

WOLF PRINT

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Issue 61 | Summer 2017



I Will Survive

How wolves adapt to conflict in the Middle East

A Web of Lies?

Conservation and debate on the internet

The Best of Europe

Wolves in Spain, Croatia and Bulgaria

NEWS



EVENTS



RESEARCH



MEDIA AND ARTS



Front cover is
Left to right:
Tala, Tundra
and Nuka, by
Richard Bond

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- To increase public awareness and knowledge of wild wolves and their place in the ecosystem.
- To provide opportunities for ethological and other research that may improve the lives of wolves both in captivity and in the wild.
- To provide wolf-related education programmes for young people and adults.
- To raise money to help fund wolf-related conservation projects around the world.

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'In the animal kingdom, the rule is, eat or be eaten; in the human kingdom, define or be defined.'
Thomas Szasz, academic and psychiatrist

Editor's Letter

Julia and Nuka

Wherever there is life, there will be some form of conflict – whether it is physical, intellectual or manifest in the violence of war. We see the latter on a daily basis, on news broadcast worldwide. Of course, animals have their own form of wars and now that chimpanzees have been studied in Senegal fashioning sticks to hunt, weaponry is no longer unique to humankind.

This issue is about conflict and how it affects the animal world. In the updates on our own wolves, we can watch closely how tussles over food and territory arise and are solved, how a strange object like a wheelbarrow may cause conflict in a creature's brain because they fear it, or find it suspicious. In the wild of course, there are many more layers of conflict, such as fights over breeding rights, or territorial standoffs to death or displacement. Humans kill too over such things but also often change the landscape as they do so.

In this 'conflict' edition, we have illustrated how wolves use minefields to their own advantage, primarily because these are less populated areas. Featuring an article by Gavin Bonsen, a researcher working out in Israel and Jordan, is a first geographically for Wolf Print. It is also mentioned in our report from Croatia, where it is believed that '...wolf packs were using quiet areas (military and land mine areas).'

Conflict of any kind causes stress. But it can also sharpen instincts and change behaviour – as studies on predators and mesopredators have shown.

Stories of how conflict is handled can teach us a great deal, particularly if the solution is lateral. For example, our director's letter discusses how Francis of Assisi dealt with a wolf that came into conflict with Italian villagers.

Of course, the ultimate end of some conflict is to destroy the source and this all too often happens when wolves and livestock are involved. This is true for the Smackout Pack of Washington, whose fate is shown in Wolves of the World. Some wolves in France too are facing being obliterated, a common outcome.

Conflict and consequences. Think of Donald Trump's wall, built to keep out humans, but it will also alter the pattern of animals crossing borders such as Sonoran pronghorn or desert bighorn sheep, that currently move freely. Mammals in that area also break up the hot dry ground with their hooves and when it rains, the rain goes underground. The same creatures tear up vegetation and spread flower seeds. Measures like Trump's are in danger of causing catastrophic change, unless concessions are made for wildlife.

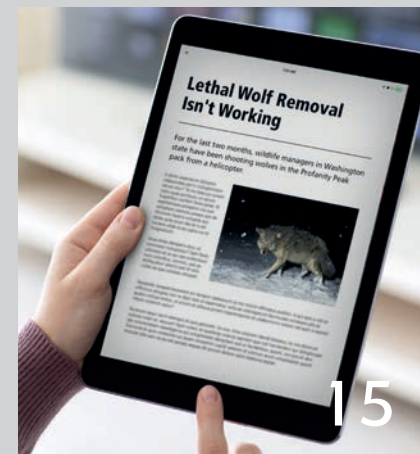
It is obvious that conflict will always be a part of life. It's clear that how it is solved or negotiated is the most important factor. If there are enough strong voices advocating for wolves, we can help with the conflicts they face and hopefully lessen our own clumsy and egotistical effect on the planet.

Julia Bohanna

Julia Bohanna, Editor



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Sikko

wild is often very harsh and many cubs don't survive their first couple of years. Wolves in captivity will often live to the similar age of a domestic dog. Our previous ambassador wolves passed away between thirteen and fifteen years. In America they have been documented reaching the ripe old age of eighteen, and even twenty one!

Birthday Celebrations at UKWCT

Back in March, April and May we celebrated the birthdays of our ten residential wolves. Our stunning Arctics turned six on 8 March. This year, their birthday fell on one of our Open Wednesdays, which resulted in them receiving lots of visitors. Many visitors to the Trust came down especially to see their favourite Arctic wolf, and some of whom even shared the same birthday! One of our members, who has adopted Massak, wanted to buy some food for the wolves as a birthday treat. This birthday treat turned into an Asda delivery driver dropping off 40 cans of hotdogs and 12 cans of tuna, some of which was to be given

to them on their birthday. Let's just say the wolves were not disappointed. Thanks to the generous donation from our member we were able to use these for some of our other events such as our children's Easter Eggstravaganza.

Torak's birthday was next on 22 April, then shortly followed by Mosi and Mai's on 27 April, marking their eleventh birthdays, effectively making them old age pensioners in wolf years when comparing them to their wild cousins. Wild wolves will usually live between six and eight years, but there has been the odd case where they have made it to ten years. Life in the

Mai's mate, Motomo turned 9 on 19 May. Still full of energy he still loves chasing after Mai in their enclosure and teasing their neighbour's, the Arctics, whether this is by running along the fences or playing a game of catch me if you can between the fences.

Finally on 3 May, Nuka, Tala and Tundra (our Beenham wolves who were born on site) turned six. It always amazes us how quickly time flies and how it only seems a short while ago that they were young cubs. Especially when you think Nuka used to fit in the palm of my hand as a cub. Now his paw barely fits in my hand!

Words and photographs by Francesca Macilroy

Linda Steps Down From Role at The Trust



Pukak & Linda

It is with enormous regret that I have to announce that Linda Maliff, long-standing co-director of the UKWCT, has decided that after 17 years working with the wolves, she must give up her involvement with the Trust. For Linda, lack of time has been a major issue, so she has therefore resigned her position both as a director and a senior handler at the Trust.

Linda has been at the heart of the Trust's organisation and active on the

training, health and safety, senior and welfare committees for a great many years. She was also responsible for bringing the Arctic pack over from Canada six years ago. The Trust's other directors and I have thanked her for all her hard work and commitment to the UKWCT, as her contribution has seen such a growth in size in the organisation and professionalism in the whole enterprise. We truly wish her well in her future endeavours.

Tsa Palmer

Quirks' Animal Roadshow

When visitors come to the Trust, they expect to find furry creatures with four legs awaiting them, but what about the eight-legged or scaly kind? On 31 May, Luke and Kayleigh Quirk returned to the Trust with creatures including Legs the Mexican redknee tarantula, Pretzel the bullsnake, Rioja, the bearded dragon and the all-time favourite: Feather, the common boa constrictor.

It's always great to listen to the Quirks' educational talks, largely because you really see the passion that they have for their animals. Of course, not everyone is a huge fan of arachnids, and I for one would certainly not in any normal circumstances be found holding a tarantula the size of my hand. Well no, thank you! This being said, I have now handled Legs on several occasions.

By no means have I lost my fear of spiders/arachnids completely, but by talking to Luke and learning more about his tarantulas I have developed a respect for them. Slowly, I am learning that my fear is irrational. Legs is surprisingly soft and when she walks on your hand it feels what only I can describe as cotton buds, (surprising right?).

Luke and Kayleigh also showed a variety of items that had been seized by the UK Border Force, including leather belts made in South Africa that were assumed to be Nile crocodile. They were seized on their way to a shop in London, but no more information was known. There was also a black Mulberry alligator skin handbag on which Mulberry commented: 'The country of origin is America. The alligators are hatched on ranches from eggs harvested from the wild according to a strict quota system.'

These ranches are licensed and are fully integrated with the State Department of Wildlife and Fisheries sustained use management programme.' Mulberry had not broken the law but the person bringing the item into the country did not have had the correct paperwork. Finally, they showed a sea turtle shell that has been used as a piece of art decoration on someone's wall. The sea turtle shell was from a green sea turtle and when the Quirks were given the shell, it was covered in various other small shells, a dead crab and a dead lobster. Luke removed the dead crab and dead lobster so that the shell could be seen properly. Clearly it was one taken from the wild, despite rules in place about protecting the species.

Seeing children and adults alike become educated about animal conservation and also overcome their fears of handling 'creepy-crawlies', must give the Quirks a great sense of achievement. You can really understand why they love their work.

Francesca Macilroy

A Howler of a Drink

Back in early June, LoneWolf Spirits, a company that had recently joined forces with a Birmingham pub called The Wolf in order to create a unique collaborative gin, appropriately called 'WolfPack Gin', contacted the UKWCT. A small batch run of 60 bottles was sold, and together LoneWolf Spirits and The Wolf, Birmingham decided that they wanted the Trust to receive the proceeds made from the gin as a donation. At noon on 20 June, the gin went on sale and by 3:30pm that afternoon, only 17 bottles remained available. By the next day they had sold out, proving that the gin was a howling success.



Photo LoneWolf Spirits

We are very grateful for the generous donation, which was an impressive £814.80. You can read LoneWolf Spirit's full blog about the gin and the Trust at <http://www.lonewolfspirits.com/wolf-pack-gin/>

Francesca Macilroy

DONATIONS GIVEN IN THE LAST QUARTER

USA Red Wolf Coalition - Neil Hutt

£3,000

Russia Chisty Les Biological Station - Vladimir Bologov

£4,000

Bulgaria Balkani Wildlife Society - Elena Tzingarska

£5,000

Iberian Wolf Research Project - José Vicente López-Bao

£3,000

TOTAL

£15,000



The Wolf Of Gubbio

Our family holiday this June was to Umbria in Italy and one of the towns we visited was Gubbio. Wandering around the streets of the town I walked into a small shop that sold a mixture of items. I noticed a little statue of St Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio, which I brought home with me to add to my worldwide wolf collection.

The story of the wolf and the friar who became St Francis of Assisi is that in the 13th century, the wolf terrorised the inhabitants of the small Italian town. Not only did the wolf kill and devour livestock but it began to attack and devour humans. All attempts to kill the wolf failed and the people of the town shut the town down in fear whenever the wolf appeared.

Francis heard of the attacks and decided to go and meet the wolf. As soon as the wolf saw him approaching

his lair, the animal rushed towards him. The friar made the sign of the cross and commanded the wolf in the name of God to stop terrorising the town. Immediately the wolf became docile. Francis went on to condemn the wolf for his attacks, not just on animals but upon men and women who are made in the image of God. He told the wolf that if he ended his attacks he would see to it that the inhabitants of Gubbio would provide him with the food he needed. The story goes that the wolf placed a paw in his hand in agreement.

Francis then walked the docile wolf back into the main square of Gubbio, to the astonishment of the inhabitants. He reiterated the promise. Again the wolf placed his paw in the friar's hand in agreement. He had tamed the wolf. Francis then preached to the inhabitants of Gubbio and told them, because of sin, God allows all manner of such things, such as pestilence. The flames of hell are far more dangerous, where the damned must suffer eternally; they are not like the rage of the wolf that can only kill the body.

He told them: 'How much therefore is to be feared the mouth of hell when such a multitude is afraid and affrighted by the mouth of a little animal! Turn ye therefore, my dearest, to God and repent properly of your sins, and God will free you from the wolf in the present, and in the future from the eternal fire.'

After his speech, Francis also said:

'Listen, my brothers: Brother wolf who is here before you promised me and pledged me his troth, to make peace with you and never to offend you in anything, and I give myself as surely to you that he will strictly observe the pact of peace.'

There was so much joy and admiration among the entire people for this act, both for the friar's devotion and for the novelty of the miracle and

the peaceful solution with the wolf, that all shouted to heaven, praising and blessing God, who had freed them from the jaws of the cruel beast. The wolf lived for two years in Gubbio and would enter houses tamely, from door to door, without harming anyone. The wolf came to no harm and was courteously fed by the people, finally dying of old age. According to tradition, Gubbio gave the wolf an honourable burial and later built the Church of St Francis of the Peace at the site in 1255. During the renovations in 1872, the skeleton of a large wolf, apparently several centuries old, was found under a slab near the church wall and was then reburied inside.

This story is one of many in Christian narrative that depict holy persons exerting influence over animals and nature. St Francis was one of the most

venerated religious figures in history and was canonised by Pope Gregory IX on 16 July 1228. He became the patron saint both of Italy and animals.

There is much to be learnt from this story, including how to tame a wolf!

Firstly, St Francis went out to tame the wolf and not destroy it. He considered the wolf a creature of God, a brother. His message was that if we try to destroy such a connected species, we will fail. Francis condemns the wolf for the sin of attacking and devouring humans but then forgives those sins. He recognised that the wolf was acting out of hunger, not wickedness. Francis sought to heal the root cause of the creature's behaviour.

What is unique, when reflecting on this story, is that Francis achieved his aim by reintroducing the wolf to the people the animal had terrified. He cleverly crafted a pact between the wolf and the inhabitants of Gubbio, allowing the people and their friendship with the wolf to overcome the animal's hunger, need and fear. Francis does not simply tame the wolf and then banish it to a distant location. The process of taming continues until it becomes entwined in a positive way with the lives of the townspeople.

If you look at the Bible, John tells us that perfect love casts out all fear. The first thing Francis did as the snarling wolf approached him was to make the sign of the cross. Francis did not fall back on his own resources but called on his belief that perfect love and the grace of God would triumph!

'Fioretti di San Francesco d'Assisi' (Little Flowers of Francis of Assisi), records many of the legends and folklore that sprang up after Francis's death.

It has been noted that it was probably the people of Gubbio rather than their wolf that might have needed taming and for a while, no doubt, St Francis succeeded!

Tsa Palmer



A statue of St. Francis of Assisi petting a wolf on the hill of San Cristoforo, above Monterosso al Mare, Italy



Saint Francis instructs the wolf. Assisi, Umbria



Pukak

Updates on the Arctics

The breeding season has once again passed and the shedding of the wolves' soft dense undercoat is now nearly complete. It is never the most flattering of times for our wolves and during the process at this time of year, they generally have large tufts of fur sprouting all over their bodies. Eventually though, after the process is completed, it leaves just their coarse guard hairs that not only defines their appearance/colour but also act as their 'raincoat' and leaves them looking very slender.

Within the Arctic pack, siblings Massak and Sikko remain the dominant male and female, with Pukak as the lower-ranking. As with their wild counterparts, conflicts do arise in captivity and as with all packs, dominance plays a major role. This is vital to maintain strong, healthy relationships and most importantly, ensure survival. The largest male wolf, Massak, uses his grand stature and body size to its full potential to exert his authority when deemed necessary, particularly when it comes to the cheeky Pukak. As a lower-ranking wolf, Pukak will continually 'chance his arm' with Massak, fully aware that it is a

pointless task – but it is still fun to try. Sikko can really hold her own and will take great pleasure in teaming up with Massak to dominate Pukak. If things do get too rough between the two brothers, her petite frame can easily be protected behind Massak's size.

In between these dominant conflicts, Massak also enjoys a game of chase and is usually the initiator, encouraging his siblings to join in the game. Recently this behaviour by Massak was observed with him trying to 'bounce' on Sikko, who in return displayed submissive behaviour towards him by rolling on her back and sides, a movement

that reveals the most vulnerable part of her body. Massak then ran in the opposite direction, which was just the encouragement needed for Sikko to chase him and vice versa. Pukak at this point was not getting involved and left the other two to their game of chase.

However, once the chase turned into a hide and scratch game behind their newly structured log enrichment, Pukak could no longer observe and joined in by 'jumping' and 'hopping' around the other two, to which a chase between all three commenced. This play became infectious with Motomo, who resides in the next enclosure, deciding to

stand on his hind legs and wriggle his body at his pack mate Mai. He then proceeded to 'bounce' on her. Both packs were now playing quite close to the fences until a sudden realisation on just how close they were may have registered with them all, after which their territorial reactions were initiated and they went back to chasing each other up and down the fence.

This territorial behaviour between the two packs is frequently observed when visitors come to the Trust. In the wild an Arctic wolf's territory range is related to the amount of food available. As grazing plants are scarce, so is the prey. They roam large areas up to and beyond 1000 square miles and will even follow migrating caribou during the winter months. So it is not surprising that the Arctic wolves here at the Trust will keep watch on their territory.

For anyone who has been to the Trust and watched all the packs being hand-fed through the fence will know, the Arctic pack devour their food, especially Pukak. He will challenge both siblings to gain extra food. Our volunteers are all aware of this natural behaviour and are therefore able to ensure that all three wolves finish eating around the same time to avoid unnecessary conflicts.

As the warmer sunny days become more frequent so does an increase in insects. To help deter the possibility of the wolves being irritated by these pests, hessian sacks are coated with essential oils such as citronella. These strong smells encourage the wolves to roll and rub their bodies on the sacks to limit such invasions. This enrichment is very much enjoyed by the pack and watching the interaction between them is most eventful, as our recent visitors witnessed during one of our Wolf Discovery Days.

Rachel Mortimer

Photographs by Mike Collins



Sikko



Massak



Mai



Motomo

Updates on Mai and Motomo

Both Mai and Motomo have found the hot weather stressful. Like her sister Mosi, Mai is one of the last wolves to shed her winter fur. To keep cool, she spends the hotter parts of the days sheltering in shady spots at the top or bottom corner of the enclosure.

As happened last year Mai underwent a pseudo-pregnancy but this year's was nowhere near as stressful as previously – she was periodically off her food (but catching an occasional pheasant or pigeon) and generally wanted to be left alone. We respected her privacy and didn't take her out on any enrichment walks; by the beginning of July the hormonal issues had died down and she was back to normal.

Motomo has spent a lot of time sleeping in the shade under the two-level platform; if he stands on the bottom level so the edge of the top level is at precisely the right height to fit between his shoulders, he can get a really good back scratch.

In late spring Mai had a semi-closed weeping eye and the vet initially thought it was an ulcer, prescribing antibiotics to safeguard the eye against infection. The eye improved and could be held open, but there was a mark on the cornea and it wept on sunny days. After a close examination, vet Julian diagnosed a keratoma, an

inflammation of the cornea often coinciding with keratitis. Julian ruled out keratitis (no scratching of the eye or discomfort) and recommended no further treatment. We were all relieved with this news, as giving eye drops to wolves isn't possible. We continued monitoring Mai and her eye, the staining around it from the weeping fluid cleared up greatly – reducing the risk of her being irritated by summer flies and we now see no signs of discomfort.

The benefits of our wolves being socialised is that our vet can get a really close look at any problems without needing to tranquilise the patient. Motomo – who is not socialised – managed to injure his left forepaw somehow, scraping the skin on one of his 'knuckles'. It looked sore but didn't slow him down in his regular fence-running with the Arctic wolves in the next enclosure. We kept Motomo under observation and the skin and fur regrew and completely healed. It was fortunate that Motomo was able to lick the injury; wolf saliva is naturally antibacterial.

At the beginning of June we moved Mai and Motomo out of their enclosure for annual maintenance – weed clearance, grass-cutting and fence repairs. This is a non-trivial task, we can't simply put Motomo on a lead to transfer him to temporary quarters, so we take Mai out on a walk then while she's away we open the gate between the two enclosures.

Motomo won't usually go through the gate until he sees Mai has come back from her walk and put in the new enclosure – he watches, eventually builds up enough courage, pops through and someone quickly closes the gate behind him! He must be surprised to find himself in the enclosure where the Arctic wolves had been only a day previously, but the opportunity to search out the Arctics' food-caches must compensate. With the enclosure maintenance completed a couple of days later, we had to reverse the process to get both Mai and Motomo back into their 'home' enclosure.

Now both Mai and Motomo are looking fit and slender, having completed their moults. Both have turned slightly lighter, Motomo retaining the silver stripe down his back. They're both happy, healthy and contented, spending summer relaxing in their freshly trimmed enclosure.

Pete Morgan-Lucas

Photographs by Mike Collins



Mosi & Torak, by Mike Collins

Torak and Mosi are now 11; both still look stunning, with Torak a palette of browns and creams and Mosi a regal silvery colour tinged with black. Although when Mosi has been pursuing her hobby of mound tunnelling into the mound, her coat is tinged with a yellowy brown!

Both wolves are in good health, although Torak does have arthritis in his joints, which certainly doesn't prevent him from racing away from Mosi after stealing something from her. He is treated for pain if necessary and all the wolves have beef flavoured Flexi-joint supplements in their food as a preventative measure.

Torak is very aloof and likes to be left in peace to snooze at the top of the enclosure or simply keep a watchful eye on everything (especially noting where Mosi buries food!). Mosi does whimper and fuss over Torak who gets really annoyed with Mosi's unwanted attention. Oblivious to his body language, she continues submissively until he snarls and puts her on the ground. One day Mosi wanted to get Torak's attention when he was enjoying a sleep in the sun, so she jumped on him. Needless to say he was NOT amused!

Recently Mosi and I had a scary experience whilst she was being hand

fed at the fence. Handlers had thrown over a piece of beef that Mosi was investigating. Suddenly there was the distinctive whirring sound of a red kite, which then swooped onto Mosi's back, leaned over and flew off with the beef! I don't know which upset Mosi more, the bird's talons and weight or the theft of her beef!

Enrichment walks started again in spring: Torak and Mosi rush onto the kennel area to be collared up for the walk with their favourite people. Mosi dashes about at the start and then slows down a little ensuring she has over scent marked any animal traces. Torak ambles along enjoying all the recent scents and they both roll in any disgusting smells they can find. Trying to get a fox poo-covered collar off at the end of the walk isn't fun!

Both Valentine's Day and Easter children's events were enjoyed by all. Mosi always races round to urinate on all the treat boxes whilst Torak calmly strolls over and takes them one at a

time to eat in peace under his favourite tree. After eating one raw goose egg, Mosi gently picked up Torak's egg and buried it under the platform, thinking that he was still asleep. Although they have a 1,600 bite pressure per square inch (PSI), they can carry an egg in their teeth safely. Little did Mosi realise that Torak was noting exactly what she was doing and dug it up at his leisure.

For Mosi and Torak's birthdays, children decorated frozen beef mince muffins with cream cheese.

Meal times can sometimes be amusing on an Open Day, when chunks of deer are thrown over to the wolves. Torak will eat most of his and then nonchalantly stroll past Mosi who growls to warn him off her food. He waits until she has her mouth full and therefore can't bite him, snatches some of her meat and dashes off with Mosi in hot pursuit. However, the wolfkeeper put a 12kg red deer carcass in their enclosure to show students and the public some natural behaviour that would happen in the wild. After an initial inspection by Mosi and then the more cautious Torak, the carcass was completely ignored and was removed after a few days.

Both wolves are iconic here at the Trust and I hope will be with us for many more years to come.

Wendy Brooker



Mosi by Eve King

Beenhams' Update

The Beenham pack found early summer uncomfortable – it's stressful to have a full winter coat in June when temperatures rise to the mid twenties.

Fortunately there are plenty of shady spots in their enclosure and a pond to wallow in if things get too hot. As moulting progresses, Nuka is showing signs of developing the same 'silverback' colouration as his father Motomo, although more Californian surfer blond head and shoulders!

On walks Nuka is invariably the leader, always wanting to see what's new, Tala follows behind and Tundra – though the dominant female – watches from a reserved distance while taking quiet reassurance from trusted handlers.

Nuka recently showed his ability as an alert and efficient hunter – while walking along the hedge by the allotments in the top field he suddenly turned 90 degrees, froze and adopted a 'pointer' pose (ears forward, one front paw raised, nose directed at prey). Milliseconds later he'd despatched a nesting pheasant in the undergrowth (handlers know better than to intervene between a wolf and food) but was more interested in the hen's eggs than the now dead pheasant, which he ignored. Wolves absolutely love eggs, and the prospect of six warm pheasant eggs were truly irresistible! For the next ten minutes or so Nuka and his sisters spent a happy time licking, nibbling, cracking open and eating the protein-

rich eggs, a great supplement for a wolf! Once egg-eating was complete, all three wolves had to roll on the eggshells.

It's always intriguing to see how the Beenhams respond to their environment. Recently, Nuka was unimpressed by the clanking chains of the lorry collecting a full skip on site, and was rather circumspect when walking past the new empty skip a few days later. To a wolf, any changes could be a threat and it pays to be alert!

Tala doesn't like anyone pushing a wheelbarrow around the site, or having to walk past a 'parked' wheelbarrow. Perhaps the drumming noise of a wheelbarrow being pushed is disconcerting, and any creature with two legs and a wheel might seem strangely unnatural. A wheelbarrow 'parked' up on end – with handles sticking up like horns – might present a threatening appearance. So we send out a scout on wolf walk routes to ensure there are no wheelbarrows along the path!

Tundra hates narrow gaps/passages and gates – preferring to see what's ahead and go through in her own time. On walks, we ask visitors to move forward and give her a clear space whenever there's a narrow gap. Tundra

is reassured if Tala and Nuka have already gone through – sometimes we have them both loitering nearby to help Tundra's confidence. We appreciate the understanding and co-operation of visitors when they are 'shepherded' ahead by us so the wolves can have a path through. Tundra still occasionally limps on her left foreleg – a legacy of the injury sustained as a cub. We are keeping this under observation and if needed, the vet will prescribe a short course of anti-inflammatories, which have proved successful in providing relief in the past. All the wolves receive a Glucosamine food supplement, considered beneficial for joint health.

Apart from walks, the Beenhams spend much of their time in the top corner of their enclosure, shaded by pine trees but still observing the site, particularly the door to the food shed! We feed all the wolves at varying times to avoid conditioning; like most mammals wolves have good biological clocks and if we did not vary feeding times throughout the week we'd have them standing and drooling – Pavlov-style – for an hour before each feeding time!

Pete Morgan-Lucas



Tala by Roger Hale



Nuka by Pete Morgan-Lucas



Tundra by Francesca Macilroy



Building the World's Greatest Hiking Trail

In 2017, an international team will continue exploring and mapping routes for the Transcaucasian Trail (TCT). When complete, the TCT will become the first long-distance hiking route the length of the Caucasus Mountains.

The ambitious trail will connect national parks and the culturally significant sites of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, where over a dozen different languages are spoken and in one of the most biologically diverse regions of the world. Many sections of the trail have been used for centuries by shepherds and explorers, travelling from village to village across the great valleys and passes of the Greater and Lower Caucasus Mountains.

The Transcaucasian Trail will restore, maintain and connect the

deteriorated historic routes to allow hikers to safely journey across one uninterrupted path. The trail is being developed by a growing community of outdoor enthusiasts, mappers, and conservationists who want to improve hiking opportunities in the Caucasus for locals and international tourists.

The trail will support sustainable tourism and rural development whilst preserving the Caucasus' rich cultural heritage and wilderness areas. Much of the Caucasus Mountains is valuable wolf habitat and its preservation and sustainable economic use is



fundamental to the conservation of the species and other mega-fauna.

For additional information background and maps, please visit www.transcaucasiantrial.org

James Scipioni

Go Barefoot, a travel organisation that promotes and develops sustainable tourism projects. In partnership with governments, universities, NGOs, and community co-operatives, the company focuses on both emerging and established destinations, ensuring that travel has a positive contribution to the local economy and environment.



After the War

How wolves and veterans can help each other heal

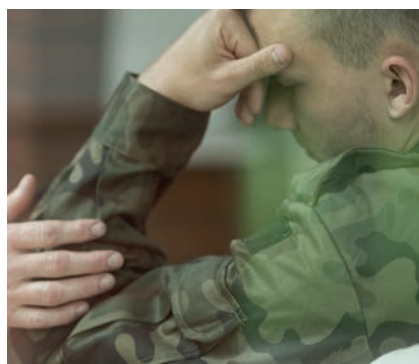


'There are things I've seen that I can't unsee. There are things I've done that I cannot undo. Just saying 'well I did it in the name of my country' doesn't help you sleep at night. But what does help [...] is having a companion.'

These are the words of navy veteran Matthew Simmons, who, together with his wife, clinical psychologist Dr. Lorin Lindner, runs the Warriors and Wolves programme at the Lockwood Animal Rescue Centre in California. As well as providing a permanent 200-acre home for over 40 rescued animals, they offer a unique form of support for soldiers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and other trauma. Each veteran is paired with a wolf or wolf-dog, forming a deep bond that can help them on the road to recovery. Needless to say, it's not only the soldiers who need healing.

Blue-black she-wolf Ebony endured a miserable existence on a six foot chain buried underground. Beautiful white wolf Sera Sera, who belonged to a Saudi prince, was not given enough calcium as a pup and snapped his hind legs at the age of six months. Playful Danny Boy was just one of

29 wolves rescued from a roadside attraction in Alaska, who were otherwise due to be destroyed. To help their wolves settle in, the Centre houses them side by side and monitors their behaviour and bonding, eventually releasing them into a larger enclosure with their 'chosen' pack.



'Healing with Wolves: A Great Big Story' <http://lockwoodarc.org/warriors-wolves/>
 'Warriors and Wolves: Helping Heal the War After the War': <http://lockwoodarc.org/warriors-and-wolves/>
 'SoCal Wolf Rehab Program Gives Vets 'Space to Figure Things Out'' <http://inewarc.org/warriors-wolves/>
 'Montana Wolfguard Campaign': <http://lockwoodarc.org/montana/>
 'Alaska Rescue Campaign': <http://lockwoodarc.org/alaska-rescue-2/>

The wolves also take the lead when choosing a veteran partner.

'They notice if you're injured or if something's wrong with you, [...] they have the trauma, and we had some type of trauma in life, you kinda get that connection[...],' explains veteran volunteer Jesse Martinez. *'One wolf will be your friend for life.'*

There is no cure for PTSD, and many soldiers also return with a crisis of identity after serving. Depression and addiction can take hold, further isolating them from their peers and a 'normal' life. Helping care for the wolves and other animals at the centre, either through feeding, play or even building their enclosures and toys, can give them a focus, comfort, and new skills. For Jim Minick, who is now a manager, the Warriors and Wolves programme was a life-saver: *'Conventional therapy isn't really something for me... drinking myself to death might have been the last chapter of my life. [...] They [the wolves] teach you to be calm and confident. [...] It's got some deeper meaning when they accept you.'*

It's not just about day to day care. In addition to Warriors and Wolves, LARC and its veterans run 'Wolfguard', conservation campaigns such as the one that rescued Danny Boy in Alaska, or in Montana, where illegal poachers were tracked, reported, and even blocked with human chains.

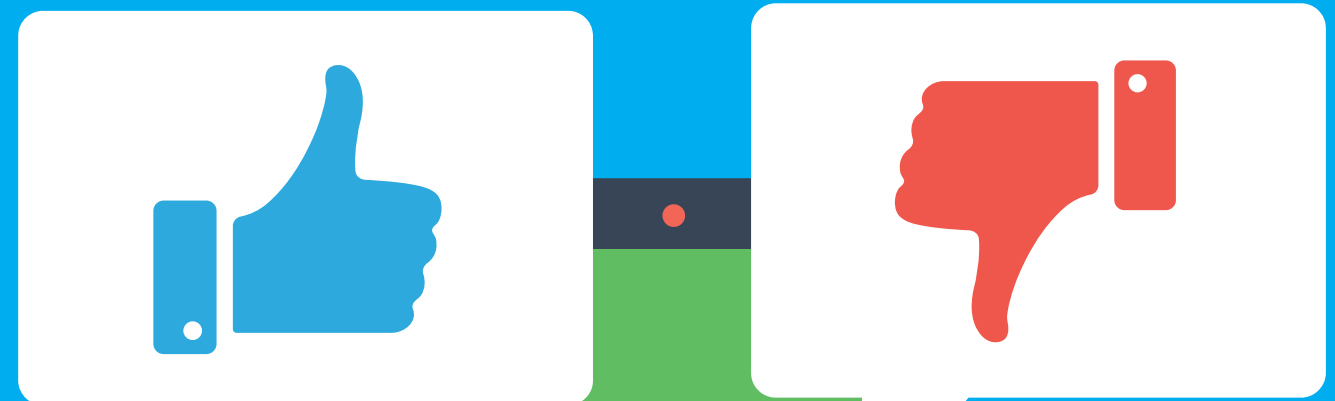
The fight continues, and although conflicts are unlikely to cease in the near future, the Warriors and Wolves programme can help mitigate their effects. It serves as a shining example of how humans and wolves can live together in harmony, and as Matthew Simmons found, *'... There's something about being around these animals [...] even the most wounded veteran, they feel different. [...] It keeps them part of something greater than themselves.'*

Jessica Jacobs

THE WOLF ON TRIAL

How social media can be a minefield of misinformation and incendiary conversation

The wolf has sadly been persecuted and hated for centuries by many. To some it is an animal 'good for nothing', but to others, it is the true representation of the wild. It is also often associated with the more spiritual side of nature.



Working to protect wolves in the field is a difficult job, as you have extremists on both sides. You are never going to please everyone. Nowadays this can be made increasingly difficult with the use of social media; it is easy to spread news based on information that may or may not be true. The popularity of 'fake news' is a worrying trend. Whilst the ability to communicate to a large section of people very quickly on social media can obviously be a positive, there will always be more than one side to a story and most organisations that post stories will only be stating facts that agree with their opinions.

The heated debate last year over the destruction of the

Profanity Peak Pack was a case in point. The wolf pack was under surveillance by the Washington State Wolf Advisory Group, a collaborative team of scientists, industry and conservation partners. The animals' 'crime' was to kill livestock that was grazing near to their den site, in order to feed themselves. The livestock belonged to a local rancher, who had left his charges to graze on public land, which he is quite entitled to do.

In August 2016 it was announced that a decision had been made by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to exterminate the whole of the

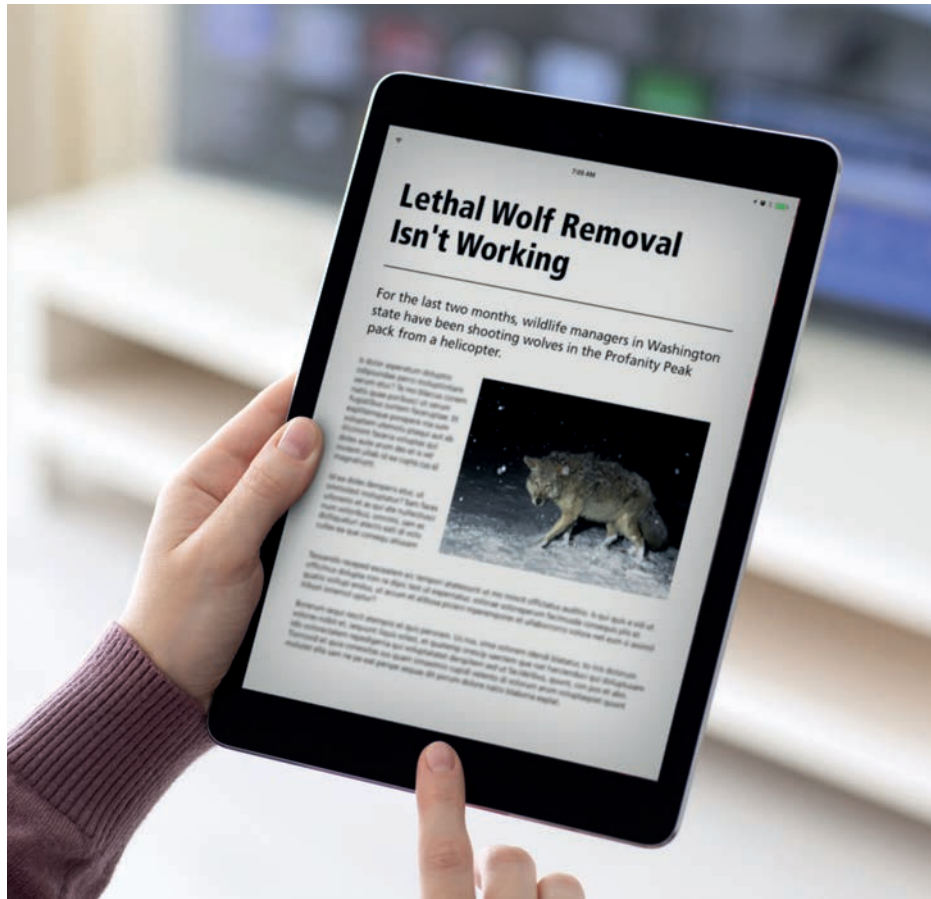
pack, after it was confirmed that they had killed or injured at least 15 cows. The department used helicopters, traps and even 'Judas' wolves to exterminate the pack. Judas wolves are animals that have collars fitted to them using taxpayers' money. Unwittingly, these wolves then lead the killers to the rest of the pack.

The decision to kill the Profanity Peak Pack sparked a huge controversy, with both locals and numerous wildlife charities alike campaigning to get the cull stopped. Petitions were sent to the Governor of Washington and a rescue centre even asked the Washington officials if they could have the wolves, rather than have them shot.

Among the many claims made on social media was that the livestock owner had deliberately placed his cattle right on top of a den site and had done nothing to protect his livestock. This claim was made by one of Washington State University's researchers: Rob Wielgus, Associate Professor and Director of the Large Carnivore Conservation Lab. The accusation was later retracted and his statement disavowed by the university itself, who stated that Wielgus's comments were inappropriate and inaccurate and 'contributed substantially to the growing anger and confusion about this significant wildlife management issue'.

It was not the first time that wolves had been shot to protect the same livestock owners' cows and he was reported to be a known wolf hater. All this whipped up a fury and resulted in death threats for the rancher. Other claims were made that he was in breach of the local Native American rights for killing the wolves. A further internet counter campaign was started by local landowners in the area, claiming that the same pack attacked a local dog.

In October after killing seven wolves of the eleven-strong pack, the WDFW announced it would no longer pursue the remaining members of the pack



as it was satisfied that the threat to livestock was gone. Also, it was the time of year that livestock were removed from the area as a matter of course.

So how much of what was claimed on social media was true? Conservation Northwest (<http://www.conservationnw.org>) set up an information page to dispel some of the accusations made. As for claims that the rancher deliberately baited the wolves, they claim that he could not have known the den site was there. According to the WDFW the rancher had taken steps to protect



"...we should all be wary of social media propaganda, particularly when it comes to animals and conservation, subjects that stir huge reactions and play with our emotions."

his livestock, including deploying range riders and picking up carcasses to avoid attracting predators. The local Native American tribe is the Colville tribe. They have their own wolf management plan that they believe offers a balanced approach to managing wolves in their territories. They do allow hunting during specific seasons and this varies depending on overall numbers. The dog who was attacked, did survive and was examined by the WDFW specialists, who confirmed that it had not been attacked by wolves and that is was more likely to have been coyotes.

There are still many websites out there who make different claims about the whole Profanity Pack situation. To get to the truth can be difficult and most campaigners will always slant a story to show what they believe is correct. It has probably never been any different, but today we seem to have constant trials by social media. Was the rancher indeed a wolf hater who deliberately baited the wolves, or was he an innocent party who was just working in his family business, and who, quite

rightly, wanted compensation for his losses? If the latter is the case is it fair that he receives death threats from all over the world, often from people who do not understand ranching or the complex world of wolf management? They are often people who mean well, but emotions often get hijacked by an endless onslaught of information being presented to them.

I think the only conclusion to be drawn is that we should all be wary of social media propaganda, particularly when it comes to animals and conservation, subjects that stir huge reactions and play with our emotions. It is better to look at several sources of information or better still, contact a reliable and credible source (or two) to get the proper facts. That way, we avoid a knee jerk reaction that may cause inaccurate information to be spread around the rather reactionary world of social media.

Cammie Kavanagh
Assistant Senior Handler at the Trust, having joined as a member 20 years ago. She has been a volunteer for 14 years.

Management and Conservation of the Wolf in North America and Europe

'An Unresolved Conflict' Conference in Culebra de Sanabria, Northern Spain

Photographs by Mike Collins

On April 20th wolfkeeper Mike Collins and I were fortunate to be able to represent the Trust at a conference in Culebra de Sanabria, Northern Spain. Delegates from throughout Europe and North America were in attendance and included David Mech from Minnesota. Mike and I met old friends, made many new and valuable contacts and learned a tremendous amount. It is also an excellent chance to assess where UKWCT money may best be spent to benefit wolves. We hope to share this with you.

The conference was held in the Centro del Lobo Iberico, which has only been open for 18 months. It is a beautiful and striking stone structure, modelled on a wolf trap and constructed from local stone and wood. Magnificent enclosures house the centre's eight wolves, which are all the local Iberian subspecies. It includes a hospital and rehabilitation facility and has already cared for injured local wild wolves.

This Spanish region holds the largest wild population in the Iberian

Peninsula and is also, significantly, an area where wolves have always been present. Accordingly, the local human population has always co-existed with large carnivores and in particular wolves and lynx. However, there appears to be only one bear resident in this district.

'An Unresolved Conflict' might imply that little has changed since I became involved with wolf conservation over 30 years ago. However, in this particular region of Northern Spain, perhaps this conflict does not actually exist. Rural depopulation is an increasing problem for many European countries, with a concomitant reduction in agriculture in marginal,

mountainous environments. The Centro del Lobo Iberico is providing a very welcome increase in tourist revenue particularly during those months outside the August tourist season. This has already led to a significant increase in jobs and revenue for many local businesses. Wolves are not all bad it would seem!

Another plus point for the European wolf population is their predation of wild boar which are generally held to be more damaging for agriculture than the wolves, as they frequently destroy valuable crops and can be challenging to fence out. Nevertheless, conflict between humans and large

carnivores continues to be the main driver of persecution of these animals worldwide. In Europe it may yet see an end to the successful spread of wolves into their former habitat!

The conference was well attended with over 200 delegates and a good representation from the local communities and regional government. Presentations and lectures were run continuously throughout the four days and also included field visits to the local area in the hope of spotting the iconic subject of the event. Amazingly, one other group were able to watch a pack of four wild wolves! We were honoured to have David Mech in our group and an hour or two spent chatting to him made up for our lack of visible wolves!

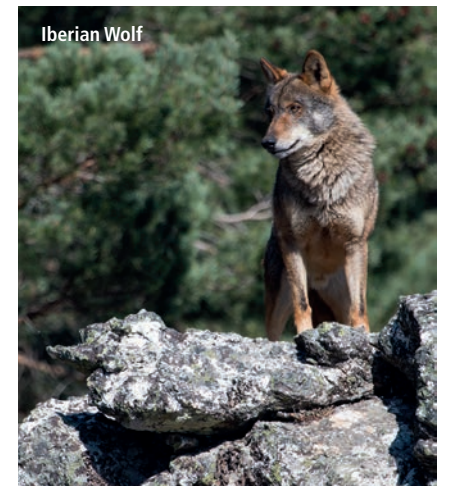
Many of the worldwide presentations dealt with strategies for protecting livestock against predation. None of these were new but as always, what emerges is the need to tailor the method to the local environment and traditions of the indigenous people. In some areas fladry and noise making devices can be very useful and in others, fencing animals in at night can be effective. In North America, the almost ubiquitous presence of coyotes can change the methods that are likely to be successful. However, it would seem that livestock guarding dogs remain one of the most successful methods of livestock protection, but then again, the huge increases in human population have led to increased conflict between the public and the dogs themselves. No method is perfect and it is often a combination that is the best solution.



Iberian Wolves

It was also very interesting to hear how relatively recent and apparently unconnected changes in European legislation can have profound effects on wildlife. The recent BSE crisis forced farmers to remove carcasses of fallen stock from their fields, which in turn has led to greater predation of living animals. Traditionally, animals that died in the fields were simply left lying to be scavenged by all manner of wildlife, an important food source for wolves now no longer available!

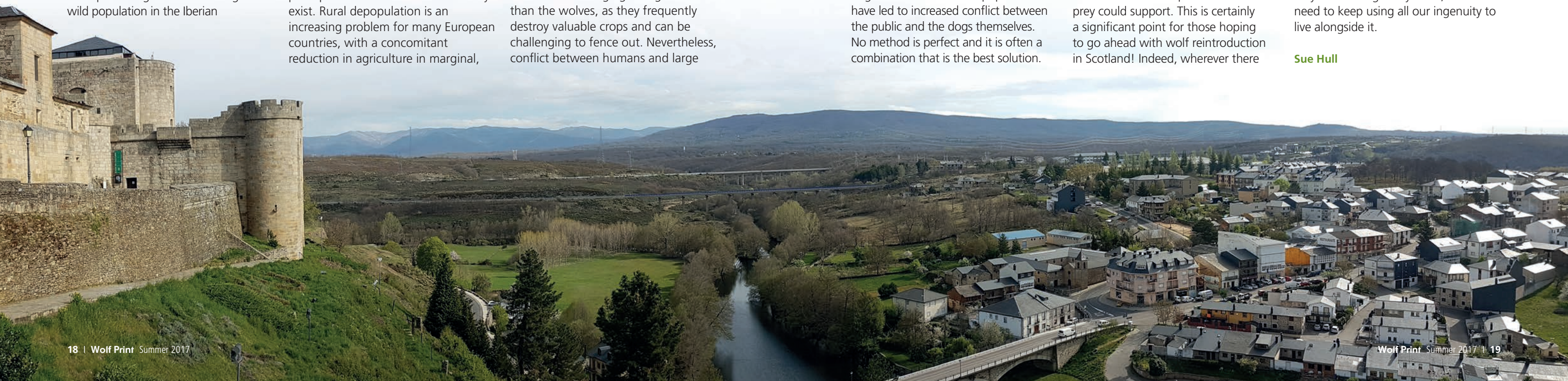
It is also important to recognise that the 'biological' carrying capacity of an area is very often a great deal higher than the 'social' carrying capacity. In other words, there may be plenty of natural prey for wolves but the resident human population will not accept the number of wolf packs that the prey could support. This is certainly a significant point for those hoping to go ahead with wolf reintroduction in Scotland! Indeed, wherever there



Iberian Wolf

are wolves there will be conflict. As always, the message from this type of conference is that if we are to allow the expansion of wildlife back into its former range and attempt to restore fully functioning ecosystems, we will need to keep using all our ingenuity to live alongside it.

Sue Hull



Wolf and Lynx Research and Conservation in Croatia

Our activities were related to wolf and lynx research, conservation and management in Croatia in the last year. We were again internationally active in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania, Romania, Poland, Greece, Germany and Alaska, invited to speak and teach about work on large carnivores in Croatia: monitoring systems, emergency teams, trapping methods and health surveys etc.

In Croatia, we captured and collared new wolves and lynx. The use of trap cameras continues to be an important but demanding task, since data processing is always time consuming.

Three contracts were obtained for our large carnivore research (one for each species of LC) in the Plitvice Lakes NP (PLNP), which provided six GPS collars (two for each species of LC) for telemetry tracking, 25 new automatic cameras, free accommodation for field work and the opportunity to accept more students for field work participation and teaching during 2016.

Annual Progress Report (12.11.2015 to 1.3.2017)

We continued capturing and radio-tracking wolves, bears and lynx, collecting/examining carcasses and directly applying study results to management and protection. We trained students, researchers and large

carnivore management professionals from Italy, Germany, The Netherlands and USA. Researchers from the project were invited to present their results in Germany, Greece, Montenegro, Macedonia, Poland, Albania and Romania.

Project researchers, and one PhD student spent 191.8 days doing field work, checking cases of wolf mortality, performing necropsies of dead wolves, participating in workshops and wolf/lynx research/conservation meetings in Croatia and other countries. Đuro Huber and Josip Kusak continued researching and monitoring large carnivores in newly established (2011) National park 'Una', at the border between Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina. Our LC project(s) continues to attract young people from Croatia and internationally, serving as a training polygon for current and future wolf-lynx-bear researchers, conservationists and educators. We

accepted seven foreign students/researchers/conservationists to work and to learn about LC research and conservation, within the lab, in the field or both:

Peter Haswell, graduate biologist and assistant professor at the School of Biological Sciences at Bangor Prifysgol.

Daniele De Angelis, graduate MS student from the University of Rome.

Jacopo Morelli, graduate student of veterinary medicine from the University of Pisa.

Nathan Dee, graduate student of conservation biology at NYU's Gallatin School of Individualised Study.

Massimiliano Balasso Krisa, graduate student at the School of Biological Sciences at Bangor Prifysgol.

Tomas Meijer, graduate student at the University of Amsterdam.

Julia Kamp, graduate student on the Master programme for Forest and Nature Conservation from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine University of Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Several Croatian graduate students of veterinary medicine are involved in project activities on a voluntary basis, for example: Mateja Stipičić and Ira Topličanec. They measure, dissect and take tissue samples from the testicles of hunted bears. Marina Habazin and Daria Octenjak enter data from collected bear scats in the online database (http://medvedi.mbase.org/bears/genetics/samples/statistics_public/all).

On 01.10.2016 Josip Kusak was invited by German NGO NABU (BAG Wolf) to talk and answer questions about ways of protecting livestock against wolves, at a meeting named 'Herdenschutz 2.0', the follow-up of the International

Wolf Conference in Wolfsburg, Germany.

Josip Kusak and Jasna Jeremić (State Institute for Nature Protection) held five meetings/workshops to collect wolf scat samples for genetic analysis and determination of the minimal number of wolves in Croatia. Personnel working in nature conservation at state and county level were invited, as well as hunters, mountaineers, nature conservation NGO members, interested in participating on a voluntary basis. Ninety seven persons participated during five meetings held across the wolf range in Croatia, from Gorski kotar to Dubrovnik. Josip Kusak and Jasna Jeremić fielded inevitable questions from hunters about why for the fourth year in a row, a hunting quota on wolves was not approved.

On 23.04.2016, a meeting about wolf activity in Petrova gora, was organised by the 'Local Agency Group' (LAG), which is devoted to the rural development of the area. Wolves were absent there for a long time, but have settled there recently. Jasna Jeremić from the Agency for Nature and Environment organised a meeting with LAG where Josip Kusak and Jasna explained to locals (primarily farmers) what they could expect and what the government can do within the frame of the current Wolf Management Plan.

From 21.09.2015 to 22.09.2015, we again performed a one day theoretical training workshop followed by one day of practical training for the Wolf and Lynx Emergency Team and Bear Emergency Team, together with the training for damage experts in Kuterevoto, educating people on coping when large carnivores cause problems.

Field work, meeting, bear workshops

Activities were funded by the LIFE DINALP BEAR and mainly carried out by Đuro Huber and Slaven Reljić, presented separately to wolf and lynx work. Đuro Huber visited Albania, Montenegro, Poland, Italy, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, USA, Portugal, and Croatia.

Field work on wolves and lynx

During 2016, work on wolves and lynx was carried out in Plitvice Lakes National Park and in Gorski kotar: winter snow-tracking of wolves and lynx and counting of wolves in packs in and around of PLNP area, searching for wolf signs, howl testing of tracked packs, wolf dens and proof of wolf reproduction. We carried out one aerial search for a dropped lynx collar and an automatic camera to check for the presence of wolves in the area and to document all other facts, like reproduction, presence of or wild animals, primarily lynx.

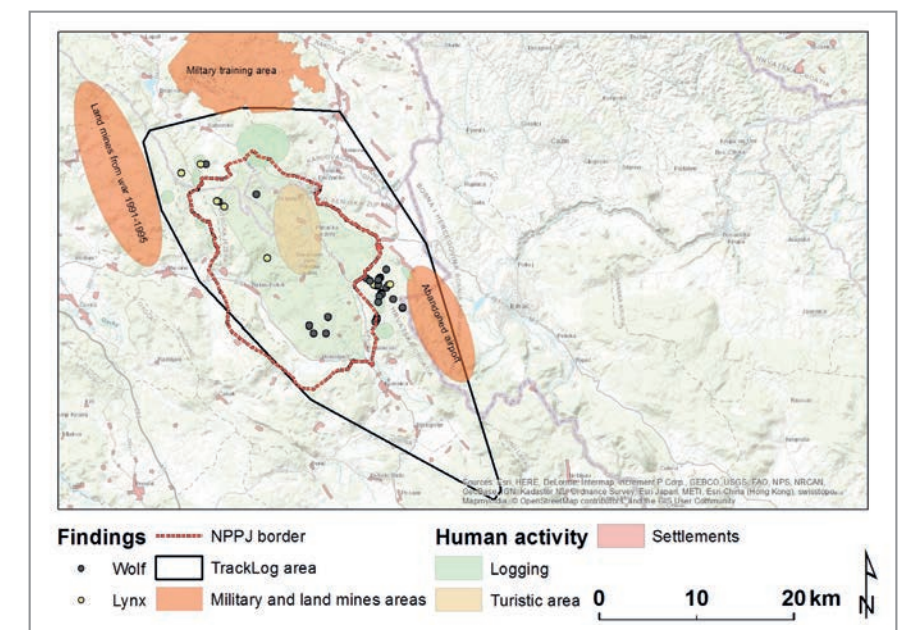
Searches for signs of wolf and lynx presence

During the spring, summer and autumn of 2016, we searched for wolf tracks of three packs in an area of 749.7 km² in Plitvice Lakes NP. However, very few signs of wolves were found.

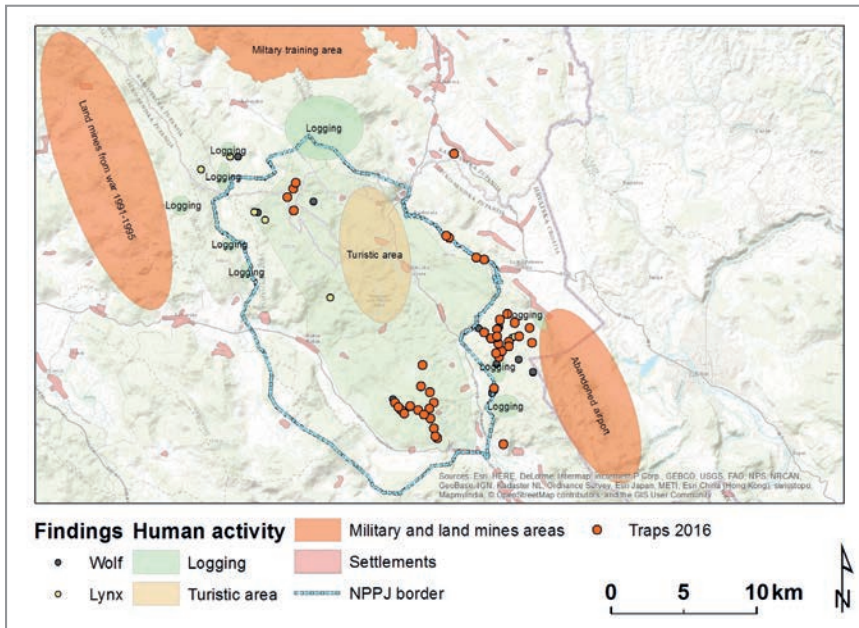
Signs of wolf presence (footprints, scats, howling, and scratch markings) were found on 34 occasions only. Six signs were recorded inside the borders of PLNP, while remaining 28 signs were found outside of the border of the PLNP. Our conclusion was that during 2016 not a single wolf pack found earlier (in 2014 and 2015) had litters inside PLNP. The wolves may have decided to have cubs outside of PLNP borders, like the Plješevica pack, for which we found most signs close to the border with B&H.



In PLNP study area, there are many inaccessible areas: a large military training ground with forbidden access, areas west of PLNP in the Mala Kapela mountain still 'infested' with land mines from the last war and at the border with B&H, another military facility (Željava abandoned airport of Yugoslav army), with forbidden access because of land mines around the airport. However, the study area has areas with intensive human use including permanent settlements, roads, logging



Wolf and lynx signs



Observations of wolf signs and human activity then trap site locations in PLNP



Happy crew with captured, collared and then released lynx L12-Burni ZIP on 01.04.2016. (Photo J. Kusak).

Lynx trapping in Plitvice lakes NP

During 2015 and 2016, NPPJ obtained two lynx collars, made two additional box traps and purchased 25 new camera traps, all to be used inside PLNP. They also provided free accommodation for researchers and all students who wanted to participate in the wolf and lynx project.

The use of camera traps and searches for lynx marking sites provided better information about lynx marking sites and traveling routes, and consequently we moved two box traps to new locations inside PLNP during the winter and spring of 2016.

29.03.2016: L11- orak lynx captured at Kotura a site inside PLNP, a four-year-old male lynx weighing 23 kg.

On 06.06.2016 at 20:22, a lynx was captured at Preka kosa site in PLNP, a two-year-old female weighing 17kg.

Telemetry Tracking – Lynx tracking

The collar of a lynx L09-Goran ZIP dropped from his neck after 52 weeks.



Nathan Dee and Josip Kusak setting a box traps in the PLNP area during the spring 30.05.2015. in PLNP (Photo J. Kusak).

areas and in particular areas around lakes, which receives about 1.4 million tourists annually. We believe wolf packs were using quiet areas (military and land mine areas). We have also documented (by automatic cameras) rather intensive use of areas outside PLNP, where besides logging operations, some unregulated and uncontrolled activities like 'herds' of bikers, occasionally happen.

The majority of tourists only walk around lakes, but some go further, even on closed roads, perhaps driving wolves away from most of NP areas. We hope to document and analyse data from automatic cameras. To manage PLNP effectively, we need to evaluate how tourist activity significantly influences wolves and other wildlife.

Lynx signs were found on eight sites only, despite intensive searching. Observations (reports) of jackal presence found in 2015 were not reconfirmed during 2016.

Wolf trapping in Plitvice Lakes National park (PLNP)

First traps activated on 06.06.2016. Traps set on 44 different sites, primary targeting the Plješevica pack, for which we had some signs of presence in the area east of PLNP, Plješevica Mountain. We experienced only one wolf visit to a trap, not enough for any wolf capture. Martens visited our traps on 99 occasions. Two badgers, one fox and

three bears were captured, tranquilised and released during trapping season.

Lynx trapping in Gorski kotar

Trapping lynx with box traps at marking sites is less demanding than wolf trapping, since box traps are set at marking sites with available GSM signal.

On 03.02.2016 a sheep was captured in a box trap set inside an abandoned house, deep in the forest! We gave it to a local farmer.

On 01.04.2016 a lynx was captured in a box trap, then tranquilised, processed and released with the GPS-GSM collar. It was named L12-Burni ZIP and was approximately two years old with a mass of 20 kg.

We rented a Cessna plane for an aerial search on 15.04.2016 to check almost the whole Gorski kotar area, finding the dropped collar. We also detected the VHF signal of L12-Burni Zip and some of LIFE project bears.

Field Work on Bears – Una National Park in Bosnia and Herzegovina

We had already tracked B41-Ljuto last year. This bear has been tracked for 730 days through satellite GPS system, at 5335 locations. The bear moved over the area of 1627 km² and was located 1219 times in Croatia.

Bear B42-Buk dropped the collar on 19 April 2016, as scheduled.

Plitvice Lakes National Park

Two bears were captured and collared with GPS devices in the Plitvice Lakes National Park in 2015:

B48 - Lana, female, 80 kg, captured on 12.10.15. Tracked for 396 days, relocated 4410 times. She crossed the southern border several times.

B49 - Runja, male, 184 kg, captured on 12.10.15. Tracked only five days – he took the collar off over his head.

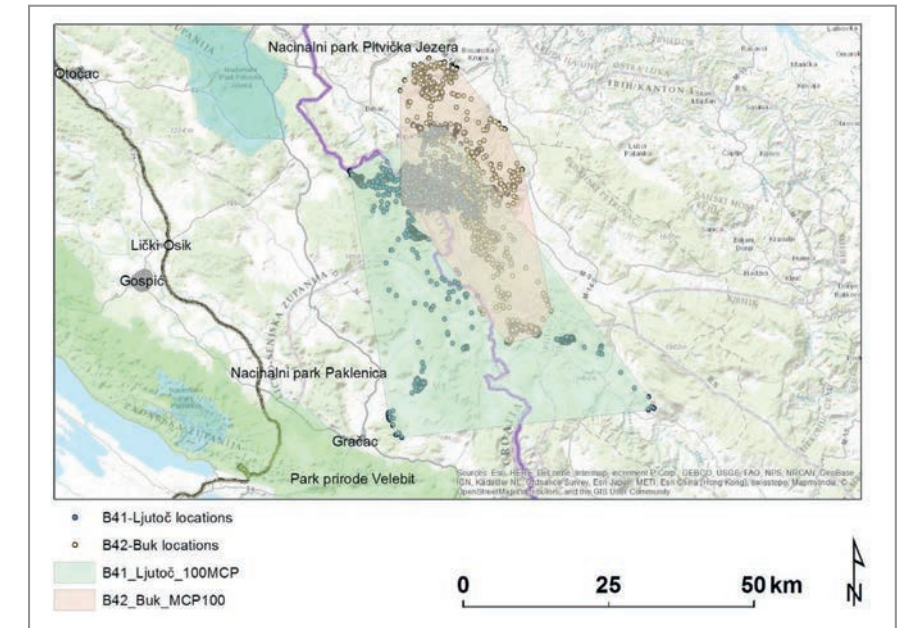
In 2016 we captured and collared four different bears five times (one recapture). More detailed information for this project can be seen here: www.dinalpbear.eu

Camera Traps

During 2016, camera traps were used in an area of 176.7 km, mostly inside PLNP (only three cameras outside of PLNP), to determine wolf presence, count lynx and check ungulate and human activity. Lynx were photographed 89 times at



Trap camera photo of bear family including B51 Jakov and the mother B53 Jasna



Locations and home ranges of two bears collared in NP Una (B&H).

14 different sites; 27 photos were clear enough to distinguish individual lynx. Lynx appeared mostly in the north-western part of the PLNP, while during 2015, they were equally appearing in the southern part of the NP.

Wolf Mortality

A mortality of 15 wolves was documented between 30.10.2015 and 22.02.2017. Prevailing causes of death was still traffic and illegal killing. All dead wolves were pathologically processed at the Veterinary Faculty of the University of Zagreb and some were fresh enough to be thoroughly examined.

Lynx Mortality

No confirmed dead lynx in Croatia during 2016, or 2015.

Implementation of Wolf and Lynx Management Plans – Wolf Management

Đuro Huber and Josip Kusak continue to participate in large carnivore management through the 'Committee for Large Carnivores in Croatia' and the 'Comity for Bear Management in Croatia' and through various other activities (organising and implementing monitoring, courses for damage inspectors and an intervention team for large carnivores, media appearances and statements). Both researchers are co-authors of the yearly report about the Croatian wolf population.

Wolf numbers since the beginning of the implementation of wolf management plan from 2005 was for the first five years positive and then went down during the last five years. The most serious drop happened in the year 2014.

Dropping wolf numbers and illegal wolf killing form two main arguments against any legal quota on wolves this year. The regular public meeting on discussing the yearly quota of accepted mortality was not held this year! The ministry in charge of wolf conservation and management decided that it is enough to have the 'yearly wolf status report' and discuss it at the National Large Carnivore Committee meeting. The 2016 wolf report proposes that this year the wolf quota will be zero. This will certainly raise additional negative reaction from the hunting lobby, but seems that there was no alternative.

Words and images by Professor Josip Kusak

In 2016, UKWCT generously donated **£5,000** (about 50000 HRK, depending on exchange rate). This was spent on field work, fuel for cars and food for field workers with some minor expenses for consumable equipment like receiver batteries and refilling prepaid SIM cards for trap alarms. Josip Kusak, Pete Haswell, and other volunteers were doing the entire wolf and lynx related field work.

An African golden wolf (*Canis anthus*) in a conflict zone



Do Conflict Zones Benefit Ecosystems by Shaping Our Interactions With Wolves?

Wolves play important ecological roles as 'apex' predators. Outlined in issues 46 and 53 of *Wolf Print*, a series of articles demonstrated the two pathways in which apex predators influence food webs: through the impacts they have on prey species, and the interactions they have with smaller predators, or 'mesopredators'.

These interactions are vital for maintaining healthy and stable ecosystems, as their presence both limits the abundance and modifies the behaviour of other species. These effects continue down the food chain, ultimately altering habitat and resources for many species. This process is called a 'trophic cascade'.

The most recognisable mechanism by which apex predators structure ecosystems is through direct predation (consumptive effect), where predators

kill prey and smaller predators, reducing their population sizes. Perhaps more ecologically important are non-consumptive effects, where prey avoid areas where risk of predation by apex predators is high. Risk of predation instils fear, and it is this fear that helps prey survive by triggering risk-reducing behavioural responses.

Predation risk varies throughout landscapes, depending on predator presence and activity and the ability of a specific predator to hunt in different terrains and habitat types. This variation

in risk creates 'landscapes of fear', which animals must navigate to reduce their chance of being eaten. High-risk areas are often totally avoided, while in other areas, use of space is often a game of cat and mouse.

However, wolves are not the only apex predator. Humans are often referred to as a 'super-predator', eliciting fear in nearly all terrestrial vertebrates, including apex predators like wolves. We drive ecological change through our interactions with other species and modification of landscapes.



A camel crossing the road in the Arava Valley

This change, and therefore, our influence upon ecosystems, is dependent on culture and human relationships. People, their conflicts, and attitudes, vary globally. Likewise, risk to wildlife from people also varies. Wildlife is at higher risk in areas where people live in high density, where wildlife is directly persecuted, or where laws, policy, and their enforcement are lacking. Predators are especially affected by persecution, driven by people's fear of them and the potential threat they can pose to livestock.



Lone Arabian wolf (*Canis lupus arabs*) searching for food in the Arava Valley

People create landscapes of fear for wildlife, but people are also affected by fear of other people, especially in areas of conflict. It is an entirely unexpected outcome that in zones of human conflict, or in areas where the density of people is very low, that these zones can become safe for wildlife. Ecosystems in the demilitarised zone between North and South Korea and in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone remain free from pervasive human influences and have become sanctuaries for wildlife.

Of course, other regions of conflict may also be providing benefits to wildlife. One example is the Middle East, a vulnerable region with ongoing socio-political conflicts. Due to its geographical location at the meeting point of three continents, the region is a biodiversity hotspot that links African and Eurasian flora and fauna. With such a diverse array of species, the natural world of the Middle East is unique and important.

Concern for the protection of wildlife is gradually increasing across the Middle East. The region is home to two subspecies of grey wolf and the newly described African golden wolf (*Canis anthus*). Unfortunately, only two countries currently offer active protection: Israel and Oman. However, protection does not always equate with enforcement.

I am currently in Israel conducting my doctoral research on what shapes

survival of wolves. The research programme I am part of is particularly focused on the way human conflict and attitudes towards wolves alters landscapes of fear that then shape the trophic cascades in ecosystems.

In Israel, the Indian wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*) in the north, and the Arabian wolf (*Canis lupus arabs*) in the south, are separated by a dense human population. Information to date suggests these wolves thrive where there is considerable protection. Israel is quite conservation-minded, and strict penalties apply if wildlife protection laws are breached. However, protection does vary. In Golan Heights, where Israel borders Syria, wolves are systematically persecuted because they are thought to pose a threat to livestock. In national parks and other rural areas, protection is strong. Nevertheless, illegal poaching does occur.

In the southern deserts, wolves are sometimes killed illegally around free-ranging livestock. The Arava Valley is a large desert ecosystem that straddles the border between Israel and Jordan. Owing to strong protection laws in Israel, the valley's wolf population is reasonably stable on the Israeli side of the border. Despite being a desert, agriculture is common in the region. Consequently, dates and melons form a considerable part of the wolves' diet. Many animals in this hyper-arid landscape are attracted to the water and food waste associated



with agricultural fields and human settlements. Wolves, therefore, spend a lot of their time around human habitation, and are often seen inside the moshavim and kibbutzim – small, gated communities surrounded by agriculture – at night.

Habituation to human settlements can inadvertently increase risk to the wolves if it desensitises them to people. Across the border in Jordan, wolves are open to persecution as protection levels are lower and livestock farming is more common. The border with Israel is predominantly unfenced, meaning wolves can easily move between the two countries. On a recent trip to Jordan, I experienced considerable animosity from locals towards the wolves. Shepherds move with their flocks over considerable areas, so their flocks are vulnerable to wolf predation, putting the shepherds' livelihoods at stake. Similarly, livestock farming in the mountainous Israeli Negev Desert, west of the Arava, also puts wolves at risk of poaching and illegal persecution in this region. When approaching a settlement or town, are wolves able to understand how the different attitudes of the people within will directly influence their ability to find food or death?

There are places in the Middle East, however, where wolves may find it easier to assess risk. In Israel, militarised zones are common, creating landscapes of fear for humans. Military activity in these areas is constant, with mandatory service for both male and female school-leavers. Borders are highly manned by military and are often volatile territories. Remnant minefields still exist along the borders with Syria and Jordan.



A minefield in the Arava Valley

Military training areas – or 'firing zones' – are common in the country, particularly in the south where they cover the majority of the Negev. The general public have access to these areas only on weekends and Jewish holidays. These militarised zones act as 'safe havens' for the wolves of Israel. Many wolf dens can be found within the minefields, where they are safe from human persecution. And yet, once they step out of the minefield zones and into areas with livestock, the wolves are again at risk.

From what we are learning about the importance of apex predators, like wolves, in structuring ecosystems and shaping trophic cascades, we are beginning to recognise how ensuring their presence is vital for our efforts to protect and conserve biodiversity. Persecution of wolves threatens more than just the survival of their populations and species, the cascading effects will likely influence populations of organisms throughout the food chain and affect ecosystem functioning. Vegetation is scarce in regions like the Middle East, where a balance between herbivores and predators is essential to ensure long-term ecosystem health.

Conflict zones cause great devastation to both human societies and ecological systems. They provide, however, unparalleled opportunities to study how fear of people shapes ecosystems. This research is essential if we are to find ways to conserve biodiversity and coexist with wildlife.



Dorcas gazelle inspecting a remote-sensing camera trap in the Negev Desert

By studying trophic interactions in conflict zones we can gain insight into management strategies that can make ecosystems more resilient to human pressures. Importantly for wolves, it enables us to highlight the importance of large predators and to design education programmes that emphasise pathways to coexistence.

Gavin Bonsen
Centre for Compassionate Conservation, University of Technology Sydney, Australia. Doctoral candidate and the first-ever recipient of JNF Australia's Arava-Finkel Scholarship

<http://www.compassionateconservation.uts.edu.au/>

Words and photographs by Gavin Bonsen

The Trust has this year donated **£5,000** to this project.



Arabian wolf with a dorcas gazelle (Gazella dorcas) kill in the Arava Valley



Smackout Wolf Pack in Washington to be Obliterated

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has announced that after four attacks on wildlife since late last year in northeastern Washington (Stevens County), the Smackout Pack are now to be the victims of 'lethal removal'. Range riders have been active in the area but have not proved to be enough of a deterrent.

The only concession to the Smackout cull is that a few of the pack will be shot and then their behaviour observed. If they continue to kill livestock, the pack will be exterminated. It is not known how many animals there are currently

in the pack, as they produced numerous pups in spring of this year. Unpleasant still, the cull may involve helicopters, shooting or even trapping. It has been reported that ranchers have done their best to avoid conflict with wolves and this is the last resort.

The Smackout Pack is one of 20 confirmed packs in Washington.

UPDATE
As we go to press, one of the Smackout Pack has been killed.



AT LAST, SOME GOOD NEWS – Six Red Wolf Cubs Born in North Carolina

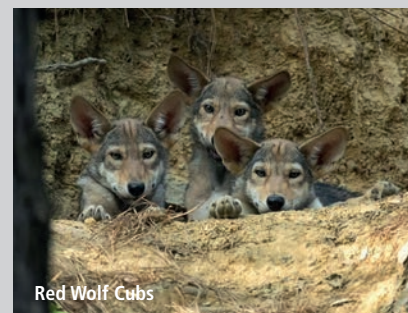
Six red wolf cubs were born at the Museum of Life and Science in Durham, North Carolina – the first for nearly two decades.

Considering that this is only the third time in 24 years that the museum has had a litter of red wolf pups and there are only 300 red wolves left in the wild, welcoming six new wolves into the world is a true cause for celebration.

'This is truly exciting news for the species and the Museum,' said Sherry Samuels, Museum of Life and

Science's Animal Department Director and member of the Red Wolf SSP Management Team. 'With recent developments surrounding the wild population, the responsibility of SSP institutions like the Museum is more critical than ever before. Each pup is valuable for the survival of the species and represents hope for the red wolf population overall.'

'It has been an exciting and busy summer keeping up with this family,' said Samuels 'This is a wonderful opportunity for our visitors to practice the skills used by wildlife biologists observing red wolves in the wild. Quiet observation and patience will be key when viewing our new pups.'



Red Wolf Cubs

Photographs of red wolf cubs by Museum of Life and Science <https://www.lifeandscience.org>



Italian Wolf Management Plan Reaches Another Impasse

Emotions are running high as Italy's wolf management plan, *Piano Lupo*, has been postponed yet again.



European wolves

Originally scheduled for 30th March, the approval vote has been delayed no fewer than four times and always at the last minute, a move Stefano Fucelli, president of animal rights movement Partito Animalista Europeo, has blamed on the fear of protests. Despite welcoming the plan's measures against poaching and hybridisation, PAE and other conservation groups like WWF Italia have been fighting tooth and nail against paragraph III.7, which allows

culling in certain cases. Conversely, some in favour of the cull have made themselves heard, and unfortunately with more than words.

Claudio, a radio-collared wolf from anti-hybridisation project LIFE MIRCO-Lupo, was found shot dead. Other wolves have also been discovered strung up on road signs or trees, and in the most recent and controversial case, in the Tuscan town Suvereto, the placard 'No to the cull, yes to prevention!' was displayed next to the body.

The killing has been condemned by the town's mayor, and conservation group AIDAA has offered a €30,000

reward for the identification and conviction of those responsible. One of Piano Lupo's proposals is a centralised anti-poaching team, as well as tighter controls on poison, so conservationists are eager for the plan to be revised and enforced as soon as possible. Fortunately, they are not alone in their fight.

Stefano Bonaccini, president of the Conference of the Regions and the Autonomous Provinces, announced that a majority of 11 regions were in favour of removing paragraph III.7 from the plan. This almost unanimous vote, coupled with the public response to poaching, and WWF Italia's #soslupo campaign passing one million supporters, may prove a ray of hope for Italy's wolves. Time will tell.

Jessica Jacobs

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French Government to Cull Dozens of Wolves

'Cull' is now truly a four-letter word for conservationists in a world where conflict with wild animals is all too common.

In the mountainous area of south-east France, it has been claimed that over 8,000 animals, mainly sheep, have been slaughtered by wolves. Considering there are only approximately 300 wolves in the whole of France, this does seem odd. Farmers also claim that electric fences and guarding dogs are powerless against lupine attacks, despite research that contradicts their claims.

So sadly a cull will go ahead and up to 40 wolves will be killed. Technically after 32 wolves have been slaughtered, farmers will only be permitted to kill a wolf if the animal is about to attack their livestock or is in the process of doing so.

Ecology Minister Nicolas Hulot wants France to achieve a balance between safeguarding wolves and protecting farmers' livelihoods.



Understandably many are not happy about the decision and are also questioning the maths involved in such a small population of wolves allegedly decimating flocks.



Large Carnivore Centre, Bulgaria

In the foothills of the Pirin Mountains, lies the village of Valhi, a truly unique place where environmental activists have transformed the village. In 2003, a nature school was set up in the village's derelict school building, a place where children and adults can learn to live in harmony with nature.

The village then became home to Elena Tsingarska, who opened the Large Carnivore Centre, while her husband Sider Sedechev runs the Rare Breeds Centre. Sider has successfully revived the ancient Karakachan breeds of sheep, horses and guarding dogs, as well as Kalofer longhaired goats. The Karakachan guarding dogs protect local herds from attacks by wolves, bears and golden jackals. Bulgaria has some of the highest density of large carnivores in any European country, with about 2,300 wolves and 600 bears. Sider provides Karakachan pups to local farmers, which has resulted in an 80% decrease in livestock depredations.

Large predators continue to receive bad press in Bulgaria with wolves still having a bounty on their heads, equivalent to two weeks' wages. The Large Carnivore Centre was set

up to aid research and education, as dispelling myths and misconceptions about wolves is hugely important. In 1999, the team started education activities in schools and in 2007 the Large Carnivore Education Centre was opened. The Centre is equipped with interactive materials, making it especially engaging for young children, and a hall for seminars and workshops to raise awareness about wolves. The Centre is also home to two wolves and two bears – all rescued – meaning they cannot return to the wild. Similar to the Trust, these animals now act as ambassadors for their species and aid educational activities.

I received a warm welcome to the Pirin Mountains from Elena, her family, their flocks of sheep, goats and 30 livestock guard dogs. Around their kitchen table I experienced the delights of mountain life with

homemade yogurt, cheese and fresh milk. My stay at the Large Carnivore Education Centre was only for a few days but it left a big impression on me; the dedication to the cause amongst the idyllic hills in Valhi village made a big impact. The Centre is now in the final stages and will soon be ready for paying guests to experience the landscape, learn about the vital work Elena and her team carry out and notably meet the wolves and bears.

I was lucky enough to spend an unforgettable afternoon in the sunshine with Medow, their male ambassador bear. Medow is relaxed and playful, he loves to scratch his back on his favourite tree, and I even saw him sitting upright with his leg out in front licking his paws just like Winnie the Pooh. As I lay beside the enclosure with Medow in his pond 30 metres

below, I applied sun cream to my face. As I opened my eyes, time froze for a second; when I looked up, Medow was standing over me just four feet away, even though we were separated by a wire fence. I've never felt so in awe of nature and so vulnerable next to such a giant creature. What took me by surprise was his speed and quietness as he left his pond and walked across rocks and brush to get a closer smell of my sun cream. I also spent time with their ambassador wolves as they cautiously peeked over rocks or from behind a bush until they gained confidence to stand upon their favourite rock looking down at me and across their landscape.

Elena and her team work tirelessly to educate both adults and children about the misconceptions of the wolf through courses, workshops and interactive displays at the centre. Out in the field they track wild wolves, take scat collections, make dietary analysis and examine wolf carcasses to inform and educate hunters and policy makers about wolf numbers and their territories to ensure their future protection.



Zorista, female wolf

Today the main threat facing the Bulgarian grey wolf is unregulated hunting which results in inbreeding and hybridisation. If an alpha male is killed, the alpha female may mate with feral dogs, golden jackals or even a close relative. Elena is working to restrict hunting during the wolf-breeding season to ensure the wolf population remains healthy and prosperous.

The UKWCT has supported Elena and her project since 2006, donating over £62,000 and providing exchange students to help with their vital work. Without government funding The Large Carnivore Centre is solely reliant on donations, so to find out how you could make a difference visit www.balkani.org/en/about/centres/

Words and photographs by Lara Palmer

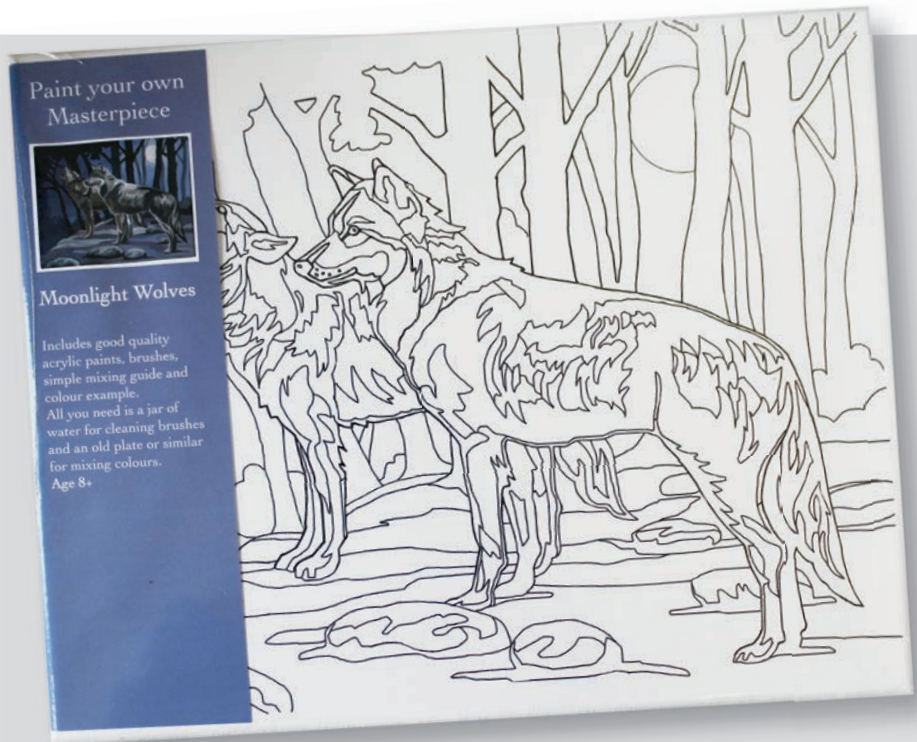


Medow



Bayto, male wolf

Gifts, clothing and wolfy souvenirs



Moonlight Wolves Acrylic Painting Kit £10.00

Paint your own wolf canvas kit, pre-mounted on wooden frame. Supplied with six acrylic paints, three brushes, mixing guide & example. Size 29.5cm x 23.5cm



Silver Two Wolf Head Heart Pendant £23.00

A 2.5cm silver pendant with two wolf heads shaped in a heart designed by Lisa Parker, for use with your own chain. (Chain not supplied)



Silver Wolf & Moon Pendant £23.00

A 2.5cm silver wolf & moon pendant designed by Lisa Parker, for use with your own chain. (Chain not supplied). Also available as earrings £23.00

Wolf Water Game £4.00

A very addictive game. By pressing buttons & getting hoops, players can manoeuvre & land onto spikes. Not suitable for under 3 years of age. 15cm x 6.5cm



3D Notebook £2.60

A spiral bound notebook. 60 Blank white sheets. Size 10.5cm wide x 14.5cm height. Back cover blank. Choice from three different designs – A: Jumping wolves, B: Leader of The Pack or C: Wolf Pack.



Chromium Decorative Wolf Spoon £5.00

Chromium spoon with wolf on the top & with the words UK Wolf Conservation Trust printed on handle. Length 12cm. Packaged in presentation box.

Lens & Screen Cloth £3.99

A lens & screen cloth which is ideal for camera lens, glasses, mobile phones & tablets. Nuka pictured on front only. Size 17.5cm x 14.5cm



Chromium Wolf Head Keyring £3.25

Chromium wolf head howling keyring, with the words UK Wolf Conservation Trust printed on the neckline. Length 6.5cm

To view and order any of these items and our other stationery, clothing, books, gifts and souvenirs, visit our online shop at www.ukwolf.org or call 0118 971 3330.

Please note: all UK orders are subject to a minimum P&P charge of £4.50. For overseas orders, please contact us.

In Loving Memory of Georgia Morris

2004–2016

A tribute from her father, Richard

Georgia was a beautiful and bright little girl who loved wolves and was a junior member of the UKWCT, which she joined aged ten in 2014. She loved all animals and nature throughout her life, but she developed a particular obsession with wolves, although her parents and brother aren't really sure where this came from!



Georgia was sadly only able to visit the UKWCT once, in May 2015, when she did a wolf walk that she loved and talked about for a long time afterwards. Her favourite was Torak, but she adored them all.

Her other passions in life were art and photography and she was very good at both – the walls of her bedroom are covered with wolves - some posters, but also her own photos and paintings.

She was extremely knowledgeable about all animals and would dazzle her family with facts, remembering



everything she read in books and magazines, such as *World of Animals*.

Georgia was diagnosed in early 2014 with neuroblastoma, a rare form of childhood cancer. She had many treatments for the disease over the next two and a half years and faced them all with amazing courage and cheerfulness. During this time her love for wolves and all animals intensified even further; we think perhaps because she felt safe with them and knew they wouldn't ask her any questions, like why had she lost her hair for example. But despite managing to live quite a normal life for much of this time, the

disease sadly progressed further and she died last October, aged just 12.

My wife Selena and I, plus our son Charlie, intend to continue visiting UKWCT, and supporting it in memory of our beloved Georgia.

Georgia was so passionate about wolves and also enjoyed many holidays with us in Spain. So we felt it very appropriate to honour Georgia's love of lupines and our memories of her, to donate £3,000 to José Vicente López-Bao's Iberian Wolf Research Project in Spain. (<https://ukwct.org.uk/index.php?page=spain>)



Dorothy Hearst and Wolves. (Photo: Lori A Cheung).

Questions for Dorothy Hearst, author of *The Wolf Chronicles* trilogy

In childhood, how did you react to *Red Riding Hood*?

I never thought about it, accepting the Big Bad Wolf as a villain in *Little Red Riding Hood* and *The Three Little Pigs*. One of my favorite childhood books, *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* by Joan Aiken, features not only real wolves as a threat, but the villains in the story as metaphorical wolves. *Julie of the Wolves* was the book that showed wolves in a different light. I didn't think about the portrayal of wolves until I started writing about them.

Did the experiences of being an actor and editor help you as a writer?

Because of my acting background, I start with character and build plot and setting from there, with a character who wants something very badly, and

then giving her a conflict that keeps her from getting it.

My editorial background was a lifesaver; I understood right from the start that most writing is revising, an author must write for her audience. It was my job as a writer to paint a vivid picture for my readers.

Are you a cartographer (meticulous, shaping things from the beginning, knowing outcomes) or an explorer (finding plot in a more organic and 'dangerous' way)?

I am both, although more of an explorer. I start with a vision of a character in a situation, then write to find out what that character wants to tell me. It could be two pages, or thirty. I start drawing the plot on paper, or I use a computer programme called Scapple. After

outlining I go back to writing, going back and forth throughout the entire writing of a novel.

The rules for Kaala: 'Never consort with humans. Never kill a human unprovoked. Never allow a mixed-blood wolf to live.' What form of research was needed to get a factual basis for the books?

Before I started the trilogy I believed that wolves were dangerous. In the earliest writing I did on *Promise of the Wolves*, my wolves were vicious, and hunted humans. When I started my research, I realised that the *Big Bad Wolf* was a fairy story. Wolves were misunderstood, so the

misconceptions became a centerpiece of the trilogy. Where did this misconception come from and what did it mean? Why don't wolves usually see humans as prey? What about the relationship between wolves and humans which led the wolves to join us rather than hunt us? I read everything I could on wolves and the evolution.

You initially hated research: <http://yareview.net/2011/01/how-i-went-from-hating-research-to-loving-it/> It must have also been fun to be creative with the giant wolves in the books, as they are not strictly real wolves as we know them.

The mixing of research and imagination is one of my favorite parts of writing fiction, finding gaps in what we know and filling them in with what might be. The Greatwolves were fun to write, and ended up being one of those instances when a writer makes up something that turns out to be sort of true. I based them on dire wolves, which were found primarily in North America. There had been none found in Europe, where I placed Kaala's story. Then I made them bigger and stronger than dire wolves. Later, some bones of really big wolves were found in Europe.



Tell us about the role of dreams.

I wanted to create a complex world of myth and culture, and dreams were part of this. As a chosen wolf torn between two strong directives, Kaala finds guidance and clarity in the world of dreams.

I had a lot of waking dreams while writing *The Wolf Chronicles*, the first came at the Squaw Valley Community of Writers workshop when I had written about three chapters of the first book. I was in a lecture in a room that had a tall ceiling and wooden rafters, and suddenly there were wolves watching me from the rafters. Another time I was in a meeting at work, and there were wolves walking on the conference table. They kept showing up.

How do you create Kaala, such a complex animal character?

Acting training helped. I didn't write Kaala from the perspective of a person looking at a wolf. I went inside her fur to see, smell, and hear the world as a wolf would. I thought about what matters – being part of the pack, hunting successfully, protecting territory. Her compromises were



Dorothy and Dante. (Photo: Lori A Cheung)

helpful to me rather than challenging, a wolf caught between duty to her pack and her attraction to the humans. She wants to do what is expected of a young wolf and can't, loves her pack mates and will do anything for them. Then she meets a human girl she loves just as much as she loves her pack, and is conflicted.

Who might voice Kaala and some of the other characters in a film?

I hear the voices so clearly in my head! Cate Blanchett, Halle Berry, Jennifer Lawrence – someone powerful and deeply thoughtful. Rissa and Ruuqo – Meryl Streep and Chris Cooper or

Viggo Mortensen, Ázzen – maybe Elijah Wood.

The Greatwolves have always been Judi Dench or Helen Mirren, and James Earl Jones. Tlitoo has to play himself.

What lessons do you hope readers take away from the trilogy?

To stop treating nature and our own wild nature as a threat if we want to keep from destroying our world. That anyone can become a leader. That friendship, trust, and love when combined with courage and conviction can be our guides.

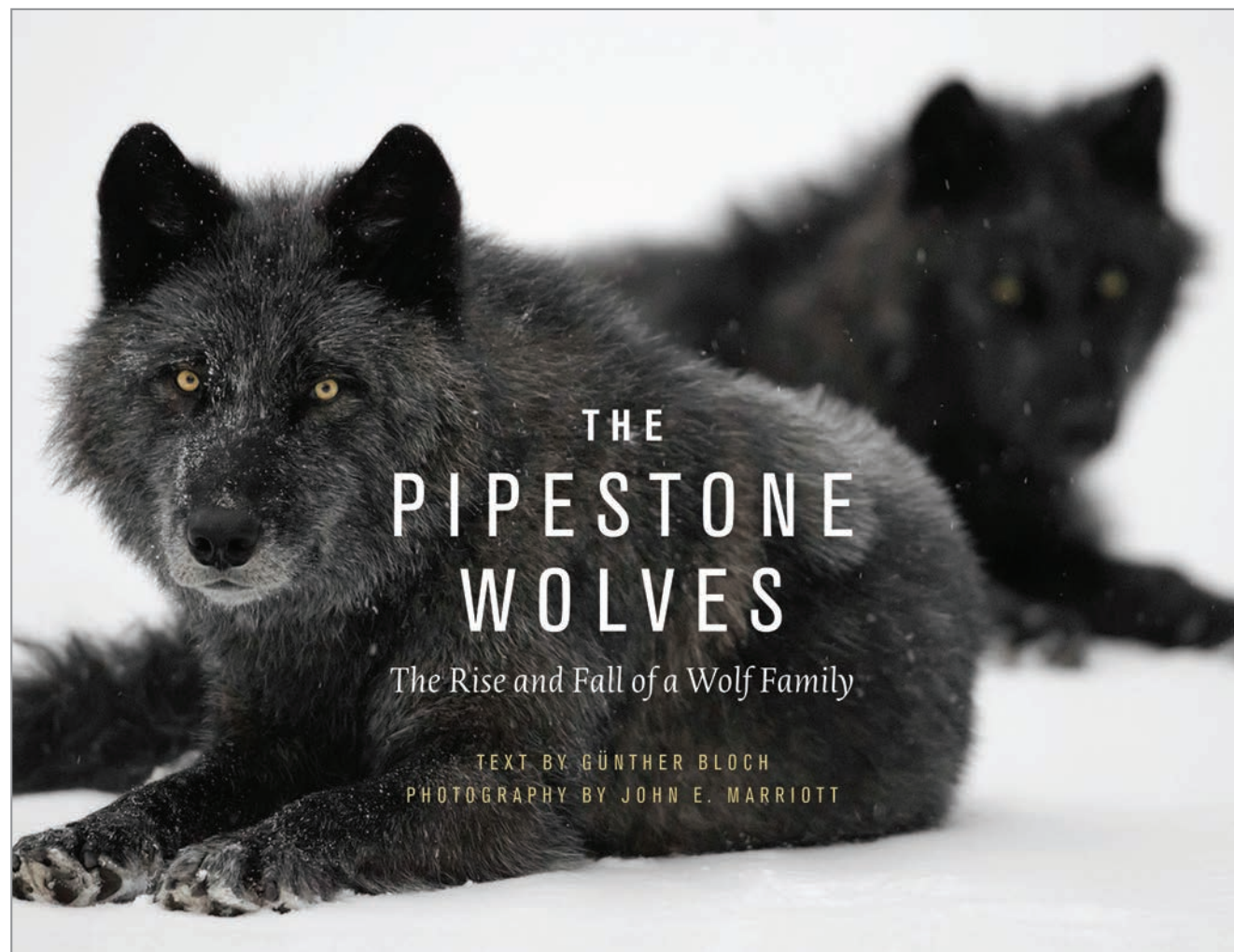
What next for you as a writer?

I have about ninety stories I want to write. I've narrowed them down to about seven top contenders. I'm reading into a book about ghosts right now, and working on some nonfiction as well.

Julia Bohanna

Dorothy Hearst is the author of the trilogy that includes: *Promise of the Wolves*, *Secrets of the Wolves* and *Spirit of the Wolves*

More on the author can be found here: www.dorothyhearst.com



The Pipestone Wolves
The Rise and Fall of a Wolf Family

By Günther Bloch
Photographs by John E. Marriott
Published by Rocky Mountain Books (12 July 2016)
Hardcover 192pp
RRP £26.99 ISBN-10: 1771601604 ISBN-13: 978-1771601603

In 2009, Günther Bloch and his wife Karin were observing the Bow Valley Wolf pack in Banff National Park, Canada. They had been following this pack for a while and knew that the wolves had recently had pups. In June 2009, Günther and Karin heard that a lactating smoky grey female had been spotted in the Baker Creek area of the Bow Valley. This female was not part of the Bow Valley pack, as Günther and Karin were observing both their den and rendezvous sites. This wolf was later named Faith and was the dominant female of the soon to be known Pipestone Wolf pack.

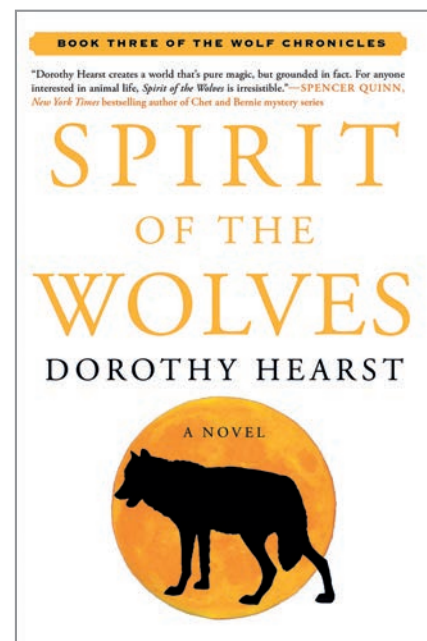
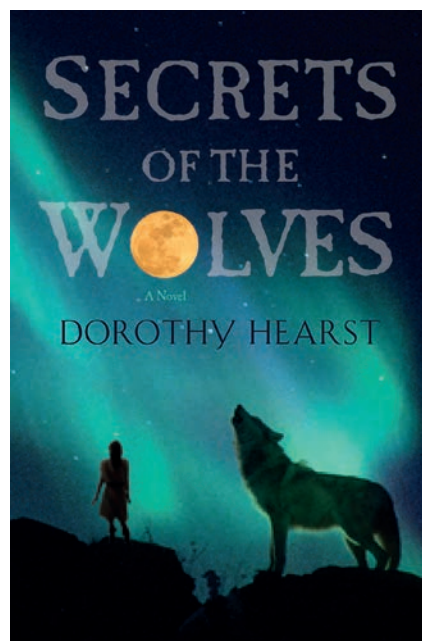
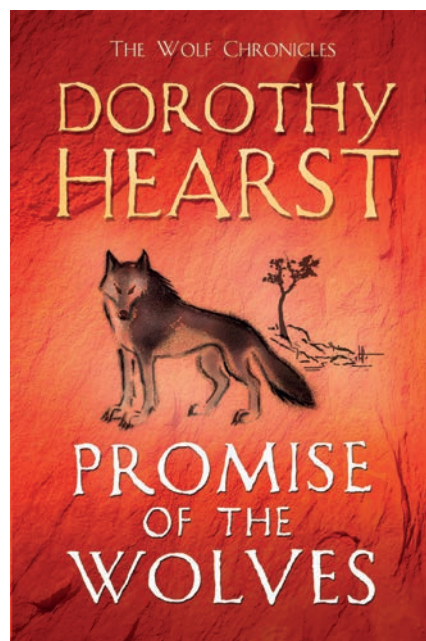
This book takes you on a journey from when the Pipestones arrived, and up until their eventual downfall. It is filled with behaviour that the wolves exhibited, beautifully documented by the author's direct observations and stunningly beautiful photographs taken by John E. Marriott. It makes this a 'must have' for anyone who enjoys reading up on animal behaviour, and of course wolves!

Throughout, you get the sense that the authors and photographer greatly cared, not just for the Pipestone wolves, but all wildlife in Banff

National Park. They were heavily concerned with the amount of ungulates that were being killed on both the Bow Valley Parkway and Canadian Pacific Railway. Although the carcasses did provide a source of food for the wolves, this also put the wolves at risk of being hit as well.

This stunning book takes you into a world that very few are privileged to experience, creating a deeper sense of respect for these astonishing animals.

Francesca Macilroy



Julie of the Wolves

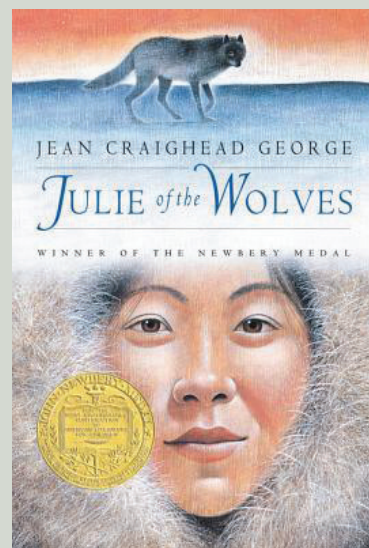
By Jean Craighead George
Published HarperTrophy (2 Oct. 1974)
Paperback: 170 pages
ISBN-10: 0064400581 ISBN-13: 978-0064400589

Julie of the Wolves is the first instalment of a trilogy aimed at children and young adults. I am ashamed to say that I only discovered this book very recently while looking for a new book to read that was either about wolves, or featured them. Reading the foreword to the book, you learn that Jean Craighead George was meticulous with her research into setting, wildlife, plants and survival skills – this is very apparent from the way the novel is written.

Most of all, the behaviour and body language that the wolves display is

extremely authentic. This attention to detail allows you to escape into Miyax's (also known as Julie) world, her thoughts and feelings.

Miyax is a young girl who is lost and alone out on the Tundra, where she comes across a wolf pack. She knows that they are her only chance of survival. Slowly, by observing their body language, Miyax must use this advantage to befriend the wolves. Will it be enough though for her to survive the winter? I urge you to read and find out! The book also comes with added bonuses which include Jean



Craighead's George's Newbery Medal acceptance speech with archival photos and selections from her field notebooks, Julie of the Wolves' discussion guide, suggested reading list, and an excerpt from the sequel to Miyax's adventure, simply called Julie.

Francesca Macilroy

Wolf Haven Sanctuary and the Future of Wolves in North America

By Brenda Peterson and Annie Marie Musselman
Published by Sasquatch
Hardback 135pp
RRP £16.99 ISBN-13: 978-1632170514

At Wolf Haven International, the name is gloriously appropriate. Wolves and wolfdogs 'caught between two worlds' find a haven there from lives of torture, neglect, exploitation or incarceration. In this very beautiful and thoughtful book, author Brenda Peterson poetically documents the wolves and work done at the sanctuary, with her well-structured essay. Annie Marie Musselman's exquisitely soulful photographs complement the words perfectly. It is very clear that 'these wolves come first', as the animals bask in large naturalistic environments, creating packs of their choice and loping through expanses of prairie and forest.

This is however not simply a book about Wolf Haven's characterful wolves such as Ladyhawk, but also about their captive breeding programme and the release of fragile species into the wild, such as the Mexican and red wolf. The former of the two are fondly referred to as 'little lobos'. The book educates without being worthily didactic, focussing on the important and intelligent elements of wolf conservation in North America, such as nonlethal deterrents, education and working hard with communities to discuss complex human-predator issues. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife are also studying



the newly-returned gopher at the centre. The sanctuary's ethos is 'deep ecology' – a more holistic and progressive form of conservation.

This is a book may make you hopeful about the future of Canis lupus. There is still much to be done of course in America, particularly in the current anti-conservation political climate – but Wolf Haven is a heroic place and the book should be widely read.

Julia Bohanna

Photography Day

Each of the four wolf packs can be photographed from an adjoining enclosure where there are specially made holes for cameras, giving great results. These charismatic animals who look their best in the winter months. Expert handlers will encourage the wolves to stand in the best position in their natural-looking enclosures. You will also be able to use our raised photography platform. During the day the handlers will give a tour of the Trust, seeing all of wolves and learning about each individual.

Refreshments available but not lunch included, so please bring your own

Check website for future dates – 10.30am to 3pm
£80 per person (no wolf walk included). Suitable for all abilities.
Age 18+ – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.



Wolf Discovery Day

Spend the whole day studying in-depth wolf behaviour close up by observing and getting involved with the welfare of our ten resident wolves. Learn about wolf pack structure, our wolves' personalities and take close-up photos.

You will have the opportunity to:

- Listen to a presentation about wolf behaviour
- Learn personal information on our ten resident wolves
- Prepare their food and feed the wolves
- Take part in our enrichment programme for the wolves, which differs daily, and observe the behaviours shown. Learn how we keep our wolves healthy and happy
- Have a tour inside one of our enclosures whilst the wolves are in a different holding area and learn about the habitat in which we keep our wolves
- Undertake wolf tracking and learn how to use our telemetry equipment with our Wolfkeeper Mike, who has tracked wolves in the wild
- Have a howling session to encourage the wolves to howl back
- Watch a wrap-up presentation about the projects we support. Learn what needs to happen for wolves and humans to coexist in the future
- Take close-up photos throughout the day

Make sure to bring your own lunch, tea and coffee will be provided.

Check website for future dates – 10am to 4pm
£90 Per person. Age 18+ – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.





UKWCT Wolf Centre 'Visit Wednesdays'

Visit **Wednesdays** give you the opportunity to come and see the Trust without pre-booking, unlike our other events. You will be able to observe our ten very charismatic wolves – from our three Arctics with their amazing white coats, to our enigmatic black Canadian wolves – and have a guided tour with one of our knowledgeable volunteers. There will be fantastic photographic views of the wolves in their large, natural-looking enclosures and you'll have access to the raised photographic platform on site. Hear them howling during the day and watch them being fed at 2pm. We have picnic areas for warmer days, a gift shop for you to browse for books and souvenirs, and plenty of free parking.



Wednesdays – Open from 11am to 4pm

ADMISSION: Adults – £8; Members, children (age 3-11) & OAPs – £5; Children under 3 – FREE. Tickets on the gate only. Sorry, no dogs on site. Please note that there are no guided tours on busy open days.



Howl Nights

Feel your backbone tingle and your ears vibrate with the sound of the wolves howling. The evening starts with a presentation on wolf communication; you will then go on a tour of the Trust and have the opportunity to let out a howl and see if the wolves respond! (Don't forget to dress up warmly for an evening under the stars). The event usually finishes from around 9 to 9.30pm.

**6th October, 3rd November,
15th December – 7pm to 9.30pm**
Check website for future dates
£10 per person. Age 8+. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL.**



Halloween Creepy Crawlies Children's Event

- This October half term, come and meet Luke Quirk's creepy crawlies and learn why they are important
- Learn about a variety of animals such as tarantulas, snakes, scorpions and lizards
- Listen to a presentation highlighting the importance of much feared species
- Have the chance to handle some creepy crawlies!
- Talk and tour of the Trust to see our resident wolves

Limited Places available. A packed lunch is required on this day.

**26th October
10:30am to 1:30pm**
£12 per person, £10 junior members
BOOKING REQUIRED.