

# THE HOWLING REPORTER



WILD SPIRIT WOLF SANCTUARY

Summer 2011

## Our Mission

To provide permanent, safe sanctuary for abused and abandoned captive-bred wolves and wolf-dogs.

To educate the public on the wild wolf, the complexities of wolf-dog ownership and the excellent care and treatment of all animals domestic or wild.

## This Issue

Your generosity inspires us and keeps our rescues happy and healthy. Thank you for helping us reach for a bright future for our Sanctuary & our rescues.

### • TOUR PATH

Thanks to your help, our latest big project is underway. p. 2.

### • BIG PACK IN THE SKY

We say goodbye to three of our oldest fur-kids. p. 4.

### • NEVER FAR AWAY

Help us stay brave as our dearest Angel says goodbye. p. 5.

### • MEET THE NEW KIDS

Help us welcome two gorgeous boys who need sponsors. p. 6.

### • QUARTERLY FUND-RAISER

Come watch our animals enjoy summer enrichment. p. 9.



Our 12-year-old Specter relishes the goodies in his Bunny Basket enrichment treat. Your quarterly donations keep us thriving and evolving. Let's see if we can launch Specter from one of our least sponsored fur-kids to Top Dog!

COVER CANINE

## Argo

Like many humans out there on a bumpy road, Argo was a casualty of "downsizing." We're happy to welcome him to our furry family where "anti-social nippers" are understood and accepted. We're used to guarding our backsides. With your support, we will give this handsome youngster space to run with a friend, gourmet meals, and fun things to do. More p. 5.

about us

WILD SPIRIT WOLF SANCTUARY  
501(c)(3) non-profit organization  
Licensed by the USDA  
FID# 85-0424026

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COME FOR A TOUR!

Tuesday - Sunday  
11am 12:30pm 2pm 3:30pm  
CLOSED MONDAY  
See Map On Back Cover



Our New Mexico clay is the perfect ingredient for stunning Native American pottery, but perhaps the worst ingredient for a tour path at our Sanctuary. We've endured years of slimy mud frosting all winter, and during the rainy season. It's not only hard to get around in; it creates endless hours of cleaning up the floors of all our work spaces and the gift shop. Finally, we see an end to our quagmire nightmare.

This is the year our muddy bad dream ends. There are two main reasons for fixing our path. Naturally,

the first is the safety of our animals. Our staff and volunteers will be better able to quickly and easily access any enclosure in the event of an animal emergency. The second reason is, our tour path will be accessible to disabled guests, and to guests not so steady on their feet. Folks coming out to visit WSWS, meeting our rescued wolves and wolf-dogs up close and personal, and becoming involved in our mission is so vital to our success and our education efforts. We want to be able to offer this tremendous experience to everyone. Our new tour path will be our most extensive landscaping transformation to date. Our existing ground will be layered with landscaping fabric, and then a 6 inch layer of crusher fines, which are a very fine gravel and dust mixture. We mix the crusher fines with cement and then compress it with water and a gas-powered compactor. The result is a flat, gloriously mud-free zone. Railroad ties will define our path, and hold our crusher fines in place on one side of the path. On the other side, our current post and chain barrier will be replaced by a sturdy wooden barrier, with horse fence attached for added security. Each 10 foot section will cost \$2000. You can be a tour path sponsor, and we'll be thrilled to put up a plaque in your honor,



or in honor of a loved one, a business, a beloved pet, or anything you like. We're elated to have four section sponsors already. Our deepest thanks to our first 10 ft. section sponsor, Bob Patterson, Bernice Dalby for a 20 Ft. Section in memory of Walter Dalby, Leontine Bailey for a 10 ft. Section in memory of Steven Bailey, and Laura Williams for a 10 ft. section for "the love of Angel." We recently were blessed with another stupendous boost from the Home Depot Foundation. Our member Karen Tiner went to manager Cipriano Salas and told him all about our project! Howls of thanks, Karen! Not only is Home Depot providing a massive chunk of materials, but Mr. Salas is bringing out a crew of skilled workers to help us get our job done! As we always stress, any amount you can contribute will help us reach our goal. Howling thank you to: Our section sponsors mentioned above, Karen Tiner, Cipriano Salas, The Home Depot



Foundation, Donna & Ben Smart, Paul Oostenbrug, Jan Ravenwolf, Ginny Kagan, Catherine Goessman, Dotty Weller, Razvan Preda, Kirsten Swenson, Bonnie Long, Alyssa Peterson, Anonymous Donor, Blake Bouraw, Edward Khmara & Joy Silha, Jessica Gilmore, Lee & Jeanie Nguyen, George Shuster, Susan Fox, Nikki Mann, Nancy Hoffman, Barbara Damron, Carol Capitano, David Craft, Laura & Alan Winland, Marion Mallard, Rich Trommer, Louise Kahn, Sharon Milhomme and honorary heroes, Linda & Mike Stephens. Special thanks to lead volunteer, Alex who is a pro with the backhoe, and our powerhouse team volunteers, Tom, Donna, Dennis, Christina, Chloe, Jane and Mickael. Stupendous job! Thank you all for your tremendous support and for making our dreams come true.

## OPEN HOUSE AUGUST 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>

We would love to show off all our progress with our tour path, and caves houses and ponds for our fur kids! Please join us for our 2nd annual Open House on August 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. We'll also be passing out our Summer Coolers enrichment treats to our wolves and wolf-dogs. Look for details soon on our website at [www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org](http://www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org).

# I STILL DREAM ABOUT HIM

By Leyton Jay Cougar

I woke late after spending five long days at Wolf Park's intensive wolf behavior class. The hotel room was still dark and I would have sworn that I felt his breath against my cheek as I sat up with a startle-- another dream even after nearly three years. Sweat was beading on my brow and my eyes filled with tears, obscuring my vision, as I struggled to find the light switch. I headed toward the shower. The water was hot as I attempted to wash the emotions from my mind. I dressed and trotted down the street from my hotel to the local Denny's--now almost three in the afternoon. The wind was warm and humid as I crossed the street carelessly. My emotions were still getting the best of me.

I am certain that anyone who has ever lost a loved one, a best friend, or companion can relate to the feelings and thoughts that seem to randomly invade our peace of mind when we least expect it, the memories of the good times, the trials and triumphs of relationships that bring us so close to others.

As the memories of Raven flooded my mind again, I was seated in a nearly empty restaurant, thankfully. Attempting to look as if all was well, I ordered my late breakfast. Sniffing and fighting back the tears that seemed to involuntarily trickle down my face, I sat quietly trying to hide my state of mind.

In no time my meager meal of 4 eggs, hash browns, bacon, fruit and coffee arrived. All through the meal I could see the dream over and over. I and my best buddy teaching children and adults about wolves and their crucial value to nature that so many humans ignore...he, licking my face and me licking him back.

Again the tears streamed down my face as I sat sniffing and wolfing my food, hoping the waiter would not notice. He did. "Everything all right?" He asked. "Just fine," I sniffed. "How 'bout a coffee to go?" he suggested. "That would be nice," I said, working diligently not to burst.

Tossing a tip on the table, I quickly paid the bill and rushed out the door.

The humid air and the warm wind dried my tears for the moment. Why am I so wrapped up in these feelings today? I have dealt so well with his passing. Was it just the reality of the dream? Was it something else? Rushing against traffic, I crossed the street to my hotel.

Safe inside, I cried without inhibition, reflecting on our time together, Man and Wolf, a wolf and his man. Even this moment as I write this down, I weep for the loss of the friendship of one I miss so much.

They need us people! Wolves need us! We are their only hope for survival. Raven is my reminder that we are to be caretakers of the wild and nature. Wolves play an intrinsic part in nature; we must not forget that. We must tell others.

Wild Spirit's rescued wolves are the ambassadors of their species displaced by selfish humans. We must keep the wild, wild. We must teach our children to respect nature and all she has to offer. We must continue the charge to teach those that don't understand.



## READ MORE IN LEYTON'S BOOK!

*A Wolf and His Man* by Liz Parr and Leyton Cougar is the amazing story of the twelve year relationship between Leyton and his wolf partner, Raven. It's also a remarkable photo chronicle with full color, glossy illustrations of their unique story. We think it makes a great gift, and we're sure it's something most folks don't already have. Call 505-775-3304 to or order online at our website at [www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org](http://www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org).

## best friends

Thanks to our tireless and passionate staff, Angel, Allison, George and Angie, plus Cheryl, and our volunteers, Alex, Tom, Donna, Dennis, Christina, Chloe, Jane, Mickael, Trey and Tasha. You're the best!

## stellar support

Norma & Chuck Young, Jan Ravenwolf, Dick Thayer, Cheryl Ford, Jill Jacobs, Roger Vaughn, Taylor Hord, Leontine Bailey, David Frow, Barbara Grove, Dave Dorsey, James & Carolyn Maraniec, Bernice Dalby, Christine Crawford, Helen Garner & Liz Parr.

## business friends

Peter, Lisa & Jack of Printer's Press, Susan & Ric of Print Express, Shamrock Foods, Cindy of Green Valley Meats, Walmart, Canyon Crossroads, and Pine Hill Market.

## monthly supporters

Katharine Wade, David & Loretta Frow, Sonja Gentry, Eileen & John Stapleton, Dennis Meyer, Rebecca & Gerald Schobert, Wanda Langlet, Jim Zangl, Connie Bass, John & Marilynne Yeakley, Jim & Jeanette Norton, Nancy Schaller, Catherine Howard, Sally Wood, Dr. Jennifer Planitz, Warren Pleyte, Helen & Herbert Gelb, Nancy Edmonds, Sally Tamblingson, Don Marksbury, Stephanie Reyes, Erick Robinson, Scott & Joyce Norton, Sidney Steineweg, Susan Watson, Denise Inight, June Caster, John & Christine Shippling, Marion B Miller, Alexandra Norton, Frances Bussert and Erick Robinson, Ellen Seylar, Colleen Lavin, Ilyse Krive, Ray Morey, Linda Pullins, Bonita Hctor, Marian Davis, Nancy Eugenio, and Norman Cleveland.

## united way supporters

Barbara Bauer-Bass, Christopher Garcia, BJ Gunn, Cal & Judy Jaeger, Megan Meunier, Kimberly Reiten, Dick Thayer, Tim & Delma Wiseley, Jack Curtis, Kirk & Debra Benton, Amy Elena Arcaro, Cody & Amy Goslar, and Henrietta Sellers.

# Big Pack in the Sky



## GAIA

We said goodbye to our 14-year-old beauty Gaia on March 18th. It's hard to imagine our Sanctuary without our big smiling girl. Gaia was a low content wolf-dog who was originally

rescued from a shelter. She loved children, belly rubs, playing ball, and racing full speed around her enclosure. Gaia was best known for taming the wildest wolf ever to live at our Sanctuary, King. She was also an expert raven bird catcher. It was always difficult for us to believe Gaia was getting older; her loving personality and energetic attitude captivated volunteers and guests alike. The only complaints she had were not getting enough attention, her neighbor Luna, and her fur getting "plucked" during spring shedding. Suddenly, before our eyes, Gaia became an old lady fighting against stiff hips and a weakened immune system. It wasn't long until Gaia began having trouble moving around her enclosure, and her appetite quickly diminished. Despite her complications, Gaia appeared in good spirits, still greeting volunteers who entered her enclosure. However, we knew her time was coming to an end. On that final March morning, surrounded by staff and volunteers who loved her dearly, Gaia joined our Big Pack in the Sky. We send our heartfelt thanks on Gaia's behalf to her best friends including her longest friend, Ron Copeland and Wotan & Lynne Heatwole who sponsored Gaia over the years and ensured she had her quarterly treats.

Thanks to great friends, Richard Balstrode, Annie Tabor, Jan Blumentritt, Rebecca Graham, Jens Martinsen, Paula Hooker, Gail Ellison, Mary Scott and Julie & Alan Shields.



## SELENA

Two days shy of her 15th birthday, our snarling girl went to join her brothers and sisters in the Big Pack. Although we can't imagine our Sanctuary without her, we're so grateful

that she passed away peacefully one evening without any complications. Selena was the last of our seven pups who shared the rare experience of being born at Wild Spirit. She was certainly one of the most beautiful of our fur-kids, and came into our world with an alpha attitude. She was the most like her incomparable grandfather, our late resident, King. However, Selena was unable to convince her littermates that she should be their boss and so enjoyed a leisurely life with her dog boyfriend, Amani. As dominant as Selena was, Amani was in charge of their relationship and the only being to ever tame her. Not many guests ever visited our spicy girl because her enclosure was off our tour path. That was fine with her. Although bottle-raised by staff, Selena never developed a close relationship with humans. One of her favorite things was scaring new volunteers with a bone-chilling snarl as they walked past. That didn't prevent her from inspiring a long list of supporters to help us treat her like the queen she was. Our deepest thanks to Selena's best friends, Raymond Warner and his family who always went up to visit, monthly sponsors Elizabeth & Sidney Steinweg, Jan Blumentritt & Charles Sponsel, Jean Bearquiver, and the late Carol Holt, plus new friends, Janessa Leonski, Theresa Cornelius, Terry Simon, Jay Detter, Nilda Scott, Ron & Rachael Sche-  
na, Mary E Johnson, Karen Shire, Janice Trujillo, Donna Baremore, Beth Crampton, and Beth and Al Masse.



Photo of Baby Selena at left by Phil Sonier



## DOC

Doc came to our Sanctuary in 1999 along with wolves Mandi, Cody, Oprah, and Whitney. The five mistreated animals were originally part of a travelling ex-

otic animal attraction. The abuse these wolves suffered at the hands of their shameful owner attracted great media attention, and a touching out-pouring of support for our "Homestead Pack." Many people helped us rescue and care for these deserving kids. As time rolled on, we said goodbye to all of Doc's friends and then most all of our original rescues at WSWS and yet, Doc remained. We caught ourselves entertaining the whisper that he might be immortal. One of his best sponsors, Jae, nicknamed him "Docthuselah." Although blessed with a staggering life-line, gorgeous Doc never had any luck with the canine ladies. Something about him drove his pen mates crazy-- in the bad way. This bad luck streak eventually proved to be Doc's Achilles' heel. Although we saw no signs of trouble with his latest companion, Contessa, she attacked him one day. Despite our staff and volunteers taking great care of Doc in the days following, the trauma proved to be too much for our dear old man. Doc was blessed with some of the most loyal supporters of any of our animals. Howls of thanks to his stellar best friends: Katherine Wade, Mae Jackson, Jae Luree King, Judith Strom, Pamela & Don Erickson, Nancy Kinneman, Jim & Carolyn Mann and Bonnie & Victor Clark, plus great supporters, John Watson, Christine Coulter, Gail Lynn, Paul Nicola, and Susan Allen. Thank you for helping to write a happy ending to the epic tale of our remarkable boy.

# NEVER FAR AWAY

By Angel Bennett

At the end of one of the last tours I gave during the summer of 2005, one of our guests pulled me aside. During the tour, I had told everyone that I had come to volunteer at WSWS while on summer break from college, and was planning to return to Ohio and finish my degree in Psychology soon. This particular guest handed me her email address, and said something along these lines: "I know you're planning on going back to school, that is fine," she said, "But you don't seem excited when you talk about psychology. When you talk about wolves and the Sanctuary, you are so passionate, you light up. I'm curious to know where you'll be in six months, because I bet it's not where you thought you'd be."

Unfortunately, I misplaced her email address, though I've thought of her often. After all, in the end, she was right. Somehow that tour guest saw something in me that I had not yet seen in myself. While I did leave New Mexico that September; by November, I was back. Something in me had changed after spending my summer amongst wolves. I started to become a different person, and through the last six years, over 100 wolves have continued to shape me into who I am today.

Today, this journey is coming to an end. I will be relocating to Tennessee in August. While I will no longer be at Wild Spirit, the wolves and people I've met will continue to be with me, and the lessons they've taught me, will continue to shape my life forever onward.

There are not many people – let alone 25 year old girls – who can claim some of the many experiences I've had. I've coaxed a wolf to growl over a fake chicken in a staged "den of ill repute" on a movie set in Albuquerque, while quietly affirming to myself that yes, Richard Gere's butt is just as cute in real life. While perhaps more entertaining without explanation, this scenario happened when Leyton and I took Cheyenne to film a short (and largely unused) scene of the movie *The Flock*. A few years later, there was a stop-drop-and-roll adventure during a completely unused scene from Thomas Janes' *Dark Country*. It was unavoidable: When a naughty wolf steals a zombie-esque movie's one and only prop post-mortem hand, there is little choice other than to tackle and rescue, right?

I have traveled all over the country for animal rescues. I got stuck in Bronx rush hour traffic while picking up Contessa in Boston. I met Cesar Milan in LA, after picking up Leyton and Ally after their flight from Alaska. I crawled into a culvert to wrestle Silva into a kennel in Washington State. I vomited through videoing Leyton and a team's capture of Brutus, Navar and Akela at Fejerveray Children's zoo in Iowa. (Thanks to this and a few other incidents, I at one time held a reputation for not being able to go on a rescue mission without getting sick!) I transported two wolf-dogs in the back of my Kia Sportage after our van's transmission blew in Sedona, AZ. Somewhere between here and Oregon, I've lain on top of a kennel that was being eaten from the inside out by a not-so-pleased wolf (Yukon) while Leyton dumpster dived behind a Burger King in the middle of the night for emergency kennel reinforcements.

Some memories are more difficult. I have met Leyton in the middle of the night to change IV fluids for Teton and Sierra while they struggled to overcome the ingestion of *Cryptococcus*. I have

spent nights in the animal care office flushing Nimoy's wounds after the Powder Pack forced his removal from the pen. I have slept in a kennel at Albuquerque's Animal Emergency Clinic with Sassy. I have watched a wolf and his man say their final goodbyes during a silent snow fall right before Easter Morning. I, myself, have spent three nights in our main office caring for Lupe before he passed away, and then became licensed to humanely euthanize in order to help others pass in the future, if they needed it.

But the simple, joyful memories will far outweigh any pain. I will remember touching the very shy Embla's cheek for the first time after months of just reading quietly in her enclosure. I will think of touching Duchess for the first time after five years, and then, taking her for a walk only a few months later. I will remember six gray fluff balls arriving in the office in the middle of the night – and at least vaguely – the next few weeks of bottle feeding them before they somehow grew up to be wolves. I can still see baby Storm – spots and all – toddling proudly into the animal care office after stealing a chicken leg quarter from the wolf kitchen. I can almost feel Sabine nibbling on my lip when she was hungry.

There are pictures in my mind that will keep me smiling for the rest of my life: a Saint Bernard romping in the snow with five adolescent wolves, Rain and Nimoy – falling in love at first sight, dancing through their new enclosure, a group of wolves being green and disgusting after devouring an elk, hoping only to jump on Daddy Leyton's lap and share their delicious snack! The New Orleans Pack, moving like a school of fish, and discovering that they no longer only had 100 square feet of space, but 3,000. Standing in front of Mountain Pack's enclosure and hearing the whimper of newly born pups, and days later, hearing them howl for the very first time.

And Forest, oh Forest, the memories you've given me... Working with this magnificent ambassador wolf has truly been the most meaningful thing I've ever done. Whatever small comfort I was able to give to him during our adventures, he has more than tripled for me in joy and wisdom. We have shared long van rides, bags



## MEET OUR NEW KIDS



**ARGO**— Join us in welcoming mischievous and shy Argo. Careful, you might become enchanted by his eyes. They are stunning silver, not the amber color we usually see. This four-year-old boy comes to us from Minnesota where he lived with four other animals. Argo's owner felt as though she had too many wolves, and thought we would be a good place for her least social animal

with the nipping tendencies. We classify Argo as a high-content wolf-dog, which means he has more wolf characteristics than dog characteristics. For a more thorough explanation on content levels, please visit [www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org](http://www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org), click on "About", and open the History section. At the bottom of this page, you'll see a list of newsletters. Open the link to the winter 2008 issue and enjoy Angel's great article. We were looking for a male companion for one of our lone females, and had to consider the fact that Argo might have a hard time finding a place that would understand him as well as we could. We set off to bring him to his new home with us. Leyton and George drove to Minnesota and were lucky to have a fairly easy time with Argo. They were able to secure him in the owner's barn and tranquilize him safely. Argo made the long drive home without any troubles. We all thought our sweet, very social girl, Cheyenne, would be a good match for our new boy. We brought him right to her when he arrived, and although there were no issues between the new roommates, Argo spent two weeks hiding out until he felt more secure. We're thrilled to see this handsome boy becoming more curious and comfortable. We've certainly noticed those "nipping tendencies." It seems his new favorite pastime is trying to bite his caretaker on his or her rear end. His caretakers will have to watch their backsides, especially if Argo's hobby begins to escalate. His relationship with Cheyenne is improving, but both still feel they have to remind the other who is the boss. So far, we've noticed that along with sneaking up on caretakers, a few of Argo's favorite things are his breakfast delivery and his bed on the hill. We hope to find our new boy some fine folks to welcome him into their extended families as his sponsors. We also hope you all come out and see those eyes in person. Thanks for all your vital support.



**JUNIOR**— Meet our newest retiree who arrived at Wild Spirit in early March. Junior has a trouble-free past, compared to many of our fur-kids. He was lucky to have a very caring owner in Alabama. Although she loved Junior deeply, his owner missed being away from her family who lives in upstate New York. Between her job and the distance, Junior's owner seldom got time to visit her family, and eventually decided to move

back East to be closer to them. We classify Junior as a high-content wolf-dog which means he is more wolfish than doggy. His owner knew it would be very difficult to find the right place for him to go. She felt Wild Spirit could best address his particular needs and ensure his safety. She asked if we had room for Junior and we agreed to provide him a retirement home. She drove her old guy out to us in New Mexico from Alabama, and helped us welcome him into his new home. Junior currently lives by himself in his enclosure and he does not live along our tour path. However, if you choose to sponsor our newest senior and would like to say hello, we'll be happy to escort you up for a private visit. Even though Junior is in his later years, we will be looking for a companion to join him. He is an extremely sweet and gentle old man who has already stolen the hearts of our staff and volunteers. When a volunteer enters his enclosure, Junior will immediately walk over to get some love. He seems to be tickled about having some canine neighbors to chat with, particularly Rain and Nimoy on one side, and Teton and Shasta on his other side. Junior loves getting his ears rubbed, volunteers coming in to visit, and short walks. He's already enjoyed the delight of our first enrichment treat of the year, the Bunny Basket. (More photos p. 9). Without the typical new kid reservations, Junior dove right in to his treat with great gusto. Unfortunately, Junior is troubled by chronic ear infections, but we were delightfully surprised to find that he knows the proper protocol for helping us treat him. When it's time for a cleaning, Junior calmly lies down and lets us wash and medicate his ears! As one of our elderly residents, we have placed Junior on Joint Discovery supplements to help keep his bones in good shape. We would love to see Junior find some sponsors of his own who would be eager to help us see that his last years are full of love, good food, healthy ears and joints, and many more treats.



# SOMEONE'S WAITING FOR ME

By Leyton Jay Cougar

It was my third day at Wolf Park's intensive course on wolf behavior and captive management when my good buddy John (The Dingo Dude) Williams arranged for me a visit to Indiana Coyote Rescue. CeAnn Lambert, the founder of the organization, had just passed away suddenly leaving 21 coyotes without a permanent caregiver. I followed John in my rental car and drove for about an hour from Wolf Park rocking out to the music on Sirius Radio as I drove. Suddenly there was this strange notion in my head. I swear I heard a voice that said, "Someone's waiting for you." Hmmm I thought, did I just fabricate that thought or was there genuinely "someone" waiting for me? Who knew I was coming? Was just my passion for abandoned abused displaced canines that was influencing my thoughts? Was I having weird wishful thoughts? I would just have to wait and see.

We finally arrived; way out in Indiana farm land, at the house where CeAnn had her rescue. John and I were met by Gail Motter, a friend of WSWS & former wolf handler from Wolf Park.

Well of course, Gail was waiting...duh...I did not know she had stepped in to help with the coyotes after CeAnn's passing. We all entered the house and were greeted by several big and small dogs and the song of coyotes in the back yard. As I was greeting the dogs...or should I say as I was being pummeled by the dogs, I felt a pair of eyes staring at me. Looking out the large window that overlooked the coyote pens, I saw a beautiful buff colored female coyote standing on her house staring very intently at me. Was it me? I stared back through the window and heard a message in my head. "Please come see me!"

I made no hesitation and proceeded to the back yard. Her eyes never left me nor did my eyes divert from her. My heart did a little pitter pat as I approached. Suddenly there was a deep love connection. She hopped off her house as I got closer, I knelt down at the gate as this little coyote cooed and whined at me. She instantly did a somersault, flopped over on her back in submission and peed on me as I attempted to stroke her through the fence.

Now, under almost any circumstance, one would be a fool to touch any wild animal through a fence or otherwise, but something was happening in the heart of a man and a coyote. Astonished by her behavior, Gail informed John and I, "That doesn't happen." "What's this lady's name?" I asked. Gail responded, "I have never seen her act like that before. Lyla is very aggressive and attacks her caretakers if they are off their guard." Gail went on to explain that Lyla's partner Jasa is very shy, mostly because Lyla is so aggressive she will not let him get close to people. Funny, she let him come nose to nose with me through the fence. I was in a state of bliss as this little wild canid seemed to not be able to get enough of me. I hated to even walk away and visit the other coyotes that were there. I walked around the back yard that was way too small for such a big operation. With CeAnn gone, the animals were in need of finding new homes.

Anyone who knows me knows my passion for canines, wild and domestic. My heart and soul was weeping for these wonder-

ful wild creatures that were in such small spaces. Like our wolves at WSWS, they were people's pets that had to be surrendered. Why? Because wild animals are not pets! HELLO, people! Wake up and smell the forest! Our wilderness needs coyotes and wolves not our living rooms! I spent as much time as I could with little Lyla that evening until dark, then drove back to my hotel in a state of bliss and bewilderment. Bliss from the unique connection that I just experienced and bewilderment over why humans insist on possessing the wild rather than caring for it.

At my hotel room I fired up my computer to see if I could find another coyote rescue that might be able to place these animals...I found none. There are a few rescues and sanctuaries that do rescue coyotes from time to time but none that I could find that were exclusive to coyotes like the Indiana Coyote Rescue Center.

When I returned to class at Wolf Park the next day, news of my coyote love session had already spread to the staff there. People came up to me and said, "We heard you have a new girl friend". So, I had to call my wife and confess my infidelity. Of course being a canine lover, she understood my motivation and forgave my cheating heart. Now my heart is torn, what will become of these precious wild animals, how can I help?

Wild Spirit is currently home to 54 wolves and wolf-dogs and one little red fox; could we provide sanctuary for these wild canids too? We can. We have the space, the habitat and the experience to help.

I went back to see Lyla two days later, but not before I had Angel call NM Game and Fish to see if they would allow us to help and bring home some of those animals in need. So, we are now applying for permits to home at least two but possibly six of those coyotes. I have no idea if the permits will be issued to us, but I must try!

I can imagine that some people would question my actions since we are a Wolf Sanctuary, but coyotes are canine too,

and like all wildlife deserve the right to live as best as they can.

I believe that by showing smart humans what other humans are doing with and to wild animals, we can begin to raise better awareness about nature and the wild. We have captive-bred wolves displaced by human ignorance that are ambassadors to their kind to help teach people that wild animals are not pets. We give the public the opportunity to see them up close and personal in hopes that having a wolf encounter at WSWS will help educate and change the minds of people. We want to help them realize that wolves are NOT the big bad beast that is going to run amok and eat them. We hope that when humans see our wolves and hear our educational talks that they will have a new discovery about the wild and the wolf.

Now, we just might get the opportunity to help humans learn also that we can indeed live together with nature's creations and wild canines, be they wolf or coyote! They would not be on planet earth if they were not needed! Please support us in saving more lives so that we can give people the chance to see these beautiful wild animals up close and personal so that people everywhere can begin to learn and understand the roles they have in our own human survival.





## CAVES & PONDS

Home make overs are sprouting for two more of our enclosures this summer! Thanks to hard-working and generous folks, Forest Pack and Cove and Lucian's pens are transforming. So far, our Cave and Pond Hero is without doubt Christine Crawford. Not only did Christine sponsor our first home makeover for Skye and Brutus, and another makeover for the Forest Pack, but then, Christine and her husband Gary came out and worked as hard as any volunteers ever have getting things rolling. Along with our outstanding summer crew of volunteers, Alex, Christina, Tom, Donna, Dennis, Chloe, Jane, Mickael, and Trey, we thank our great Cave and Pond Party volunteers, Gina & Justin, Marnie & family, Jenessa, Road grader Ed, and Amanda. And that's not all! Thanks to Aline & Roy Fister, Specter & Dusty's pond and cave house is on the horizon, and one of Doc's best friends, Jae Luree King, sponsored his future home makeover. Sadly, our Doc passed away before he was able to enjoy his new pad (see p. 4 for details), but any of our residents will luxuriate in the improvements made in the name of such an unforgettable guy. Howling thanks to you all for making such a stunning difference.

In the middle of our excitement, we got a shocking blow. One of our dear volunteers and members, Ed Gardner, was accidentally killed. A car struck Ed while he attempted to save a family of ducklings crossing the highway. He was one of those people that seemed too good to be true, and yet he simply was that amazing.



He will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him, but fondly remembered by us all. We'll place a bench facing Cove and Lucian and the cave and pond that he sponsored for them, but never got to see completed. Our prayers are with his family and friends.

We are so very sorry.

## OFFICE FACELIFT

For those of you who have come to visit us over the years, and gasped at the state of our office. you will be as thrilled as we are with our long overdue office makeover. Most notably are the solid floor, functioning doors, and custom storage! Huge thank you to our Office Hero, Darren Collins for hours of labor, along with Ed Liebel, & Alex, our lead volunteer, for the inspiring transformation.



## SPONSORSHIP NUMBERS

We've calculated that it takes a minimum of 15 sponsors per year at \$125 each to help take care of one of our rescued fur-kids. Of course our ultimate goal would be for each of them to have hundreds. Look what you did! The kids you met last issue are already halfway or more to their goal of 15. We've never had so many sponsors! We're hoping 2011 will be the year each of our rescues will have at least 15 sponsors. Your support keeps our animals thriving and our hopes alive. Thank you!

Ally.....40	Kota.....13	Shasta.....11
Contessa.....26	Lakota.....13	Thunder.....11
Gypsy.....19	Brutus II.....12	Cove.....10
Jaeger.....19	Flurry.....12	Katrina.....10
Dakota.....17	Juno.....12	Lani.....10
Akela.....16	Nakota.....12	Nikki.....10
Axel.....15	Riot.....12	Oscar.....10
Azteca.....15	Sabine.....12	Rain.....10
Forest.....15	Sugar.....12	Savannah.....10
Romeo.....15	Angel.....11	Lucian.....9
Cheyenne...14	Duchess.....11	Luna.....9
Goldie.....14	Dusty.....11	Nimoy.....9
Silva.....14	Maki.....11	Teton.....9
Storm.....14	Navar.....11	Specter.....9
Alice.....13	Powder.....11	Skye.....8
Brutus.....13	Saint.....11	Two-Toe.....8
	Sassy.....11	



## IN THE CONE

Our eight-year-old Akela stripped all the skin off of her right wrist one day. We think she might have injured herself by getting her arm trapped in a portion of the fence. This painful injury takes a long time to heal because the skin cannot be stitched back together again, and there is a significant risk of infection. Akela was safest in a pen by herself and had to do some time in the dreaded cone. Our staff and volunteers did a fantastic job caring for her wound and she is recovering nicely. She is now back with her brothers, Navar and Brutus. We can always use any extra donation you can spare for unexpected medical expenses. Thank you for helping us give our residents the top care they deserve.

## ACTION TEAM CALL FOR MEMBERS

Our Sanctuary is in the middle of thrilling and vital upgrades that will greatly improve our ability to serve our rescued wolves and wolf-dogs and raise money for future projects. In that effort, we need volunteers! We are looking for a team of energetic people to coordinate fundraising parties and new-donor outreach, and to help us create innovative ways to see these projects reach completion! If you're interested, please email us at [info@wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org](mailto:info@wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org) or call us at 505-775-3304. Please join the fun, get involved in some crucial behind-the-scenes work, and help our wolves!



SAVANNAH  
Age: 5 Sponsors: 10

**SUMMER COOLERS -SUMMER FUND-RAISING PARTY**  
We work diligently to make each day at our Sanctuary a good one for our furry residents. Beyond providing superior care all year, we like to enrich Sanctuary life with four festive days of just plain fun. And you're invited! We're passing out Summer Coolers August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The festivities are possible thanks to your donations. Each quarter, we ask you to send a \$35 donation, either using the envelope provided, or with an on-line credit card donation, or give us a call with your credit card number. Your \$35 donation, or whatever you can spare, keeps us going throughout the quarter and ensures that our rescued wolves and wolf-dogs thrive and our education efforts continue.

## FUND-RAISER PHOTO GALLERY THANKS FOR BUNNY BASKETS



**BEST SMILE**

LANI & HER BASKET  
Age: 10 Sponsors: 10



JAEGER & SILVA



LUCIAN  
Age: 6 Sponsors: 9  
photo: Angela Albrecht



ROMEO  
Age: 4 Sponsors: 15



SAVANNAH & STORM



FLURRY  
Age: 4 Sponsors: 12



NIMOY  
Age: 5 Sponsors: 9



POWDER  
Age: 5 Sponsors: 11



NAVAR & BRUTUS

# WISH LIST

## GIFT CARDS

In our opinion, you can never go wrong donating a gift card. Our favorite stores are: Wal-Mart, Home Depot & Sam's Club.



## LATEX GLOVES

We feed our fur-kids raw meat, so our volunteers must wear vinyl or latex gloves. All sizes, please. [www.dontheglove.com](http://www.dontheglove.com).



## BUILDING SUPPLIES

Maybe you've got a surplus of the following items? If you don't feel like hauling them out, you could purchase a Home Depot gift card and we'll do the shopping and hauling!

PLYWOOD- 1/2" & 1/4", 4' x 8'

PRIVACY FENCE- 6' x 3 1/2"

CINDER BLOCKS- 8 x 8 x 16

CONCRETE MIX- 60 lb bags



## PORTABLE WELDING BENCH

We spend many hours welding metal for enclosures, gates and fencing. Life would be sweeter if our work sat up higher.



## CHIPPER/SHREDDER

We'll tidy and care for our surrounding woods and make mulch to keep our animals' enclosures cleaner & more comfortable.



## BATTERIES FOR SOLAR POWER

Naturally, we're "Going Green." Some buildings are already solar, and some need more batteries to power up. We use 12v, marine deep cycle, 590-720 CCA from Wal-Mart.

## ENVELOPES

We use: white 4-3/8" x 5-3/4" & white 3 5/8" x 6 1/2" Go to [GoodSearch.com](http://GoodSearch.com), put in Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary as your charity, and then pick an office supply store. [envelopes.com](http://envelopes.com) gives one of the highest donation percentages.

## INK PRINTER REFILL KITS

Here's another item you can shop for online through GoodSearch, and WSWS will get a percentage of the sale as a donation. We need lots of black ink, but color, too.

## EQUIPMENT RENTALS

Please save us hours of manual labor!

COMMERCIAL TRENCHER- ONE WEEK

BOBCAT- TWO WEEKS

PICK UP TRUCK- Ford F350 or F450

Our friend Ed Liebel works many hours trying to keep our old trucks running. We're hoping for a newer, working truck to help us get stuff done.



## What did you do?! I'm telling...



We love to thank people! Please don't hesitate to let us know if you or someone you know needs to be mentioned in our newsletter. We truly appreciate you all!

JUDY MYERS- A belated thank you for toys for Dusty Pup and joint supplements for Silva!

MARY HEALY- Hugest thank you Mary for making our riding lawn mower wish come true!

We can't wait to tame our weeds with our new toy!

DR. JENNIFER PLANTIZ- Our amazing friend treated our staff to free eye care again this year! We could never find vision insurance that could take better care of us than Dr. Plantiz and her wonderful staff. We truly appreciate all your support through the years!

POND AND CAVE HEROES- (see p. 8).

TOUR PATH HEROES- (see p. 2).

BIG BEEFY CHECKS- Our heartfelt thanks to those who ease our worries with larger lump sums: CHRIS & LISE ERNST IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH ERNST, JAN RAVENWOLF, SHARON WANAMAKER (plus some for radios, birthday gifts & card for Storm & friends and Cheetos for Forest), and ROBERT & BARBARA WILSON. Thank you so much for your lifeline.

DARREN COLLINS- Not only is Darren the life of a party, but he's been one of our best workers. Thanks for all the work, Bro'!

RACE COWGILL AND THE ACTION GROUP- We are so grateful for the expertise and guidance Race shares. Thank you for inspiring us and creating our new Action Group: Bobbi & Terry Shelton, Jill Jacobs, George Stapleton, Angel Bennett, Dick Thayer, Karen Tiner, Janessa Leonski, Chan & Betty Stetson, and Taylor Hord. We know you'll take our Sanctuary to new heights!

PATRICIA CUEVAS SCANICE- Hearty thanks, Patricia, for the terrific donation of a king size bed, night stand, mirror/dresser, TV stand and computer desk!

KEN HASKIN- Thank you so much Ken for the beefy gift cards, totes, wheel barrels and gloves!

JANESSA LEONSKI- Huge thank you, Janessa, for the Security System, mattress for Angel and all kinds of other goodies!

SILENT AUCTION- Thanks to all the wonderful businesses who participated to raise funds for our tour path project!

LINDA AND MIKE STEPHENS- Thank you so much for the great job of hosting our first dinner party, and thanks also to ROB STEPHENS for cooking a fabulous meal!

MARIE LOBO- Thanks millions for hosting a 2nd dinner party at your home and thrilling not only guests with your hors d'oeuvres, but also our hungry volunteers for several days after!

SUE AT CINNAMON MORNING- Thank you Sue for treating our dinner party guests to your beautiful bed and breakfast!

DR. GAGE AND CINDY HOUGHTON- Thank you so much for coming out and helping with vaccinations for some of our residents and for bringing more veterinary supplies as well as some goodies for the volunteers. Howls of gratitude!

JAN RAVENWOLF- Jan is our steady best friend to both

humans and canines at WSWS. She does so much all year long, but she also keeps our newsletter free of typos and errors as our best proof-reader. Thanks Jan for everything!

LIZ PARR- Thank you, Dr. Parr for proof reading our newsletter and all the grammar lessons we sorely need!

CHRISTINA HARTSOCK- Howling thanks, Christina for organizing our very first Wolf Stock 2011!

RAYMOND DON WARNER- Thank you Clara & Linda Warner and Family, and Donna Baremore, for memorial donations in memory of "Don." We'll all miss him coming to visit his girl, Selena.

REMEMBERING SCOUT- Thank you Oz & Ruth Kraus, plus friends and family who made donations in memory of Chris Kraus & Phil Valdez's dog, Scout. We're so sorry for your loss.

HAPPY 50<sup>TH</sup> CHRIS ORR!- Thank you to friends and family of Chris Orr who made donations in honor of Chris's 50th birthday. Happy Birthday, Chris, and thanks for your great support!

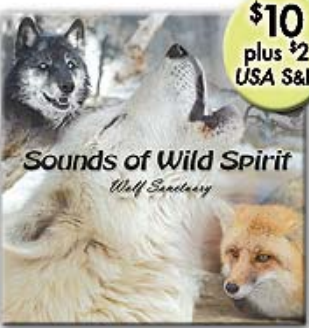
DAVE DORSEY, SARAH & BILL KIME AND LEE HANSEN- A millions thanks to our great pals for the glove donations!

RACHEL YAX- Howls to 9-year-old Rachel who sponsors our wolfy girl Sugar. Rachel loves wolves and hopes to help save them, too. We're thrilled she's already on her way as one of our youngest sponsors. Thank you, Rachel for your generosity and passion for wolves!

ANGEL BENNETT- We don't have enough room this issue to fully express what a tremendous impact you have had on our Sanctuary. We send you off with heavy hearts, but we only hope the very best for you, our truly phenomenal friend. You deserve all that you hope for, and more. We love you and appreciate you always. (Just hurry back). Look for more of our thoughts and gratitude in our next issue.

## WILD GIFTS

Order online at [www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org](http://www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org), send the form in this newsletter with your payment, or call us for a credit card order.



\$10  
plus \$2  
USA S&H

### HOWLING CD

Our original Wild Spirit CD allows you to enjoy captured huffs, puffs, whines, snorts, snarls, growls, and of course - most breathtaking of all - our wolf howls. Marvel at more than fifty wolves singing together in harmony; some tracks are just wolf sounds, other are accompanied with music. A small booklet accompanies your CD and explains the different sounds and songs.

### GREETING CARD 4-PACK



\$12  
4 pack  
plus \$1  
USA S&H

Hannah Leigh Jones created this painting in 2009 when she was 12. We've turned it into a full color greeting card. A wolf and a raven dancing by a moonlit forest lake make this charming card suitable for any occasion. This young artist shares her talents and love for wolves to help the rescues of Wild Spirit. We hope to put a calendar together featuring Hannah's paintings available in 2012, but look for more greeting cards soon.



contd. from p. 5.

of Cheetos, and sleepless nights. We've met children and critters all over the state, from kittens to tortoises to albino buffalo. I have never seen a more joyful, compassionate spirit. He will forever inspire me to be more forgiving, understanding and patient with people. If a wolf can put up with 40 kindergarteners poking and prodding him, I can put up with an irritable acquaintance.

Through it all, you, our members, have shared everything with me. I have delivered musical birthday cards and Valentines to your treasured "sponsor kids." I have sat in a vet's office, holding a phone to the head of an animal while his previous caretaker could say her last goodbyes. You send silly letters that make me laugh, inspirational stories of teaching your grandson that a donation can mean the most during the hardest of financial times, and words of concern when I've been injured. There are infants in Australia who were sponsors before they were born; Elders who have little to spend and yet share it with our wolves. It is almost as difficult to say goodbye to those of you I've grown to know through the mail as it is the people I've worked with day to day.

I was amazed a few months ago, when I realized that there are only three people in the state of New Mexico who gave us more than \$1000 last year. It is your \$50 or \$25 or even \$5 a year that keeps our Sanctuary going. It is a true testament to the statement: "every little bit helps." And please know, your words of encouragement are just as meaningful as your financial contributions.

As I have begun saying my goodbyes, folks have said things such as, "I don't know how the Sanctuary will survive without you." It will. It has before me and will continue to thrive after me. The real question is, how will I survive without the Sanctuary?

There is a large part of me that wonders if I will be back again in two weeks, two months, or two years. Whether I return or don't, I will never be far away. When I see a shooting star, I will always think of the New Mexico sky, more dotted with stars than black. When I hear a siren, it will be overwhelmed by the memory of sixty wolves howling. When my hand graces my own hip, I will feel the rough lines of the scars left from Taza's claws; and that, will forever be a reminder of how the wolves grabbed hold of me, and never let go.

# SUMMER FUND-RAISER

YOUR DONATION MEANS THE WORLD TO OUR RESCUED WOLVES AND WOLF-DOGS.

Make an on-line donation - Click the link below:  
[http://www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org/donations\\_memberships.php](http://www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org/donations_memberships.php)

Select an animal to sponsor - Click the link below:  
[http://www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org/our\\_animals.php](http://www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org/our_animals.php)

Or, print out, fill out and mail the form below.  
**THANK YOU!**

## Please Allow 4 Weeks For Delivery

All memberships include our quarterly newsletter. Please mark items you would like us to send. If you like, we'll send nothing but the newsletter. Thank You!

### Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary Needs Your Help!

Donations Are Tax Deductible & We Never Sell Our Mailing List

SUMMER COOLER  DONATION  ITEMS TO ORDER

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ \$Sent \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/MC# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_

Amount\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

FREE WOLF T-SHIRT  
 with Donations  
 of \$100 or More!



PLEASE CIRCLE SIZE  
**ADULT T-SHIRT**  
 Med Lrg X-lrg  


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**CHILD T-SHIRT**  
 Med Lrg X-lrg

### WE APPRECIATE ANY SUPPORT YOU CAN GIVE!

NO CONTRIBUTION RECEIPT, PLEASE

SEND NEWSLETTER ONLY, PLEASE

\$25 SINGLE INCLUDES:

Wolf Magnet  Newsletter Only

\$50 SUPPORTING INCLUDES:

Wolf Magnet  Wolf Card  Newsletter only

\$100 ALPHA INCLUDES:

Magnet  Card  T-shirt (circle size)  Newsletter Only

\$125 ANIMAL SPONSORSHIP (circle choice at right) INCLUDES:

Magnet  Certificate  T-shirt (circle size)  Newsletter Only

Thank You For Your Support! 1-505-775-3304  
[www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org](http://www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org)

SOUNDS CD \$10 + \$2 S&H each  
 #\_\_\_CDs

A WOLF AND HIS MAN BOOK \$20  
 #\_\_\_Books + \$5 S&H first book, \$2.40 add.

ART CARD 4 PACK \$12 + \$1 S&H each  
 #\_\_\_4-Packs with envelopes

PLEASE CIRCLE TO SPONSOR OR FOR TREAT  
 Ally, Alice, Argo, Azteca, Akela, Angel,  
 Axel, Brutus, Brutus II, Cheyenne, Cont-  
 essa, Cove, Dakota, Duchess, Dusty, Flurry,  
 Forest, Goldie, Gypsy, Jaeger, Junior,  
 Juno, Katrina, Kota, Lakota, Lani, Lucian,  
 Luna, Maki, Nakota, Navar, Nikki, Nimoy,  
 Oscar, Powder, Rain, Riot, Romeo the fox,  
 Sabine, Saint, Sassy, Savannah, Shasta,  
 Silva, Skye, Specter, Storm, Sugar,  
 Thunder, Two-Toe.

# COME HOWL ALONG

Guided Tours Tue-Sun

Adults \$7, Seniors \$6, 7-12yrs \$4

11 am, 12:30pm, 2pm & 3:30pm

CLOSED MONDAYS

505-775-3304

[www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org](http://www.wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org)

## FROM ALBUQUERQUE

I-40 West to Grants, take Exit 81. Turn left onto Hwy 53, go about 44 miles. About 2 miles past El Morro, look for a sign for Mountainview & Pine Hill. Turn left onto BIA 125, go 8 miles (through Mountainview). Turn right onto gravel road BIA 120. Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary is 4 miles down on the left.

## FROM GALLUP

Hwy 602 South, stay on 602 to intersection for Hwy 53. Turn left. Go through Ramah, then 10 more miles to BIA 125. Turn right onto BIA 125, go 8 miles (through Mountainview). Turn right onto gravel road BIA 120. Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary is 4 miles down on the left.



## PHOTO TOURS

Ever wish you could photograph a wolf? Come enjoy a private photographer's tour inside enclosures for fence-free photos. Appointments must be made at least 2 weeks in advance. Please call for pricing. Winter is best for great photos.

## CAMP WITH US

Spend a peaceful weekend at our fully-wooded campground. Experience the magic of wolves howling under a canopy of stars. We offer year-round camp sites for \$15 per night. Enjoy our heated shower house and grill rental.