



# COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

DECEMBER 2022 · CONSERVATION · EDUCATION · PRESERVATION





CERTIFIED BY



## 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](http://wolfeducation.org) and sign up on the newsletter page.

CONTACT US  
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80814 719.687.9742

## | SOCIAL MEDIA HAPPENINGS |

Stay up to date with the animals at CWWC, wolves and wildlife in the news, and advocacy opportunities.



**Subscribe to our YouTube Channel: ColoradoWolf&WildlifeCenter** We post videos of the training and enrichment we are providing for our animals, and educational vlogs about wolves.



**Follow us on Facebook: Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center** to get updates on new YouTube video postings, read feel good stories from other wolf/wildlife organizations, and learn about new wildlife findings in the research field.



**Follow us on Instagram: @cowolfcenter** to see pictures of our beautiful animals, stories of what we are doing around the center, and ways you can help wild wolf populations.. Keep your eye on our story for fun videos of the day to day lives of our wolves and keepers.



**Follow us on Twitter: @Wolves\_at\_CWWC** to see photos of our animals, read fun facts, and hear about events happening at CWWC.



**Follow us on TikTok: @cowolfcenter** for the videos you won't see on our other social media pages.

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



Every year CWWC says thank you to staff for the end of the summer. This year we took a beautiful train ride to Glenwood Springs on the California Zephyr. Everyone also was treated to a spa day or hot springs and topped off the evening with a wonderful dinner at the Riviera Supper Club.

*Looking forward to next year's adventure.*

*Darlene Kobobel, Founder/CEO*

## *What it's like adopting a Costa Rican street dog.*



1st my family would like to start by saying that what you think when you hear street dog is not what you will get. We have had our girls a mother and daughter pair for just over a year. We started with the intention of just being a foster family. These girls came into our home and just showed us so much love. We knew they belong in our family. Little Chinga was shy and scared at 1st. But she warmed up to us within a few week once she realized she was safe and loved. She has been the most loyal girl since. She loves to get hugs and has made many new dog, cat an pig friends since shes been here. She even likes to wear a sweater on colder days. Chiara the mother dog on the other hand immediately let us know she was so thankful to be here. She jumped in our lap immediately and has wanted nothing more than to be a loving and loyal companion ever since. These dogs have brought so much joy and love into our homes. It's almost hard to imagine them not being here as puppies. These girls are just so thankful and it shows.

*If anyone is interested in adopting a dog or two from Costa Rica, please contact the Center for details. CWWC can help with transportation costs, licensing and take care of all necessary permits.*



Talking points/information for public comment



CPW wolf plan comment 12/14/22

In the 2020 election, Colorado voters passed Proposition 114, which directed the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division (CPW) to prepare a wolf management plan and reintroduce wolves to the state by the end of 2023.

CPW staff has produced a commendable plan to return wolves to Colorado. The plan is accessible at <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/Wolves-Stay-Informed.aspx>

A few tweaks could render it near-perfect.

Impact-based management is a new and praiseworthy concept; to limit take of wolves to those actually causing a documented problem. Good.

Goals of the plan should be spelled out to reflect the intent of Prop. 114 to establish and maintain a sustainable population of wolves - for what purpose? It must be to restore them in perpetuity. They lived in Colorado for at least 10,000 years before we annihilated them. They must occupy a significant part of their former range to be considered recovered.

Delisting Criteria: Even more important than wolf numbers is the fact that recovery is a continuum, and a "self-sustaining population" is a higher bar than delisting. There are solid scientific arguments for a number like 500, 750, or even 1000. More importantly, the goal is for wolf distribution to eventually match elk distribution. Best available science indicates that geographic distribution is an essential aspect of species recovery. This is made clear in Colorado state law, in which the definition of a threatened species refers to its abundance or lack thereof throughout a significant portion of its range.

To meet those goals, we need far more than a rag tag remnant of wolves in the 17 million acres of wild country where wolves can exist relatively undisturbed in Colorado. The paltry target numbers to trigger down listing and delisting should instead reflect ecological carrying capacity. Wolves cannot carry out their numerous essential functions if they are barely surviving. Among those essential functions is to remove sick or unfit individuals from deer, elk, and moose populations, thus enhancing the health of all of them, and to prevent range deterioration by keeping ungulate

populations within the carrying capacity of their ranges. That benefits not only wildlife, but livestock as well.

Back to the topic of self-sustaining population: The start of Phase 3 is triggered at numbers far below those I mentioned in Delisting Criteria, above. Our goal should be robust, functional native carnivore numbers.

Phase 4 is at odds with the expressed will of supporters of Prop. 114, and with the consensus recommendation of the SAG. Delete it, preferably altogether. If not altogether, at least from Table 2 on p. 38. The phrases "discretionary" and "not required by law" are misleading. Drop them.

Again, drop Phase 4. Remove it from the plan. Random killing of wolves is counterproductive to wolf conservation and ecosystem health. It is precluded in C.R.S. 33-2-105.8 by definition of wolves as a nongame species. Recreational killing of wolves must not be considered in any future management scenario.

Norman A. Bishop

Retired National Park Ranger, and member of the Yellowstone Center for Resources team that restored wolves to that park in 1995.



**Find more info & a draft for the Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan here:**

<https://tinyurl.com/CPW-wolf-info>

**How will CPW manage wolf populations? Is there a wolf population objective?**

Wolves will be managed within Colorado using a phased approach based on the minimum number of animals known to be present in the state. These phases will correspond with the status of the species on the Colorado Threatened and Endangered Species list. There is no wolf population objective in the current draft plan.

As proposed in the draft plan, wolves will be downlisted from State Endangered (Phase 1) to State Threatened (Phase 2) when CPW biologists document a minimum wintertime count of 50 wolves anywhere in the state for four successive years. Wolves will be delisted from the State Threatened and Endangered species list and classified as delisted, nongame (Phase 3) when a minimum count of at least 150 wolves anywhere in Colorado is observed for 2 successive years, or a minimum count of at least 200 wolves anywhere in Colorado is observed, with no temporal requirement. Population requirements for Phase 4 are unknown at this time, but would allow for wolves to be classified as a game species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is analyzing the alternatives related to designating the wolf population in Colorado as “Experimental” which would relax the take prohibitions. As a federally listed species, there is a strict prohibition against regulated hunting and other forms of take.



# A Much-Needed Tech Update



The Center struggled has endured painfully slow internet speeds and very poor cellular coverage since the beginning. Our past providers were Century Link which provides DSL service to the area but it is less than adequate with 4 MBS download and .11MBS upload speeds, and Peak Internet which operates an LTE wireless network. There was no direct line of site to the LTE service which created a lot of latency and weather and wind would severely affect our speeds.

In the fall of 2022 we installed a 45' Rohn 45G tower which gave us line of sight to both the closest cell tower and to local internet provider Teller WiFi. Mounted on the tower is the gear necessary to boost the cellular signal at the Center and to "grab" the signal from Teller WiFi

for internet services. Combined with a new Starlink antennae, for the same monthly expense these crucial infrastructure services were upgraded 1000% and we now have the ability to upload photos while utilizing VOIP phone services and live blogging to our social media ALL AT THE SAME TIME. It's an incredible update!



**YOU SAID THAT YOU WANT TO BE A VOICE FOR WOLVES?**  
***HERE IS YOUR CHANCE!***

On January 19th, 2023 CPW will be holding its first public meeting on the final draft report for wolf restoration and management. The exact details have not been issued yet, but it will be on our website as soon as we get them. This meeting will be the first of 4 that will be held in various parts of the state. This is a "in person" meeting and we need people who want to support wolf reintroduction to please attend. Even if you do not speak, your presence at these meetings are important. If you would like to attend, please email us at [tours@wolfeducation.org](mailto:tours@wolfeducation.org) . We will contact you to help you prepare and understand the procedure better.

Information so far is:

**LOCATION:** Cheyenne Mountain Resort  
3225 Broadmoor Valley Rd.  
Colorado Springs. CO.

**TIME:** 8:30 AM-3:00 PM *(tentative)*

We will post updated agenda information as we get it on our website. Please email us if you have questions or plan to attend.



Below: 2 mule deer bucks play fighting

Left: Horses in pasture on the way to  
Roxborough Park

Right: Sunrise Monday at Chatfield Dog Park



PHOTO CREDIT:  
*Carol & Dick Vogel*

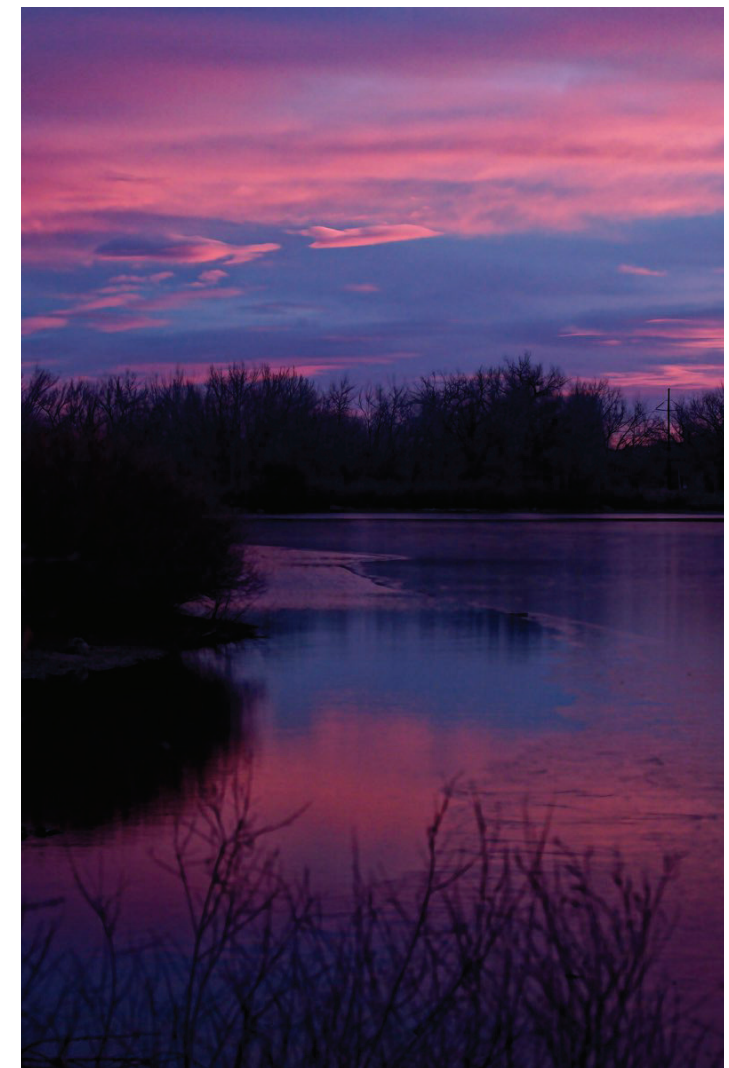






Photo credit: JWJarrett (iStock)

# THINK YOU'VE SEEN A WOLF IN COLORADO? IT WAS PROBABLY ANOTHER PREDATOR

Tamera Twitt | Out There Colorado | December 23, 2022

Wolf sightings and the spotting of wolf tracks have become more common in Colorado in recent years, since a small pack traveled into the state from Wyoming in 2020. The pack were the first known wolves to call Colorado home since the species was eradicated in the 1940s.

That being said, it is still fairly unlikely to spot wolves in Colorado at this point. Other species have been misidentified in the past as wolves, including a group of Saint Bernards earlier this year. Coyotes, however, are a more common dupe.

The easiest way to distinguish a wolf from a coyote, is to observe its size. Wolves can easily be up to three times the size of coyotes, according to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW).

"They [wolves] can measure up to 6 feet in length,

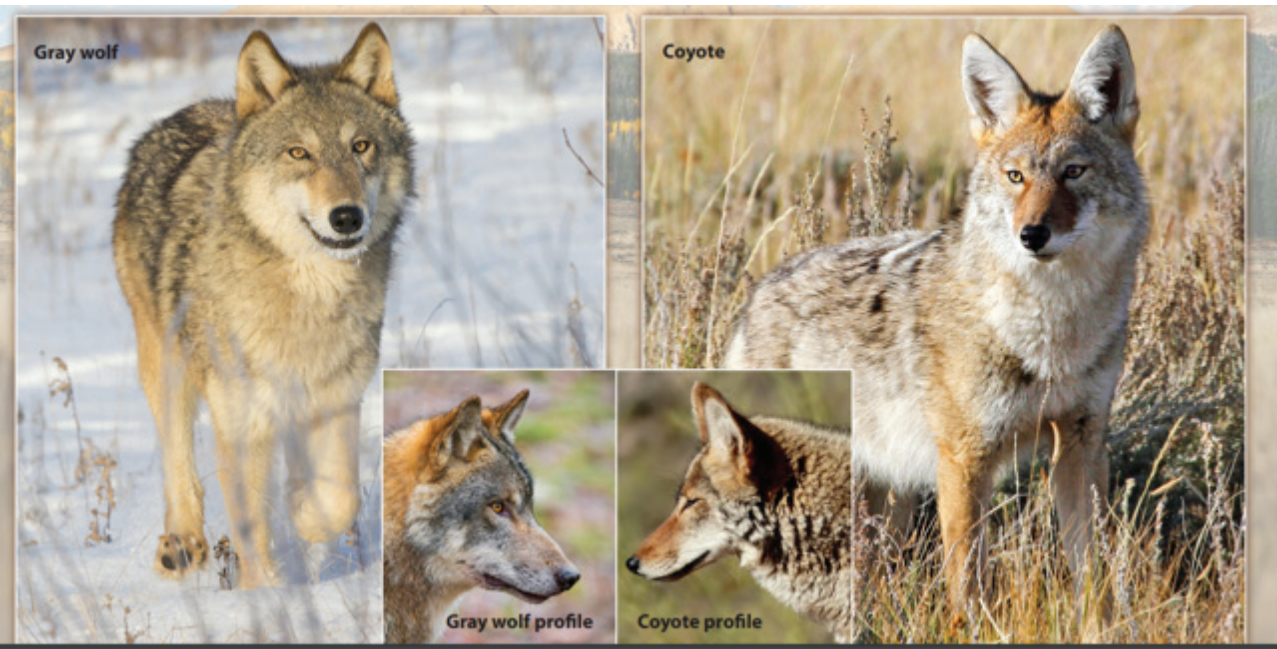
including tail, and stand approximately 30 inches in height at the shoulder. Female wolves weigh around 70 – 80 pounds, while males weigh around 95 – 100 pounds," CPW's website reads.

Meanwhile, coyotes range from 15-45 pounds and measure up to 4 feet in length from snout to tail. They also stand at about 18 inches tall at the shoulder.

Facially wolves have noticeably blockier snouts, while coyotes' snouts are more narrow and long. Wolves also have rounded ears compared to coyotes' more pointed ears.

Size is can also be helpful in identifying tracks.

"Wolf tracks are about 5 inches long by 4 inches wide, with four symmetrical toes and identifiable



claws; coyote tracks are similar, but are only about half that size. The track paths of wolves usually show a direct, purposeful route," CPW said.

Again, it is unlikely to run into a wolf in Colorado, but if you ever do, do not turn and run. Instead,

slowly back away and maintain eye contact with the animal. Also, do whatever you can to appear larger.

Report wolf sightings to CPW by filling out their 'Wolf Sightings Form'. This helps the department keep track of the state's wolf population.

## NEVER-ENDING WORK ON A RANCH



Rick and Craig are setting new poles in Micah's enclosure.

We would like to say *"Thank You"* to Larry Chronis



for a very special donation of \$20,000 that was in memory of his wife. This donation will be put in our Colorado Coexistence fund and will be used for non-lethal tools and educational materials for wolves when they return to Colorado by December 31st, 2023



# ‘Trust, but verify’: Animal welfare auditors support greater oversight of B.C. wolf cull



Photo: Lauzla (istock)

**Elizabeth McSheffrey & Paul Johnson | Global News | December 16, 2022**

The B.C. government would benefit from independent oversight of its controversial wolf cull, according to experts on animal welfare auditing.

More than 1,000 wolves have been shot to protect endangered caribou since 2015, but the Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship has not published evidence to support its claims that the process is humane.

“We trust, but verify,” said Jennifer Woods, an Alberta-based certified animal welfare auditor and livestock handling animal care specialist. “You need to verify that those standards are being met.

Third-party audits are common across many industries, including workplace safety and food safety.

Woods conducts animal welfare audits for big meat processors in Canada, the Calgary Stampede and

a number of farms, and has also audited animal holding facilities for several airlines. It’s not a process that sets out to prove wrongdoing, she added, but is a “great management tool” that can improve practices.

Referring to the B.C. wolf cull, she said activists’ calls for greater oversight are not unprecedented or unreasonable.

“There are audits that could be easily developed for this,” Woods said. “It would benefit them, internally for their programs ... but also on a public relations side because they can then verify that (the culls) are humane, they are doing it, and they have the numbers to back it up.”

Last week, Global News confirmed that the B.C. government has photos of its wolf cull, in which wolves are shot from a helicopter. It won’t publish

them, however, as “such photos are used strictly by the provincial wildlife veterinarian for assessment purposes.”

According to the Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship, predator management is “an effective, temporary measure” to halt and reverse caribou decline in B.C., and its implementation is “not taken lightly.”

The approach is “based on science and sound wildlife management principles,” it said in a Friday statement. A ministry fact sheet states that in four herds in the South Peace region, wolves are responsible for at least 37 per cent of all adult deaths.

The province extended its aerial cull of wolves for another five years at the beginning of 2022, and has maintained that shooting the animals from above is the “most effective and humane method,” consistent with current guidelines for “wild animal euthanasia” in field conditions.

Temple Grandin, a professor of animal science at Colorado State University, said her work to advance external animal welfare auditing has made some of the “biggest differences” of her career. The animal behaviour and welfare specialist has helped bring independent oversight to corporations like McDonald’s, Wendy’s and Burger King, with great success.

“I’ll never forget the day when the McDonald’s vice-president saw a half-dead, emaciated dairy cow go into their product,” Grandin told Global News.

“(The B.C. wolf cull) program needs to be audited and I recommend the same basic principle ... High-up management needs to get on those helicopters and find out what’s going on, third party, and then they do internal audits. You can’t let the fox guard the chickens.”

In a 2001 presentation, Grandin noted “huge improvements” in animal welfare practices at beef plants that supply McDonald’s when McDonald’s audits began in 1999.

“Most of the very abusive behavior of employees has stopped and in many plants, electric prod use has been reduced or eliminated,” she wrote at the time.

“I have been working in the meat industry for more than 25 years and I saw more improvements in 1999 than I

have seen in my entire career.”

Regardless of what the procedure is for humanely killing wolves in B.C., she said, a “really good auditing program” can bring “a whole lot of improvement.”

The perceived lack of oversight has raised concerns among animal welfare activists in B.C., particularly the Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals, or the Fur-Bearers. Aaron Hofman, its director of advocacy and policy, doubts B.C.’s “single gunshot to the head” policy is being followed in the midst of a “chaotic” helicopter chase, or that only adults are killed in the process.

Documents obtained by the Fur-Bearers through freedom-of-information legislation showed wolf pups have been gunned down and used by hunters, said Hofman, expressing concern in particular about Tweedsmuir Provincial Park.

“They’re capturing wolf pups, they’re collaring them and then they’re tracking their packs,” Hofman told Global News last month.

“They shoot the pup’s pack and then leave that wolf pup alive, and so that wolf pup is now alone without its family, and then in one case six weeks later, they find a wolf pup again, travelling with another wolf pup, and they kill them both.”

Meanwhile, multiple environmental groups continue to oppose the cull, as does the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC). Last month, the UBCIC called on the province to end the cull and prioritize a reduction of resource development — mostly logging — to protect caribou instead.

“We now face the grave issue of non-Indigenous gun clubs producing ‘killing contests’ and engaging in unethical hunting and culling practices,” it wrote in a Nov. 1 letter to ministers.

“This is in direct opposition to Indigenous traditional values, reciprocity with our animal relatives and our inherent Title and Rights Holders as the stewards of our lands, and impedes on our legal orders and jurisdiction over our territorial lands.”



# SAY **NO** TO RECREATIONAL KILLING AND TROPHY HUNTING OF COLORADO'S WOLVES

You can express your thoughts and make comments to your CPW commissioners about recreational killing and trophy hunting that may be a future topic for Colorado wolves. These are the decision makers and your comments do matter. You can also go to [cpw.state.co.us](https://cpw.state.co.us) SOC-Wolves for more information.

In early January and February 2023 there will be a chance to speak at public meetings to the commissioners. We will provide dates and locations in the upcoming months.

Remember that YOUR VOICE can make a difference and if you want to see wolves living free and protected, they need you.

## EXPRESS YOUR CONCERNS TO THE FOLLOWING:

### Carrie Besnette Hauser, Chair

Representative: Outdoor Recreation and Utilization of Parks; Glenwood Springs, CO  
Email Address: [carrie.hauser@state.co.us](mailto:carrie.hauser@state.co.us)  
Term Expires: July 2023

### Dallas May, Vice Chair

Representative: Agriculture; Lamar, CO  
Email Address: [Dallas.May@state.co.us](mailto:Dallas.May@state.co.us)

### Marie Haskett, Secretary

Representative: Sportspersons and Outfitters; Meeker, CO  
Email Address: [marie.haskett@state.co.us](mailto:marie.haskett@state.co.us)  
Term Expires: July 2025

### Taishya Adams

Representative: Outdoor Recreation and Utilization of Parks Resources; Boulder, CO  
Email Address: [Taishya.Adams@state.co.us](mailto:Taishya.Adams@state.co.us)  
Term Expires: July 2023

### Karen Michelle Bailey

Representative: Member at Large; Boulder, CO  
Email Address: [karen.bailey@state.co.us](mailto:karen.bailey@state.co.us)  
Term Expires: July 2025

### Richard Reading

Representative: Public at Large; Denver, CO  
Email address: [richard.reading@state.co.us](mailto:richard.reading@state.co.us)  
Term Expires: July 2026

### Betsy Blecha

Representative: Sportspersons; Wray, CO  
Email Address: [betsy.blecha@state.co.us](mailto:betsy.blecha@state.co.us)  
Term Expires: July 2023

### Gabriel Otero

Representative: Representative of sportspersons and a member West of the Continental Divide; Fruita, CO  
Email address: [gabriel.otero@state.co.us](mailto:gabriel.otero@state.co.us)  
Term Expires: July 2026

### Duke Phillips IV

Representative: Agriculture; Colorado Springs, CO  
Email Address: [Duke.Phillips@state.co.us](mailto:Duke.Phillips@state.co.us)  
Term Expires: July 2024

### James Jay Tutchton

Representative: Outdoor Recreation, Parks Utilization, & Nonconsumptive Wildlife; Hasty, CO  
Email Address: [James.Tutchton@state.co.us](mailto:James.Tutchton@state.co.us)  
Term Expires: July 2024

### Dan Gibbs

Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources  
Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Member; Denver, CO  
Email Address: [dan.gibbs@state.co.us](mailto:dan.gibbs@state.co.us)

READ MORE ABOUT  
TROPHY HUNTING HERE:  
[TINYURL.COM/WOLFTROPHYHUNT](https://tinyurl.com/wolftrophyhunt)

## *From a Denver Post Commenter —*

### WHY BRING WOLVES TO SLAUGHTER?

Colorado Parks and Wildlife recently released their Draft Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan. Their plan allows for wolves to be killed on protected public lands. It is futile to bring wolves into the state if they are allowed to be killed. In an August 2022, statewide survey of 1,500 Colorado voters, nearly two-thirds said they believed that Colorado gray wolves should not be trophy hunted or trapped after they have returned to Colorado. The survey was weighted to Republicans and Western Colorado voters. Colorado's voters also approved Proposition 114, which calls for using scientific data when implementing the gray wolf restoration plan. It is time to embrace sound science. Scientific studies have shown that killing wolves does nothing to reduce livestock losses. What is needed is nonlethal wolf stewardship instead of wolf management that allows killing. Non-lethal human-wildlife coexistence is key. Doing this will lead to a successful and sustainable wolf reintroduction for all concerned.

— *Michael Wenzl, Pueblo*



# BONFIRE Tour & BBQ

Sunday, January 22nd - 4-6pm



Join us for a  
bonfire, tour and  
home-made chili  
(meat and vegetarian)  
with hot drinks  
and sweets!

\$40 (12+) - \$20 (8-11) - Reservations Required 719.687.9742

**Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center**



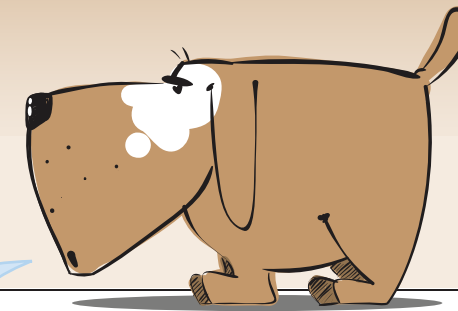
# Adoption corner

## TCRAS

Teller County Regional Animal Shelter  
tcrascolorado.org · 719.686.7707

## SLVAWS

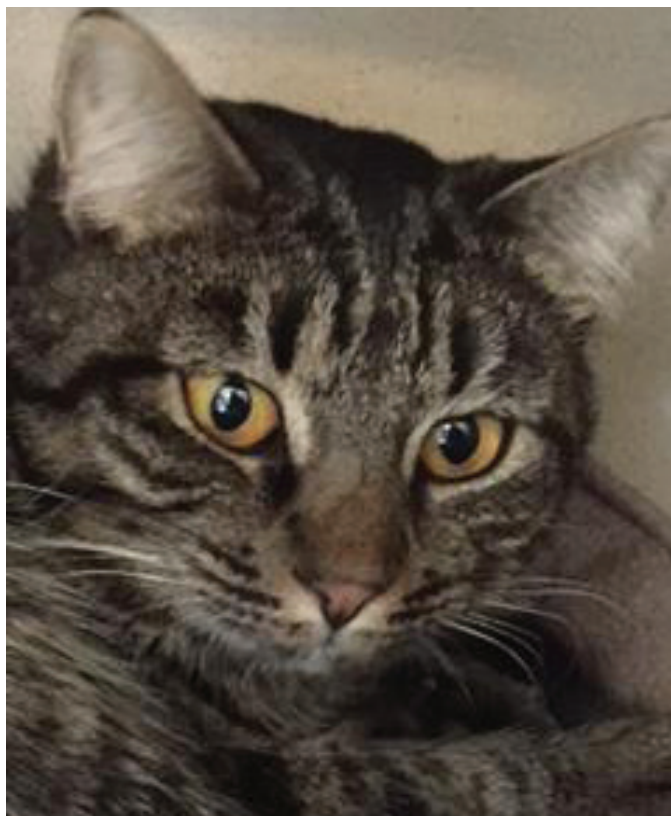
San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society  
slvaws.org · 719.587.woof (9663)



**[ 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. ]**

### OLLIE »

This beautiful lady was brought back to a shelter because her family had to move. She loves and seeks attention, so if you are looking for a lap cat, she is your lady. She also keeps her environment tidy and clean. She is the PURRRFECT cat.



### « KANE

Hi, I'm Kane! I'm full of energy and love to meet new people. I like to meet new dogs too, but sometimes I have too much energy for the other dogs. I have some hip issues so I prefer short bursts of energy, and shorter walks. I love a good squeaky toy to play fetch with, but after that I'd love to get some cuddles and just take it easy. I love a good squeaky toy to play fetch with, but after that I'd love to get some cuddles and just take it easy.



### SIX PUPS

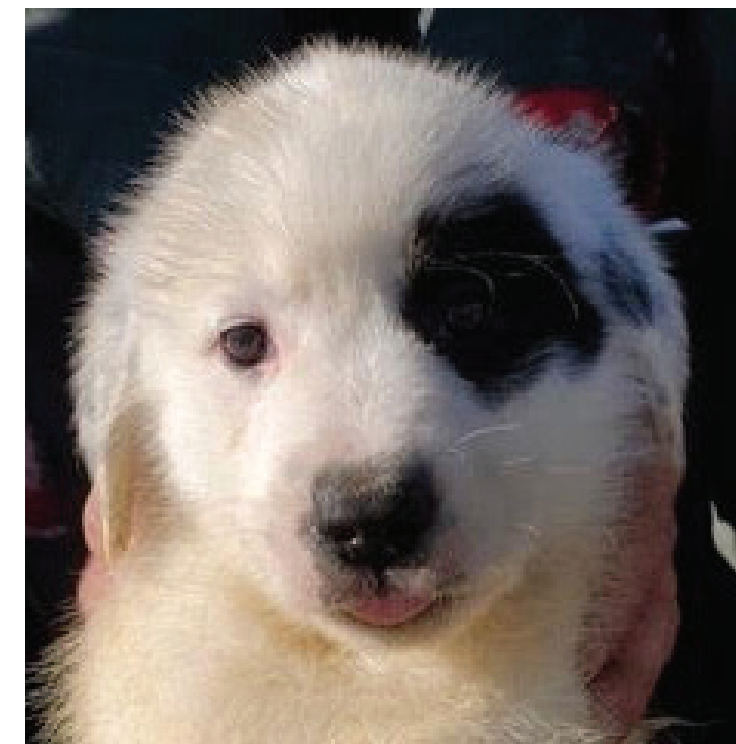


Coming up in 3-4 weeks, 6 Sarplaninac/ GSD pups. The Sarplaninacs are livestock guardian dogs and very mellow and smart. Please do your research on this breed before you contact us. Mom Sarplaninac was imported from the Balkans. They will be spayed/ neutered, all vac's, microchipped. Parents are both over 100 pounds.

### SLVAWS ADOPTION FAIR

Every 1st Saturday of the month 11:00am-3:00pm  
at the Petco in Colorado Springs  
5020 N. Nevada

### JIMMI



Jimmi has a Great Pyrenees mix mom. He is 3 months old, but will be a medium sized adult. Neutered, all vac's, microchipped.