



COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

APRIL 2022 • CONSERVATION • EDUCATION • PRESERVATION



CERTIFIED BY

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS

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.

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| 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!



We would like to thank Michael Robinson of Center For Biological Diversity for his presentation on Living With Wolves. We capped our audience at 70 participants who had great questions and enjoyed the speech and meeting Rayne our wolf pup at the end of the discussion. Please visit www.biologicaldiversity.org to learn more about this great organization.



We Have Street Signs Named After Our Wolves!

We could not be more proud of the surprise that we received when we found out that we have 3 of our wolves in Lorson Ranch is on street signs. Lorson Ranch is a new development on the east side of Colorado Springs. CWWC would like to graciously thank Shane Brown who is a landscape architect (and husband of our very own Kelly Murphy), for Kimley-Horn Planning and Design Consultants.

A little history about the wolves that were named:

Akela which means noble, was a beautiful and graceful Arctic wolf who lived at our center for 14 years until her crossing. She was a tall wolf standing at around 35 inches at the shoulder. She loved to gently rub next to your legs and then go through them like a cat. She was smart and if you saw her, you would call her a princess.

Nakai, a handsome wolf who defied the odds as he was born with metabolic bone disease which made it difficult for him to walk. He was not suppose to live past a few months, but he surprised us all by living until 9 years. He was a kind wolf and now his name lives on.

Shunka, was a special wolf who he and his brother Wakanda made CWWC their home at a few weeks of age. Shunka became an ambassador wolf for 5 years which was the longest amount of time of any wolf. He visited countless schools and events to teach people about wolves and their importance in our ecosystem. He

was a strong, but gentle wolf.

Thank you again Shane and Kimley-Horn for honoring our wolves in your development.

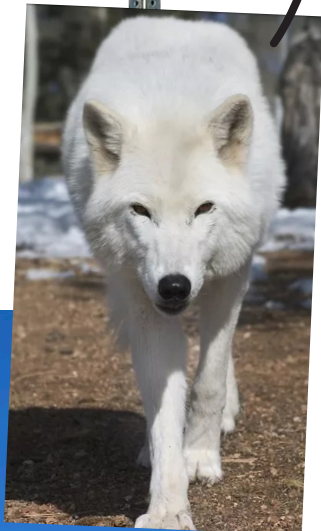
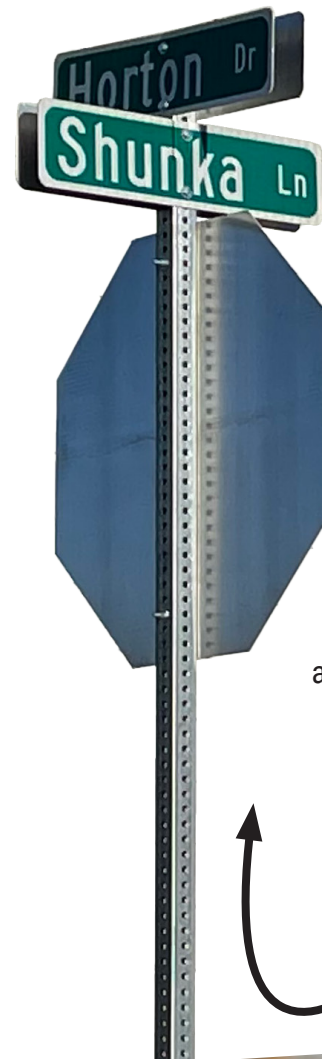




Photo: Wolf Conservation Center

Wolves are being slaughtered with a zeal that goes beyond the typical thrill of the hunt. Last month, Oregon state police asked for help and nonprofits offered a reward of nearly \$50,000 for leads in identifying the criminals who poisoned two wolf packs, killing eight of these noble creatures in one of the slowest, most horrific ways possible.

Such slaughters have ramped up since the Trump administration removed the gray wolf from the endangered species list in October 2020. The change took effect in January 2021, leaving a patchwork of state regulations and wolf populations vulnerable not only to newly sanctioned hunting but to poaching, or illegal hunting, as well.

In Wisconsin, 218 wolves were killed in the span of three days last February, exceeding the state's quota by nearly 100. The loss represents about a third of Wisconsin's wolf population. In Washington, where wolves are still protected, a breeding mother wolf was poached in May. Since Montana's wolf season opened on September 15, hunters have killed 195, including three members of the most viewed pack in the world.

Meanwhile, states like Montana and Idaho have green-lit baiting and trapping and allow hunters to use vehicles — like ATVs and helicopters — to chase down wolves. In Idaho, hunters can use packs of dogs and shoot wolf pups in their dens. To encourage wolf hunting, the state will even reimburse hunters for as much as \$2,500 in costs for each wolf killed, essentially offering a bounty. Though these types of hunting practices are banned for certain species, state governments have perplexingly decided to allow them for wolf hunts — policies that swiftly followed Trump's removal of wolf

U.S. treatment of wolves is brutal, often illegal, and bitterly partisan

Ecosystems benefit from healthy wolf populations, but hatred for wolves runs deep. That's why they need federal protection.

Fix on Grist.org | Maggie Howell | February 7, 2022

protections, all led by Republican legislatures.

Opposition to protecting wolves tends to come from ranchers and some hunters, who see the wolves as threats to livestock and game. As Idaho State Senator Van Burtenshaw put it, "There's a wave of wolves coming in, and we just want to slow that wave down, minimize our costs, and bring back the ranching family." But data show that wolves can easily coexist with cattle, sheep, and other animals. There are many options for non-lethal wolf management, like erecting flags around cattle pens to scare off wolves. And the reality is that wolves are not a major threat: Studies show they are responsible for just 1 percent of livestock deaths (dogs are responsible for more losses than wolves). Meanwhile, ethical hunters who understand ecology appreciate wolves because they make deer and elk populations stronger by selecting for weaker members of the herd.

Unfortunately, wolf management is no longer simply a debate among farmers, ranchers, and wildlife conservationists. Wolves have become politicized. After Montana Governor Greg Gianforte illegally slaughtered a wolf last spring, Vox reporter Benji Jones noted that "The wolf debate doesn't seem to have much to do with science-based management. Instead, it comes down to how people view wolves ... and how their politics inform those views."

What's driving hunters to kill as many wolves as possible in the most torturous ways possible is another facet of our bitterly divided country. Gianforte trapped and killed a banded wolf that had wandered across the border from Yellowstone Park — he was in violation of a licensing requirement but received only a warning letter. This fall, he expressed his frustration with the federal government reconsidering wolf protections, tweeting, "We don't need Washington coming in" to manage wolves. U.S. Representative Liz Cheney complained about "Efforts from the radical environmentalist left to re-list the Gray Wolf." Wolves seem to have become a focal point

for those railing against big government, a symbol of coastal elitism encroaching on rural values. When I talk to hunters from my home office in Westchester, New York, they will offer a version of "how would you feel if we put wolves in Central Park?"

In the wilderness, however, wolves are what's called a keystone species, meaning they have a disproportionately large impact on their entire ecosystem. It only takes a few of these apex predators to effectively manage populations of deer, elk, and bison, which in turn ensures a healthy level of vegetation to sustain smaller animals like beavers, songbirds, and fish.

Prior to the 1900s, roughly a quarter of a million wolves thrived throughout the lower 48 states. Without really understanding the ecological consequences, settlers nearly killed them all by the mid-20th century, reducing their range to a small portion of the Great Lakes region. Thankfully, with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, we began giving this animal opportunities to recover.

When wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park, scientists found they rejuvenated the landscape. Freed from predation for 70 years, the elk and bison populations had exploded. The aspen trees, willows, and cottonwoods were stripped bare, leaving nothing for the smaller animals, and the landscape degraded. Without the structure that trees and plants offered, the soil lost its integrity and riverbanks collapsed, redirecting waterways. Countless other animals vanished when the food they had depended on had been overgrazed. The return of the top predator kept those big herbivores moving, allowing habitats to rebound.

Each year, Yellowstone draws an estimated \$35 million from people who visit specifically to see the wolves. Yet hunters have killed 23 during this winter's hunting season; just 91 remain within the park.

The current anti-wolf frenzy is not based on economics, and it's not based on science. It's driven by something deeper and

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darker. Some of my peers have received anonymous emails with graphic photos of slaughtered wolves, and such pictures with celebratory comments are not uncommon on social media. Former director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Dan Ashe, who supported lifting wolf hunting restrictions but has since called on Interior Secretary Deb Haaland to authorize an emergency relisting, said, “What is happening in Idaho and Montana is not hunting. It is pure, unbridled cruelty.”

There was no valid scientific reason for delisting the gray wolf in the first place; it was purely a political move to mobilize Trump’s base days before the 2020 election. Biden can easily reverse this by emergency order. We don’t even need to wait for the year-long review being undertaken by U.S. Fish & Wildlife — the inhumane trophy hunting can be temporarily halted tomorrow.

The larger challenge will be helping people see the wolf as an ecosystem guardian rather than a fairytale villian. If people feel that the government is encroaching on their freedom, taking out anger on our country’s majestic animals won’t solve it.

SAY NO TO LETHAL MANAGEMENT OF OUR WOLVES!

Now more than ever, you need to be a voice as the SAG meetings will come to a close August 2022. In developing the plan, there is talk of lethal management and recreational hunting of our wolves. I believe that we do not need to kill wolves for recreation and I believe that there are other methods that we can do for wolves that may become troublesome with livestock such as translocation and producers who can benefit from using non lethal-deterrents such as fladry, fox lights, range riders and various other practices before lethal control.

Below is a link that is not a survey nor a petition, however it is a tool that can be used to present to CPW to make them aware that we want our wolves to live and they deserve our respect as a native species, an animal who is intelligent, who lives as family, and is an ancestor of your best friend.

WWW.TINYURL.COM/NO2LETHAL

HOW TO BE A VOICE RIGHT NOW

Written comments are encouraged to be provided through the online comment form available at

Wolf Engagement CO Comment Form | tinyurl.com/weo-comment

Verbal comment opportunities are available in person at the SAG meetings as well as in person and/or virtually on Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting agendas

Wolf Engagement CO | tinyurl.com/weo-advgrps

CPW Meetings | tinyurl.com/cpw-meet

I will also keep you updated on the progress that is being made (good or not so good) from every SAG meeting I attend for the next 14 months. I can tell you that now is the time to speak up and become part of this process as it is being formed and it will become the way Colorado manages our wolves.

YOU can help prevent our wolves from being like what has happened in Idaho and Montana. Be their voice now.

HELP US TO BUILD OUR NEW RED WOLF ENCLOSURE



We are in the process of building our new American Red Wolf enclosure! It is quite the process as it starts with completely demolishing the old enclosure, cutting down and removing dead trees, and then rebuilding it. The main difference on this one is that the new enclosure will need to meet SSP/ AZA/CPW standards because the Red wolf is a federally endangered wolf. That means 8’ high chain link, 3’ cantilever tops and two catch pens. This enclosure will cost in the upper \$30,000 range. If you are interested in donating to help us financially with the costs, please send to the address to the left. Any donation of \$250.00 or more, your name will be added to our Red Wolf monument.



WAYS TO CO-EXIST WITH WOLVES

www.woodriverwolfproject.org/tools



https://tinyurl.com/RestoreWolfProtection



DIXIE GETS NEW SHOES

Dixie May gets corrective shoes. Dixie is a mini pony who is prone to floundering. She has had problems with her feet for many years off and on and now has found a farrier, Steve who specializes in corrective shoeing. Steve credits his work to the Equine Lameness Prevention Organization for his skills. Dixie is doing well and you would never know that she had a problem. We would like to thank Steve for helping our little pony.



Dusty with our newest fox addition,
— CORA —



MOTHER'S DAY

With the Wolves

Sunday,
May 8th
9-11am

Wolf Tour,
A Flower for Moms
and Snacks



Adults \$40 (12+)

Kids \$20 (6-11)

PREPAY EVENT

RESERVATIONS

719.687.9742

Colorado Wolf
and Wildlife Center

wolfeducation.org



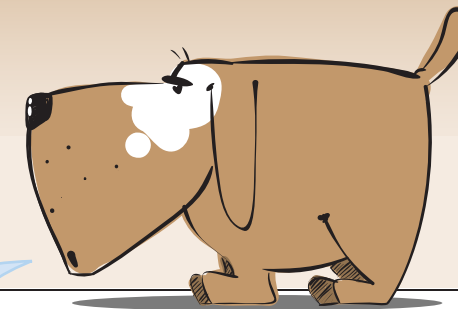
Adoption corner

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.]

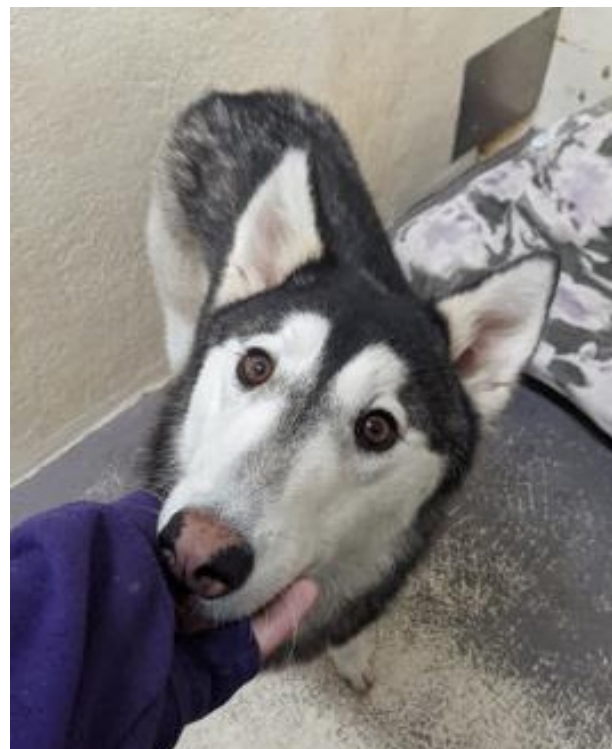
TILLY »

AGE: 1 year 1 month

SEX: Female/Spayed

Black/White Siberian Husky/Mix

Hello!! Tilly is a happy go lucky girl with a head tilt and would need a special home that could keep her very safe. Tilly loves howling or what we like to say she likes to talk and sing.



« FANCY

AGE: 10 years 2 months

SEX: Female/Spayed

Brown/Black Norwegian Forest/Mix

It is not easy to be "Fancy", but that is my name. My friends at TCRAS tell me how pretty I am, especially with my markings on my face, chest and feet. I am a tidy cat that does use the litter box and I am shy, so I would need someone who can be patient with me and has positive love to give.



SLVAWS

ADOPTION FAIR

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

MAJOR



Major is a King Shepherd. Sweet as sweet can be, obedient, easily trained, loves everyone. 15 months old, 80 pounds and growing, neutered, chipped, all vacc's. Good with other dogs.

ELLA



Ella is a sweet 6 month old lab mix. Good with other puppies. Spayed, chipped, all vacc's. Will be a medium sized adult.