and Pietro made the 1,800 mile trip in only 5 days, bottle-feeding the tiny 4-week-old pups along the way.

Upon arrival at Mission: Wolf, little Tiger and Rosie Valkyrie were quickly introduced to mountain weather when we received several spring snow storms. They adapted easily to the new environment and were soon playing in the snow with Luna, a wolf-dog cross who served as their surrogate mother for several months.

The pups were afraid of their own shadows at first, but now race up to staff members and greet us with kisses and playful nips. Tiger and Rosie joined our Ambassador Wolves Maggie, Abe and Zeab, and have been growing at an astronomical rate.

Tiger is the bolder of the two pups, happily running up to greet visitors and filling the air with his howls. He’s living up to his namesake in both color and bravado. Rosie, as her name implies, is a little ray of sunshine, but more timid than her brother. Both of the pups are adjusting well to life at Mission: Wolf and will hopefully gain the confidence needed to become permanent members of the Ambassador Pack.

Ash & Cephira

Kiya came to us from Broomfield, CO, where she had been living in a small apartment. As commonly happens with pet wolves, Kiya’s natural behavior was misinterpreted and she lost her home when she challenged a neighbor who tried to take a shoe out of her mouth. When Kiya’s owner was ordered to get rid of the wolf, Mission: Wolf decided to take her in.

We later discovered that Kiya is a sister of our resident wolf Max. Both Max and Kiya were sold to private owners by a breeder in Canada and advertised as suitable family pets. In both cases, the wolves proved difficult to handle when they reached maturity. They became territorial over objects and were fearful of all people except those they had known as puppies.

Kiya now lives in a large secluded enclosure at the bottom of our canyon with Buku and Oreo, two goofy wolf-dog brothers. The three are often seen playing together, finding new ways to get into mischief. Kiya’s story serves as a reminder that wild animals communicate differently than domestic animals, and that wolves are amazing animals but not amazing pets.
Leo
April 2005 - October 2012

Leo came to Mission: Wolf when he was only eighteen months old, after being rescued from the Dumb Friends League shelter in Denver. His previous owner had dropped the lovable lug off at the shelter because she couldn’t afford a $5000 surgery needed to repair his severely broken leg.

The kind people at the Dumb Friends League accepted Leo and paid for his surgery. As they got to know Leo, they suspected that he was more than just a malamute/husky mix. On their way home from an Ambassador Wolf event, Kent and Tracy stopped by the shelter to see what could be done to help. Leo was probably a wolf-dog, as he had long legs, a narrow chest, and a slanted forehead. Leo had passed the shelter’s behavior test and was a very pleasant animal, but the Dumb Friends League could not adopt out a wolf-dog to the general public.

We brought Leo home and he quickly became the happy-go-lucky house-dog of the sanctuary. Once he healed from his surgery, we introduced Leo to another resident wolf-dog named Luna. They found each other irresistible and Leo spent the rest of his life as part of a devoted couple.

Leo was later diagnosed with bone cancer and had to have his leg amputated. Dr. Stacey Sonnenschein generously paid for Leo’s amputation surgery. Soon afterwards, Leo was cheerfully hopping up to visitors and getting belly rubs from school groups who visited the Mission: Wolf farm. We called him “The Happy Tripod”.

It always amazed us that Leo was so democrat and loving with people despite having had a traumatic puppyhood. Even after multiple surgeries, he didn’t let any of his challenges faze him. His resilience inspired us every day. Right up to his last days in his battle with bone cancer, Leo always wore a smile.

Leo put smiles on the faces of everyone who met him, was a teacher for many, and showed us the meaning of unconditional love.

Luke
January 2002 - November 2011

Luke was raised at another wolf sanctuary where he lived alone in a remote enclosure with little contact with people. The sanctuary began having financial problems and called for our assistance. When we arrived, we found an unusual and unsocialized canine that gave odd barking howls. Though it was immediately clear that he was mostly dog and not a great fit for Mission: Wolf, we knew he would be killed if we didn’t give him a home.

Using a blow dart, we sedated and kenneled him for transport to our vet, Dr. Hancock. While neutering Luke, Dr. Hancock discovered that he only had one descended testicle and ended up performing an extended surgery. Luke arrived at Mission: Wolf on a cold February day overweight, out of shape, and with a shaved belly. He was not happy with all the changes in his life, least of all his chilly stomach, but as time passed he settled into life at the sanctuary. His barking stopped and he began approaching people.

We introduced him to Amulet, a black female wolf-dog who had been living alone since her previous mate had passed away. The two hit it off, and with a companion to play with, Luke began to lose his excess weight. We started introducing him to visitors who would hesitantly approach and occasionally touch.

After a year of living along our visitor path, we moved Luke and Amulet into our 12-acre playpen to give them room to relax and really get to run. Sadly, a short time later Luke’s stomach twisted after a big feeding and he passed away. Luke died doing what wolves most: eating.

In the short time we knew Luke, his remarkable transformation from an unhappy, unhealthy animal to an affectionate, playful boy with a huge heart and tons of love inspired us all. His soulful eyes and forgiving nature will be forever missed.

Saidee
September 2000 - August 2011

Saidee came to us in October 2001 at 10 months of age from a rescue organization who labeled her as a wolf-dog cross. When she arrived, she looked like a pure-bred malamute dog, but she acted like a wild animal and looked like a pure-bred malamute dog, wolf-dog cross. When she arrived, she was separated from a male wolf-dog named Luna. They found each other irresistible and Saidee spent the rest of her life as part of a devoted couple.

Saidee learned how to meet strangers on a leash to meeting other dogs and the big city for Saidee, from walking in our veterinary building at the time her dog, Chloe. Saidee was living with Stacy and Chloe, Saidee got to travel the country and live in four different states. She loved to boss her doggy friends around, swim in her kiddie pool, and greet every day with a big malamute grin.

In February 2011, Saidee’s spleen was removed because of a tumor. She recovered well from her surgery and spent the month of April living at Mission: Wolf and playing in the snow. As the months went on, she started to show other signs of age. In August, she spent another week at Mission: Wolf. Then, on August 26th as the truck was packed to return home, Saidee collapsed suddenly and died. She was buried alongside her wolf friends in the place she always considered home.

Keechee
February 1998 - November 2011

Keechee and her sister Sasha were both white Arctic wolves. They were raised by a woman who loved them but didn’t understand their needs and confined them to a shed. Ten years passed and the woman died, leaving her husband to care for the wolves by himself. Having been isolated their entire lives, Keechee and Sasha were terrified. A local vet recommended we call Mission: Wolf.

The timid sisters arrived at the sanctuary on a sunny February day in 2008. Keechee and Sasha soon decided that they both wanted to be the alpha female of their pack. They started challenging each other, so we separated them and moved Keechee to our 12-acre playpen. The extra space was intimidating and she cowered in a corner. That week, a blizzard brought deep snow. Our staff hiked up to see how Keechee was handling this new experience. When the staff reached the enclosure, they found her totally bewildered in a corner. While they could not approach her, they encouraged her to move with kibble. Keechee approached the first snowdrift tentatively, and halfheartedly tried to jump over it but ended up in the middle. She soon learned how to jump the drifts, and two hours later was still playing in the snow with youthful abandon. At ten years old, she was coming into her puppyhood.

From that moment on, Keechee opened up and learned the joys life can bring. In the three years she called Mission: Wolf home, Keechee claimed Druid and Kawh, two of our most dominant males, as her mates and increasingly turned to the staff for attention. Then, in November 2011, a latent hormonal disorder known as Addison’s disease caught up with her. Keechee approached the first snowdrift tentatively and halfheartedly tried to jump over it but ended up in the middle. She soon learned how to jump the drifts, and two hours later was still playing in the snow with youthful abandon.

Keechee’s late-in-life return to puppyhood was a testament to individual courage. She taught us that it is never too late to learn how to play and enjoy new experiences.
Wolfhound Gets a Transplant

What happens when you are in a bus with three wolves and the motor and transmission die simultaneously on the Wyoming interstate?

This is just what happened in April 2011 as the Wolf Bus was en-route to Portland, Oregon to start three weeks of educational programs across the Pacific Northwest.

After a long tow to Salt Lake City, Utah, we faced a $50,000+ repair bill, far out of our financial reach. We began arranging to rent a trailer to return the wolves to Colorado and were prepared to say goodbye to the Wolf Bus. In the face of the most expensive bus repair in Mission: Wolf’s history, we announced our situation and intention to cancel the tour. Within hours, our hosts and supporters clearly let us know that this was not acceptable. Soon we were overwhelmed with support. A TV crew arrived to spread the word and the owner of Smith Power diesel repair shop provided a generous discount on the repairs. Mechanics went to work, hosts began rescheduling the events, and a week later we were back on the road heading west. To all the people who helped us through this difficult time, we would like to offer a deep and heartfelt thank you once again. With a more reliable bus, we were able to not only complete the tour to the PNW but we have successfully completed three additional national tours. Watch our website for our 2014 tour schedule.

The public demand for Ambassador Wolf experiences is explained best by a fourth grade classroom quote: “Humans - We forget what we hear, we only understand what we touch.” If everyone went to Yellowstone National Park to touch a wolf, the whole place would be destroyed by overuse. An experience with a captive wolf provides people a connection that motivates humans to care for our cause.

We find inspiration to continue as we learn how extensive an impact our program has on both people and wolves. Wherever the Wolf Bus stops, we are greeted by curious crowds of people who want to learn about wolves. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Ambassador Wolf Program’s success over the years!

If you’d like to schedule a program in your area, please contact us!
How do wolves give fish cold water? To answer this question, we need to think about how organisms occupying different trophic levels—levels of the food chain—interact. Before the 1960’s, ecologists mostly thought about how organisms occupying the bottom trophic level (like plants) affect organisms that occupy higher trophic levels (like herbivores and carnivores).

In 1960, ecologists began discussing trophic cascades—how predators at the highest trophic level, like wolves, affect the plants and animals at lower levels. Like a cascading waterfall, the effect from the top is wide ranging, spreading out to influence an entire ecosystem.

The reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park provides one of the most dramatic case studies of a trophic cascade. In January of 1994, one year before wolves were brought to Yellowstone, deciduous trees were struggling; elk were overpopulated in the park and were eating aspen and willow saplings. Since few trees were able to reach maturity, there was less prime habitat and resources for birds and small mammals. In the 1960’s, park management had tried to control the elk by removing a large percentage of their population, but this did not stop the devastation.

When wolves returned, elk population decreased and their behavior changed. When elk were in areas frequented by wolves, they did not stop to bend over and eat the saplings, since doing this would expose them to wolf predation. Aspens and willows began to recover.

The wolves did more than restore tree populations. As willows recovered, songbirds and beavers returned to areas where they had lived previously. Wildflowers grew back in ground that, until recently, had been compacted by elk hooves. Scavengers, like eagles, ravens, and bears, took food from wolf kills. The number of bison in the park increased because there were fewer elk to compete with them for food. The aspens and willows shaded the lakes and streams, the water in them became colder and more water was retained by the soil. Water can hold more dissolved oxygen as it grows cooler, and so cold water provides the best habitat for fish.

One animal that benefitted from the absence of wolves was the coyote. Wolves will kill coyotes in territorial disputes. With wolves gone, the coyotes in Yellowstone ran rampant and over-hunted small mammals like mice and rabbits. Upon reintroduction of wolves, coyote populations dramatically decreased. Since coyotes adapt well to urban areas, many population centers are now facing a similar problem. Without wolves to keep them in check, coyotes have become city pests, preying on pets and becoming increasingly aggressive towards humans. In the absence of wolves, views of the coyote have turned from respect for a clever canine to disgust for an urban pest.

We now understand how many different organisms one top predator can affect. Wolves helped return aspens, willows, songbirds, elk, wildflowers, beavers, and coyotes to their natural role in the ecosystem.

To find ways to help wild wolves, please visit the websites of the following organizations: Defenders of Wildlife, Wild Earth Guardians, Center for Biological Diversity, The Sierra Club, and the National Resources Defense Counsel (NRDC).
Then and now: 25 years of Mission: Wolf

Since we became a non-profit in 1988, we have reached over one million individuals nationwide through our traveling education program. We also give visitors to our sanctuary the chance to meet a wolf face-to-face. Today, many of our volunteer staff remember meeting the wolves at school.

Our Mission: Wolf family spans the globe. We welcome staff and visitors from as far away as Germany and Japan each year.

Over the past 25 years, Mission: Wolf has provided a lifelong home for over 100 unwanted captive wolves and wolf-dogs. Our sanctuary is solar-powered and was built by volunteers using recycled building materials.

When Mission: Wolf was founded in 1988, the wild wolf population in the continental US was under 800 wolves. During the lifetime of our organization, we have watched the wild wolf population grow to almost 6000.

Although we have expanded the sanctuary from 35 acres to over 330 acres, 84% of which is preserved in its wild state.

We now teach workshops on play behavior, mimicry, and pressure-release.

A special thanks to the many volunteers who have plowed and shoveled our roads after countless storms! Volunteers Mike Gaarde (out window) and Alex Liethen bust drifts with our Chevy Tahoe – 2013 (Photo by Kent Weber)

Gene’s Kitchen feeds as many as 20 volunteers each night – Summer 2012 (Archive Photo)

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Gene’s Kitchen feeds as many as 20 volunteers each night – Summer 2012 (Archive Photo)
From the top of Prayer Pole Hill behind Mission: Wolf, the Wet Mountain Valley unfolds in a sea of pine and spruce towards the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. This is one of Colorado's last undeveloped valleys. With population pressure creeping in from urban areas, our home is in danger of losing its wild character.

At the founding of Mission: Wolf, our nearest neighbors were 10 miles away. Now, lights dot the valley at night, and pressure to develop land for fossil fuels and vacation homes is increasing. From the start, we had the idea to preserve the private land around Mission: Wolf in its wild state for generations to come. Over the past 25 years, we have secured a 330-acre nature preserve. In addition, our friends and neighbors own land nearby with intent to preserve it. Mission: Wolf just received a 36.5 acre plot from Dave Nora and Peggy Kavookjian.

How can you help with our goal? There are two ways. You can make a tax-deductible contribution to Mission: Wolf and designate your donation for our land conservation project. Or, you can purchase 35-acre pieces of land yourself with intent to maintain their natural state. Some families have purchased land and kept in their own name, while others have purchased land and donated it to Mission: Wolf.

To help us build a legacy of conservation, contact us at 719-859-2157 or email us at info@missionwolf.org.

Wildfires burned across Colorado this summer, including large fires as close as 40 miles from Mission: Wolf. Thankfully, none of the fires directly affected us, but next summer we will be once again at risk. A single lightning strike could force us to evacuate the sanctuary, a daunting prospect. Evacuation entails chemically immobilizing 10 animals, leashing the rest, and transporting them to an appropriate temporary location.

Thanks to the tremendous support we received this summer, construction is well under way on our new fire evacuation barn. This 4,000 square-foot metal barn will be large enough to house all of our animals, people, and records if we need to evacuate Mission: Wolf. We have secured land for the barn, purchased most of the raw materials, and laid the foundation and plumbing.

Beyond the labor to erect the building, there is still much to be done. For the building to be functional, we need to install electricity, doors, and ventilation, as well as put in twenty-four 7'x8' kennels where we could temporarily house our wolves. Looking towards the future, we hope to install a solar electricity system, pour a concrete floor, and train future staff in chemical immobilization techniques so we can safely evacuate all of our animals.

Evacuation Wish List

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<td>Staff training</td>
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Special thanks to Jane Cane, Ed Kraynak, Charlie Barr, and everyone else who has already helped us make so much progress on this project!

Twenty years ago, former board of directors member Kevin Honness built a foundation for a 200-square-foot greenhouse with scrap materials. The old greenhouse served us well, but the materials have aged, rodents have chewed holes into it, and our demand for fresh food has grown with our staff. It’s time for us to build a new greenhouse.

Last year, we began looking into funding options to buy a high-quality geodesic dome greenhouse from Growing Spaces. The cost was out of our league, so we have designed an octagonal earth-bermed greenhouse that we will build in spring 2014.

This fall, as we dug the foundation for our new greenhouse, we completed a project in the works for over twenty years: removing the 1956 trailer house that used to serve as our staff kitchen. Using a rented backhoe, we leveled an area for the greenhouse, and used it as a road to drag out the trailer house.

This spring, we will begin construction on our 650-square-foot passive solar greenhouse. The new greenhouse will use subsoil solar heating tubes, water tanks for thermal mass, and temperature controlled vents for cooling. As a completely passive building, it will be able to grow food year-round without any supplementary heating.

Want to help us? The materials for the greenhouse will cost about $5000.
Merlin wanted to interact with people on his own.

...to approach him, touch him, and gently stroke his neck. It didn’t take long until techniques. Merlin responded so well to these techniques that soon we were able Mission: Wolf staff how to approach Merlin using mimicry and pressure-release.

...wild horse and did not trust anyone. We needed to start over. Tracy taught the previous owners and the prison inmate program, Merlin had reverted back to a group of four spirited Egyptian-Arabian geldings. Along with a Percheron/Redemption” gives a great glimpse into this program.

...a home. Merlin originated from the McCullough Peaks Herd, which ranges 70 miles east of Yellowstone National Park near Cody, WY. After being rounded up by the BLM, Merlin was placed in the Wild Horse Inmate Program in Canon City, CO. This program pairs mustangs with prison inmates who train the mustangs as part of a rehabilitation program. The movie “Wild Horse Redemption” gives a great glimpse into this program.

...Once the mustangs have been sorted, some are put up for adoption. If the horses do not get adopted, they sometimes have to endure being kept for years in government holding pens, where they are given hay and water at the taxpayers expense. Though many mustangs are eventually adopted, many of the unadoptable horses end up packed in stock trailers and transported to slaughterhouses in Mexico and Canada.

...Two years ago, we learned about Merlin, a wild-caught mustang in need of a home. Merlin originated from the McCullough Peaks Herd, which ranges 70 miles east of Yellowstone National Park near Cody, WY. After being rounded up by the BLM, Merlin was placed in the Wild Horse Inmate Program in Canon City, CO. This program pairs mustangs with prison inmates who train the mustangs as part of a rehabilitation program. The movie “Wild Horse Redemption” gives a great glimpse into this program.

...After Merlin graduated from the inmate program, he went to live with a private owner. Despite the training he had already received, Merlin was still challenging to work with and hard to catch. He spent most of his time out to pasture. After accidentally getting out onto a road one night, Merlin became more skittish, and his family soon decided to find him a new home.

...In November 2011, we took in Merlin. He is currently the dominant gelding in a group of four spirited Egyptian-Arabian geldings. Along with a Percheron/Appaloosa mare named Passion, these five boys make up the teaching herd at the Mission: Wolf Farm and meet many people during the summer.

...When Merlin first arrived, he was afraid of his new surroundings and reacted to any unfamiliar noises and fast movements. Even with the hard work of his previous owners and the prison inmate program, Merlin had reverted back to a wild horse and did not trust anyone. We needed to start over. Tracy taught the Mission: Wolf staff how to approach Merlin using mimicry and pressure-release techniques. Merlin responded so well to these techniques that soon we were able to approach him, touch him, and gently stroke his neck. It didn’t take long until Merlin wanted to interact with people on his own.

A MUSTANG’S TALE

Several times a year, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) rounds up thousands of wild horses and burros from across the western United States in order to protect water and grassland resources for cattle grazing. The wild horses are rounded up into holding corrals and the stallions separated from the mares. Families are permanently broken up, and even foals are taken from their mothers. Anyone who spends some time with these animals after this happens will understand that these horses have suffered as a human taken from his or her family suffers.

...Once the mustangs have been sorted, some are put up for adoption. If the horses do not get adopted, they sometimes have to endure being kept for years in government holding pens, where they are given hay and water at the taxpayers expense. Though many mustangs are eventually adopted, many of the unadoptable horses end up packed in stock trailers and transported to slaughterhouses in Mexico and Canada.

...Two years ago, we learned about Merlin, a wild-caught mustang in need of a home. Merlin originated from the McCullough Peaks Herd, which ranges 70 miles east of Yellowstone National Park near Cody, WY. After being rounded up by the BLM, Merlin was placed in the Wild Horse Inmate Program in Canon City, CO. This program pairs mustangs with prison inmates who train the mustangs as part of a rehabilitation program. The movie “Wild Horse Redemption” gives a great glimpse into this program.

...After Merlin graduated from the inmate program, he went to live with a private owner. Despite the training he had already received, Merlin was still challenging to work with and hard to catch. He spent most of his time out to pasture. After accidentally getting out onto a road one night, Merlin became more skittish, and his family soon decided to find him a new home.

...In November 2011, we took in Merlin. He is currently the dominant gelding in a group of four spirited Egyptian-Arabian geldings. Along with a Percheron/Appaloosa mare named Passion, these five boys make up the teaching herd at the Mission: Wolf Farm and meet many people during the summer.

...When Merlin first arrived, he was afraid of his new surroundings and reacted to any unfamiliar noises and fast movements. Even with the hard work of his previous owners and the prison inmate program, Merlin had reverted back to a wild horse and did not trust anyone. We needed to start over. Tracy taught the Mission: Wolf staff how to approach Merlin using mimicry and pressure-release techniques. Merlin responded so well to these techniques that soon we were able to approach him, touch him, and gently stroke his neck. It didn’t take long until Merlin wanted to interact with people on his own.

WHAT HORSES TEACH US

Tracy has dedicated more than half of her life to helping people understand wolves. Many of the techniques she employs while handling wolves come from her work with horses. In many ways, the incredible success of the Ambassador Wolf Program is thanks to the horse.

...Traditional methods of “breaking” a wild or “green” horse involve tactics like tying up a horse without food and water for days or beating the horse until it submits. The horses that experience these abusive training methods can eventually emerge obedient, but often with broken spirits and no real trust for humans. Sadly, these harsh methods undermine the amazing relationship between humans and horses.

...A growing number of people now practice “natural horsemanship,” a set of techniques based on how horses communicate with each other. This style focuses on more gentle handling and developing trusting relationships.

...For years, we have been experimenting at Mission: Wolf with our own version of natural horsemanship that can be applied both to predators (wolves) and prey animals (horses) with exciting success.

...The techniques we use (see “How To Talk To Animals”) are focused on communicating as equals and presenting ourselves as respected leaders rather than dominating or forcing submission. Mimicry (moving exactly like the animal) lets animals know that you’re not a threat, keeps animals from running away, and helps stop pacing and other nervous behavior. Pressure-release helps move animals both on and off leashes without the use of force.

...With the wolves, natural horsemanship techniques have helped timid and unsocialized wolves become less afraid of humans, and even be comfortable on leashes. On our Ambassador Tour, Tracy helps the wolves stay calm on leashes in front of large audiences. Tracy has spent many years working to develop innovative methods for working with wolves and horses that strengthen a respectful and caring relationship between humans and animals. By teaching people to be more sensitive to body language, we hope to resolve human-animal conflict, to help people become better communicators with each other, and to reduce conflict within our own species.

Tracy’s new book, entitled “A Walk In Connection,” will be available spring of 2014. Send her an email (ravenhorse1@icloud.com) to be notified upon release. For a list of great teachers and resources, visit tracyanebrooks.com.
**How to Help Out - The Mission: Wolf Wish List**

In-kind donations are a huge help in keeping our daily operations going. Here is a short list of items we can use. Please contact us for details or before donating unlisted items to make sure we can use them. Thanks for your help!

**Wolf Food Supplies:**
- Frozen chicken and beef
- Deceased livestock
- Expired or freezer-burned meat (no pork or spices)
- Meat-based dog food (caused or dry)
- Canned meat and fish
- Boxes of rubber gloves
- Galvanized water tanks: 12-15 gallon “wash-tubs”, 30-80 gallon, 100-200 gallon
- 5 gallon buckets
- 5 gallon buckets
- High-quality butcher knives (non-serrated)
- Coveralls (for meat processing)

**4WD tractor**
- Large flatbed trailer
- Shovels, pick-axes, rakes, pitch-forks, other hand tools
- LED headlamps

**Wildlife Evacuation Supplies:**
- Frontline large breed flea/tick
- Stainless steel wolf-proof kennel
- Rimadyl or Novox
- General antibiotics
- Drip lines
- Blood O2 monitor
- Heart monitor
- Vitamin A, B and E supplements
- MSM/Glucosamine supplements
- Fish and flaxseed oil capsules

**Veterinary Supplies:**
- Coveralls (for meat processing)
- High-quality butcher knives (non-serrated)
- 5 gallon buckets
- 30-80 gallon, 100-200 gallon
- Galvanized water tanks: 12-15 gallon “wash-tubs”, 30-80 gallon, 100-200 gallon
- Boxes of rubber gloves
- Canned meat and fish
- Meat-based dog food (canned or dry)
- Expired or freezer-burned meat (no pork or spices)
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**Building Supplies:**
- Chain link fence (9 gauge, 8 feet tall)
- 2” diameter steel poles (10’ long)
- Cut lumber, treated or untreated (warped wood is OK)
- Solar landscaping lights
- Log poles (especially lodgepole pine) for handrails/ripis
- Exterior wood siding and trim
- Plywood
- Rebar, sheet metal, angle iron, etc.
- Roofing
- Nails and screws
- Exterior wood sealer
- White enamel paint
- Hardwood flooring
- Concrete block
- Paint pens and paint brushes
- Welding rod

**Horse Care Supplies:**
- Clean grass hay
- Purina Strategy Healthy Edge, 50 lb. bags
- Progressive grass hay mineral powder
- Salt blocks, red mineral blocks, Redmond salt blocks
- Horse tack and saddles
- 15-18 gallon black rubber feeders
- Horse trailer
- Heavy duty truck for hauling hay
- Hay trailer
- Hay tarps
- Hay shed

**Sustainability Items:**
- Golf cart/marina batteries or solar system batteries
- Solar panels
- Pots & planter boxes

**Office Supplies:**
- Printer paper (standard 8 ½” x 11”)
- 3x5” index cards
- Ink cartridges: HP-564XL, Canon PG-210XL, Canon PG-211XL & HP-60XL
- Standard letter envelopes
- #10 mailing envelopes (4 1/8” x 9 ½”)
- 9”x12” envelopes

**Educational Materials for our Wolf Bus:**
- Portable PA amp and speakers
- Wireless microphones
- Wolf books to donate to school libraries we visit
- Sleeping bags and blankets
- Chew toys for wolves
- Foam pads for beds
- Books from our reading list (new or used)
- Bath towels (for cleaning)

**Building Supplies:**
- Barn erection, labor - $20,000
- Electricity installation, labor - $5,000
- Doors, labor and materials - $7,000
- 24” x 8’8” kernels, with doors - $5,000
- Kennel installation - $3,000
- Ventilation, labor and materials - $3,000
- Concrete floor, labor and materials - $5,000
- Future chemical immobilization training - $5,000

**Volunteer Supplies:**
- Drip lines
- Blood O2 monitor
- Heart monitor
- Vitamin A, B and E supplements
- MSM/Glucosamine supplements
- Fish and flaxseed oil capsules

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For 25 years, Mission: Wolf has been open to the public free of charge. Our visitors have great experiences here because they are enthusiastic about our cause. People give what they can, whether it’s a few dollars or an hour of their time. In 2012, we utilized almost one million dollars worth of volunteer labor. Most of the meat we feed the wolves is donated by our generous local ranchers and many other materials are donated by other supporters. Still, it takes money to pay for transportation, supplies, and insurance. We want to offer a heartfelt thank you to Nancy, our accountant at Sangre Solutions for helping prepare these numbers. All profit goes towards reducing our land debt.

Thanks to our devoted volunteers, local ranchers, and sustainable practices, we do $1.3 million worth of work each year with under $0.3 million of cash income.
**Fun Fact:** Wolves have webbed toes to help them walk in the snow!  
*(Original art by Tracy Ane Brooks)*
Thank You!

Mission: Wolf could not function without the generous contributions of countless people and organizations. We only have space here to name a small selection of those who have helped us. We would like to sincerely acknowledge all of our supporters, donors, volunteers, and partners.


Volunteer Groups: Boy Scout Troop 171, Boy Scout Troop 198, Boy Scout Troop 308, Boy Scout Troop 685, Global Leadership Academy, Colorado Academy, Telluride Academy, Aimsbouse, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Experimental Learning Associates, University of Illinois at Chicago Spring Brook, Colorado College Breakout, Northwestern Alternative Spring Broads, JCC Ranch Camp, SCI Camps, CAVT, Five Mountain Residential Treatment Center, Mountain Park Environmental Center, Monarch Center, Chris Gato's Animal Behavior class, Rurrect Club, Colorado Mountain Club, Sierra Club, United World College, Pikes Peak Community College, Roxey Mountain Youth Corps, Lisa Schieweke and the birke crew, Science Discovery, Boulder Valley ICO, The Cotswood Institute, Jaywalkers, Deb Kulk, Outer Edge Performance, Turning Point Program, Koa Middle School, Corey Middle School, Corey Middle School, Crever Middle School, Crestone Charter School, September School, Chinook West Alternative High School, Jefferson County Open School, DC Oakes High School, SoTeRie, Adam Stevinger's americatcos team, Living Well Transitions, The Road Less Travelled, and Western Mountain Youth.


Mission: Wolf Volunteer Staff: Jenny Aukers, Haley Adams, Tatiana Heraux Akaide, Matt & Tara Ash, Kayla Barber, Kahen Bennett, Austen Brant, Bill Bradbury, Giovanni Camarata, Sylia Cameron, Pelo Canion, Mollie Carney, Pau Ceullin, Liza Cari, Mosse Cooper, Robert Daubler, Mike Gande, Cynthia Gand-Guillo), Emily Hackman, Hilary Hartings, Benjamin Hoffman, Calm Holmes, Hannah Imogene, Shrimp Inoue, Cami Kennedy, Dan Kennedy, Brittnay Kleintzschmer, Alan Korth, Maylor Kremek, Julian Kreuter, Dave Kreuter, Bruce Kreuter, Natalie Lake, Matt Landever, Roman Landon, Court Lewin, Alex Liethen, Cristian Loyola, Mike Lydon, Brittnay Mendelson, Liam Mennon, Travis Moonisunk, Sihar Mortimore, Sara Nadas, Thomas Oggi, Demika Oriti-Morayow, Garyson Park, Malcom Pei, Macieta Peretti, Elizabeth Peter, Dave Phillips, Robin Fkke, Alylsa Pereru, Stephanie Plante, Kar Renwille, Paul Ross, Maddie Roth, Melanie Rosney, Jacob Roy, Manami Sato, Connor Schmitte, Chelsa Scott, Andrew Schrock, Tim Senko, Nick Sherwood, Adam Seevaner, Julia Snyder, Stacey Sonnenschein, Mima Tajiama, Rob Taylor, Gere Tomlin, Mark Verber, Jeff Wagner, Jenny Wagner, Dennis Webber, Annie White, Lindsay Wether, Aaron and Eva Zuck.


In Memory: Lynn Donaldson, Justin Geyken, Makana von Goertler, Ayla Weaver, and Alda West.
Caretakers of the Year: Greenwich Wolf Pack

It started in the late 90's with a program at the Greenwich, CT Library. After a successful and sold-out event with the Ambassador Wolves, we found ourselves discouraged when our host shorted the wolves on our share of the program donations. Alice Victor and Irene LaRusso learned of the situation and were so disgusted that the host took 90% of the proceeds that they offered to host an event to support the Ambassador Wolf Program themselves.

A year later, we returned to sold-out public events, packed school events, and the first private fundraiser in our honor. We not only provided thousands of people an experience with a live wolf, we also took home enough funds to pay for our costly insurance policies and travel expenses. For over a decade, the Wolf Bus has taken over Alice and Irene's house for nearly a week each fall while we put on public and private events with the wolves.

Alice and Irene have nearly singlehandedly generated enough support to keep the Wolf Bus on the road for over a decade! Alice, your wonderful home has become our home once a year. Irene, your ability to run non-stop scheduling events and create our most successful fundraiser year-after-year is amazing. Many more friends have opened their doors, including Nora Maloney, Sharon McGuire, Anita Keefe, Donna Knives, and the Rockefeller Family. Additionally, photographer and wildlife champion David Webber has expanded our annual events. To those who have become known as the Greenwich Wolf Pack, we offer our loudest howling Thank You!

Membership Corner

Since our beginning, Mission: Wolf has depended on donations from our members. With 37 hungry canines to feed, we go through nearly 1,000 pounds of raw meat each week. Your membership goes to keep the wolves healthy, educate thousands of people, feed our devoted volunteer staff, and pay for important operating costs. Please consider becoming a member of Mission: Wolf today and helping to keep our wolves happy, healthy, and well-fed. Wolf memberships make great gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, and memorials. You receive the tax-deductible receipt and your friend or loved one gets a wolf membership packet as a gift from you.

Want to sponsor a wolf? You can’t take a wolf home with you, but we will send you:

- An 8 x 10 color photo of the wolf of your choice
- Your wolf’s biography
- A sample of your wolf’s naturally shed fur
- A personalized membership certificate with your wolf’s name
- A Mission: Wolf window decal
- A subscription to the Mission: Wolf newsletter

Feed a Wolf! Become a Mission: Wolf Member.

Which wolf would you like to sponsor? (please circle)

Abraham, Amulet, Apollo, Aria, Arrow, Ash, Asia, Aurora, Batman, Buku, Cephira, Daisy, Farah, Fenris, Hailey, Illiamna, Kiya, Kona, Luna, Minigan, Magpie, Max, McKinley, Mountain Spirit, Nokona, Oreo, Orion, Raven, Rosie, Sangre, Soleil, Talon, Texx, Tiger, Valley Spirit, Zeah, Zephir

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________
Email: _____________________________________________

$25 Student/ Senior
$40 Individual
$100 Family, Group or School
$250 Contributor
$500 Patron
$1000 Feed a Wolf for a Year
$3000 Feed a Pack

Please send cash or check to:
Mission: Wolf
P.O. Box 1211
Wescliffe, CO 81252

Or visit www.missionwolf.org
for credit card orders

100% of profits from the our online store go to support Mission: Wolf.
shop.missionwolf.org

You can purchase hundreds of different items with your favorite Mission: Wolf resident wolf on them. 20% of CafePress profits go to Mission: Wolf.

www.cafepress.com/missionwolf

For eBay sellers: You can raise money for Mission: Wolf through the eBay Giving Works Program called MissionFish. You can designate that 5% - 100% of your profit from an item you sell be donated to Mission: Wolf.
Mission: Wolf
PO Box 1211
Westcliffe, CO 81252

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Westcliffe, CO
Permit #20

Current resident or:

Rosie & Tiger meet visitors at Mission: Wolf
(Photos by Annie White, Monty Sloan & Shevaun Williams)