



COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

SEPTEMBER 2023 · CONSERVATION · EDUCATION · PRESERVATION



Wiley

THE COYOTE

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 and sign up on the newsletter page.

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| 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.



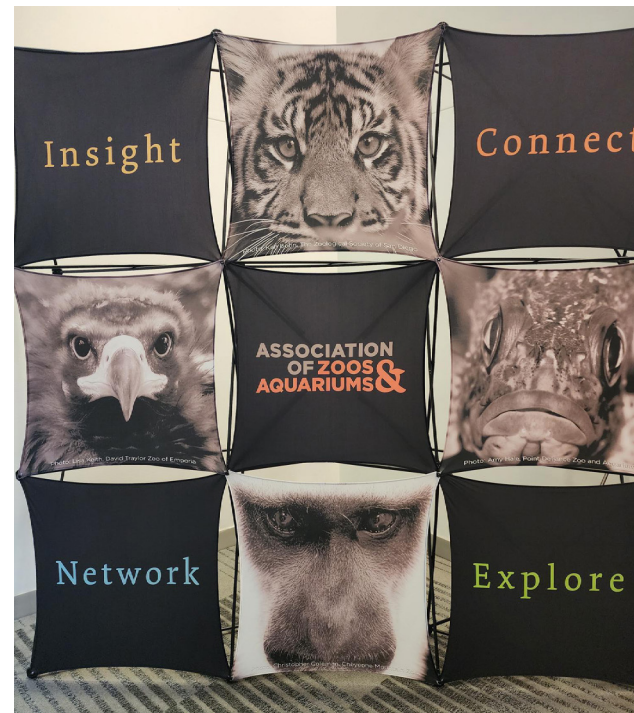
Follow us on TikTok: @cowolfcenter for the videos you won't see on our other social media pages.

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



Wiley is my coyote that I rescued 15 years ago. His mother was killed in West Virginia, and he and his brother were the only ones left. They were taken to an animal shelter where they were at risk of being euthanized. I tried to save both of them, but unfortunately, another facility took his brother. A shelter volunteer then drove nonstop to deliver Wiley to me. When I received him, he was very sick with kennel cough and diarrhea. I took care of him for 2 months until he started feeling better. At that point, it became impossible to keep him confined in the house and the only available space I had was my dog enclosure. So, that's where he lived. After two years, I found a beautiful female coyote named Mia who needed a home. They lived happily together for several years until she passed away last year. When Wiley was young, I used to walk him on a leash until he escaped one day. He ran back into his enclosure but became afraid of being walked again. He would growl and possibly bite when I tried to put the harness on him again, so I never attempted it for over a decade. However, recently, he got sick and I treated him. When he recovered, he became very attached to me. Wiley not only lost his mate, but also became deaf, so I think I became his source of security. Around two months ago, Wiley approached me and started whining. I wasn't sure why, but in a joking manner, I asked him if he wanted to go on a walk. If he could speak, I believe he would have said yes. The next day, I decided to give it another try after more than ten years. Surprisingly, he stood still and allowed me to put the harness on. We started by walking in his enclosure, and he did great. The following day, we went on a short walk outside his enclosure together. He was thrilled, and so was I. Now, we walk almost every night. Wiley eagerly anticipates our walks so much that he spins in circles when he sees me preparing his gear. I hope to have many more years together, sharing these incredibly special moments.





CWWC is an AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums) organization. Having this accreditation implies that your facility adheres to the highest standards. It is the most rigorous application that any zoo or organization can undertake. Our

application consisted of over 400 pages and 2GB of responses to their inquiries. We had three inspectors visit and thoroughly examine everything from the past five years, including animal care, education, safety, financials, and the overall appearance of the Center, among many other aspects. This accreditation is highly esteemed and should be a source of great pride. I am extremely proud of our staff, whom the inspectors referred to as "the wolf pack." We all put in tremendous effort, and we will be prepared to go through the process again in 2028.

URGENT INFORMATION - Switzerland wants to eliminate 60% of its wolf packs

Groupe Loup Suisse (Wolf Swiss Group), the official association for the protection of wolves in Switzerland, would like to share with you an urgent message following the revision of the Swiss Hunting Ordinance.

The Swiss Gouvernement, led by Councillor Albert Rösti, plans to exterminate most of the wolves in Switzerland. From the current 31 packs on swiss territory, the Ordinance aims to "keep" only 12 packs and eliminate the other 19, for no reason at all. It also will be possible to shoot 75% of young wolves (cubs and sub-adults), and subsidies to farmers will be reduced. There isn't any legal basis for this project, which is being carried out in secret and without any consultation procedure. The will of the people, expressed in the vote on the hunting law, is not being respected, and direct democracy is being flouted. By the way, this plan also contravenes European laws, notably the Bern Convention.

Share this news on your pages and websites to show your disapproval and alert the world's population to the illegal and totally inappropriate actions of the Swiss government in protecting protected species and preserving biodiversity !

We thank you in advance for your mobilization, by sharing and passing on this information.

Kind regards,

Groupe Loup Suisse (Swiss Wolf Group)

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www.facebook.com/groupeloupsuisse

U.S. Agency Moves Forward on Reintroducing Wolves To Colorado

Michael Robinson | The Center for Biological Diversity | September 15, 2023

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO.— The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today released its final environmental impact statement and a draft Record of Decision for Colorado Parks and Wildlife to begin reintroducing endangered gray wolves.

The decision, if finalized, would allow the killing of wolves that prey on livestock, but it includes no requirement that livestock owners undertake nonlethal preventative measures.

“When the first wolf bolts out of a portable kennel into western Colorado’s cornucopia of elk and deer, it will start to right the wrong of federal wolf extermination a century ago,” said Michael Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity. “After clinking our glasses in a toast to the wolves in their new home, we’ll closely monitor wolf management to ensure the budding population is allowed to thrive without persecution.”

The final environmental statement has just one substantial change from the draft: It limits the killing of wolves in response to “unacceptable impacts” to wild ungulates such as deer and elk to tribal lands – whereas the draft EIS would have allowed such killings anywhere in the state.

In comments on the draft, the Center pointed out that failing to require livestock owners to undertake preventative measures incentivizes poor husbandry and opens the door to chronic conflicts and associated killings of wolves. Such preventative measures would include removing carcasses of non-wolf-killed livestock before wolves scavenge on the carrion in the midst of herds that may be sickly.

“The state wolf plan and this new federal authorization will probably need to be revised before too long to truly protect both wolves and livestock by mandating non-lethal prevention,” said Robinson.

Under a state law passed by initiative in 2020, wolf releases will begin this year.

Background on Colorado Wolves

In 1869 Colorado’s territorial legislature authorized a 50-cent bounty on wolf scalps. In 1905, in the first year of its existence, the Forest Service hired wolf trappers in Colorado in order to curry favor with ranchers. In 1915 Congress began appropriating funds for wolf extermination throughout the West. By the late-1920s, federal trappers and poisoners had eliminated all known wolf packs in Colorado; a Fish and Wildlife Service trapper killed the last, lone wolf in Conejos County in 1945.

After passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973 and amid discussion of wolf recovery in Colorado, in 1982 the Colorado Wildlife Commission opposed reintroduction.

After wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park in 1995, periodically they migrated to northwestern Colorado. In 2004 a wolf was hit and killed by a vehicle on Interstate 70. In 2006 one was videotaped near the Wyoming border. In 2009 one was illegally poisoned. And in 2015 another was shot.

Since 2019 confirmed or probable wolf sightings including from dispersals from Wyoming have occurred each year in northwestern Colorado. Those include six black pups in Jackson County in 2021 – the first born in the state since the 1920s. But two radio-collared wolves later disappeared and in addition, last year, hunters in far-southern Wyoming were reported to have killed three black sub-adult female wolves. Currently, just two male wolves are known to be traveling together in northwestern Colorado.

In 2020, voters approved Proposition 114 to reintroduce wolves, and this year Colorado Parks and Wildlife finalized a wolf restoration and management plan.



USDA kills hundreds of Minnesota wolves to protect ranchers' profits

University of Minnesota | phys.org | August 28, 2023



Arctic foxes (left) and wolves (right) are two examples of predators that have an outsized impact on ecosystems by creating ecological hotspots. *Credit: Chloé Warret Rodrigues and Voyageurs Wolf Project*

New research recently published in *Oikos* shows that predators play a unique and important role in ecosystems by creating "ecological hotspots"—localized areas important for plants and animals.

Traditionally, predators have largely been thought to impact ecosystems only when they reduce the number of prey through predation, or change the behavior of prey by instilling fear.

"We've known for some time now that predators have unique effects on ecosystems," said co-author Tom Gable, postdoctoral researcher in the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. "Even so, most of the research has been focused on understanding how predators affect ecosystems by altering prey populations. In reality, there are a whole host of

other, lesser-known ways that individual predators can leave a distinct imprint on ecosystems."

The researchers found:

- Killing large prey can create ecological hotspots. Once predators make a kill, the carcasses of large prey often become a buffet for other predators and scavengers like vultures and ravens. These scavengers often compete for access to the carcass, leading to fierce battles over the rotting, but nutritious, scraps of meat. As carcasses decay, the remaining nutrients from the flesh and bones flow through soils and are absorbed by nearby plants, ultimately boosting their nutrient content and growth.
- Predators also create ecological hotspots by

repeatedly transporting prey remains (such as meat and bones) to a concentrated location like a den or nest—often referred to as "home sites." Adult predators often bring back prey remains to their home sites to feed their offspring. Over time, nutrients from the decaying remains and the predators' excrement accumulate. The steady build-up of nutrients can create profound ecological changes in these localized areas.

- Predators can prevent prey from radically altering certain habitats and therefore stop the creation of ecological hotspots. For example, wolves can prevent beavers from damming streams and creating ponds that turn forests into wetlands.
- Large carnivores can have greater hunting success at specific times and places. In other words, humans cannot readily replicate the role predators play in creating prey carcasses.

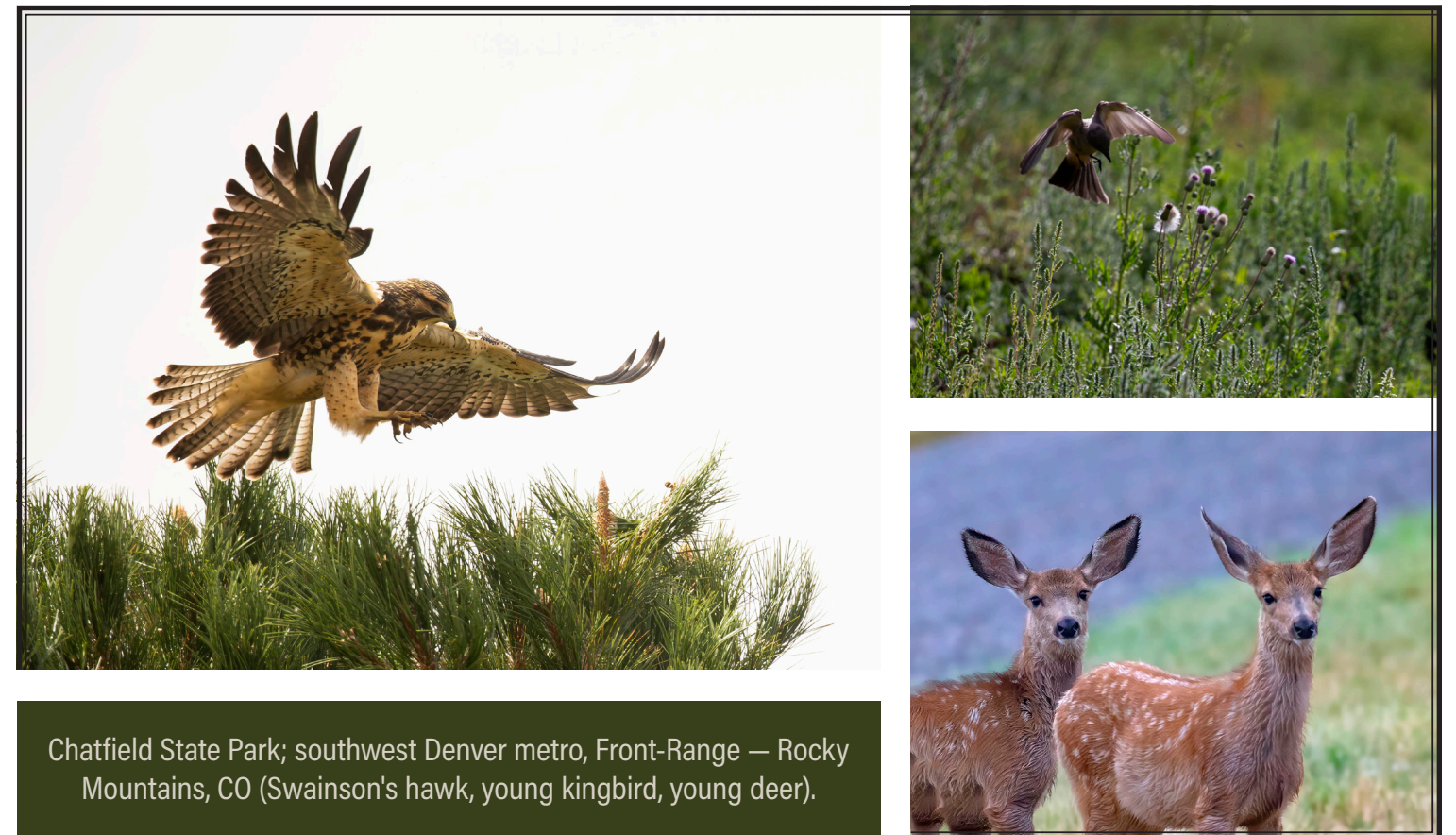
"Animal carcasses are important but often underappreciated sources of food and nutrients for animals and plants alike," said co-author Joseph Bump, a professor in CFANS. "Although animals die and their carcasses hit the ground continuously throughout the year from various mortality sources like disease

and human hunting, predators like cougars, bears and wolves have a unique fingerprint on when, where and how many carcasses are generated."

The researchers note that it is becoming increasingly important to recognize and understand the full spectrum of roles that predators play in ecosystems in order to better manage and conserve their populations.

"As humans, we often like to think that we have the ability to mimic the ecological roles of predators, and therefore it may be okay to have some areas devoid of large predators," said Sean Johnson-Bice, lead author of the study and a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Manitoba. "However, our work shows that there is such a wide diversity of ways that individual predators affect ecosystems that we could never realistically replicate their effects across entire ecosystems."

The researchers hope that this research will ultimately help advance the conservation and management of predator populations, many of which are declining globally due habitat destruction, human encroachment, hunting and poaching, and climate change.



Chatfield State Park; southwest Denver metro, Front-Range — Rocky Mountains, CO (Swainson's hawk, young kingbird, young deer).

Why can't national park officials leave Glacier alone?

Steve Kelly | Daily Montanan | August 30, 2023



It's been decided. Glacier National Park won't be deterred from sprinting ahead with its grand experiment to use poison to kill rainbow trout planted in Gunsight Lake a century ago. Back then, Gunsight Lake had no fish.

Rather than restore Gunsight to its original (fishless) condition, Park managers want to introduce three new species – bull trout, cutthroat trout hybrids (whatever that is exactly) and mountain whitefish.

What could possibly go wrong with an experiment so grand as this?

Does anyone remember what happened to the kokanee salmon in Flathead Lake? I sure do. They all died when Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks broke the delicate food chain when they introduced mysis shrimp to engineer bigger kokanee salmon.

According to the Park's reasoning, rotenone is fast and effective at killing off undesirable fish. The rainbow must go. The problem is that rotenone (a rat poison, now banned for use against rats) kills non-targeted aquatic species too – indiscriminately.

The risks are self-evident. Taking risks while in a big hurry, without thorough programmatic planning, or legitimate biological analysis, is in my mind the height of foolishness. Glacier officials are not interested in

alternative kill methods, which they say, "take too long."

Now, this is where I must stop and remind myself, and others, that the park is planning to deploy this poison using helicopters (the sounds of modern warfare), transport equipment (more noise pollution), poison (chemical pollution), transplanted fish (biological/ecological pollution) and a motorized boat to spread the evil poison in an area the Park recommended to Congress for official wilderness designation. In the meantime, the Park is committed to (at least on paper) manage recommended wilderness areas as wilderness. Never trust a bureaucrat (federal government agent).

I can assure you these magnificent, high-elevation backcountry landscapes belong in the national wilderness system and are included in a bill sponsored by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, D-Rhode Island, the "Northern Rockies Ecosystem Act (S. 1531)," currently being considered in the U.S. Senate.

This proposal is a full, frontal assault on the very wilderness characteristics the park and Glacier National Park Conservancy – the non-government entity providing the financial means to implement this experiment – purport to work so hard to protect.

Commerce, pseudo-science and jobs seem to have trumped the Wilderness Act's foundational mandates

to protect "untrammled" wild country and preserve opportunities to experience solitude in nature. The whole point of protecting wilderness is to allow some small remnant of land to exist/persist where nature's processes determine the diversity of species and quality of the habitat upon which they depend. Human intervention should be minimized, not flaunted.

The last thing Glacier National Park's threatened species like grizzly bears and lynx need is to be harassed inside Glacier National Park's wildlands by overbearing bureaucrats with helicopters, vague planning guidance, an obsessive and hurried implementation schedule weighted heavily in the direction of exploitation, excessive bureaucratic control, or a greater focus on funding and jobs than the health and function of the whole ecosystem being manipulated.

And for what?

This imaginative and creative experiment to "create a cold-water refuge" comes with unjustifiable risk to the greater St. Mary watershed downstream.

A wiser approach would be to slow down, take a "hard look" at all the options and consider no action that threatens the St. Mary River aquatic ecosystem and the last native bull trout population east of the Continental Divide – or the de facto wilderness in and around Gunsight Lake.

There is no quick fix to the ecological problems we face.

Glacier National Park and its private funders at Glacier National Park Conservancy would do well to return to the basic ethical principle of "non-maleficence," or in other words, try to refrain from doing any harm first, before taking any action intended to do good.

THE BIG, BAD WOLF



The darker wolf had something stuck on it's foot during our tour. It was pointed out by one of the tour-goers. Kirk immediately went in to get it off of the wolf's foot and I believe this was the wolf's "thank you" ...a big ol' smooch!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Forest Animals

Word Search

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

P	L	X	F	Y	W	H	S	M	K	Y	H	K	Q	Z	L	F	Y	K
T	Q	I	R	V	O	P	C	S	Z	I	R	D	E	S	Y	Q	F	M
A	E	C	I	E	O	J	E	Y	H	G	E	O	E	E	W	X	R	K
A	T	D	T	R	D	Y	U	S	Y	C	E	R	K	U	O	G	O	D
S	V	K	H	M	P	I	K	L	O	V	D	R	A	F	C	G	G	R
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S	O	W	W	O	E	Y	Y	F	Q	Y	O	K	Q	V	S	U	T	N
O	Q	J	N	C	R	O	G	H	R	B	W	D	K	H	S	G	E	F
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A	D	U	I	A	N	T	P	C	E	W	O	Q	F	M	U	T	F	Y
J	A	K	B	R	G	J	Z	S	S	Y	C	R	F	L	N	O	L	Z
E	S	U	O	Z	R	E	H	M	U	K	R	J	C	H	K	A	Y	C
U	T	J	A	Y	G	E	I	N	O	M	O	S	Q	U	I	T	O	T
L	B	R	M	K	T	T	L	W	M	H	M	B	C	S	P	S	S	N
B	E	A	M	R	J	W	L	P	C	I	C	O	E	I	E	I	W	H
Z	A	O	N	P	C	G	R	K	F	U	G	Y	F	L	O	W	N	K
M	R	B	D	D	Q	V	N	J	S	B	X	E	E	L	G	A	E	E

- ANT
- BEAR
- BLUE JAY
- BOAR
- BUTTERFLY
- CHIPMUNK
- COYOTE
- DEER
- DRAGONFLY
- EAGLE
- ELK
- FOX
- FROG
- HAWK
- MOOSE
- MOSQUITO
- MOUSE
- OWL
- PORCUPINE
- RABBIT
- RACCOON
- SKUNK
- SPIDER
- SQUIRREL
- TURKEY
- WOLF
- WOODPECKER

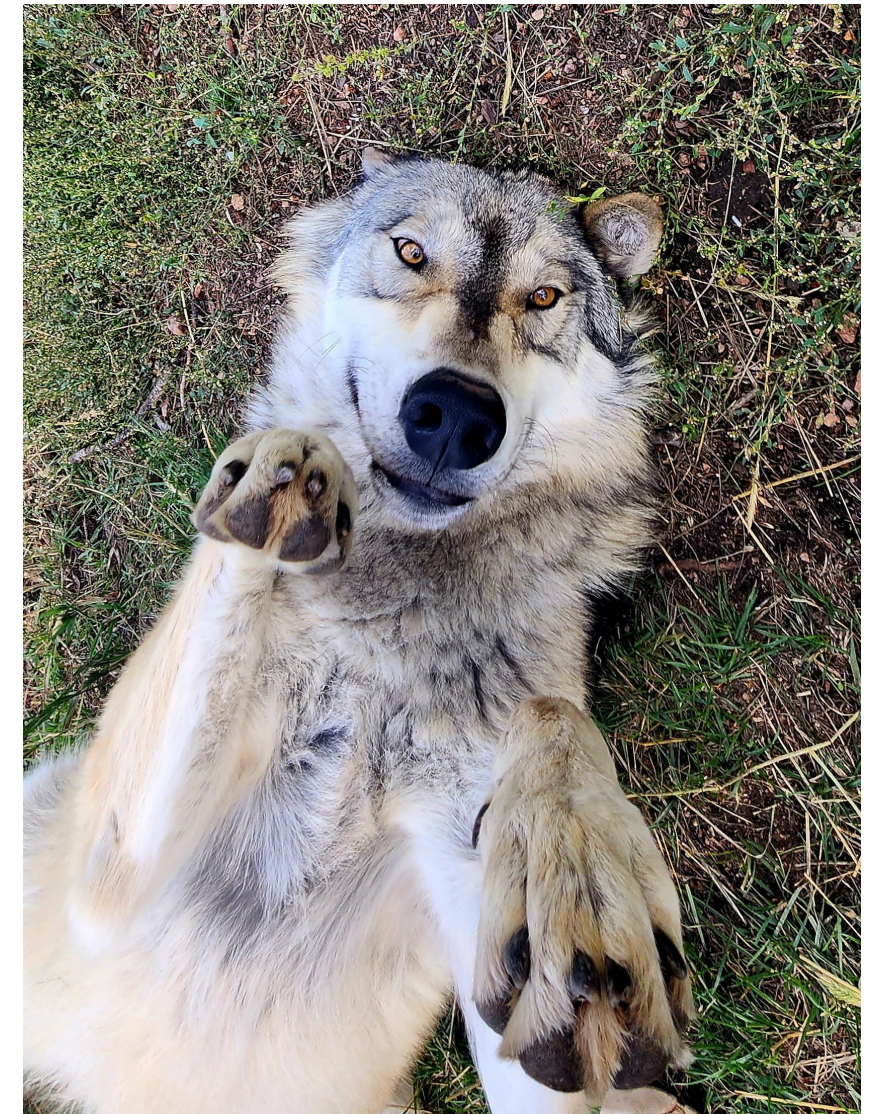
DID YOU KNOW?

Some species of forest animals, such as squirrels and chipmunks, hoard or bury food during the fall season to provide a food source during the winter months. They have a remarkable ability to

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Send in completed puzzle & receive a CWWC magnet:

Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center | P.O. Box 713 | Divide, Colorado 80814



PHOTOS BY:
DARLENE KOBABEL





PHOTOS BY:
CAROL VOGEL



HOWLOWEEN

**Sunday
October 29th
4-6pm**



JOIN US AS WE
PASS OUT
MEAT FILLED
PUMPKINS
TO ALL
THE WOLVES!

+ ENJOY A
BON FIRE AND
REFRESHMENTS.

\$40 ages 12+
\$20 ages 6-11

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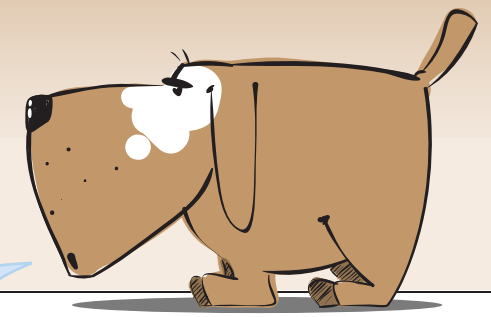
Adoption corner

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.]

TY LEE >>

If you love the out-of-doors and the companionship of a dog with all the beauty of her wolf ancestors, I may be the girl for you. But first you will have to prove yourself worthy of my trust and, if you are really patient, I may even let you pet my gorgeous fur. I do have some vision issues and won't always be able to see.



<< KING

I have gone through a lot of great training while I have been at TCRAS, and they had so much confidence in me they sent me to a board a train facility for two weeks, and I did amazing!! I am looking for someone who will continue my education and help me learn new and exciting things. I enjoy playing with dogs when we have proper introductions and a big yard to play in. I will need some time to adjust to a new place, but I promise to be a good boy and give it my all!

DAKOTA >>

Mom had 9 babies. When they are 8 weeks old, they will go to our shelter. Spayed/neutered. 3 sets of puppy shots, rabies, bordetella, and microchips. They are well socialized with other dogs and humans. Well-socialized.



<< FRY & LEILA

Fry and his sister Leila are 8 month old boxer mixes. Neutered, spayed, all vacc's, chipped. They are affectionate, happy, energetic pups. They would love a home together.

SLVAWS ADOPTION FAIR
Every Saturday at Petsmart
7680 N. Academy Blvd.
11:00am - 3:00pm