



# COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

JUNE 2025 • CONSERVATION • EDUCATION • PRESERVATION





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

### CONTACT US

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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.



**CWWC is now on Bluesky! Follow us: @cowolfcenter.bsky.social**



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



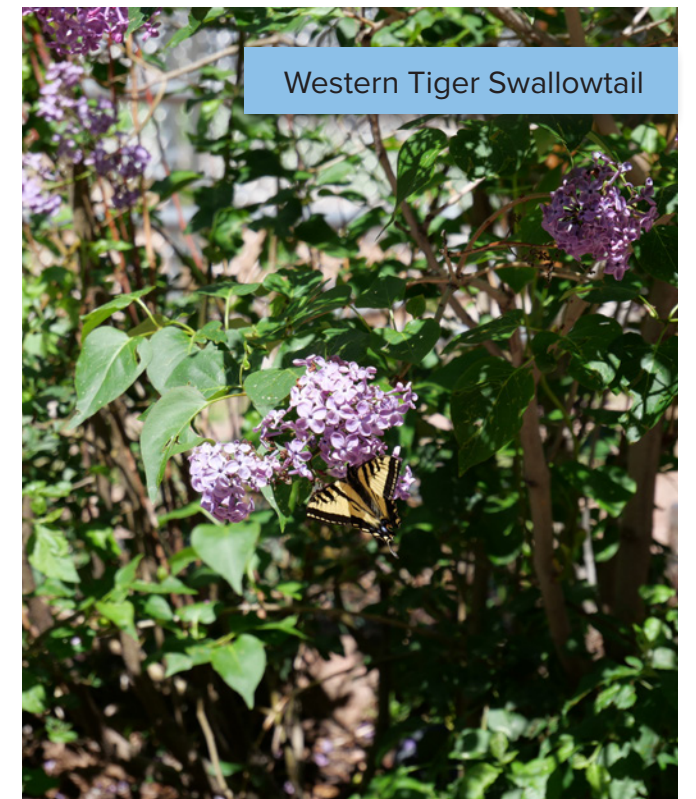
**Follow us on TikTok: @cowolfcenter** for the videos you won't see on our other social media pages.

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



Father's Day with Kirk & Kripton

# SUMMER AT THE CENTER



Western Tiger Swallowtail

# Copper Creek Wolf Family Need you **NOW!**



The Copper Creek Wolf Family needs your letters of support! Next Monday, July 7th, the CPW Commissioners will be deciding the fate of the Copper Creek Wolf Family. They will be deciding to let the Copper Creek Family live where they are, in Colorado's public wildlands, or to remove them, either lethally or nonlethally (nonlethal removal would subject the entire family to a life in captivity). Why? A yearling from the Copper Creek Family predated some calves and for that was killed by CPW. Ranchers are calling for the removal of the entire family for his transgression.

The Copper Creek Wolf Family was set up to fail, by us. The livestock losses were preventable and resulted from our failure to proactively and properly use nonlethal coexistence strategies. For a detailed background on their story [go to this blog post](#).

Now, after a traumatic beginning in Colorado (the loss of her mate, recapture and confinement, and the loss of two of her pups from her first Colorado litter), the Copper Creek

female, 2312-OR, has found a new mate with whom she has had puppies – now about 8 weeks old.

Please send a letter to Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commissioners by Tuesday, July 1st asking that they protect the Copper Creek Wolf Family and NOT allow their removal, either lethal or nonlethal, from their current home in the Capitol Creek valley.

I've attached a few talking points and background for your consideration for your letter. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support! D



*Delia G. Malone*  
President, ColoradoWild  
[deliamalone@earthlink.net](mailto:deliamalone@earthlink.net)  
970.319.9498

1. Please write to your CPW Commissioners to ask them **not to allow the removal, lethal or nonlethal, of the Copper Creek Wolf Family.**

Please send your letter to the following Commissioners and Staff:

[richard.reading@state.co.us](mailto:richard.reading@state.co.us); [James.Tutchton@state.co.us](mailto:James.Tutchton@state.co.us); [Eden.Vardy@state.co.us](mailto:Eden.Vardy@state.co.us); [jess.beaulieu@state.co.us](mailto:jess.beaulieu@state.co.us); [tai.jacober@state.co.us](mailto:tai.jacober@state.co.us); [Dallas.May@state.co.us](mailto:Dallas.May@state.co.us); [jack.murphy@state.co.us](mailto:jack.murphy@state.co.us); [gabriel.otero@state.co.us](mailto:gabriel.otero@state.co.us); [murphy.robinson@state.co.us](mailto:murphy.robinson@state.co.us); [dan.gibbs@state.co.us](mailto:dan.gibbs@state.co.us); [jeffrey.davis@state.co.us](mailto:jeffrey.davis@state.co.us); [dnr\\_cpwcommission@state.co.us](mailto:dnr_cpwcommission@state.co.us)

2. **Colorado's first family of wolves is a symbol of hope**, signaling a change for the good in our relationship with the natural world and the restoration of a natural balance.
  - a. Support nonlethal coexistence and science-based recovery, to allow wolves to thrive where they rightfully belong – in the wilds of Colorado's vast public lands.
  - b. Keeping this bonded wolf family in the wild and contributing to the restoration of a natural balance is essential to recovery of all wolves in Colorado. Removing this wolf family would undermine wolf recovery in Colorado.
  - c. The Copper Creek family has a right to thrive in their wild, ancestral home – public lands that belong to all of us including to the wildlife who were here before us.
  - d. Removal of the Copper Creek Family would damage the entire Colorado recovery effort. Removal of the Copper Creek Family would signify that CPW is choosing industry over wildlife; would indicate that CPW is willing to accept the noncompliance, and unsustainable livestock management, over sustainable stewardship of Colorado's natives; and would suggest that CPW is managing with myth instead of science to protect endangered, species.
  - e. The Copper Creek wolves are being held responsible for our own mistakes
    - i. The livestock losses were preventable and resulted from our failure to proactively and properly use nonlethal coexistence strategies.
    - ii. Colorado's wolf management plan includes the USFWS 10j rule law which states that: lethal methods should be used as a "last resort" to stop livestock mortalities. Specifically, it states lethal control may be used "when nonlethal management actions are ineffective and may not resolve conflict." And further, it clarifies, "We anticipate that lethal removal will be used as a **last resort** to balance conserving the species and preventing depredations." WAS THE LETHAL REMOVAL OF WOLF 2405 A LAST RESORT? WERE OTHER NONLETHAL METHODS EXHAUSTED? HAVE NONLETHAL METHODS BEEN USED TO PREVENT FURTHER LIVESTOCK LOSSES?
  - f. Removing the Copper Creek pack is not justified and undermines reintroduction goals.
    - i. Wolf family structure is critical to family survival.
    - ii. Their ability to take down prey animals like elk depend on family. Removing any member of the family punishes the entire family.

- iii. Killing wolves contradicts [21st century conservation management](#) that stresses the benefit of returning natural predators to the landscape, which in turn restores functioning ecosystems that benefits wildlife and supports human culture.

3. **Copper Creek Wolf Family was set up to fail, by us. Read the attached [blog post](#)**
  - a. Conflict between the Copper Creek wolves and livestock was entirely preventable
  - b. The failure was ours, not theirs. Coexistence tools and methods were not used proactively or properly – and so wolves were blamed for our failure to prevent conflict.
  - c. The burden of coexisting with the land and wildlife is ours to bear.
4. **In perspective: By 1900, gray wolves and most other native carnivores had nearly been exterminated from the American west to make room for livestock.**
  - a. In 1905 the [federal government](#) tried biological warfare, infecting wolves with mange. Ten years later Congress passed a law requiring their eradication from federal land. By 1926 all wolves had been poisoned, shot, and trapped out of Yellowstone National Park.
  - b. But, science informs that [apex carnivores are essential](#) to ecosystem function, the restoration of biodiversity and human health.
  - c. Through [trophic cascades](#) wolves positively impact entire ecosystems.
  - d. Wolves positively impact their prey by [selectively removing](#) the [weak and diseased](#).
  - e. Wolves evolved with and are needed in Colorado's wildlands.
5. **Sharing the land with apex carnivores.**
  - a. [Nonlethal coexistence methods](#) work to prevent conflict: keeping both wolves and livestock alive.
    - i. But, to be effective Nonlethal tools must be used proactively and properly.
    - ii. **Livestock depredation** is [another make-believe issue](#). In 2015, 1,904 wolves shared the Rocky Mountain West with 1.6 million cattle. Wolves killed 148 cows, or 0.01 percent, and the states compensated ranchers.
  - b. **Examples:** [Wood River Wolf Project](#)[Wood River Wolf Project](#), [Alderspring ranch](#).
6. **A few relevant facts**
  - a. **Wolves and livestock.** In Colorado, as in the rest of the U.S., most livestock losses are caused by bad weather, altitude, disease, drought, calving and lambing complications, but rarely by predators. In 2015 in North America [3.9 million cattle and calves](#) were lost to all causes; **nonpredator** causes were responsible for 98% of cattle deaths and 89% of calf deaths. Wolves were responsible for 0.01% of cattle and calf deaths.
  - b. **Wolves and their native prey.**
    - i. Wolves and their prey have coexisted for millennia in North America.
    - ii. Elk need wolves. Wolves improve the health of elk and deer herds by selectively removing the weak, sick and diseased. [Selective predation](#) plays an important role in regulating the health of prey populations
    - iii. Since wolf reintroduction in the Northern Rockies, [elk populations have increased](#) in all three NRM states.

7. **Science and Ethics:** "[Science can never tell us what we ought to do or how we ought to behave. Science only describes the way the world is.](#) Ethics, by itself, can't tell us what to do either. Ethics needs science -facts about the world – to be properly informed"
  - a. The land, animals and humans are intimately connected.
  - b. Respecting and even protecting those connections requires that we protect all life – even or especially the lives of wolves.
  - c. [When we harm wolves](#), we harm ourselves.
8. **The essence of being wolf is family.**
  - a. What wolves want is mostly what we want: a liberated life that allows them to feed themselves and their families, to reproduce – to live wild and free.
  - b. Lethal removal of family members [destroys family structure, destabilizing the family](#) and diminishing their ability to survive. Wolf populations are composed of distinct packs, making the pack a vital unit of measure, particularly in relation to social structure and pack-level success in hunting, reproduction, disease recovery, foraging, and territoriality.
  - c. Lethal removal of a family member impacts the entire family:
    - i. Loss of culture: transmission of survival knowledge (adults teach their young where, how and what to hunt to survive).
    - ii. Where families are destabilized by lethal removal, social chaos ensues. Without having a cohesive family acting together to take down native prey, surviving individuals often turn to easier prey – domestic livestock.
  - d. Stable wolf families and the proper and proactive use of nonlethal coexistence tools are essential to meeting the voter mandate to “restore a critical balance in nature” and directives to “resolve conflicts with persons engaged in ranching and farming” in Colorado and to restore a self-sustaining wolf population in Colorado.
9. **Killing is never an answer**, not for humans, not for wolves and not for our mother earth.
  - a. The consequence of killing wolves out of their native landscape can be seen in the crashing biodiversity across North America – their loss reverberates through the wild.
  - b. Sacrificing wild life and wild lands to the livestock industry has contributed to the most severe drought in centuries, drying rivers, eroding soils, and a depauperate wildlife community.
  - c. Revisioning our relationship with the wild world by rewilding our hearts to embrace compassionate conservation is our path to a sustainable future.

To view downloadable copy of this letter,  
— **CLICK HERE** —

# Governor Polis Signs Wildlife Trafficking Bill, Strengthening Protections for Colorado Wildlife

Travis Duncan | Colorado Parks and Wildlife | June 3, 2025

DENVER – On Monday, June 2, Governor Jared Polis signed Senate Bill 25-168, a new law that gives Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) expanded authority to combat wildlife trafficking. The bill strengthens penalties for traffickers, supports law enforcement capacity, and improves data collection on illegal activity threatening Colorado’s native wildlife.

SB25-168 was a priority bill for CPW and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources during the 2025 legislative session. It targets illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife parts—an issue that often crosses state and international borders. The law also addresses gaps in CPW’s ability to enforce trafficking violations involving lower-profile species, such as reptiles and fish.

“Colorado’s lack of comprehensive data on wildlife trafficking has made it difficult to fully understand and respond to the threats facing our native species,” said Dan Gibbs, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. “This law gives CPW the authority and tools to support

federal efforts and protect Colorado’s biodiversity.”

The legislation expands CPW’s ability to investigate and prosecute trafficking-specific activity, not just illegal possession or sale. It also equips officers to respond to trafficking of both native and non-native species being moved through or into Colorado.

“Because of this legislation—and the hard work of our staff, partners, and bill sponsors—CPW can now better disrupt the growing black market for wildlife,” said CPW Director Jeff Davis.

“Until now, CPW could only address trafficking in limited ways,” said CPW Chief of Law Enforcement Ty Petersburg. “This bill changes that. It allows us to enforce trafficking violations more broadly, across a wide range of species.”

“It is past time for Colorado to strengthen our enforcement of illegal wildlife trafficking and I am very glad that this important bipartisan bill is becoming law,” said State Senator Dylan Roberts, D-Frisco. “By making these improvements to our

enforcement, penalties, and data collection, we will give CPW and law enforcement more tools to crack down against those that illegally kill and remove wildlife from our state.”

“I’m really excited to be a part of this Legislative effort to protect Colorado’s Endangered Species. Protecting Colorado’s natural resources aligns perfectly with my goals for Colorado,” said State Senator Scott Bright, R-Platteville.

“I am glad to be part of legislation that expands CPW’s ability to investigate and prosecute trafficking-specific

activity, not just illegal possession or sale. It also equips officers to respond to trafficking of both native and non-native species being moved through or into Colorado,” said State Representative Cecelia Espenoza, D-Denver.

“I’m happy to pass a bill that not only provides a deterrent for criminal trafficking organizations operating in and through Colorado, but also protects our Colorado wildlife and habitats,” said State Representative Ryan Armagost, R-Berthoud.

### Key Provisions of SB25-168:

- Strengthens CPW enforcement authority specific to wildlife trafficking and creates additional investigative positions specific to wildlife trafficking in Colorado
- Enhances penalties regarding wildlife trafficking;

- including a Class 4 felony for trafficking \$10,000 worth of wildlife, or Threatened and Endangered species or CITES Appendix I species
- Improves data collection and inter-agency collaboration by creating position specifically designated to collecting biological and population data about Colorado’s reptiles
- Targets both native and non-native species involved in trafficking
- Helps protect ecosystems from harmful species introductions and illegal commercialization



Our beautiful gardens, designed by Rick



# HELP US EXPAND OUR HOME!

This year, CWWC will be expanding our Critically Endangered Mexican Wolf enclosure. We need your help!

RSVP to our Mexican Fiesta  
Saturday, July 19th

**Our goal is to raise \$20,000**

Mexican wolves are the most endangered subspecies of wolf in the world with about 280 roaming the wild today. Dakota and Diego will likely remain with us the rest of their years, and we always strive to offer them the most enriching life we can offer. What better way than to give them more space to be wolves?

If you can't attend the Mexican Fiesta but want to support this project, you can still help by visiting [wolfeducation.org](http://wolfeducation.org) and clicking the yellow **DONATE** button at the bottom of our homepage. Please make sure you write "Mexican wolf enclosure" in any donation notes. Any donor contributing \$200 + will receive a 1x3 nameplate that will be placed on their enclosure.

Thank you to our supporters for always offering what you can. In this changing economy and unpredictable climate, we are deeply thankful for any contributions you can make to support our animals and our mission.

Time of Mexican Fiesta will be announced in June's newsletter.

Never Let the Howl Go Silent!  
Darlene Kobobel



*Full Moon Special*

**\$5 PER  
RAFFLE  
TICKET**

## RINGO & RAFFLE

**SATURDAY, JULY 12TH**  
**5:30-6:30PM**

**MEET & GREET WITH  
RINGO STARR**

**RAFFLE & TOUR TO FOLLOW**

**ADULTS \$30 • KIDS 8-11 \$20**

**CALL TO  
RESERVE 719-687-9742**



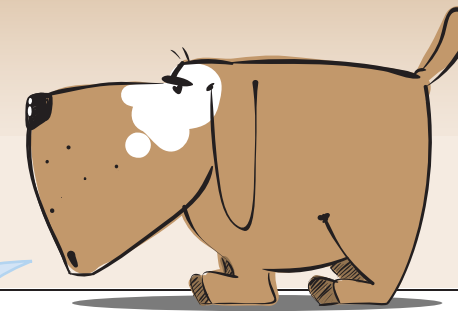
# Adoption corner

## 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. ]**

### REBA »

Hello! My name is Reba, and I'm currently enjoying life in a foster home. I love to be with my people, follow you around, and talk to you! I love to be loved on. A home where I have a lap to nap on and a sunny spot to lay in would be the best thing ever. I have lived with other cats and small dogs before. Will you be my new family?



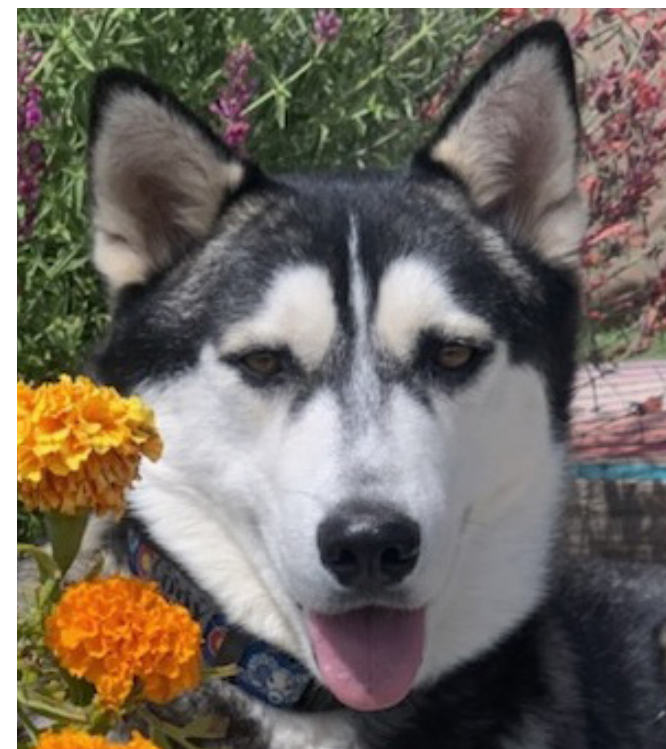
### « ROCKY

Hi there! I'm a cute little guy who's on the lookout for my very own special forever home! I am very shy at first - it will take me a few visits to become comfortable with you. When I know and trust you, I like to cuddle close, sit on your lap, and give you kisses! It will take me a little time to fully settle in and feel safe and comfortable when I go to my new home. Will you give me a chance?



### GUCCI »

9 month old Australian Cattle Dog mix. Very mellow, sweet and quiet. Gets along with other dogs. Spayed, medium length fur, 9 months old, chipped, all vaccinations. Her owner had given Gucci and her sister away when they were 6 months old. It appears the new owner kept the sister and discarded Gucci.



### « CODY/BALTO

Cody/Balto is an affectionate 3 year-old husky. Owners had to move and gave him to us. He had been found as a stray on Wild Horse Mesa near San Luis, CO. Gets along with other dogs. Neutered, all vacc's, chipped, about 60 lbs.

**SLVAWS**  
Please check our website, [www.slvaws.org](http://www.slvaws.org) for our next adoption fair in Colorado Springs, every Saturday 10am-3pm.