

# COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

DECEMBER 2021 • 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 |

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!*



Send us a photo of your cute animal couple. Our staff will vote for the cutest pair and the winner will receive a prize!

Email photo to [tours@wolfeducation.org](mailto:tours@wolfeducation.org)

## 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](http://www.woodriverwolfproject.org/tools)



<https://tinyurl.com/RestoreWolfProtection>



# How to save the red wolf from going extinct—for a second time

Meaghan Mulholland | National Geographic | December 3, 2021

With a total population below 20 individuals, the world's most endangered wolf lives only in a small area in and around the Alligator River and Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuges in eastern North Carolina.

Called "America's wolf," the red wolf (*Canis rufus*) is the only large predator whose historic range is found entirely within the United States, stretching from Texas to New England. But hunting gradually reduced its range, and it was declared extinct in the wild in 1980. In a ground-breaking successful experiment, eight captive wolves were released in 1987 into North Carolina, eventually growing into a population over 100. But poaching and management changes enacted by the Fish and Wildlife Service resulted in their numbers plummeting.

In the spring, conservationists celebrated a small bit of good news when four captive-born pups were placed into a den and successfully adopted by a wild red wolf mother. Meanwhile, another four adults were released into the wild. The pups are thought to be still alive and healthy. But the adults didn't fare as well. In the months after release, three were struck by cars and killed, and the fourth was fatally shot on private land.

To boost the population after these deaths, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced in November that it plans to release nine adult red wolves into their recovery area this winter, land within and surrounding two wildlife refuges. The service also recently announced it would withdraw a 2018 proposal to shrink the red wolves' protected area in North Carolina by 90 percent, after a lawsuit accused the agency of violating the Endangered Species Act.

Ron Sutherland of the Wildlands Network, who is based in the red wolf's last stronghold of North Carolina, says it's crucial that the feds have abandoned this wrong-headed proposal. And yet "the situation now is even more urgent than it was in 2018—this

should launch the conservation community in the U.S. into crisis mode to save this species and bring it back from the brink."

"We are committed to continuing to work with stakeholders in identifying ways to encourage and facilitate more effective coexistence between people and red wolves," Emily Weller, red wolf recovery lead for the Fish and Wildlife Service, said in an email to National Geographic.

Here are the latest steps conservationists, researchers, and the federal government are taking to help rescue imperiled red wolves, such as releasing more wolves, better preparing them for the wild, trying to reduce vehicle collisions, and educating locals about this critically endangered species.

In addition to the current small population in North Carolina, some 240 red wolves now live under human care at zoos and nature centers across the country. These facilities are part of the red wolf's Species Survival Plan (SSP), which includes captive breeding to help rebuild their population and maintain genetic diversity.

Chris Lasher, an animal management supervisor with the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro and coordinator of the Red Wolf SSP, says that researchers would like to grow the captive population to a total of 400 individuals, an important step for preventing their extinction.

Next, more wolves need to be released, according to advocates like Sutherland and the Southern Environmental Law Center, whose lawsuit on behalf of conservation groups is what instigated the recent court-mandated releases. These releases need to continue, he says, "until the wild population hits 40 to 50 animals again and shows signs of taking off." At this point, the red wolves can be best supported "by fostering captive pups into wild litters rather than releasing adult and adolescent wolves."

After decades of growth, the world's last population of wild red wolves has plummeted. Can we get back on track and save this critically endangered species?



Continues on following page...

PHOTO: Jessica A. Suarez



This includes adults and pups. Perhaps the best way for red wolves to become savvy about their environment is from their parents, who ideally would pass on generations of learned wisdom about avoiding roads, how to hunt, and where to den. The process of pup fostering has a 100 percent success rate with red wolves and helps promote genetic diversity in the population.

It's a difficult and time-sensitive procedure, however, and there must be wild litters on the landscape in order for it to be possible. 2019 and 2020 were the first years in the history of the red wolf recovery program—begun in 1987—in which no pups were born in the wild. But 2021's foster effort appears to have been a success, and it remains to be seen if some of the pairs to be released this winter will produce more litters in the spring.

Better preparing wolves for release is another

ongoing process. To do so, the animals are kept in large enclosures containing landscape features they would encounter in the wild. Roads are difficult to prepare them for—but keepers carefully experiment with potential forms of “negative enrichment,” which can be as simple as letting captive wolves associate car noises with semi-stressful experiences like health exams. In contrast, positive enrichment uses things like novel scents, natural objects, recorded animal sounds, hidden food and whole prey carcasses to provide mental and physical stimulation, says Regina Mossotti, Animal Director of the Endangered Wolf Center in Eureka, Missouri.

Feeding times are varied to prevent captive red wolves from associating humans with food. When possible they are also housed in family groups, Lasher says, “that would be similar to what they would experience in the wild.”

The Fish and Wildlife Service is also developing strategies to reduce vehicle strikes, working on things like motorist signage, wildlife crossings, road reflectors, and aversive conditioning—helping red wolves learn to avoid cars and roads, according to the agency. The Service plans also to modify the tracking collars of future red wolf releases to include orange reflective material, making them more visible on roadways at night, and more easily identifiable to hunters.

Like the ones slated for this winter, future releases will also take place outside the agricultural growing season, when there should be less traffic on nearby farm roads as well as on Highway 64, a main route to the Outer Banks, a popular vacation destination. Coordinating with the state's Department of Transportation, the Fish and Wildlife Service purchased four portable electronic message boards to be used at various locations to urge people to drive with caution.

In November, the Senate passed, and President Biden signed, a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill, which includes \$350 million to help states fund the construction of wildlife crossings. The bill also calls for a nationwide study of wildlife-vehicle collisions and guidance on how to prevent or reduce them. Wildlife crossings go over or under existing roads and have been shown effective at reducing car-caused fatalities—but they are expensive. Newly designated federal funds may enable the state's Department of Transportation to add some on Highway 64, which cuts through the refuge. Some have already been designed by the state.

One critical part of saving red wolves is helping people to understand they belong on the landscape—and pose no threat to human life. (Learn more: Red wolves are a unique species, authoritative study shows.)

Red wolves are legally protected under the Endangered Species Act, but a recent study published in the journal *Biological Conservation* found that a small minority of humans in their recovery area are the main factor driving this species toward extinction. Despite a majority

of locals reporting positive impressions of red wolves, eleven percent of area hunters said that if they encountered a wolf, they would kill it. Among other conservation groups, the Wildlands Network has been working for years to teach the truth about red wolves—that they aren't dangerous to humans, and don't harm local wildlife resources.

Federal agencies and conservation groups are hoping to work together through outreach programs, some of which have been hindered by pandemic restrictions. These include virtual information sessions, billboards and other publicity campaigns, as well as Prey for the Pack, a program in which local landowners are offered incentives in exchange for agreeing to create and maintain habitat beneficial for red wolves, and to allow red wolves on private property. The Fish and Wildlife Service now has around a thousand acres of privately owned land under agreements via Prey for the Pack, and is working to secure more, the agency said in an emailed statement.

The Fish and Wildlife Service recently assembled a team of experts to develop an updated recovery plan for the red wolf, which in large part will have to involve more successful reintroductions. The plan will also include research into other potential sites within the red wolf's historic range—outside of eastern North Carolina—where a wild population could thrive.

The service also says they are recommitting to capturing and sterilizing coyotes to help red wolves hold territory and avoid hybridization—a successful measure that they had abandoned in recent years.

While red wolf recovery might seem in a sense to be “starting over,” as the nearly restored species once again teeters on the brink of extinction, biologists and experts have gained a wealth of insights over the past three decades about what must be done for the species to succeed.

Despite unfortunate missteps, setbacks, and challenges still ahead, Mossotti says it's inspiring to see many people “working to help restore the species to its native range...and finding new reasons to hope.”



PHOTO: istock RDeMaster



## 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](https://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](https://tinyurl.com/weo-advgrps)

**CPW Meetings** | [tinyurl.com/cpw-meet](https://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.

Art submitted by

ISABELLE  
HOWE

Thank you for  
sharing!

Submit your art to  
[tours@wolfeducation.org](mailto:tours@wolfeducation.org)



Marco Gaiotti/Wildlife Photographer of the Year

CNN's Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award



Andy Skillen/Wildlife Photographer of the Year

SEE MORE AT [www.tinyurl.com/Wildlife-photo-oty](https://www.tinyurl.com/Wildlife-photo-oty)



# TURKEY TOSS 2021



## OUR 2022 CALENDARS ARE IN!



APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

You can  
order online  
or shop in  
our gift  
store on site.





## ARE YOU A VETERINARIAN READY TO MAKE A CHANGE AND WORK IN THE BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN TOWN OF WOODLAND PARK COLORADO?

**POSITION SUMMARY** The Animal Clinic of Woodland Park is looking for a team- and client-oriented veterinarian with both strong internal medicine and surgical skills. The Animal Clinic of Woodland Park is a small and exotic veterinary practice located at the base of Pikes Peak in Colorado. Primarily a small animal practice, we are the only clinic in the area that has a CPW wildlife rehabilitator on staff and treat a steady stream of wildlife throughout the year. Dr. Volz is also the primary veterinarian for the Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center. The clinic is smaller compared to larger facilities, which allows us to provide a more personalized relationship with clients and their pet members. The clinic includes exam room, surgical suite, digital radiology, extensive dental capabilities, including digital dental x-ray and extensive in-house laboratory. This can be either a full-time or part-time position.

### **Education and Experience**

DVM or equivalent degree from an accredited college of veterinary medicine and a minimum of one to five years of clinical veterinary experience is necessary.

### **Essential Duties and Responsibilities**

- Educate and guide people regarding their family pet members and practice the very best in veterinary care and counsel.
- Diagnose, and treat small domestic and exotic pets at scheduled appointments during designated block off times.
- Perform soft tissue surgeries, mass removals, lacerations and a variety of other surgical procedures during designated surgery block off times.
- Keep accurate and up-to-date records regarding the history, lab work and ongoing condition of patients health.
- Communicate with clients in a timely manner regarding all medical information and overall health of their family pet.

### **Salary**

We offer competitive compensation dependent on experience. Paid holidays, paid sick days, paid time off and medical benefits, as well as an IRA retirement plan. We provide a continuing education allowance per year as well as pay your CO license, DEA license and CVMA dues.

### **Application requirements**

Please include a resume and cover letter describing your qualifications as they relate to the duties of this position. Contact: Terri Collins [theanimalclinicofwp@gmail.com](mailto:theanimalclinicofwp@gmail.com)/ 719-687-9406

# Winter Wonderland

## WITH THE WOLVES

Join us for a  
special holiday  
celebration on  
**SUNDAY  
DEC. 20**  
from 9 to 11am

**FESTIVITIES  
INCLUDE:  
breakfast burritos  
with the wolves**

**\$40 · 12 and older  
\$20 · ages 6-11  
Reservations Required**



*Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center*  
Space is Limited · RSVP 719.687.9742 · [wolfeducation.org](http://wolfeducation.org)



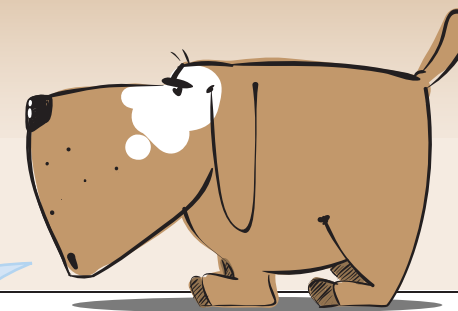
# Adoption corner

## 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. ]



« AGE: 1 year 3 months  
SEX: Male/Neutered  
Retriever, Labrador/Mix

AGE: 6 months »  
SEX: Male/Neutered  
Domestic Shorthair/Mix

### BRONX



« AGE: 2 years 12 days  
SEX: Female/Spayed  
Domestic Shorthair/Mix

AGE: 1 year 2 months »  
SEX: Female/Spayed  
Bulldog, American/Mix

### CENTURY



### CHARLIE



### BRINLEY

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



### « VELCRO

Dain's foster kitty Velcro needs a home as he cannot spend enough time with him. He likes lots of attention! Good with other cats. Neutered, vaccinated, one year old. Affectionate!

### GRACE »

Sweet girl Grace desperately needs a foster home. Her caring foster has spent thousands on her. She had her 3rd treatment but still has 6 more months to go. Great with other dogs & children, although in her zest she might knock down the little ones. Very active, playful! (The husband says she has to go!!! ) Not contagious to other dogs.

