

WOLF PRINT

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust

Issue 63 | Spring 2018

Fighting a Nordic War

Norway's cull makes waves

Spirits of The East

The magical lost wolves of Japan

Taking The High Road

Wolf superstition in the Himalayas

NEWS



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RESEARCH



MEDIA AND ARTS



Cover image: Torak by Mike Collins

Published by The UK Wolf Conservation Trust, Butlers Farm, Beenham, Reading, RG7 5NT. Tel: 0118 971 3330, email: ukwct@ukwolf.org, website: www.ukwct.org

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AIMS OF THE UK WOLF CONSERVATION TRUST

- 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.

Download Wolf Print, including back issues, from www.ukwolf.org



Design and artwork by BambooHouse
Publishing: www.bamboohouse.co.uk
Tel: 01225 331023

Printed by: Pensord, NP12 2YA, www.pensord.co.uk
on FSC paper from sustainable forest sources.

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Issue 63 | Spring 2018



Editor's Letter

Julia and Nuka

In Wolf Print, we generally report on worldwide lupine projects that we support. We also highlight the real problems and successes that are encountered daily in the world of conservation. We are profiling a large predator, one that causes ripples wherever it appears or reappears. Yet there are many complex sides of the wolf; it is also considered to be mysterious, mercurial and even magical, making it a totemic animal for many.

By magic, I do not necessarily mean wizards, witches or werewolves. Wolves may simply cast a spell with their mesmeric eyes, ethereal howl and loping, muscular stride. They are the epitome of wildness and wilderness but also shy, nocturnal animals, making them doubly elusive. Stories have been woven around them for centuries and in this issue, we have travelled in print across the world, from Japan, India, Nepal, Norway and Belgium, to show the true magic of canis lupus.

Magic can be dark or light and alchemic beliefs that involve body parts has always encouraged a particular damaging trade in poaching and slaughter. The research project sent to us by Friends of Nature in Nepal gives some uncomfortable but detailed information on this common problem.

Shining a light on worldwide conservation is all very well, but who would have thought that the greatest wolf magician might be closer to home? One of our own ambassador wolves, handsome Torak, recently did a disappearing act from the Trust

that made Sky News. We have Tsa's account of our boy's adventures, which thankfully ended without him being hurt in any way. Wolves are wanderers but also have a strong sense of home and family. It also shone a light on the hysteria that afflicts the media, although the support and compassion that radiated from many was truly uplifting.

In this issue, we also celebrate the more ethereal elements of wolfishness and the 'quieter' species, such as the Himalayan wolf and the truly beleaguered Mexican wolf. It is a sobering thought that there are more people fighting for the survival and protection of the Mexican wolf than there are of the species left in the wild. You can read about the lawsuit to protect them in our Wolves of the World section.

The wolf will always be hated and worshipped in equal measure. To the pro-wolfer, they simply have 'something' that enchants and enslaves us. I have been in an enclosure with three young Arctic wolves and as real as they were, with their carnivore breath and steady gaze, I had a moment of whimsy and felt they looked like angels, even when they were behaving like devils. Their eyes seemed to look deep into your very soul. That's the magic.

Wishing you all a lovely spring and a fantastic 2018.

Julia Bohanna, Editor

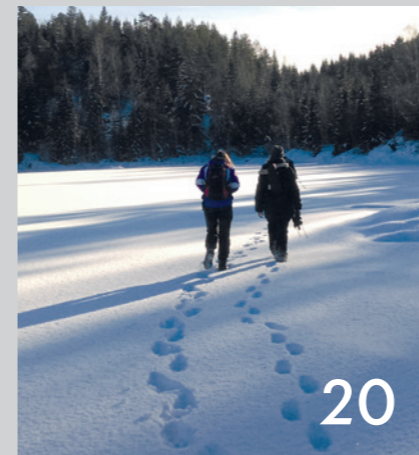
Julia Bohanna



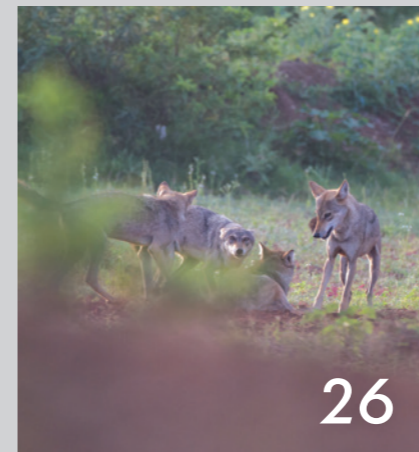
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Tundra by Steven Vacher



Important News

After a great deal of thought and with much sadness we have decided not to renew our zoo licence in September, and will revert to holding a Dangerous Wild Animals Act licence. Consequently, the Trust will close its doors to Wednesday visitors and all public events with the wolves at the end of August.

Since 1995 we've had around 200,000 visitors to the Trust



Since my late husband Roger started the UK Wolf Conservation Trust in 1995, it has significantly grown in popularity. Last year we had almost 12,000 visitors. In truth we have struggled to cope with this number with our limited facilities on site, especially during the wet winter months when we are unable to use the field for car parking.

As I approach retirement age and a quieter life I have made this decision with a heavy heart. The wolves will remain here in their enclosures, with sufficient funds saved over the years to care for them. Volunteers who know them well will continue to walk

and socialise with them. My children Lara, Johnny and I will ultimately share the responsibility for their welfare. As you know Torak, Mosi, Mai and Motomo are reaching the twilight years of their life and particularly deserve the optimum care and attention.

Since 1995 we've had around 200,000 visitors to the Trust here at Butlers Farm and in the early days, by taking the wolves to a number of large country shows, we probably introduced the wolves to at least another 200,000. We are very proud of what the Trust has achieved, from breeding the first European wolves in the UK for over 350 years,



Roger and Tsa Palmer with Quatro

importing the first Arctic wolves to the UK, educating people worldwide, to supporting and donating over £355,000 to vital wolf conservation projects across the globe.

The perception of the wolf has changed immeasurably since Roger obtained his first wolf cub "My Lady" in the early 1970s. After the passing of the Berne Convention in 1982, the wolf is now a protected species in Europe. There is an action plan for the conservation of wolves in Europe and their numbers are steadily increasing. The wolf is defying our prejudice and living increasingly successfully alongside us. Wolves only returned to Germany at the start of the century but now there are 60 packs totalling between 150 and 160

adult wolves. Last winter Denmark welcomed its first pack for more than two centuries. Wolves have been sighted in the Netherlands, Northern France and even Luxembourg. A wolf recently returned to Belgium, the last continental European country without wild wolves.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff, volunteers, members and visitors who have supported the Trust over the years and made it such a success. I do hope you will visit us during the summer months and I shall write a fuller article about the achievements of the Trust in the final Wolf Print edition due out in August.

Tsa Palmer

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff, volunteers, members and visitors who have supported the Trust over the years and made it such a success.”



Children's Christmas Cracker Event



Torak by Mike Collins

Christmas trees were put up in each enclosure the week before the event but on the day, the Arctics' tree had to be put up again after they decided it looked better on its side! Usually it is Tala that runs off with the Beenhams' tree. The wolves, apart from unsocialised wolf Motomo and Mai, were moved into their side enclosures ready for the children to place their crackers on the trees.

Excited children of all ages arrived with their parents and friends and after a brief health and safety talk, were taken to the Education Room where tables were laden with eggs, fish, sausages, black pudding and ham to fill toilet roll middles. The children wrapped the rolls in brightly coloured Christmas paper. Christmas cakes had been cooked with fish and eggs 'iced' with cream cheese to give to each wolf.

Children were allowed into the empty enclosures to walk around with volunteers and see how the wolves live and the huge holes they dig. Enrichment methods were also explained. Then the children put their crackers on the trees and also hid some for enrichment. They then came out of the enclosures and impatiently waited for the wolves to be let back in. It was an ideal opportunity for everyone to watch the wolves' behaviour and volunteers were on hand to explain the behaviour and talk about the wolves in each enclosure.

In the Beenhams' enclosure Nuka tore in and quickly licked all the cream cheese from his sisters' cakes before taking his own and a pile of crackers away to eat under his tree. Tala and Tundra had to make do with the rest, but quickly found most of the hidden crackers.

Motomo and Mai's crackers had to be thrown over to them and, although Motomo was wary of the crowd, he soon caught and 'wolfed' down the flying treats. Mai was more ladylike. Pukak was first as usual to run back into the Arctics' enclosure and start grabbing crackers and a cake. Sister Sikko followed and finally Massak, the dominant male, who likes to make sure it is safe before he comes back in. The Arctic wolves eat voraciously and soon decimated the treats to the delight of the children watching. They are always the firm favourites with visitors.

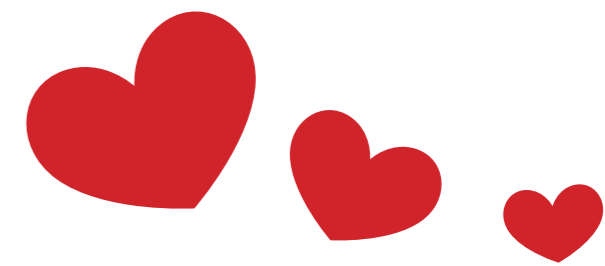
Mosi and Torak had a more relaxed approach: Torak took his cake and casually loped off to eat it in solitude. Mosi, as usual, urinated on everything in sight to claim it as hers and then made a pile of crackers and sat by guarding them. Whenever Torak wandered by she bared her teeth and growled at him! She stayed guarding her stash long after everyone had left! Later in the day Torak was seen coming over the top of the mound with a cracker in his mouth. He is such a majestic, iconic wolf. What a great photo opportunity.

The event is not only fun for the children but it also teaches them the need to protect wolves and their habitats in the wild and the importance of conservation.

Conservation starts with education!

Wendy Brooker

Valentine's Day Children's Event



On February 15, 47 adults and children prepared heart-shaped treats for the wolves. The rain cleared and there was sunshine. The children decorated heart-shaped cardboard boxes with heart designs and a wolf's name, then filled them with black pudding, cheese, cooked sausages, fish and eggs. There were also four large heart-shaped cakes and 24 heart-shaped biscuits made from tuna, eggs, flour and water that the children coated in low fat cream cheese.

Apart from unsocialised Motomo and his mate Mai, the wolves had been put into their side enclosures ready for the children to go into their main enclosures to hide the treats. The children and adults were carefully counted in and out!

The Beenhams were the first to receive the treats and they ran back in to smell where everyone had been and what they had left. Nuka did his usual licking off cream cheese and then grabbing boxes to eat. Tala found several treats

whilst Tundra was more reserved and went for the boxes furthest away. The visitors had lots of questions about the wolves' behaviour and wolves in general.

Motomo and Mai's boxes and cakes had to be thrown over to them. Motomo is very clever at catching food and Mai just scooped up biscuits and any food that fell out of the boxes. One handler behind the barrier got covered in the contents of a box after a child's throwing wasn't quite so good!

The Arctic pack watched eagerly where the children put the food and ran in once the gate was opened, to sniff visitors' footprints and then grab boxes and biscuits to eat. Massak got the large cake before Pukak could get to it and Sikko quietly went round eating biscuits and box contents, letting her brothers compete for the rest, a strategy that Sikko has perfected. Mosi and Torak were the last to get their Valentine's Day treats and Torak picked up a box and strolled to the back of the enclosure to enjoy the tasty morsels, leaving Mosi dashing about sniffing boxes to see which had the best contents. Whilst Mosi was busily wolfing down food, Torak quietly took the large cake and walked over the top of the mound to savour it in private.



Mai by Pat Melton

Wendy Brooker

DONATIONS TO PROJECTS WORLDWIDE FROM THE UKWCT IN 2018

INDIA	University of California, Davis. The Wolves of India Study	£3,000
ISRAEL/SYRIA	Gavin Bonsen PhD. International Wolf Project	£5,000
ETHIOPIA	Claudio Sillero, Born Free Foundation. Ethiopian Wolf Project	£5,000
USA	Neil Hutt, Red Wolf Coalition	£2,000
UK	Thames Valley Police Cadets	£5,000
Total		£20,000



Torak by Mike Collins



Updates for Torak and Mosi

Interesting times for Torak and Mosi recently, culminating in Torak touring the local countryside and becoming an international celebrity!

The news reached Australia, Africa and America – even making the Washington Post. UKWCT was at the centre of media attention. Mosi spent an anxious day whining and pacing; I tried to calm her by talking to her and Craig Jefferies, a senior handler also assisted in trying to calm her. When Torak returned, Mosi bounded after him excitedly whimpering and nibbling his muzzle. He was a little lame for a day and had a weepy eye from an encounter with undergrowth, but antibiotics soon solved that. His adoptions soared and more new visitors came on the first two open days after the event as a result of the publicity.

Torak of course was totally oblivious to visitors coming to see the famous wolf! As breeding season approached, he kept to the trails he had made to conserve energy and protected his territory as if

nothing had happened. He stood on top of the mound and howled for long periods to warn other wolves that this was his territory, so keep away!

Torak and Mosi are stunning with thick shiny coats and long fluffy tails. Old age certainly suits them. Pat Melton and I remade their straw beds in their kennels for our OAPs. Reaching 12, it would be unlikely that they would still be alive in the wild, so need our duty of care in captivity. The wolves rarely use their kennels at night but when it is extremely cold the older wolves leave 'wolf-shaped' indentations, indicating that they have gone inside for a while. Torak came out one early morning stretching and yawning sleepily.

Mosi caught and ate a woodcock recently, an endangered species. Any

bird landing in her enclosure is critically endangered! Also a foolish pheasant took no notice of Mosi 'moseying' along beside him – she turned like lightning and grabbed him. Another snack! She also munches mice and voles like crisps. She buried a mouse one day and Torak dug it up. He knows all her predictable caching sites!

It is amusing to watch the wolves playing, with Torak's long legs making him harder to keep up with as he twists and turns with great dexterity, confusing Mosi. Then a siesta under his favourite tree and playtime is over. Sometimes Mosi is in a playful mood when Torak isn't, so he ignores her and sleeps. Frustrated, she often jumps on him for attention and can find herself on her back with an angry snarling Torak.

Torak and Mosi enjoyed the Children's Christmas Cracker event, with Mosi peeing on as many meat-filled crackers as possible, whilst Torak took some to eat in peace at the back of the enclosure. At dusk he appeared over the top of the mound with a cracker in his jaws. What an image!

The Valentine's Day children's event was a huge success, with Mosi smelling the boxes to see which were the fullest, whilst Torak calmly took one to the back of the enclosure to eat. Torak trotted down later on to claim the largest heart-shaped cake, last seen disappearing over the top of the mound with it.

Good Morning Britain also filmed Torak and Mosi howling. Mosi can be encouraged to howl easily, her howl setting off all the other wolves orchestrating a spine tingling symphony. Torak's howl is very deep, acting as a big bass to the 'orchestra'.

Mosi carried and defended with bared teeth from Torak an ancient deer leg she had buried weeks before. Torak was totally unimpressed and loped by, glancing briefly at her efforts to tempt him. Sometimes when Mosi wants to bury something in hard ground she will pull up long grass tufts and use those to hide the meat. Her meticulous gardening never fools Torak if he wants to eat her caches.

Torak and Mosi had their last enrichment walk before the breeding season in February and Torak celebrated by rolling in poo. The poor handlers got covered

when they un-collared him. Walking downwind of him wasn't too good either! Wolves love to roll in unsavoury smells and the walks are largely to give them opportunities to scent over other animal scents and sniff new smells.

Torak is a magnificent example of a wolf and perfect for photography opportunities whilst Mosi loves people and to be the centre of attention on open days. We hope that both of these amazing wolves will be with us for many more years to come.

Wendy Brooker



Mosi by Francesca Macilroy



Nuka by Alan Vaughan

Update on The Beenhams

The first full moon of the New Year is known as a wolf moon, named after the howling of hungry wolves that could often historically be heard outside Native American villages in January.

The wolf moon was so called because it was believed to make wolves howl with strange and frightening vigour. Animal behaviour experts know that wolves howl more frequently around this time of year, not least because they are revving up for the start of the breeding season in February and feeling the effects of a surge in testosterone. In Saxon culture, January (or its lunar equivalent) was the 'wolf month' when people were at highest risk of being stalked by wolves. Primitive communities were also aware that in mid-winter, when food sources were at their lowest, hungry wolves would stay worryingly close to human settlements. In reality the sight of a full moon was probably the safest possible time for humans. According to researchers who have radio-tagged wolves, the animals avoid hunting then for the entirely sensible reason that bright moonlight severely curtails the chances of achieving a kill.

In their sixth breeding season, the Beenhams are becoming more active such as howling and scent marking

more regularly. During the breeding season (from January to March) the rise in hormones means the wolves can become quite feisty with each other, so we suspend their enrichment walks and leave them alone until things settle down in the spring. It's a wonderful time to observe their behaviour and often you can see Nuka breaking up a squabble between the two girls. He's a terrific peacemaker and doesn't tolerate too much nonsense. If Tundra gets too uppity with Tala, he has been seen to drag her off by her tail!

The Beenham pack is coming up to seven years old so they are at the peak of adulthood. They continue to enjoy excellent health and are always interested in everything. The bottom corner of the enclosure is one place they have a full view up to the food shed and Nuka in particular likes to station himself there so he doesn't miss the moment the food buckets come out. If something is going on, all three wolves will cluster in the corner, jostling to get the best view. Sometimes this causes a bit of sibling strife and visitors will get a



Tala by James Allan Cooper

thrilling insight into pack behaviour as the wolves growl and shove each other. It's all sorted out very quickly with no harm done – all sound and no fury!

It's always interesting to see how the wolves' characters develop as they age. So far Nuka has retained his relaxed and friendly demeanour and is happy to hang around the front of the enclosure, checking out everyone who passes. This makes him popular with visitors and volunteers alike. Tala too, will come down to the fence to see new people although she always checks to see if Tundra is watching.

Tundra remains an aloof wolf, wary of anyone she's not familiar with, although she is still affectionate to people that she trusts.

Nikki Davies

Updates on Mai and Motomo

As the winter solstice passes, wolves' thoughts turn to love. The snowfall between Christmas and New year settled for only a few hours – but since the middle of December there have been subtle but noticeable changes in both Mai and Motomo's behaviour.

As in previous years, Mai has become slightly more aloof, less interested in coming to the fence to say hello (and get an ear-scratch) from her favourite handlers. She prefers to lie at the edge of the wood in the top corner of the enclosure, to see the food shed, keep an eye on the comings and goings, or give the Arctic pack in the adjoining enclosure the occasional dirty look!

Mai's interest in food has also changed; even outside the breeding season she may not eat all the food offered. She will either cache it in the enclosure, or urinate on it to mark it as 'hers' so Motomo doesn't eat it – although he rarely gets the message! We record the amount of food we offer, and if any is left we record the uneaten amount in the food log for wolfkeeper Mike's spreadsheets. Any significant or unexplained changes in the amount of food taken can provide us with an early warning of possible health or behavioural issues. Mai's occasional lack of appetite does not concern us – we've seen it before and she is definitely not going hungry, simply that romance is occupying her mind! Motomo can always dig up Mai's cached pheasants, pigeons and magpies for a midnight snack.

Mai has also got her howl back, after her late summer/nearly autumn hoarseness. She's now happy to respond in full voice when hearing sister Mosi howling from the top enclosure. Given their history, the howls may not be conveying sisterly love!

Motomo's behaviour has also changed: he is doing more 'patrolling' of the enclosure perimeter or keeping watch from the mound, to ensure that no other male wolves try to seduce Mai! As always, he's not reduced his interactions with the Arctics in the adjoining enclosure; if Pukak or more importantly, Massak, approach the fence Motomo will try to intimidate them by standing stiff-legged, tail and hackles raised and staring. If that doesn't work, he will rush at the fence, which is usually enough to get Massak to do some fence-running, Motomo joining him in a full-speed charge to the top of the enclosure and back again, showering mud, grass and water everywhere. If a threat-posture

or fence-rush by Motomo isn't enough to wind Massak up, Motomo then rears up on his hind legs to repeatedly kick at the fence with his front paws, inevitably getting a result!

From all the fence-running and chasing through muddy puddles, Motomo's legs and belly are extremely dirty! Digging in the mound, extending the already extensive den tunnel, doesn't help him to keep clean either. It's not unusual to see both wolves with light brown mud 'highlights' on their heads. Wolf fur is remarkably good at repelling contamination and a few hours after a digging session, some minor grooming and Mai's fur is pristine again. Motomo seems to be less concerned about his appearance...!

Valentine's Day lies at the peak of the mating season for wolves and accordingly, we have stopped taking Mai out on her occasional enrichment walks. In previous years she's sometimes been indecisive about whether she really wants to go on a walk, and has wanted to go back to her mate after only a short time. Motomo finds separation at this time of year stressful too, so for their contentment we let them stay together.

Pete Morgan-Lucas



Mai and Motomo by Alan Vaughan



Pukak, Massak and Sikko by Mike Collins



Update on Arctics

Many people who visit the Trust or read our reviews comment that wolves are 'magical and majestic animals'. So why is this?

“ The wolf is white as the snow. Her fur, short over the body and longer at the neck, is smooth and glistens in the winter sun. Her stance is confident, body muscular. Her movements are fluid and without apparent effort as she climbs upon the frosty mound. Sikko stands almost statue-like while her brothers, Massak and Pukak play 'chase' below. When she howls they both stop, drawn to join in. They fill the still air with a chorus.”

Everyone will have their own opinions, scientifically or spiritually, particularly when they are able to observe wolves individually and/or as a pack. They can witness the physical power in each movement, their size, their means of communication both vocally and physically. It gives an understanding of survival in the wild and that wolves, particularly Massak, Sikko and Pukak, are majestic, impressive and magical. But as 'magical' as they are, the wet and cold days mean their magnificent white coats are tarnished thick with mud as they fence-run with their neighbours, Mai and Motomo. The latter occasionally taunt the Arctics, who haven't yet received their food, by eating their own food at the fence.

As Christmas drew closer, Christmas trees were placed into the wolves' enclosures, providing a new scent and new object within their territory. At our ever-popular Children's Christmas Cracker event, the trees were further

utilised by the children when filling toilet roll middles with an assortment of hot dog sausages, black pudding, ham, eggs and roast pork. These strong smells were then enclosed with Christmas paper. Observed by the Arctics within their holding pen, the children placed their cracker on the fir trees within their enclosure. Massak, Sikko and Pukak were then allowed back in, so the children could watch the wolves sniffing out their homemade crackers. There were also Christmas cakes with fish, eggs and flour, coated in delicious cream cheese. Massak showed his appreciation by consuming his whole! Whereas Pukak and Sikko were more reserved in fully tasting every bite.

We are always looking for new and interesting enrichment for our wolves. When some dead geese were donated to the Trust, we hung the birds in one of the trees in the wolves' enclosure. This is the first time that the wolves had seen geese up close and they were wary

at first, but it wasn't long before Pukak began investigating and jumping up to try to work out how to pull the tasty treat from the tree. It provided a good enrichment for them.

The breeding season between January and March mean that all animals want to look their best to entice a mate. The Arctic wolves are no exception and in spring, they show off their fabulous coats at their best. They seem to almost double in size right as their soft winter coat fully develops and thickens. A photographic opportunity at its best.

Rachel Mortimer

Torak's Taste of The Wild

Torak by Alan Vaughan

Can Torak lay claim to being the first wolf to run wild in England since the 16th Century? What media attention it attracted! The way the media reacted, somehow I don't feel that introducing wolves into Scotland as some are advocating would stand a chance!



Early in the morning on 18 January the telephone rang. It was a friend in the village and while walking his dogs at 7.30am, he had seen one of the wolves loping along the footpath going towards Douai Abbey. The previous night had been very windy with Storm Fionn sweeping through the UK. Obviously concerned, my Jack Russell Parsnip and I walked across to the Trust to check. Mosi, Torak's devoted female companion was barking an alarm call, something wolves only do in times of unease. There was no sign of Torak, so I began to fear that my friend Peter might indeed be right. I put Mosi into the adjoining holding pen to make sure she was secure. Then I walked round

outside the perimeter fence of the enclosure which is bordered by trees. All the fencing was intact. Puzzled, I retraced my steps and to my horror discovered the large gate at the front of the enclosure was ajar – about a foot – the padlocks were still locked. It had been forced opened in the night – levered so that the bolts came out of the eyes that hold them. It was a deliberate act by an intruder. This is how Torak had escaped.

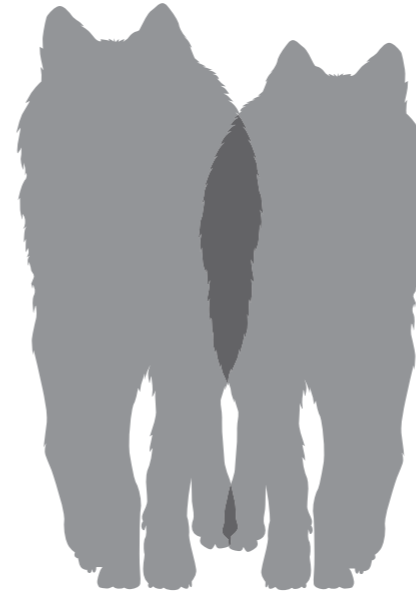
I then put our escape wolf procedure plan 'Operation Felan' into action and rang the two expert wildlife dart men to tell them to come urgently. It was now 8.20am and a police car arrived telling me that Torak had now been

sighted by the lake at Elstree school. Our wolfkeeper Mike and I grabbed two leads and jumped into the back of the Astra police car, lights flashing along the A4.

Torak had moved on by the time we arrived at Elstree and was on Bucklebury Common. He ran for a while along the road. By this time there was a Sky News helicopter and a police helicopter with thermal imaging above, ten policemen and two police marksmen all involved in the search. The police wanted a good outcome and were very positive. We lost sightings of Torak for around half an hour as the helicopter's thermal imaging kept spotting deer in the wooded area around Hoppood Green!



Torak was reunited with Mosi after six hours



amazed to see him only about 25 feet to our right. We knelt down and I called his name. He stopped and then very cautiously we approached him and slipped the collar over his neck. He was tired after eight miles and ready to come home!

I really had no knowledge that Torak's escape had so prominently featured in the media. Indeed I am told that this story put Macron's and May's meeting in France into second position for top news stories. I had left the house with no phone, no breakfast and had been swept up in the surreal chase for nearly five hours.

The press reports were very largely positive. It really helped that the locals in Beenham were calm in their response, saying they were not concerned about Torak being loose and that they very much hoped for his safe return. Beenham School was in

lockdown with a policeman on the gate all morning. The emblem on the school children's uniform is a wolf and the school has a close affinity to the Trust and regularly visits the wolves.

Without the help of the police helicopter from RAF Benson with its thermal imagery I believe we would have had a very different outcome. The camera is a valuable tool that can be used to locate people who are missing. Never before to find a wolf!

The media headlines as one would expect varied from 'Prowlin' Wolf', 'Panic as Escaped Beast Runs Wild Near Village School', 'The Day a Wolf Trotted Through a Garden', 'Kids' Terror as Wolf Escapes' to 'Torak The Gentle Giant Wolf, Comes Quietly as Marksman Give Chase!' I thought the best article was in the Guardian newspaper by Patrick Barkham entitled 'Who's Afraid of The Big Bad Escaped Wolf? Not Me'.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jan/19/afraid-big-bad-wolf-torak-humans>



Mosi was distraught for the six hours Torak was away – their reunion was very emotional for us to watch. It could have been a very different outcome. It beggars belief that anyone would deliberately let a wolf free. Torak was really frightened while out loose. We have upgraded our CCTV cameras and general security. I would like to record our thanks to Thames Valley Police for their amazing support. We have donated £5,000 to Thames Valley Cadets as a gesture of our gratitude.

Tsa Palmer

“Without the help of the police helicopter from RAF Benson with its thermal imagery I believe we would have had a very different outcome. The camera is a valuable tool that can be used to locate people who are missing. Never before to find a wolf!”

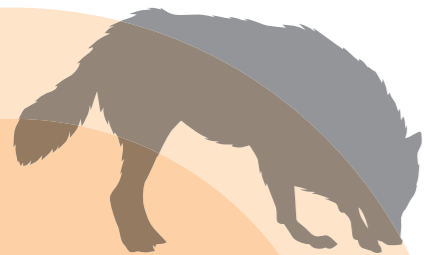
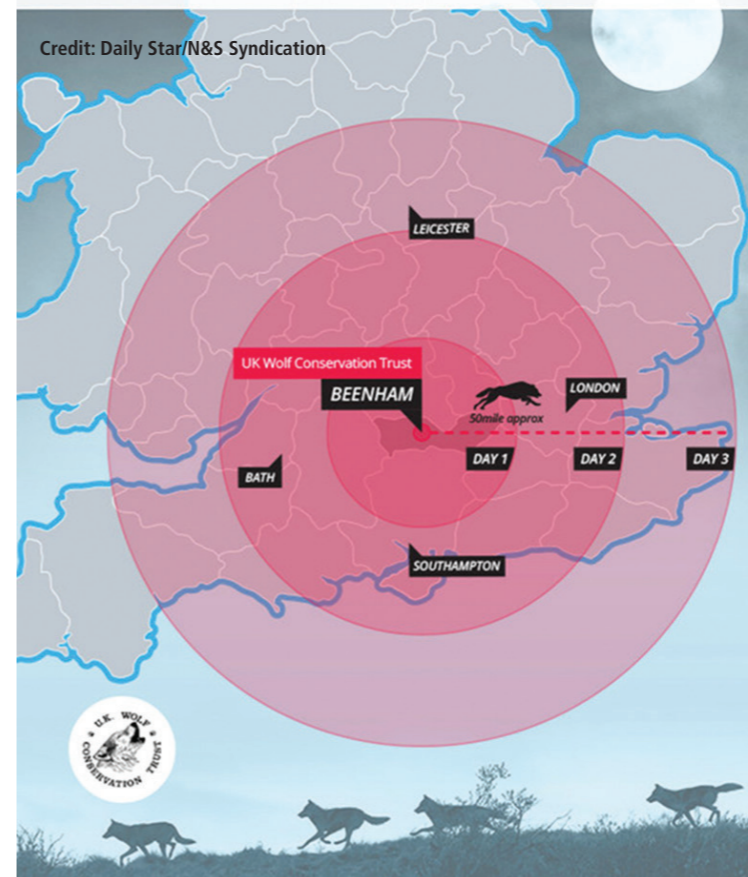
Then Torak was sighted in a garden by Downe House School. By this time there was a growing number of reporters and TV cameras following us. I was at this stage still hoping we could dart/catch Torak, although he seemed to be running in a more determined manner. The countryside around here is pretty wooded and in order to fire a tranquilliser into a running animal you need to be about 15 feet away with no wind. We had one dart gun expert ahead of Torak and one behind him in the hope of being successful.

On Torak ran, past a dustcart by a farm whose driver reported a sighting

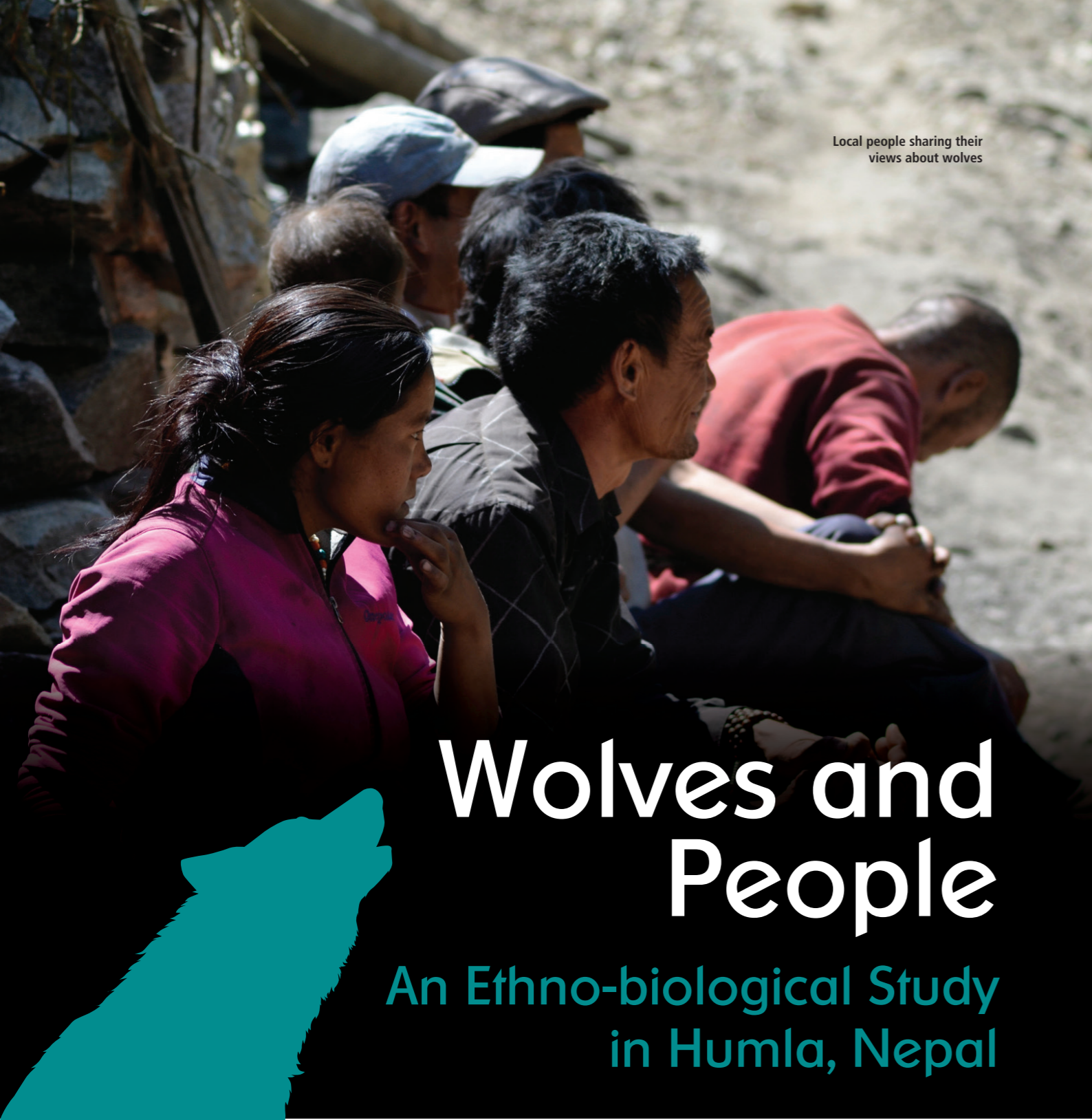
and across the Newbury Hermitage road towards Curridge. It was at this stage the police said for the first time that if he went near the M4 he would have to be shot for public safety. I was beginning to inwardly panic but still we kept having sightings through people's gardens and a stables. Then the helicopter reported him running through a field of sheep and they said he was disorientated by the flock.

There was another sighting in the woods and we followed in our Astra down a muddy track where I and my colleague Linda, who had also known Torak since he was ten days old, were

WOLF ESCAPE: HOW FAR PREDATOR COULD TRAVEL



Torak travelled eight miles in total



Local people sharing their views about wolves

Wolves and People

An Ethno-biological Study in Humla, Nepal



Wolves have been a part of human folklore since time immemorial. It is mentioned in the Hindu scripture Rig Veda, the world's oldest scripture and also in *Harivamsha purana*. Turkish legend Asena tells about a she-wolf giving birth to half-wolf and half-human cubs from which Turkish people were born. Mongolian myth describes the surplus killing of wolves relating it to how the wolf misunderstood God's command to kill only one out of

every 1,000 sheep by instead killing 1,000 and eating one. They also describe the medicinal properties of wolf body parts. There are myths and legends from other parts of the world too.

This makes it very interesting to delve into the ethno-biology of this species in any area. Here, we present some of the findings of our survey in Humla which is one of the remotest districts of Nepal.

STUDY AREA

Humla District is geographically located between 290 35' to 300 57' north and 810 18' to 820 10' east. It has an area of 5,655 km² and is the second largest district in the country. It has the lowest point of 1,524 metres and reaches up to 7,337 metres high. The land classification of Humla district is provided in *Table 1*.

The Humla District is surrounded by the Mugu district in the east, Mugu and Bajura districts in the south, Bajhang and Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), China in the west and TAR in the north. Humla is the only district that shares its northern and western border with TAR, China. Simikot, the district headquarter is a four day walk from the nearest driveable road. Limi Village Development Committee, where the study was undertaken, is a further six to eight days walk from Simikot. Local people practise the combination of agro-silvo-pastoralist system and seasonal jobs in India and China. The area is unexplored in terms of wildlife and grey wolf (it could be a Himalayan wolf but it is under study) is one of them.

METHODS

The study was done to compile and document important information on the ethno-biology of wolves in the area. The targeted people were those with intimate knowledge of the area and who spent considerable time in the field (e.g. farmers, livestock herders, and hunters). The study was only done in the vicinity of Limi Village Development Committee.

The structural questionnaires were administered purposively to 13 of the total households (180 hhs) of the study area. A questionnaire survey was conducted in the Halji village only. Key informants were interviewed using a snowball sampling method for the entire district (2,400-4,000 metres). The primary focus was on males as they generally do the herding and business. Another reason to choose male interviewees was because females do not speak the Nepali

TABLE 1

S.N.	LAND USE TYPE	AREA (km ²)	PERCENTAGE
1	Forests	747.83	13.22
2	Pastures/Rangelands	1,414.49	25.01
3	Agricultural land	50.20	0.89
4	Snow-covered area	505.70	8.94
5	Mountains	2,592.82	45.85
6	Lakes	1.40	0.02
7	Rivers	3,35.01	5.92
8	Gravel	3.94	0.07
9	Settlement	3.52	0.06
Total		5,654.92	100.00

language, which is the only language of communication. Informal group discussions were conducted in three different sites to gather additional information on ethno-biology and the use of wolves' body parts.

RESULTS

All respondents had seen a wolf (minimum one and maximum seven each year) and most of them were observed nearby Chayakpalung and Ngin Kharka. Areas near cliff bases with enough water were reported to be wolves' best habitat by the respondents. Though it has medicinal and cultural value, none of the respondents believe that this area was worthy of conservation.

All respondents reported that people-wolf conflict is high in the Limi valley. The majority of respondents (n=7) ranked wolves as second in the list of problem animals after snow leopards (n=5), with red foxes and golden eagles also listed as problem wild animals. Because of the conflict that exists in the area, Limi VDC loses 3,500 sterling pounds annually.

Wolves kill goats, yaks, horses and cows all year round and the intensity is higher during winter season. To neutralise the conflict, local people have constructed five pit traps for trapping wolves in the area.



On the way to the study area

25 year old wolf skull in Limi valley



FACT FILE

The wolf is locally known as Chengu. 'Chen' is the name of wolf in the local language and 'Gu' means the combination of nine different voices. Local people believe that a wolf can howl from nine different holes/pores in the body (eyes-2, ears-2, mouth-1, nose-2, anus-1, penis-1) together. Because of this reason they produce a complex voice but we hear it as one voice.



Wolf pelt in local monastery

“Because of its illegal trade in the Chinese market, locals as well as outsiders hunt wolves. The nearest market provides \$1,000 for four legs and one head.”

THREATS

Illegal poaching and trade

The study team discovered five stone traps in and around Limi valley, out of which two seemed to be active until recently. Key informants reported the use of iron traps and gunshot as well. Because of its illegal trade in the Chinese market, locals as well as outsiders hunt wolves. The nearest market provides \$1,000 for four legs and one head. The team has recorded two wolf pelts during the study. Approximately four wolves were killed in the last five years in the area.

Habitat encroachment

The number of livestock kept by people in Limi has greatly reduced at present although Chinese people still visit the area with their livestock regularly. A road is also being constructed to connect the area with district headquarter Simikot which is causing habitat destruction.

People-wolf conflict

Because of the high intensity of conflict in the area, there are threats to the wolf population as well as locals' livelihood exist in the area.

Government presence

Government presence is almost nil in the area. There is a police station however it does not look directly into the issues. Furthermore, the capacity of police force in the area is insufficient to tackle the issue. It is important to build their capacity in order to address the wildlife trade issue.

Medicinal use

People in Limi as well as across the border have a strong belief in the medicinal use of various body parts of wolves (see table) which is also an important threat to the species. This includes its medicinal use, pelt and head is supposed to protect the village from unseen evils. These uses, however, have no scientific proof and are purely a superstition.

Monks helping wildlife persist

The area is generally a haven for wildlife hunters. There was a flooding incident in Limi valley that washed away cultivated lands a few years before. Local people asked the monks to help them. Monks told them that it happened because of killing wildlife like snow leopards and wolves in the area. After this incident, the intensity of trapping and hunting had greatly reduced in the area.



CULTURAL AND MEDICINAL VALUE

S.N.	PARTS	WHY?	HOW?
1	Head	To please the gods	Stuff the head and keep in monastery. These are used in religious ceremonies at least once a year.
2	Head	Chase away evil spirits	Hang its head above the main entrance. People believe that this keeps evil spirits away.
3	Skull	Bury a head inside the house after a special worship	Stop any future death of a child in the house if they have a history of infant mortality.
4	Pelt	To please the gods	Local monks hang the pelt in the monastery together with the pelts of snow leopard and other animals (camel is considered the best) in special worship (locally called Rimju) conducted annually in each January in the local monastery. This ritual is done in order to protect the entire village from unnecessary evils and accidents.
5	Pelts	To treat sexual diseases	Women use it as a mattress if they have any STDs (sexual transmitted diseases).
6	Teeth & Claws	Keep at home	Especially in China, people believe that they never lose in gambling if they have these parts with them. They mix the claw and teeth together, conduct a special ritual and keep them.
7	Teeth	Keep in pocket	The army in China believe that they never lose in war and succeed in their army life if they keep teeth in their pockets.
8	Tongue	1. Treating tongue pain 2. Treating tonsillitis	The paste of fresh/dried tongue works as an antiseptic/painkiller. This also treats tonsillitis and cures swelling.

Acknowledgement

We highly acknowledge the financial support of the UK Wolf Conservation Trust to carry out this study and the further support from the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (For snow leopard in the same area). We are also grateful with Friends of Nature for their logistic and administrative support to execute the research work. Mr. Bidhan Adhikary, Mr. Pasang Lama, Mr. Phunjok Lama, Mr. Mangal Lama, Miss Geraldine Werhahn, Paljor Lama, Chhakka Bahadur Lama, Sonam Lama, Ram Lama, Prem Raj Neupane for their support during the entire study period. Last but not least we extend our warm gratefulness towards the local people of Limi valley, especially people from Halji village, who made our stay as comfortable as possible in that area and provided important information to complete the study.

Research article and photographs: Raju Acharya, Executive Director, Friends of Nature, Nepal
Yadav Ghimirey, Research and Carnivore Conservation, Friends of Nature, Nepal

Fighting for Norwegian Wolves

Currently, the wolves in Norway are being culled in the largest wolf hunt in over 90 years.

This is happening despite the fact that the wolf is listed as critically endangered on the Norwegian Red List for Species. WWF-Norway argues that the culling is unlawful, and has sued the Norwegian government. The case will be heard in the district court at the end of April.

In Norway, most wolves live within the so-called wolf management zone, where the wolf is allowed to breed and the threshold for killing wolves is very high. This zone constitutes less than 5% of Norway's mainland.

Outside this zone, the wolf has close to no protection, and most wolves venturing outside the zone are killed legally.

The Norwegian government has allowed for the culling of 42 wolves this winter. The quota includes two full packs, 16 wolves, inside the wolf management zone, and 26 wolves outside the wolf management zone. Thus, the total quota is very high considering that only 51-56 wolves were found to reside permanently within the Norwegian borders last

year. Two other packs that also have their territory fully within the Norwegian borders will not be culled. In addition, some packs whose home range includes territories in both Norway and Sweden are also safe from culling.

POLARISED CONFLICT

When wolves made a comeback in Scandinavia in the early 1980s, after being hunted to near extinction two decades earlier, opinions have been divided, with several groups strongly opposing their presence. The relatively new tradition of grazing livestock without permanent supervision in the forests and mountains is one main reason for the conflict. Competition

with hunters for moose, and hunting dogs being killed by wolves are other reasons why many people want to see the wolf eradicated from Norwegian nature. Some social scientists also argue that the conflict is not so much about the presence of wolves in itself, but rather about a quite wide divide between urban and rural lifestyles and opinions that use the wolf conflict as a symbolic cause, and the wolf is a scapegoat for all that is problematic in the rural areas. However, the majority of Norwegians, including in rural areas, are positive to the wolf. What is clear is that wolf suffers because of this conflict, and that politicians and authorities are not doing enough to mitigate the conflict.

PROTECTED BUT STILL PERSECUTED

Wolves were protected by law in Norway in 1973. However, that does not stop authorities from giving licences to cull wolves, both in cases when damage to livestock has occurred, and as a preventive measure for future, potential damages. This winter's culling is the most extensive since wolves became protected



“WWF-Norway has demanded a full legal review of the wolf management in Norway through a lawsuit against the Norwegian government.”

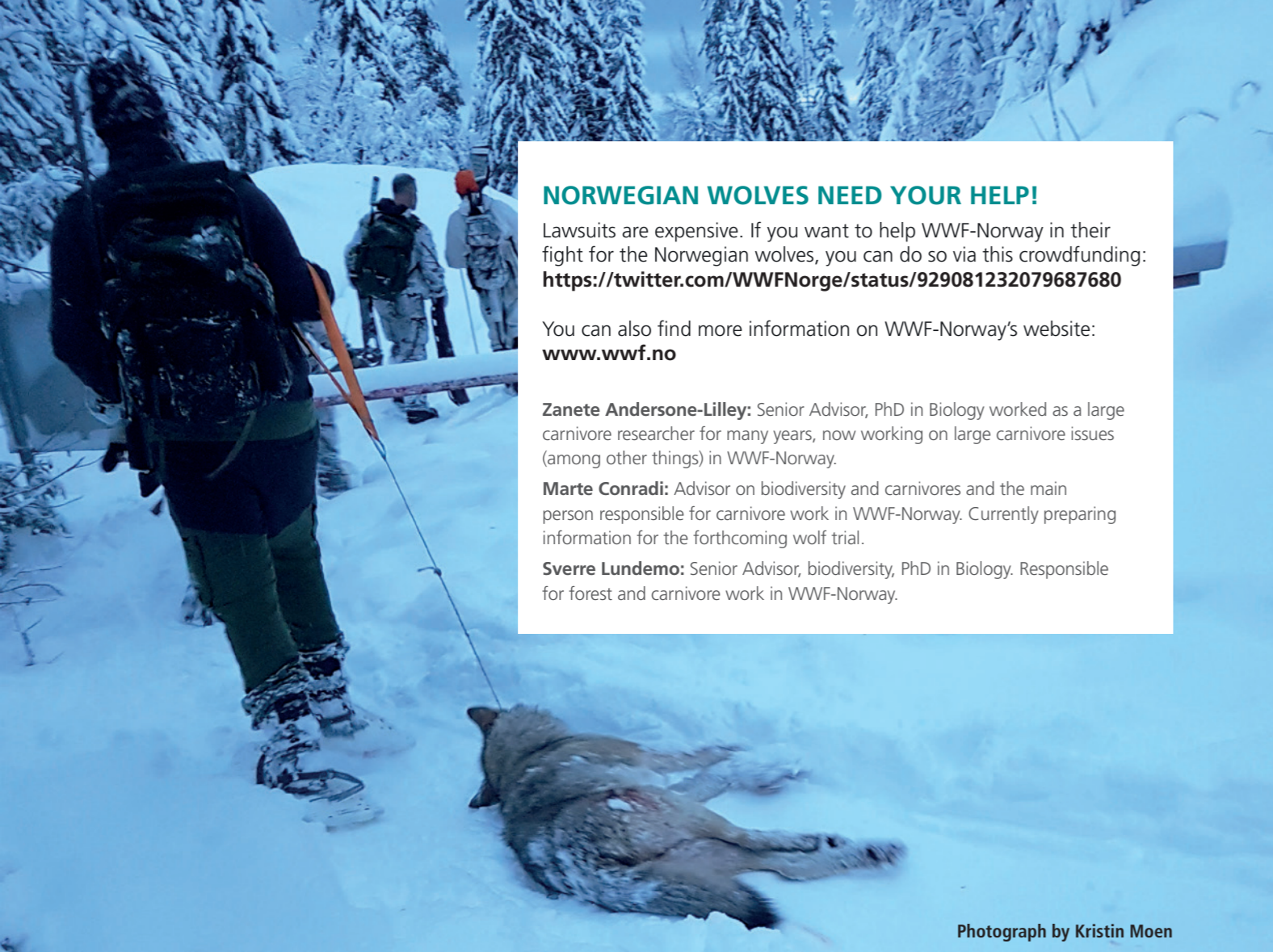
45 years ago. What is even more surprising is that the two wolf packs that have now been culled had not done any damage to livestock, since they lived in areas where no unfenced sheep herds or domesticated reindeer are grazing.

The Bern Convention clearly states that lethal control should be the last resort when other measures to prevent damage are not effective. Sadly, this is not the case in Norway.

There are several measures that can be implemented to prevent damage to livestock before culling might become necessary. Therefore, WWF-Norway has demanded a full legal review of the wolf management in Norway through a lawsuit of the Norwegian government.



Photographs by Zanete Andersone-Lilley



NORWEGIAN WOLVES NEED YOUR HELP!

Lawsuits are expensive. If you want to help WWF-Norway in their fight for the Norwegian wolves, you can do so via this crowdfunding: <https://twitter.com/WWFNorge/status/929081232079687680>

You can also find more information on WWF-Norway's website: www.wwf.no

Zanete Andersone-Lilley: Senior Advisor, PhD in Biology worked as a large carnivore researcher for many years, now working on large carnivore issues (among other things) in WWF-Norway.

Marte Conradi: Advisor on biodiversity and carnivores and the main person responsible for carnivore work in WWF-Norway. Currently preparing information for the forthcoming wolf trial.

Sverre Lundemo: Senior Advisor, biodiversity, PhD in Biology. Responsible for forest and carnivore work in WWF-Norway.

Photograph by Kristin Moen

Timeline of what has happened so far

2 November

WWF-Norway sued the government on the basis of the wolf management being unconstitutional and going against the Norwegian Biodiversity Act and the Bern Convention. At the same time, WWF demanded a temporary stop to the ongoing culling in Østfold, Oslo, Akershus and Hedmark.

21 November

The Oslo District Court ruled in favour of WWF-Norway and the ongoing culling was stopped – on the grounds that the current quota decision contained procedural errors.

1 December

The Ministry of Climate and Environment made a new culling decision for hunting outside the wolf zone in the above-mentioned counties. The Ministry substantiated its decision by stating that the

procedural errors from the previous decision had been rectified. However, the content of the new decision is the same as in the first decision.

1 December

The Ministry of Climate and Environment also decided that two wolf packs – a total of 16 animals – living inside the wolf management zone (in addition to the quota given earlier to wolf culling outside the wolf zone) can be culled.

13 December

WWF sued the state for the second time, since the original lawsuit was linked to the culling decision that the Oslo District Court set aside. The new lawsuit is linked to the two decisions made by the Ministry on 1 December.

13 December

WWF-Norway simultaneously

demands a full stop to the culling in all areas of the counties mentioned above – i.e. the culling of both the 12 wolves outside the zone and the two packs inside the zone – until a full legal treatment has been carried out by the courts.

20-21 December

Court hearing at Oslo District Court between the parties WWF-Norway and the Ministry of Climate and Environment.

5 January

The Oslo District Court dismissed a temporary injunction filed by WWF-Norway in order to stop this winter's wolf hunt. The dismissal means that the hunt continues. The decision has been appealed and we are waiting for the court decision (probably coming early February).

21-24 April

The main court case will take place.

Once Upon a Time in Japan

The Story of The Legendary Japanese Wolves

Mitsumine Guardian

PART ONE

Hokkaidō

The Japanese islands were once home to two different types of wolves: the Ezo (or Hokkaidō) wolf in the north and the Honshū wolf in the south. Although they both were extirpated less than 150 years ago, the legends and myths surrounding them live on.

The Ezo wolf, *Canis lupus hattai*, was closely related to the wolves of North America. A relatively large animal, it thrived on the isle of Hokkaidō until the late 1800s. The native people, the Ainu, held a special reverence for these wolves, although their way of showing it may seem odd to us today!

The story as told in the Tokachi and Hidaka regions says that long ago, Retaruseta Kamuy, the white wolf god of Mount Poroshiri-dake, struggled to

find a suitable mate, searching far and wide without success. Eventually he spotted a suitable mate in a far away land and used his powers to summon her across the sea, whereupon he took her as his wife. From this, the Ainu people were born.

As a result, the Ainu hold a reverence for the wolf and they tell of great deeds performed by them. For example, there is the story of a wolf defeating an evil bear god that



Hokkaido Wolf

工
絶滅したエ
された少数な
て以降の北海
それに伴い工
内の街話工場
である全道の
激減したこと
による家畜の被
制度が廃止さ
ような原因の
も、群れを作
思われる。し
これらが復合



Mitake



Ainu House

Hokkaidō. The odd sighting persists, but there's no credible evidence to suggest any wolves survive. The only surviving stuffed specimens are kept on Hokkaidō; two may be seen at the Natural History Museum at the Hokkaidō University Botanical Gardens in Sapporo.

(*Note: iyomante still exists today. The Ainu have an exemption from Japanese animal welfare laws and these days they sacrifice bears rather than wolves.)



Ema

object of worship. The ceremony was considered to be sending the wolf back to the realm of the gods and regarded as an honour to the wolf. If a wolf was killed in any other way, it was seen as greatly disrespectful to the wolf gods and the remaining pack members were said to hunt down the perpetrators.

This tradition carried on for centuries*, but by the late 1800s the Japanese government encouraged American-style ranching. A rancher from Ohio was hired and recommended poisoning the wolves with strychnine. The campaign was successful and within just 30 years wolves were wiped out from

attacked an elderly woman picking plants. The Ainu would leave food out for the wolves and would let them wander freely around their villages. They would also let them breed with their dogs, using the resulting offspring to aid them in their hunting.

The Ainu also conducted 'sending away', or *iyomante*, ceremonies and it's these that would seem cruel to us today. They would capture a wolf and bring it to the village, tying it up and then torturing it with sharp, pointed sticks. It would then be ritually slain, the blood and meat distributed amongst the villagers and the skull wrapped with some of the wolf's fur. The skull would be kept as an

PART TWO

Honshū

As mentioned in a previous article in Wolf Print (page 20, issue 60, spring 2017), the wolves of Honshū, Japan's larger island, were also surrounded by myths and legends. These Honshū wolves, *Canis lupus hodophilax*, were more closely related to the Eurasian wolf than their northern cousins.

Honshū wolves were also deified and revered, with many shrines dedicated to them. A few of these shrines still survive, the most notable of which is Mitsumine, high in the mountains outside Tokyo. That shrine was founded nearly 2,000 years ago after a white wolf guided a lost prince through the mountains nearby; the prince named the wolf 'large mouth true god' and it's from this that the modern Japanese word for wolf, *ōkami*, is derived. Wolves were seen as gods, although unlike the Ainu the Japanese did not believe they were descended from them; Japanese mythology says the emperors are descended from the great sun goddess Amaterasu.

These gods were invoked traditionally as protective guardians; it was believed that ofuda (talismans) issued by the Mitsumine shrine would protect against theft, fire and disease, and worshippers would undertake long journeys to obtain one. This is known as 'borrowing a wolf'. A story tells of a sceptical worshipper who, after just receiving a talisman rather than an actual wolf, asked the shrine attendant why they only handed out talismans and if he could be shown the wolf god's provenance. The attendant duly handed out a talisman and as the worshipper left, he felt a presence behind and then in front of him, as if a wolf was stalking him. Unsettled, he returned to the shrine and apologised for doubting the deities. He asked for a second talisman and, after a short prayer, had one given to him. This time as he left,



Mitsumine



Ofuda

he didn't feel the presence of the wolf.

It was thought that people who were kind to wolves would be rewarded by the wolf gods and experience good fortune as a result. One such tale, related by a scholar named Hirata, relates to a traveller who fed a starving wolf on the way to see her lover; the wolf later intervened to stop another suitor by taking him instead. On a more practical level, rice farmers would encourage wolves by feeding them; this ensured there were wolves

around which would deter pests like boar and deer from eating their crops. To this day in some regions farmers hang wolf talismans in their fields, in the belief that the wolf gods will keep their crops safe.

Safety is also a message often associated with wolves in Japan. Tales abound of wolves protecting travellers, whether it's from being lost, or protecting them from demons (which is another legend associated with the prince).

As with the Ainu, it was considered bad luck to harm a Honshū wolf. This started to change after a rabies outbreak in the 17th century and as livestock production took hold in the 18th and 19th centuries the view of the wolf turned from being a divine god into a troublemaker. This led to the culling of great numbers of the animal and its eventual extinction in the early 20th century. To this day, however, alleged sightings persist – the most recent of which are in 2010 or so.

Note: An ofuda from the Mitsumine shrine can be seen, hung in a traditional manner, in the education room at the Trust.

Words and Pictures by Darren Prescott

Darren Prescott has been a volunteer at the UKWCT for 14 years. His holidays all involve wolves to some degree!



The Little-Known Wolves of South Asia

The long grasses calmly sway across the open plains of Central India. At this time of year, the grasses are yellowing and becoming brittle, giving the landscape a golden hue.

Sitting in a stilted green hut with my field assistant, I watch for any abrupt rustling or movement. Two centuries ago, the grasses could be hiding Asiatic lions or even cheetahs, but today, one of the last surviving large predators of the South Asian arid grasslands is the grey wolf.

Since the early morning, while watching the pink sunrise, my field assistant and I have been waiting patiently for Indian wolves. Finding and observing these wolves can be

quite challenging, since they're rare and well camouflaged. Unlike their North American cousins, the Indian wolf is small bodied, has short hair, and commonly has a brownish hue – all adaptations for surviving in such a dry landscape. Early genetic research on these wolves suggests that they are among the oldest wolf lineages, having diverged from other wolves around 400,000 years ago. Yet despite this uniqueness, little is known about their status and distribution, hindering their conservation.

In the distance, we can hear the nearby villages waking up – motorbikes honking on the roads, dogs barking, and faint bells ringing on the necks of cows. This arid grassland we are surveying is just a small patch interspersed among growing villages and agricultural fields. As a whole, these grasslands have been home to a large proportion of India's agro-pastoralist community for centuries. As human pressures expand across the landscape, this pristine habitat and its unique



“Finding and observing these wolves can be quite challenging, since they're rare and well camouflaged.”

assemblage of species is shrinking. At one time, herds of over a thousand blackbuck, a native medium-sized antelope, were a common sight across the South Asian arid grasslands. Now that habitat has been converted to agricultural fields and recently industrial development, the population of this main prey for Indian wolves is only dotted across the Indian landscape and regionally extinct in Pakistan. With little wild prey, many Indian wolf populations primarily rely on livestock, leading to conflicts between the wolves and local pastoralists. It is estimated that around 2,500 wolves make their home in India, and only around 250 in Pakistan. What was once welcoming earlier, the sun's warmth begins to intensify quickly. At midday, it will be time to climb down the tower and ride a motorbike to our field station. Affiliated with the Wildlife Institute of India under a Fulbright grant, I was conducting research here in India to study the acoustic variation of howls from Indian and Himalayan wolves. It was on my first visit to India in 2013 that I learned about these evolutionary unique and highly endangered wolves of South Asia, which inspired me to

pursue wildlife research focused on their conservation.

Since then, there has been more and more effort to understand the Indian wolf's ecology and behaviour. These Central Indian wolves are currently being radio-collared to gain insight into how they cope in such a human-

dominated landscape. Other scientists are working to protect the remaining arid grassland ecosystems, which was once classified as 'wastelands' by the Indian government. Yet there are many gaps that remain to be filled. Across the border in Pakistan, almost nothing is known about how many or what types of wolves are present in the country. Overall, the distribution of this genetically distinct wolf lineage is largely undescribed, making it difficult to develop effective conservation management programmes. With support from the UK Wolf Conservation Trust,



my collaborators and I are conducting genomic research to evaluate the evolutionary distinctiveness of these wolves, as well as starting the first genetic survey of wolves across major regions of Pakistan. By collaborating with Pakistan's regional forest departments, in country universities and NGOs, this project will provide much needed baseline information for conserving these little-known and endangered wolves.

'Look, look!' says my field assistant as he points to a section of the grassland. Quickly, I grab my binoculars and scan the area. An Indian wolf trots along the grassy slopes to a dirt road, gracefully making his way through the brush.

The wolf disappears over a bend, yet we are able to follow its tracks in the sandy soil. Equipped with a speaker for playing previously recorded howls, microphone, and digital recorder, we return to this area in the evening in hopes of recording Indian wolf howls. A whole family of Indian wolves, including high pitch squeaks from their small puppies, respond that night to our survey. This family of wolves is raising their offspring amidst a rapidly changing landscape, with their long-term persistence facing an uncertain future. I remain hopeful that with all our efforts – promoting awareness, conducting research, and increasing dialogue across communities – that the unique wolves of South Asia will continue to survive for years to come.

Lauren Hennelly is currently a PhD student at the University of California, Davis – studying the conservation and evolution of wolves in South Asia. Previously, she was a Fulbright scholar at the Wildlife Institute of India and a project biologist for the Wood River Wolf Project in Idaho. Interested in using emerging genomic techniques to study wildlife, mitigating human-wildlife conflict, and promoting awareness for the conservation of endangered species.



FACT FILE

INDIAN WOLF
(*Canis lupus pallipes*)

Status: Endangered

Population: 2,000-3,000

Individuals in India:
250 individuals in Pakistan

Weight: 19-25kg (male) and
17-22kg (female)

Diet: Medium and small
ungulates, lagomorphs, rodents

Conservation threats:
Habitat loss, retaliatory killings,
increasing feral dog populations

The UK Wolf Conservation Trust has donated £3,000 to The Wolves of India Study, Lauren Hennelly – University of California Davis.

Witchcraft or just plain daft: Baffling wolf superstitions from the ages

From aphrodisiacs to poorly-playing instruments, wolves have been the subject of some truly bizarre beliefs. Unfortunately, they don't seem to get better with time!

To start with the least ridiculous, Pliny the Elder, two years before Vesuvius, wrote in his *Natural History* collection that if a wolf and man encountered one another, the man would be struck dumb if the wolf saw him first. Seeing a wolf in person can sometimes take your breath away, so it may have some basis in reality. The other effect on human behaviour, less so: apparently, the tail hair of a wolf could make a person amorous, but only if taken from a live animal. Perhaps this was just the exhilaration of escaping said wolf after rudely pulling on its tail.

The sources of other remedies were not so lucky. In his article 'What's Wrong with Early Medieval Medicine?' Peregrine Horden describes a belief from the 8th-11th century that wrapping wolf skin around the eyes of a vulture would treat sight problems, and would ward off demonic possession if wrapped around its heart. So the poor vulture was just as unfortunate! Clearly, the title of Horden's work isn't aimed at either of these two 'treatments'.

Wolf parts were certainly good at deflecting evil, or in this case, mild frustration. In the catchily-named *De Secretis Mulierum. Item, De Virtutibus Herbarum, Lapidum Et Animalium*, believed to be from the 12th or 13th century, wrapping a wolf's tooth in a bay leaf and carrying it on your person would shield you from irritating or angry people. Three hundred years later, however, people were not so

welcoming of wolf parts, or more specifically, of something being part wolf.

In his *Geographical History of Africa*, John Leo Africanus heard tell of a terrifying dragon, both unseeing and unseen, with the wings and beak of a bird, the tail and speckled skin of a serpent, and the feet of a wolf. This cave-dwelling abomination, whose existence 'many African writers affirm', was supposedly the offspring of a she-wolf and an eagle. Perhaps the eagle grasped her tail, and Pliny's love remedy worked both ways?

Another unfortunate wolf combination appeared in F. Edward Hulme's 1895 *Natural History, Lore and Legend* compendium, but it was more likely a cause of hilarity than fear. The wolf and sheep, supposedly at opposite ends of the scale of intelligence and ferocity, have such an inborn hatred of one another, even in death, that if both types of gut were used to make the same instrument, even the best musician couldn't play anything but a terrible discordant din. Hulme seemed to have had a more sceptical head on his shoulders, and dismissed the above because when it comes to wolves and sheep, apparently, the wolf 'is always glad to make its acquaintance'. Perhaps it's comforting that hatred between wolves and livestock was less believable than a haunted instrument!

Jessica Jacobs

© Shan Ahmed



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Endangered Mexican Grey Wolf



The Fight for El Lobo

Legal Action For The Endangered Mexican Wolf

At the end of January, WildEarth Guardians and the Western Watershed Project brought a lawsuit against the Fish and Wildlife Service's wholly inadequate, unscientific and deeply flawed Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, which aims to set a target of just 320 wolves and use an interstate highway as an arbitrary boundary to restrict their territory. At the time of going to print, The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance and the Wildlands Network will also have added their voice to the lawsuit.

Judy Calman, a staff attorney at The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance told Wolf Print:

'For over a hundred years Mexican wolves have faced one hurdle after another, from extermination by the US government, to very low genetic diversity, to pressures and conflicts between state and federal governments, to misconceptions about wolves among the public. Some of their challenges are a direct result of human interference, including direct killings of wolves and a reluctance on the part of the government to use the most robust scientific data when outlining recovery numbers. The result of these challenges has been extremely slow progress towards recovery of Mexican wolves in the wild.'

The question of whether the wolves will be resilient enough to overcome every obstacle placed in its path is continual, and they are never in a comfortable position of being well on their way to stability.

This scenario continues today, with disagreements pending in court over the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, the Fish and Wildlife Service's management of wolves, the ability of the state to control some aspects of wolf management, and the federal government's enforcement (or lack thereof) of Endangered Species Act violations. New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, along with many other conservation organizations, remains dedicated to doing everything we can to ensure Mexican wolves recover and thrive in the wild.'

We also spoke to Dave Parsons from Project Coyote, who tells us that he is currently involved in a separate lawsuit to challenge the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan. Hopefully, many voices will be raised to help this beleaguered wolf get the decent future it fully deserves.

Full details here: <https://mexicanwolves.org/index.php/news/1870/51/In-the-News-Wolf-recovery-plan-challenged-in-court-by-advocacy-groups>



Have Wolf, Will Travel!

Radio-collared Naya reaches Belgium

Originally radio-collared as part of a project by Dr Norman Stier, for a Wageningen Environmental Research (WENR) project, a young female wolf named as Naya was soon on the move, travelling via the Netherlands to Belgium. She will be the first wolf in the country for a century.

Wolf Print spoke to Hugh Jansman, part of the animal ecology team at WENR, who kindly provided us with a timeline for Naya's adventures.

east Flanders have been alerted. However, there is evidence that Naya is predominantly surviving on a wild diet of roe deer and hares.

The appearance of Naya in Belgium means that wolves now have an incredibly strong presence throughout most of Europe, where they are reclaiming many of the rural spaces abandoned or ignored by younger humans, some of whom prefer to live in the cities. Apparently in eastern Germany, where the first wolf pack with cubs appeared in 2000, there are now 74 packs with cubs. Near the Dutch border, there are now 14 packs of cubs, when there was only one female in 2012. So who knows for Belgium? We can only watch and wait.

NAYA'S STORY(SO FAR):

- Born in May 2016 to a pack at Lubtheener Heide, MVP, Germany.
- Caught October 2016 and fitted with a GSM-GPS collar.
- Left parental pack October 2017.
- Travelled 700km from Lubtheener Heide through Germany and The Netherlands into Belgium. This 700km is the minimum, based on a rough map; it is probably many times more in reality.
- Arrived at a military exercise area near Leopoldsburg, 15 miles from the Dutch border, where she has seemed to settle down. She may already have a mate, although nothing yet is known.

Naya will be two years old in May this year, so still a relatively young wolf – clearly with an intrepid spirit. Information from her collar indicates that she has been covering between 30km and 70km per night, through swampland and forest. There have been a few sheep casualties along the way, so naturally farmers in north-



Radio-collared Naya

Copyright: Stier&Meißner-Hylanova <http://www.wolf-mv.de/pages/wolf-telem.html>



California dreaming ...or are there wolves now in Indian Valley?



There have been recent multiple wolf sightings in Indian Valley, California – an area that was previously more the territory of mountain lions, coyotes and bears.

inevitably there have been the usual ‘a wolf stalked me at a bus stop’ set of stories that seem to always emerge whenever new wolf sightings are discussed in communities, where whispers and rumours abound. What is known for certain is that a radio-collared pack, the Lassen Wolf Pack, has been detected in the area and their movements are being carefully monitored by The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

There has been at least one meeting held for local residents in the light of these new developments in Indian Valley. Many ranchers have already listened to recommendations and implemented fladry and flashing lights on their properties to deter wolves. It has been made clear by CDFW that in the current situation, no lethal removal will be allowed.

New Enclosure Built at ‘Song of the Wolf Healing Center,’ in Bailey, Colorado

Volunteers step in to help house more animals

Members of the Air Force and other volunteers from the non-profit organisation WildHeart Foundation spent their weekend in the cold recently, helping to build an enclosure that will house rescued wolfdogs from New Mexico, at the Song of the Wolf Healing Center in Colorado.

The non-profit centre not only rescues ‘abused, unwanted, confiscated, neglected and surrendered wolf-dogs’ but ‘helps the human-animal bond through educational workshops, volunteering and animal assisted therapeutic activities.’ It has a special interest in helping those individuals with addiction issues, where animals can make a unique connection.

There are plans to build seven enclosures in total, as part of an ongoing project.

A co-founder at the centre said:

‘The new enclosure is going to allow us to save more animals, make sure that we are taking care of them one hundred percent and it’s going to bring more people here. Thank you from the bottom of my heart - thank you.’

www.thewildheartfoundation.org
www.songofthewolf.org

Bad news for wolves and wildlife

PRESS RELEASE FROM DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE:

President’s infrastructure proposal invites disaster

Today President Trump released an **infrastructure proposal** that bulldozes environmental laws to favour careless development at the expense of our air, land, water and wildlife. Defenders of Wildlife President and CEO **Jamie Rappaport Clark** issued the following statement:

‘President Trump’s infrastructure proposal isn’t just a bad deal for communities and wildlife across America. It’s a brazen attempt to bulldoze environmental protections to benefit deep-pocketed developers, and that’s not what Americans want.’

‘Americans oppose any infrastructure plan that would jeopardize our environment and public health to build bridges and roads. We’re calling on Congress to pass an infrastructure plan that provides for carefully planned, resilient infrastructure without sacrificing healthy communities and our natural heritage to special interests.’

BACKGROUND:

- President Trump’s infrastructure proposal is out of touch with Americans’ environmental values. Recent public polling by Hart Research on behalf of Defenders of Wildlife and the Center for American Progress found that 94 percent of American voters, including 92 percent of President Trump voters reject the proposition that we should reduce protections for air, water, wildlife and natural places to improve our nation’s infrastructure.
- The poll also found that voters disagree with President Trump’s repeated false claim that current environmental protections must be sacrificed to speed infrastructure projects.

www.defenders.org/explore-the-issues

Erik The Lone Wolf

Sarah Finan
Published by Frances Lincoln
Hardcover 32pp
RRP £11.99 ISBN-13: 978-1786030108

Debut author Sarah Finan has skillfully produced a charming character and story in Erik The Lone Wolf. In his funky scarf, Erik reminds me of a lovable lupine Paddington, a creature who knows his own mind but gets himself into scrapes with his quest for adventure.

Poor Erik, who lives with his family in a landscape of spindly trees and glorious mountains, is feeling stressed out by life in his rumbustious pack, which suddenly seems overcrowded, heavy with rules and responsibility. He has heard 'Hold your sister's paw!' one too many times. He takes off on his own, skis in hand, in pursuit of fun.

Initially, freedom seems perfect. Erik can climb as high as he wants and ski like a lunatic. However, there are perils in being alone, particularly when ice and cliffs are involved. This is a gentle lesson in how family protects its own, ultimately a great way to introduce toddlers to wolf pack dynamics, how they bond, shelter their young and play like human families.

This may be a picture book for young children, but I thoroughly enjoyed the sweet, thoughtful story; it was satisfying enough for my adult sensibilities. As befits a previous winner of the Macmillan



Prize for Illustration, Finan's artwork is distinctive, exquisitely artistic, with great sense of movement – ideal for young, curious children or the child within all of us. I think our mischievous protagonist would make an engaging TV character. I hope that it's not the last we see of Erik.

Julia Bohanna

The Mirror Of Pharos

J S Landor
Published by Troubador Publishing
Paperback 344pp
RRP £7.99 ISBN-13: 978-1788039208



Meet young Jack Tideswell, living with his rather eccentric Nan and their cat Odin, after his parents tragically die in a diving accident while exploring the underwater ruins of the Pharos lighthouse in Egypt. Unlike his parents, Jack wants nothing to do with having an adventure. That is, until a seagull delivers a mysterious package addressed to Jack in the boy's own handwriting. Jack is then thrown into the biggest adventure of his life, travelling backwards and forwards in time, which often leaves him in perilous situations.

From the very beginning you know something weird and wonderful is about to happen; a storm is brewing. The Mirror of Pharos is filled with action and adventure, not to mention the presence of Alpha, a wolf who is always close by, almost like a guardian. There are many twists and turns in this beautifully written tale and endearing characters such as Jack and my personal favourite, the mysterious Jago, who draws you in from the very beginning with his quirky mannerisms.



Suitable for children and adults alike, I really hope that there are more adventures to come with Jack and of course, Alpha.

Author's website: www.jslandor.com

Francesca Macilroy

Credit: Illustrator for *The Mirror Of Pharos* is Amanda Pike. More information can be found at <https://www.jslandor.com/explore-the-book/meet-the-illustrator/>

Wolf Children

Directed by Mamoru Hosoda
Suitable for 15 years and over
Produced by Studio Chizu and Madhouse, 2012
Format: DVD

Director Mamoru Hosoda's once overheard someone saying that raising children was like 'having a monster or a wild animal in the house'. He was inspired. Using both 2D and 3D animation, with the extraordinary skills of animator, Yū (now sadly deceased), *Wolf Children* is the tale of a young lone mother raising two special children after their father, part-wolf, is killed. There is vivid detail and colour in both urban and rural landscapes – from each individual fruit in the city markets to the sweep of breathtaking mountains.

Wolf Children features a strong,

determined mother and her charges Ame and Yuki (meaning 'rain' and 'snow' respectively in Japanese). Her beloved wolf children grapple with their natures to find their place within their wild and domesticated worlds.

Predominantly pro-wolf throughout, when a boy is attacked by poor Yuki, who is suffering a terrible state of conflict, the victim still asserts that 'wolves are pretty cool'. Director Hosoda has said in interviews that 'wolves are sensitive animals and are



neither "good" or "bad". He mourns the extirpation of the wolf in Japan, over a century ago, calling the species 'charismatic and special'.

The wolves and children in the film may be 'cutesy' for some – but that's the nature of Manga.

Wolf Children is a delight for the eyes with much to admire in the artistry and love for nature, the scope of design and ambition. But I will remember the quote from the film: 'Wolves are nice people'. I want that on a t-shirt.

Julia Bohanna

Julie

Jean Craighead George
Published by Harper Trophy (imprint of HarperCollins Children's Book Group)
HB 240pp RRP £10.80 ISBN-13: 978-0064405737

Jean Craighead George visited her son every year in Alaska learning about the land, the people and the Inuit culture. 'Julie' is the second in the trilogy. In the first, *Julie of the Wolves*, 13 year old Julie runs away into the wilderness to escape a violent arranged marriage, surviving in the Alaskan wilderness with only her strength and knowledge of the old ways. A pack of wolves accepts her as family and saves her life by feeding and protecting her. She learns their ways and how to communicate with them. After many months of living in harmony with the wolves she sadly realises that it is time to return to her father and her people.

This second book follows her return to her father's village, but she is not prepared for the changes that have happened since she was away. Her father has married a white woman from the outside world who has come

to teach at the village school. He has accepted a lot of her modern ideas. To Inuits, there are two kinds of people: those within the circle of ice and those outside. Julie's father has given up many of his old traditions, even using a helicopter for tracking wolves, in order to shoot them to protect the villager's herds of musk oxen. Julie struggles to understand and adjust to the new ways. She realises that she must find a way to embrace the modern ways of her father and learn to understand his new wife. More importantly she must convince her people that wolves and Inuits can live side by side.

Julie misses her beloved wolf pack

but answers with a bark howl to warn them to keep away when she hears them calling for her, in case her father finds them and kills them. Her father however hears the howls and realises that the wolves and Julie are connected. She pleads with him to give her time to move the pack to safety. The story unfolds with surprising revelations, including a romantic element.

This book is written with a unique understanding of the Inuit people and their culture and takes us through all the poignant struggles and despair that Julie goes through in order to protect her beloved wolves. The book

is written so powerfully that I actually felt as if I was living Julie's journey and, because I love wolves too, shared her pain and tears. I also learnt so much about the Inuit traditions and people.

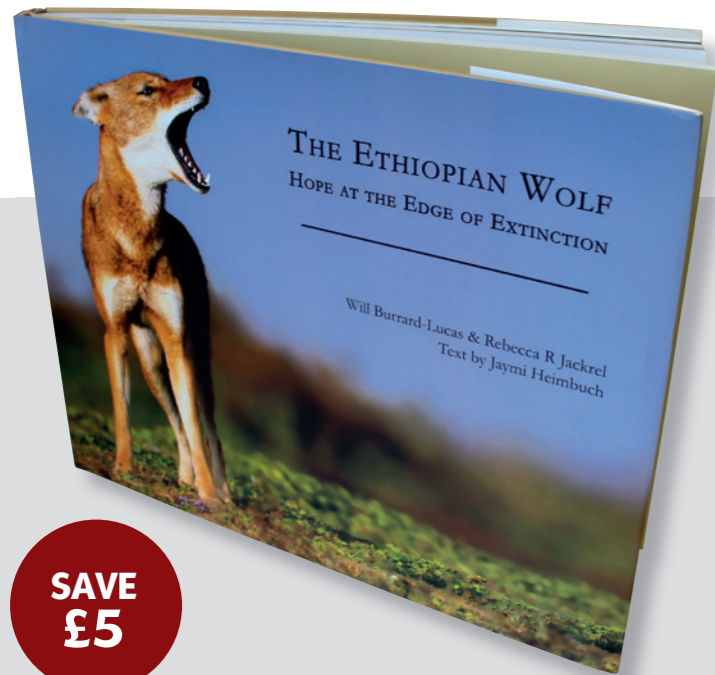
I highly recommend this informative and well-written trilogy.

Wendy Brooker



Gifts, clothing and wolfy souvenirs

SALE



SAVE £5

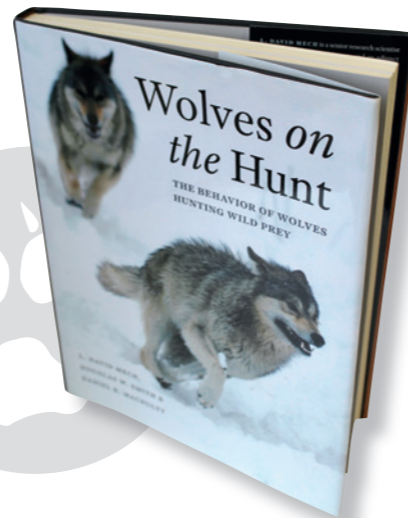
The Ethiopian Wolf: Hope at the Edge of Extinction £15.00

This large, A3 sized book gives a stunning insight into the mysterious life of the Ethiopian wolf. It is full of incredible photographs which let you experience the wolves and the Bale mountains that they call home. Its accompanied with wonderfully explorative text that explains even more about these creatures. A battle for survival is being waged on the Roof of Africa. **RRP £26.00 Previously priced at £20.00**



UKWCT Umbrella £8.00

An umbrella designed by the Trust. Alternate panels have the silhouette of a wolf in black printed on it. Available in two colours: red or lime green. Collapsible with a soft carry case. **Previously priced at £12.00**



Wolves on the Hunt £28.00

Wolf biologists Drs Mech, Smith & MacNulty give a very detailed account of the predatory behaviour of wolves. Well written and easy to read both for specialists and people interested in wolves and wildlife. Hardback 186 pages. **Previously priced at £35.00**



Sikko Phone Sock £5.00

This padded neoprene protective case is ideal for mobile phones and iPods, and its universal shape means that one size should fit all. Now you can represent the Trust while protecting your phone, with a beautiful photo of Sikko posing in the snow. It has the UK Wolf Conservation Trust logo printed on the bottom left hand corner; it is approximately 12cm x 8cm. **Previously priced at £7.75**

Motomo & Mai Card 20p

An A6 card featuring Motomo & Mai, blank inside for you to write your own message, supplied with an envelope. **Previously priced at 50p**



Save the Wolf Pin £2.00

Heed the call of the wild and show your support for the protection of wolf habitat. Made with a high-grade pewter in the USA. Engraved pewter construction. Tack-style back. Diameter 2cm. **Previously priced at £4.50**



SAVE £5

Cut Out Wolf Earrings £15.00

Adorn your ears with a pair of howling wolves sterling silver earrings. Size 2cm. **Previously priced at £20.00**



Mini Wolf Running Earrings £11.00

Handmade sterling silver Indian earrings. Wolves are in a running position. Wolf size 1.5cm wide x 1cm high. **Previously priced at £14.00**



Sitting Wolf Earrings £25.00

Silver hand-crafted earrings from USA featuring a wolf sitting, howling. Height of wolf 2.5cm. **Previously priced at £30.00**



3+ YEARS

30" Cuddlekins £30.00

Unbelievably soft and plush. 76cm long, suitable for age 3 and up. **Previously priced at £35.50.**

10" Red Wolf £8.00

A soft plush red wolf that has info attached on label about the species. **Previously priced at £13.00**



UKWCT Bottle Opener £4.00

A bottle top opener with images of all the Trust's ten wolves. Length 9cm. **Previously priced at £7.00**



HALF PRICE



Chromium Decorative Spoon £2.00

Chromium spoon with a wolf on the top and with the words UK Wolf Conservation Trust printed on the handle. Length 12cm. Packaged in presentation box. **Previously priced at £4.00**

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.



UKWCT Wolf Centre 'Visit Wednesdays'

Visit Wednesdays Open from 11am to 4pm
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 free parking. The Quirks Animal Roadshow will be here on May 30th!

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.



Howl Nights

Feel your backbone tingle and your ears vibrate with the sound. The evening starts with a presentation on wolf communication; you will then go on a tour of the centre and have the opportunity to let out a howl and see if the wolves respond!

Check website for future dates
7pm to 9.30pm
£10 per person. Don't forget to dress up warmly for an evening under the stars.
Age 8+ – 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 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
 - 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
 - Have a wrap up presentation about the projects we support with the money we take from our events
 - Learn what needs to happen for wolves and humans to coexist in the future
 - Take close up photographs 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.



Wolf Viewing & Bat Walk



- Tour the Trust and see the wolves up close
- Wolf photography opportunities and howling session
- Presentation by an expert on the life of bats in the UK
- Walk around the Trust at dusk to see the local bats flying around site.

The Trust is home to many bats, many of which live in nesting boxes on trees.

Check website for future dates
£15 per person.
Age 8+ – BOOKING ESSENTIAL.

Note: Please check the website for start times as they vary throughout the year.



WILDCATS

CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

Join us for another exciting evening focused on conservation. We are pleased to be hosting special guests Jo Cook and Chrissie Constantinou from the Wildcats Conservation Alliance, whose mission is to save wild tigers and Amur leopards for future generations.

The evening will involve an hour of wolf howling with a tour of the wolves, followed by a presentation based on the work that Wildcats Conservation Alliance conduct and the projects they support.

27th April 2018 7pm–9.30pm

Tickets £12 per person

Tickets available at: ukwct.org.uk/shop
click the events section and select
'A Conversation in Conservation'

or via phone: **0118 971 3330**

**TICKETS MUST BE BOOKED
DUE TO LIMITED SPACES**

**There will be a further two
'A Conversation in Conservation'
events:**

11th May 2018 7pm–9.30pm

Owl/Vultures Talk from
The Hawk Conservancy Trust

13th July 2018 7pm–9.30pm

Animals Saving Animals,
Anti Poaching Dogs