



THE WOLFWOOD WAYFARER

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WolfWood Refuge

PO Box 312

Ignacio CO 81137

970-946-9606

www.wolfwoodrefuge.org

contact wolfwoodnewsletter@gmail.com to get color e-mail newsletter

Welcome to our thirteenth newsletter!

I have had cause over the past year to consider the concept of faith. I have come to the realization that faith is a two-fold process. First is the faith that everything will be all right. And then there is the faith that even if it is not all right, I will be. I have had the first concept challenged in just about every area possible these last months. And the wolves played in the evening and napped at noon. Some core beliefs about my health, my family, my relationships, my government, my life's work, my abilities and my strength have all been shaken. I have been so frustrated I screamed and so exhausted I cried. And the wolves ate large meals and rolled over for belly rubs. There were some things that I never lost faith in: my friends and the good intentions and kindness of the people the wolves attracted. I had faith I would see the ones I lost again. I had faith in abundance. And the elders got up stiffly and the babies clamored for attention. Finally, I had faith that I would be all right no matter what because the wolves ran to greet me and sang to each other every sunrise. And it is. And I am.

I recently read a quote from Phyllis McGinley; "For the wonderful thing about saints is they were human. They lost their tempers, got hungry, scolded God, were egotistical, or testy or impatient in their turns, made mistakes and regretted them. Still they went on doggedly blundering toward heaven." Don't get me wrong, I am no saint, but people ask me why I fight so hard and sacrifice so much. It is simply because, although anyone who has been here in knee deep mud may disagree, it's here, in the midst of the wolfs' wild hearts and their faith in the all rightness of now, that this human doggedly finds heaven.



MAY YOU BE WILD AND FREE AT HEART THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.
FAITHFULLY, FROM ALL OF US AT WOLFWOOD

Volunteers

WolfWood currently has a small, but extremely dedicated group of volunteers. Our volunteers are the heart of this organization and help take care of and save lives every day. Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow, nor even MUD keeps them from their duties.



Jesse



Jessica



Amanda



Patrick

NEW VOLUNTEERS

Amanda Rowe: Amanda is an environmental biology major at Fort Lewis and would like to be a zoologist. She came from Castle Rock and has lived in Colorado her whole life. Fortunately for us, she loves being outdoors, in nature. She backpacks, rock climbs and snow boards, all good practice to volunteer at WolfWood. “I love animals and working with the wolves always makes me smile. I am enjoying getting to know them and their distinct personalities.”

The Jessies and Patrick: You are going to think I am a terrible administrator, and you might be right because I let this whole group of wonderful young people move to Hawaii for the winter without writing down their last names or anything about their background. Here is what I do know. They were a Godsend and we would have not gotten our USDA license without them. Hardworking, dedicated and loving, they got to know the animals quickly. No job was too tough. Patrick carried more buckets of dirt than anyone else. Jessie was right behind him, doing physical and dirty jobs. The true test came on meat throwing day, when vegan Jessica got her hands bloody feeding elk ribs to the wolves. Their combined energy and enthusiasm carried us through and we are very grateful they showed up. Not to mention I got to eat great organic produce from the farm they worked on during the summer. We hope they will be back this way next year.

OTHER NEWS: Ben has agreed to stay for the winter in our little camper trailer, if he can stay warm enough. He is the puppies’ primary caretaker and has the trashed clothes to prove it. Joel is working and so can only spend two days a week at the refuge, but continues to do most pen and building work. He made all 65 dog houses. Colleen is off to vet school in Michigan, and we miss her a lot. Barb is beginning her 10th year of volunteering at WolfWood!

NEEDS

Because of our inability to do outreach and the major expenses incurred with the USDA, for the first time in a very long time WolfWood is in need of general operating funds. We need income for everyday occurrences to help get us through the winter until we can get back out on the road. We are also brainstorming some fundraising ideas. The first one is already set up. **Please visit the merchandise store on our website.** Tanya and John worked very hard to make the special items from WolfWood available to purchase online. As always, all proceeds go directly to the animals.

Our other two big needs are donations for the puppy enclosure and for the foundation to get our Educational Center here. We have been gifted a new modular home and the cost of getting it here and setting it up, all for free! What a great place it will make for school children and all visitors to learn about wolves and rescue work. It will be a huge resource for us, if we can fund the foundation and utility work. These are both BIG, and important projects. Oh, and new tires. We have had 3 flats this month!

NEW ARRIVALS
THE STORY OF A RESCUE



Our truck and newly redesigned trailer waiting at the ABQ airport: The pups arrive in crates at the cargo bay after a 20hr trip



Colleen and Sophie give IV fluids



Serena and Sylvia do the dirty work



Me and Grandma Madaline



After a bath it's chow time



Joel working on the pup's pen in the dark



First trip to vet Dr. Wagner



Part of the rescue crew



Home at last, safe and sound

Meet our Wolves

In each newsletter we feature some of our wolves.

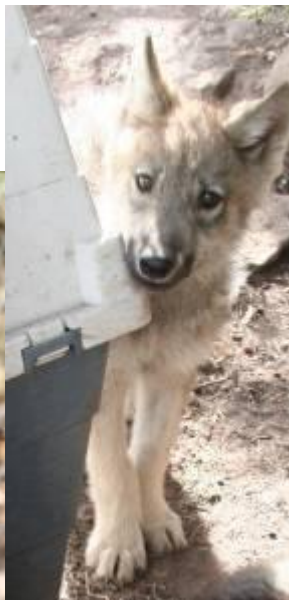
The Alaska Nine Pack



Baby Oakley



Big O (Oakley)



Baby Billy the Kid



Baby Ginger



Baby Falcon



Big Billy the Kid



Big Ginger



Big Falcon



Baby Kweo



Big Kweo

ALL BABY PICTURES ARE AT 8 to 10 WEEKS, BIG PICTURES AT 5 MONTHS: TAKEN BY JOAN FASSETT



Baby Bruja and Banshee (Aka Gail)



Big Banshee (Aka Gail)



Big Bruja



Baby Sita



Baby Torq



Big Sita



Big Torq



Ben plays with the pack in their temporary enclosure

THE PUPPIES LIVES WERE SAVED BY DONATIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:

Bob and Vickie Miller; Don and Jeanette Metzner; Gary and Joanne Roth; Joan Fassett; D.K. Luraas; Ulla Neuburge; John and Mary O'Brien; Anne Marie and Wolfgang Lampe; Bonnie and Hal Dalzell; Tom and Barbra Dunn; The Milzcik Family; Linda Edwards; Alarya Jay; Fred Behr; The Law Firm of Calvo, Fisher and Jacob LLP; The Law Firm of Crane and Tejada P.C.

The Alaska Nine Pack

We got the call from Alaska. The same place that Ra and Tala came from was being investigated by the Attorney General's Office. All the animals were in danger of becoming evidence in a court case, or possibly being killed. Something had to be done quickly to save the nine puppies that were under 10 weeks old. Even in the middle of our USDA problems, we knew we had to get them out of there. After hours and hours on the phone and a massive coordinated effort, we got them to the vet in Alaska, got their crates bought, got the airfare paid and on a plane to Albuquerque. They arrived hungry, thirsty and scared, but all made the trip in fairly good shape.

Serena's grandmother offered her home near the airport, and Serena's entire family was ready when we pulled up. The puppies were taken out of the crates and given baths in swimming pools. They had to have IV's of fluids. They were toweled off and given food and water. All the crates had to be cleaned, a major job as you can imagine after 20 hrs of travel time. All the babies were held and checked. Serena's family fed us pizza and we were ready for the ride home, where Joel was busy constructing their pen. It was finished just as we arrived home, tired but feeling good about our biggest rescue ever.

The puppies all had worms and were malnourished, but with proper vet care, those problems were soon remedied. All have had their shots. Falcon had a hernia that was operated on, and he and Big O have been neutered. Torq has suffered a seizure. After extensive x-rays and blood work, he has not had a repeat incident, but we are watching him carefully and hoping everything will be ok.

At six months of age, the pack is really starting to form their relationships and personalities. It is our goal to keep them all together, although this makes it really harder on us. Raising a nine pack of wolves to adulthood is a challenge! We are doing everything from teaching them not to eat shoes to how to howl. But what an extraordinary and wonderful experience. There is something serendipitous about starting the refuge with a pack of nine, and having this nine pack come to us now. It will be a thrill for visitors to be able to come and interact with them.

So many people rose to the occasion to help save these magnificent animals. Donors sent extra checks, volunteers gave even more of their time and energy, people put the word out, pictures are taken weekly and enough sponsors came forward that the rescue has been paid for! How amazing everyone involved with WolfWood is. Although there were many offers, we were the only refuge considered to take the pups and that is due to the good work all of you do.

Now that they are here, the job is just barely beginning. The pack will have some major needs. Vet bills are piling up, and we still need to spay and neuter most of them. Bayfield Animal Hospital has done an excellent job of tackling the challenge of working with nine wolves. Trinity has given up her enclosure for the winter so the pups will have enough space, but come spring, they will need a new, super, wolf enclosure. Keith and Tanya have offered to build it, but the cost will be at least \$10,000. That was the cost of Ra's pen and the puppy's enclosure will have to be even bigger. Ra's pen had to be built all at once, but Keith is going to build the puppy pen in panels, so it can be done in sections. Also, if we can get funding, he can build the panels all winter in his shop and the pen can be ready to assemble when the snow melts.

So many of you have been out to see and help with the puppies. They are so lucky to have all of you in their lives. If you want to see their progress, you can check the web site. We try to update it with information and pictures of them. Wish us all luck as we work with them every day!

KIDS AND CANINES

WE PASSED OUR USDA INSPECTION!!!!!!!!!!!!!! What a relief. What an amazing amount of backbreaking work. Unless you were here hauling buckets of dirt, it's hard to imagine just the physical obstacles we had to overcome. Everyone rose to the occasion, putting in extra hours and effort. I would mention them all by name, but there is not a single person here who did not give everything they had. **AND WE DID IT!** Against all odds and in the face of much difficulty. Bless you all and thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Next newsletter I expect this section to be full of good news and I hope to see everyone we missed this past year as we continue our educational and outreach programs.



Craig, Paula and Senator Udall



A new wolf house



Ra dragging off elk ribs

THANKS

I am overwhelmed by the magnitude of effort and generosity that has come WolfWoods' way. I was going to mention some standout appreciations, but please know that lives were affected by everyone's heartfelt giving, whether big or small. Everything from candles being lit in Mexico, schoolchildren writing letters to their state representatives, pens being walked for sharp wires, new buckets being dropped off, paint being sprayed by the gallon, people donating more than usual, new materials being designed and welded, dirt being hauled in the dark, old dog houses being hauled out and new ones being hauled in, the website and facebook being utilized, new filing systems being generated, prayers, tears, endless phone calls, all this and much more happened to help WolfWood stay the special place it is and continue to do the important work we do. And all this besides the biggest rescue in our history, the grief of losing some of our most special wolves and the daily work of caring for over 70 animals. Whew! We are all in need of a long winter's nap!

I especially want to thank Senator Udall, Senator Bennett and Wanda Cason. They heard and responded to the hundreds of letters sent by you, and kept a close eye on the USDA proceedings. Wanda, Senator Udall's local representative, even came to WolfWood during one of our preliminary inspections. We appreciate their attention to local matters and their interest in our cause.

The Dunn's and the Driscoll's came forward, as always, with funds for our biggest projects. We literally could not have done it without them. We are going to have our annual volunteer party on Dec. 3rd and we have so much to celebrate. We have enough food for all the wolves for the winter. The enclosures are in great shape and have been enlarged and reconditioned. All the animals have new houses. The travel trailer has been completely redone and is ready to go. Keith is doing his best to keep our old trucks running. And I have a new pair of boots that the puppies have not chewed.....yet.

Be assured that, to quote the USDA inspector, "All the animals are happy, healthy and well cared for." We take great pride in that, and hope you do to. You are part of something that has meaning. Kahlil Gibran said "Work is love made visible." I am the grateful one. I get to look in the eyes of love everyday. Thank you.

YOU ARE ALL WOLF ANGELS!



IN LOVING MEMORY

Anis: Anis came to us from Farmington NM. She was in a very bad situation there. She was always shy and submissive. After her sister died, Anis went to live with Inepee. She was very happy with him until she passed away at the age of 10. Her sweet face will be missed.

Silver: Silver was part of a coordinated rescue between the Ute tribe, La Plata Humane Society and WolfWood. He was one of the 30 animals taken over two years from an extremely bad situation here in the Durango area. He had Parvo as a puppy, and had some residual damage because of that. He lived to 12. Silver never socialized well, although we tried. Liz Morris spent many hours with him when he was younger. He lived with his sister Zia, who is the last of the “Shannon” group. While never an animal that would let you close, Silver was a brave example of survival against the odds.

Saber: Saber died at 13. He came to us from Utah. Knowing there were safe places for animals like Saber, animal control officers did not want to put him down. After contacting us and getting the go ahead, Best Friends offered to transport him here. He flew in a Piper Cherokee into Durango airport. He lived happily at Wolfwood, with his friend Atirea, for 10 years. Saber was an active and strong animal even after his surgery, but eventually he succumbed to cancer.

Loki: Loki was one of our fortunate animals who found a great home here locally. The Zech’s fell in love with him and provided Loki with a wonderful place to live and constant companionship, Loki was a character, full of life and mischief. He was well cared for and his strong heart carried him right up until the end, when his family finally had to let him go.

Bronte: Bronte’s death was an especially hard one for all of us at WolfWood. Many of you have met Bronte at one of our events. He was one of our most beloved ambassador animals. Known as the “gentle giant,” he loved nothing better than to be surrounded by children. Bronte made a difference in the lives of hundreds of people, young and old alike. Diagnosed with kidney failure almost two years ago, Bronte improved with a special diet, IV’s of fluid and great care by Dr. Wagner of Bayfield Animal Hospital. Still, we noticed a difference after losing the love of his life, Cassidy. We were fortunate to have several weeks with Bronte to say our goodbyes. Lavonne sat with him, and he was surrounded by friends as he passed. We miss his beautiful spirit, but take comfort in knowing he is with Cassidy again.

Navarre: Navarre’s death was one of the most difficult for me personally, and also one of those special transcendent moments that shape who we are. I was there when Navarre was born, on a dark and cold winter solstice night, 15 years ago. He was one of my original nine pack, and the start of my work in rescue. I was chosen as his special person right from the beginning, and Navarre went almost everywhere with me until he took over the alpha position in the pack after Winslow, my first ever wolf/dog, died. Navarre went down one night and couldn’t get back up. I laid next to him in his large, A-frame dog house, under a sky filled with brilliant stars. I talked to him, sang to him, and rubbed his majestic head. In the end, I just held his big paw in my hand. Navarre knew I was there, and I believe it gave him comfort with his last breath, just as it did with his first. We had a special bond throughout his whole life, and it will stay with me throughout the rest of mine.



Anis



Silver



Bronte with Sofia and Jessie



Saber



Navarre

Wolf.....Teach me to Know