



COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

JUNE 2021 • CONSERVATION • EDUCATION • PRESERVATION



*Meet
Rayne*

The Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization certified by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). Look for this logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things.

The contents of the material we include in our newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views of CWWC. We collect information from other organizations, the web, news feeds, and/or other sources. We choose articles that are in the related field of education and conservation.



TO SUBSCRIBE to our monthly newsletter, go to wolfeducation.org and sign up on the newsletter page.

CONTACT US
tours@wolfeducation.org
PO Box 713 Divide, CO
80814 719.687.9742



ON THE COVER: Rayne will soon be in her own enclosure with one of our other residents in the following 2 months. Currently, she is being socialized and being taught to walk on a leash. Updates will be on our newsletter and live feeds.

| SOCIAL MEDIA HAPPENINGS |

While we are all coping with our new way of life, you can still stay up to date with the animals here at CWWC. We are working to keep you involved in the work we are doing here, knowing how our animals are doing, and staying educated about wildlife news.


 **Subscribe to our YouTube Channel:**
ColoradoWolf&WildlifeCenter

We post bi-weekly videos of the training and enrichment we are providing for our animals. Our bi-weekly educational vlog about wolves—*Wolf Wisdom with Erika*—talks about the wolf reintroduction of wolves in Colorado, and other hot topics.

 **Follow us on Facebook:**
Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center

Thursdays between 3-4pm we have a Ask a Keeper livestream where you can ask us all those questions you've been dying to know. Every Friday at 8pm we post a video of one of

our keepers howling with the wolves for the Go Outside and Howl at 8 movement. We also share current wildlife events and stories that are happening around the world to keep you informed.

 **Follow us on Instagram:**
cowolfcenter

We post pictures of our beautiful animals, share stories of what we are doing around the center, and keep you up to date on everything wolf and wildlife related. Keep your eye on our story for fun videos of the day to day lives of our wolves and keepers.

We will also be doing monthly and possibly weekly giveaways and sales. These will only be announced on our social media so make sure you follow us on every platform and turn on your notifications.

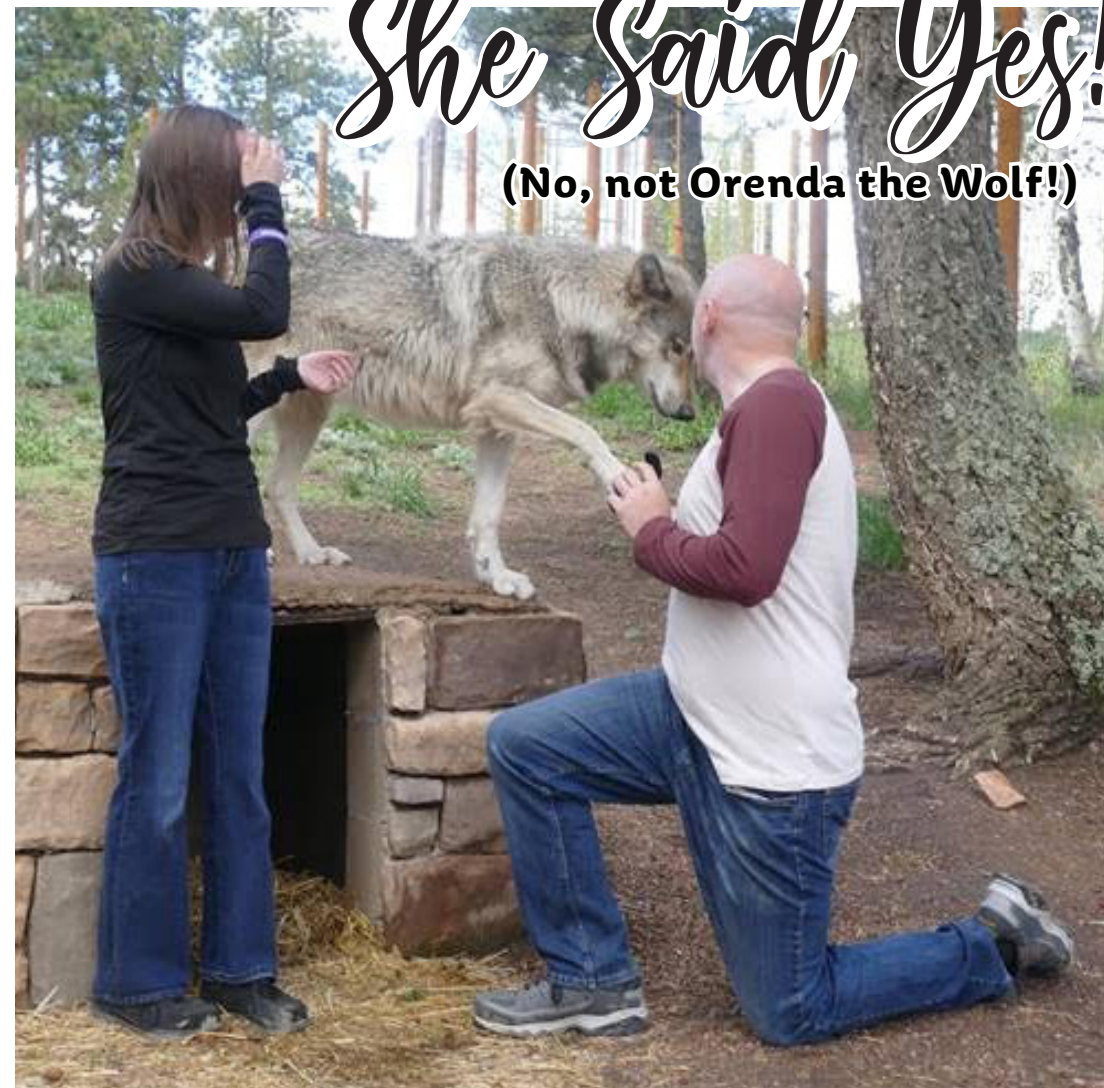
We hope to give you something to look forward to every day!

Our Barn got a Facelift!

I never thought that I would be excited about a barn, but it needed some makeup. Now it matches the visitor center.

The work was done by Emerald Edge Construction in Florissant.

Nice job!



She Said Yes!
(No, not Orenda the Wolf!)

Marisa Henriksen and Alec Kenefick did a VIP on 6/1/21, and Alec thought it would be a wonderful moment to propose to his girlfriend! Orenda helped herself, and accepted on Marisa's behalf. Congratulations Marisa and Alec and thank you for allowing us to be a part of your proposal!!! If you'd like to plan your special moment, VIPs and Ultimates are a great time to do it. Call us to reserve your spot at 719-687-9742

HELP AMERICA'S WOLVES:



<https://tinyurl.com/RestoreWolfProtection>

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

A perfect evening for a successful turnout and fun event. It has taken many years to finally get the month of June for the annual Business After Hours event. It was a great time. We would like to thank Deb from the Woodland Chamber who has been coming to CWWC since 2012, and the vendors who helped make the event joyful.

THANK YOU!

Wild Flour Baking Company - *pastries* | Wines of Colorado - *wine*
Peak View BBQ & Tap Room - *beer* | Stephen Keyer - *music*

Rayne has many meanings in different origins. Some of which are “queen”, “mighty”, song” among others. So, she is a mighty queen who sings a beautiful song. Rayne is 8 weeks old. She came from a facility in Texas where she was intended to find a permanent home and be a beautiful representation of the wolf. She will help to educate tens of thousands of people throughout her lifetime about the wolf and hopefully change minds of those who fear or hate wolves to learn and respect them as a beautiful, valuable, and iconic animal of our country.

Rayne making an appearance »



« CWWC staff/members who helped to make it all run smooth
Left to right: Claire, Julia, Lorianne, Kelly, Erika
Not shown: Catherine Crothers, Dianne Vanderpool, Barb Burton, Lindsey Grigg, Morgan Bertrami



Rick and his famous green chili, gumbo and vegetarian soup



Mini tours every 15 minutes of the Center



Ringo Star, our coyote, dog having fun with a meet and greet



CPW announces members selected for Gray Wolf Reintroduction Technical Working Group and Stakeholder Advisory Group

Rebecca Ferrell | Colorado Parks & Wildlife | June 3, 2021

DENVER-- Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has selected the membership for both the Technical Working Group (TWG) and the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) convened to serve as advisory bodies to the agency as the Commission and CPW staff plan the implementation of Proposition 114.

The combined experience and input of these groups will help guide CPW staff and the Commission in the final direction to restore and manage gray wolves in Colorado no later than December 31, 2023.

"We want to thank all of those that submitted an application or considered an offer to participate in these important advisory groups," said CPW Director Dan Prenzl. "While this is certainly an opportunity to share perspectives and expertise, it's important to note it is also a significant commitment of time and energy, and we greatly appreciate all those who volunteered their time. We are now eager to get to work with those selected to move forward with us on the implementation process."

The TWG will review and contribute expertise towards the development of conservation objectives, management strategies and damage prevention and compensation planning. The members selected for the TWG are:

- Scott Becker - United States Fish and Wildlife Service - Wyoming Wolf Coordinator
- Alan Bitner - Bureau of Land Management -

Deputy State Director - Resources

- Stewart Breck - National Wildlife Research Center - Research Wildlife Biologist
- Roblyn Brown - Oregon Fish and Game - Wildlife Biologist
- Wayne East - Colorado Department of Agriculture - Agricultural/Wildlife Liaison
- Justin Gude - Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks - Research and Technical Services Bureau Chief
- Jonathan Houck - Gunnison County Commissioner
- Mike Jimenez - USFWS retired
- Merrit Linke - Grand County Commissioner
- Steve Lohr - United States Forest Service - Renewable Resources Director Rocky Mountain Region
- Martin Lowney - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - State Director
- Carter Niemeyer - USFWS retired
- Eric Odell - Colorado Parks and Wildlife - Species Conservation Biologist
- Mike Phillips - Rocky Mountain Wolf Project
- John Sanderson - Center for Collaborative Conservation - CSU - Director
- Doug Smith National Park Service - Project Leader Yellowstone/Jennifer Carpenter - Associate Regional Director for Resource Stewardship and Science
- Robin Young - Colorado State University Extension Service - Extension Agent

The SAG will provide a range of viewpoints from diverse geographic areas of the state and propose considerations for the plans developed by the TWG. The members selected for the SAG are:

- Matt Barnes (W) - Dolores. Runs range science business and works with the Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative (human/carnivore coexistence)
- Donald Broom (W) - Craig. Moffat County Commissioner
- Jenny Burbey (W) - Hesperus. President of CO Outfitters Association, Outfitter, livestock producer
- Bob Chastain - Colorado Springs. President/CEO of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
- Renee Deal (W) - Somerset. Rancher, outfitter, member of agricultural groups
- Adam Gall (W) - Paonia. Wolf biologist for 5 years in Idaho, employed by Nez Perce tribe
- Dan Gates - Canon City. Chair of Coloradans for Responsible Wildlife Management
- John Howard (W) - Grand Junction. Former CPW commissioner
- Francie Jacober (W) - Carbondale. Pitkin County Commissioner
- **Darlene Kobobel - Divide. Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center**
- Lenny Klingsmith (W) - Meeker. Rancher and outfitter, member of agricultural

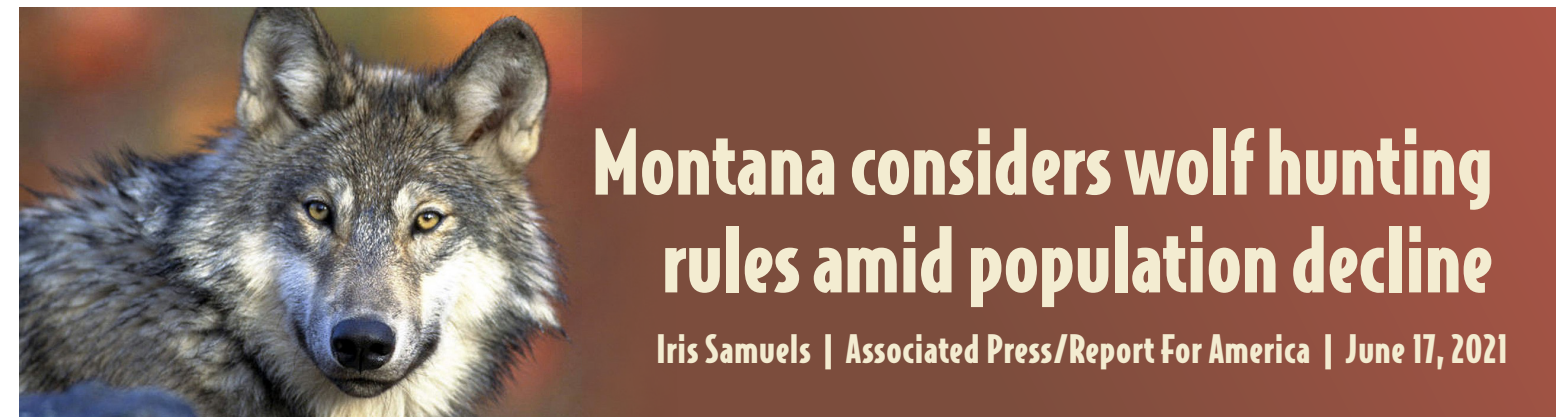
groups

- Tom Kourlis - Castle Rock. Rancher and Outfitter, Former Commissioner of Agriculture, member of agricultural groups
 - Brian Kurzel - Denver. Rocky Mountain Regional Executive Director for the National Wildlife Federation
 - Hallie Mahowald (W) - Salida. Program Director of Western Landowners Alliance
 - Jonathan Proctor - Denver. Regional Director for Defenders of Wildlife
 - Gary Skiba (W) - Durango. Wildlife Program Manager, San Juan Citizen Alliance
- Department of Natural Resources Executive Director Dan Gibbs, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Director Dan Prenzl and Colorado Department of Agriculture Commissioner Kate Greenberg will serve as Ex-Officio members.

(W) - Denotes Western Slope representation

For additional information on the next steps and phases of planning for the reintroduction of gray wolves, please visit the Stay Informed page on the CPW website, or sign up for CPW's Gray Wolf Reintroduction eNewsletter.

TRIP TO YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK JUNE 9TH-13TH



Darlene and Aspen at Yellowstone passing out informational flyers to urge people to be a voice and make them aware of the wolf slaughter starting July 1st, 2021.



HELENA (AP) – A commission governing wolf hunting in Montana is considering new wolf management rules that would make it easier to hunt wolves in the state after the Legislature passed several laws earlier this year to encourage additional wolf hunting.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks already expects the number of wolves in the state to decrease from around 1,150 to between 900 and 950 wolves following a particularly successful hunting season. Over 320 wolves were harvested during the 2020 hunting season – significantly more than the preceding eight-year average of 242 wolves per year, according to a report released by the department this week.

Still, the department believes the state's wolf population can support increased wolf hunting without leading to adverse biological effects, according to the report.

The fish and wildlife commission – which governs hunting regulations – is expected to meet next week to hear public comment on proposed rules released this week to implement laws passed by the Legislature.

The department proposed adopting several new measures, including increasing the number of wolves an individual can hunt to between five and 10, allowing snaring during trapping season and night hunting on private lands, using baits for hunting and trapping, and extending the season dates. The department is taking public comment on several different alternatives for implementing the laws.

The department stopped short of proposing the full breadth of rules laid out the Republican-backed legislation, which called for individuals to be allowed to kill unlimited numbers of wolves

and allow snaring on both private and public land, among other measures.

The department also laid out in its proposal that if 450 wolves or more are harvested in a single season – half the estimated current population – the commission would meet to adjust the rules mid-season.

The proposed rules do not set a target number for the state's wolf population, but 150 animals, or 15 breeding pairs, is considered a minimum threshold for conservation purposes.

The department followed raised concern that extending the wolf trapping season could increase the risk of capturing grizzly bears, and that using snares could lead to accidental capturing of other wildlife and pets.

Advocates of the new laws that triggered the rule changing process have said that wolves are damaging the livelihood of big game outfitter and cattle and sheep producers.

Wolves were largely eradicated in Montana early last century but recovered under federal protection as some of the animals migrated down from Canada and others were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park in 1995. Many ranchers and hunting groups opposed the move because of wolf attacks on livestock and their natural prey, including big game such as elk.

Tensions eased after the animals lost their endangered species protections in Montana in 2011 and public hunting and trapping were allowed.

Wolf advocates have said the new laws could risk driving away tourists who come to view wolves in places like Yellowstone and Glacier National parks and potentially causing harm to wolf populations.

COLORADO WILDLIFE MANAGER INVESTIGATED FOR MEDDLING WITH WOLF REINTRODUCTION

12-week probe finds "some" allegations were true but gives no details; Colorado Parks and Wildlife manager back on the job and whistleblower resigns

Bruce Finley | The Denver Post | June 12, 2021

A senior Colorado Parks and Wildlife manager has been reinstated after a 12-week investigation into a whistleblower's allegations that he tried to sabotage the voter-directed reintroduction of wolves — using tactics that included hiring an outside group to post videos on YouTube and Facebook targeting pro-wolf state commissioners.

CPW Northwest Region Manager JT Romatzke has served in the agency for 23 years and is widely regarded as a star game warden. He was put on paid leave during the investigation and resumed work in April.

State investigators found "some" of the alleged offenses occurred, but officials this week wouldn't specify. Following the investigation, "appropriate action was taken," a state spokesman said, declining to give details. Romatzke wrote in an April 23 email that his "integrity and professionalism is intact" and he will "face the future with positivity and regain credibility."

Colorado Department of Natural Resources and CPW officials declined to discuss the matter, but said in a statement "there is no question" that they are "fully committed to restoring wolves to Colorado as required by state law."

In November 2020, voters narrowly approved Proposition 114, which requires CPW to reintroduce a self-sustaining wolf population in western Colorado before 2024. Gov. Jared Polis supports

this and has emphasized there must be "paws on the ground" by the deadline.

But wolf reintroduction is unpopular in parts of rural Colorado where wolves are seen as a threat to cattle. It's also unpopular among some Colorado Parks and Wildlife biologists.

Documents and recordings reviewed by The Denver Post show CPW officials based on the Western Slope working to subvert voters' directive to bring back wolves. Agency directors prohibited Romatzke and other regional agency officials from talking with media before the 2020 election — including The Post.

Romatzke was the subject of an official complaint filed Jan. 18 with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, with 11-year CPW employee Randy Hampton accusing him of:

- Using state money to hire an outside group to anonymously post YouTube and Facebook videos casting negatively two pro-wolf commissioners appointed by Polis — Taishya Adams and Jay Tutchton. The complaint said Romatzke initially asked Hampton to "find a video editor," saying "it couldn't cost more than \$5,000" and "we can find a way to pay it." Hampton refused. In a Jan. 5 legally inadmissible taped phone call, which was shared with The Post, Romatzke told officials, "I've got an outside group doing just that.



Don't share that with anybody." It's unclear whether videos were posted.

- Instructing the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado to obtain information that Polis had sent to CPW commissioners urging them to move faster than the deadline for wolf reintroduction. Polis urged consideration of completing work sooner because lawsuits could force the federal government to reinstate endangered species protection for wolves.
- Guiding the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado to push anti-wolf perspectives in two northwest Colorado newspapers.
- Sharing details of targeting the commissioners with other managers in a conference call, according to a taped version provided to The Post by the national whistleblower law group
- Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, which represents Hampton.

The HR department's investigation concluded

"some" of the alleged misdeeds occurred, but didn't provide details in an April 18 letter that closed the case. Department of Natural Resources Spokesman Chris Arend cited privacy requirements around personnel matters and said officials were not available. In an April conference call with the human resources director, CPW Director Dan Prenzl and Romatzke, Hampton was given a choice of "onboarding" back to his position under Romatzke or resigning, according to a recording shared with the Post. Hampton voluntarily resigned, citing fears about safety for himself and his family in Grand Junction.

After moving to Denver, he then moved out of state.

Hampton said in an interview he was reluctant to file a complaint because Romatzke was a friend. He did so only at encouragement of Colorado Department of Natural Resources director Dan Gibbs, who Hampton said called him on a Sunday assuring him that if he filed the complaint he'd "be taken care of."

Continued on next page...

He said he resigned out of concern for the integrity of the CPW, and believes many “really great, passionate employees” are working under what he sees as ethically compromised conditions.

“I am anti forced-reintroduction, anti ballot-management of wildlife, for sure. But the voters spoke and our job is to get it done – not go out and interfere.” Hampton said.

Gibbs and Romatzke didn’t respond to requests for comment. Adams declined to comment publicly. Tutchton said he wasn’t fully informed of what happened and was glad to have “survived” what felt like a very difficult confirmation process.

“On their own time, people are free to trash me. ... But the part about using state resources in that effort, that is inappropriate. People should not be doing that in their uniform or on state time,” he said in an interview.

While he has “heard the skepticism” about wolves, he believes many at CPW “are doing their best to implement the will of the voters.”

Hampton’s PEER attorneys say Colorado

leaders need to better protect whistleblowers so that they don’t face retaliation.

“The people of Colorado voted for wolves reintroduction and when civil servants reject the will of the voters and substitute their own they are forsaking the democratic principles our nation was founded on,” senior attorney Kevin Bell said.

“He reported his supervisor, the supervisor was placed on leave for a few months, and our client was assured by the state that either the supervisor would be removed, or he would be reassigned to another position so he would not have to work under the same person he reported afterwards,” he said. “Neither of those things happened. The state substantiated the allegations and then did nothing.”

Earlier this week, Colorado officials announced the first wolf pups were born in the wild since the 1940s. State wildlife commissioners still must decide the number of wolves needed to achieve a self-sustaining population and where they’ll be released.



DISCOVER COLORADO:

SPEND THE DAY WITH WOLVES AT THE COLORADO WOLF AND WILDLIFE CENTER

The Denver7 Team | The Denver Channel | June 4, 2021

DIVIDE, Colo. – “The one thing I think love and will never ever get tired of is hearing the howl of a wolf,” says Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center Founder and CEO, Darlene Kobobel.

How would you like to spend the day hanging out with wolves? The Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center has dedicated the past 28 years to wolf rescue and education. It is extremely rare to see a wolf in the wild, but the center gives visitors an up-close and personal experience with wolves.

“We do educational tours and we teach people about wolves, why they belong in our ecosystem, dispel some of the myths,” says Kobobel. “To be able to see wolves up-close and personal, that is special because most people will never see a wolf in their lifetime.”

It’s been nearly 80 years since the last wild

gray wolf was killed in Colorado, but that soon could change. In 2020, voters in Colorado passed Proposition 114, a ballot initiative directing the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to develop a plan to reintroduce gray wolves onto the Western Slope in Colorado. However, there are still many deeply rooted misconceptions about wolves that the Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center hope to dismantle through education and awareness.

“Even to this day there’s that misconception of, if I go ride my bike out in the forest or I take my kids out to go camping, should we fear the wolves?” says Kobobel. “And we’ve had people that ask, what do we have to watch out for with wolves out there? Well, hopefully you get a chance to see one because they’re very elusive animals.”

NO HOT CARS!

A CAR'S TEMPERATURE WILL INCREASE **40** DEGREES IN AN HOUR

80 % OF THIS INCREASE OCCURS IN THE FIRST **30** MINUTES

Outside Temp (F)	Inside Temp (F)	
	10 min.	30 min.
70°	89°	104°
75°	94°	109°
80°	99°	114°
85°	104°	119°
90°	109°	124°
95°	114°	129°

WARNING!

DOGS DIE IN HOT CARS

TEMPERATURES INSIDE CARS CAN INCREASE RAPIDLY.

PETS CAN SUSTAIN **BRAIN DAMAGE** OR **DIE FROM HEAT STROKE** IN AS LITTLE AS **15 MINUTES!!!**

WATCH THE VIDEO HERE:

[TINYURL.COM/CWWC-VIDEO](https://tinyurl.com/cwwc-video)





This little coyote was abandoned and taken to Terry at The Animal Clinic of Woodland Park. After being checked out and when ready to leave, baby animals will come over to our rehabilitation facility where they will stay until time for release back out into the wild. Her release month will be in spring 2022. There are very few rehabilitation centers in Colorado and it is important to not take babies out of a den thinking the mother is not returning, however, if a mother is killed and leaves babies behind, then that is where it is necessary to find a veterinarian or rehabilitation center if available. If all resources are exhausted, then you may call Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

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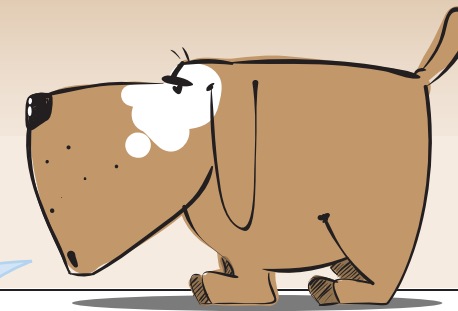
Adoption corner

TCRAS

Teller County Regional Animal Shelter
tcrascolorado.org · 719.686.7707

SLVAWS

San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society
slvaws.org · 719.587.woof (9663)



[NOTE - Our shelter is still open for adoptions, but we are asking that you call ahead and make an appointment before coming in to the shelter - 719-686-7707.]

ROSALIE »

AGE: 5 years 1 month

SEX: Female/Spayed

Terrier, Staffordshire Bull/Mix

My name is Rosalie and I'm sweet as can be! I came all the way from Texas and I'm so excited to meet new people and just show them how much love is in my heart. Though, I'm not too fond of other critters in my home, I like it to be all me! I really love to play but I do have heartworm to work through and I would love a cozy home to heal in.



« SUNSHINE

AGE: 5 years 4 months

SEX: Male/Neutered

Domestic Shorthair/Mix

My name is Sunshine! At just around 5 years old, I've already learned most of my manners. I'm very sweet and desire nothing more than attention from anybody who will give it to me. I do have a bit of spunk in me and a couple quirks.



SLVAWS

ADOPTION FAIR

Every Saturday 11:00am-3:00pm
at the Petco in Colorado Springs
5020 N. Nevada

« DANNY, YODA, BOY JOEY, & JONATHAN

We have 4 of these mixed breed pups. Socialized, mellow and loving. Neutered, microchipped, current vaccinations. They will be medium sized adults.



MR. SOCKS »

Guaranteed, if you pet Mr. Socks, you will take him home. So-o-o-o mellow, loving, gets along well with other dogs. He had been hit by a vehicle and lost one eye. 7 years old, neutered, microchipped, all vaccines, ~50 lbs, lab mix.

