



# COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

FEBRUARY 2024 · CONSERVATION · EDUCATION · PRESERVATION





CERTIFIED BY THE  
**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](http://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!*



**CLICK  
HERE &  
VOTE FOR  
FENDER!**



**HELP US GET SIGNATURES FOR A VOTER-LED  
BALLOT INITIATIVE TO STOP TROPHY HUNTING  
AND TRAPPING COLORADO'S WILDCATS**

CATs must secure 124,238 in-person, verified signatures and to do this, we rely on Colorado volunteers who are willing to help. Please reach out to contribute some of your time for the reward of saving our mountain lions, bobcats and lynx!

**CLICK HERE**



27-01-2024

HERRADURA - CHRISTO REY

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COLORADO WOLF AND WILDLIFE CENTER

GRACIAS!

LOW COST Spay/Neuter CLINIC

30 animals fixed  
6 more scheduled for next week

30 animales castrados  
6 más programados para la próxima semana



Please help me to help the dogs in need and prevent more puppies from being born.

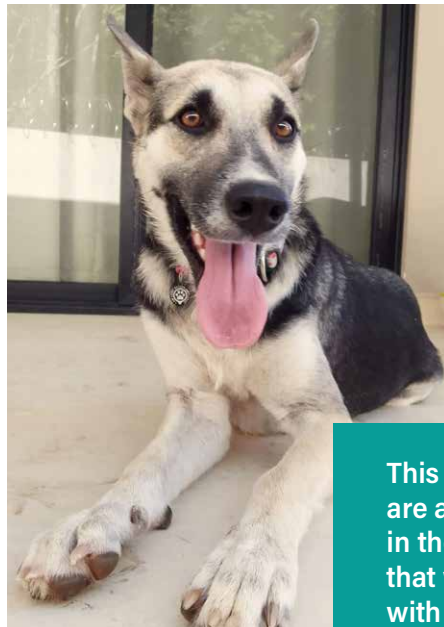
Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center  
P.O. Box 713  
Divide, Colorado

Subject Line: Costa Rica Dogs



This is our new logo for the Costa Rica clinic. The logo represents a dog named Casey, who was my inspiration in many ways. Casey was my most beloved rescue here in the United States. She accompanied me to Costa Rica, and to ensure that her legacy as an ambassador dog continues, and the importance of rescue lives on, I decided to name the organization after her.

This is Mia. Mia was one of the dogs that was at the clinic that I attend in Costa Rica. She, like so many others, did not have a home. Fortunately, a friend of mine who accompanied me on the trip, fell in love with Mia. Mia will be coming to the states in May. She is now being fostered by a woman who is getting her healthy.



This is Mia after rehabilitation. She will be heading home on May 10th. Donations are always welcome to help with this project. Animals, no matter where they live in the world, need help, and CWWC is proud to be able to assist in making a life that was miserable and full of uncertainty, to one that will live happily and thrive with the second chance that was given.



Photo: Cyrus McCrimmon/The Denver Post

# LAWMAKER VOLUNTARILY KILLS PET REGISTRATION AND FEES BILL

by Seth Klamann | The Denver Post | February 8, 2024

A Democratic state lawmaker voluntarily killed her own bill Thursday over a wave of criticism, and some threats, sparked by the proposal to require Colorado pet owners to register their animals and pay fees.

The bill, House Bill 24-1163, would have required pet owners to pay a small, per-animal annual fee to support shelters across the state. The fee component attracted attention and drew criticism on social media, particularly from conservative commentators.

The blowback prompted Rep. Regina English, the bill's sponsor and a Colorado Springs Democrat, to request that the bill be shelved at a special Thursday morning meeting of the House's Agriculture Water & Natural Resources Committee. The committee approved her request unanimously. English told the committee that she had wanted to support overwhelmed animal shelters and help abandoned and unadopted pets. The bill had expanded beyond its original form to cover a menagerie of different animals, she said, including

fish, a detail that had helped fuel the outcry.

"This expansion, and while, well-intentioned to be inclusive of as many pets (as possible), has understandably led to confusion and concern among our constituents," English said. "The sentiment of 'What in the world?' has been echoed in our communities, reflecting a disconnect between the bill's original intent and its current form.

Rep. Mike Lynch, a Wellington Republican, jokingly thanked English for bringing the bill because it gave him "the opportunity to talk to more people in the state than I have ever talked to in my legislative career."

After the meeting, English said in an interview that she had received threats over the bill and that she was surprised by the extent of the blowback.

The measure wasn't one of her priority proposals for the year, she said, and it had no other sponsors in either the House or Senate.

I would like to hear from our readers on your thoughts on this article. Please email: [tours@wolfeducation.org](mailto:tours@wolfeducation.org). Please put PET BILL in the subject line. If you do not want your name published with your comment, please state that in the email. Thanks, Darlene





# BREAKING: US FISH AND WILDLIFE PROPOSES TO PROTECT NATIVE CARNIVORES ON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Photo: Paulette Sinclair / Alamy Stock

Kitty Block And Sara Amundson | The Humane Society of the United States | February 1, 2024

Today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced it will be proposing a rule that would ban predator control on the National Wildlife Refuge System. When finalized, this rule will be a huge victory for countless wildlife living on refuges.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is home to thousands of wildlife and fish species, including many iconic and beloved native carnivores, many of which depend on these refuges for their survival. This rule would protect native carnivores living on refuges, including wolves, bears, coyotes, cougars, foxes and bobcats. This rule proposes to ban predator control, which would save these species from senseless slaughter and provide them with the protections they deserve and need to survive.

“Predator control” programs are often the cause of severe pain and cruelty for animals. Conducted on various scales by individuals, states and the federal government, these operations aim ostensibly to protect farm animals or increase deer, elk or other cervid populations. But neither of these goals is supported by sound science, according to many conservation biologists. The HSUS’s own reports show that predators kill few farmed animals each year, less than 1% of cows and sheep put out to graze on public and private lands. Owners of farm animals can take commonsense precautions to protect their animals. Wild cervid populations are often limited naturally by weather events such as too much or too little precipitation, disease and the carrying capacity of the land.

Many predator control methods are cruel. If animals are shot from the air, the gunners may not make a clean

kill, wounding and leaving the animal to die slowly from blood loss. Animals caught in traps will struggle to escape, breaking or injuring their legs, paws or teeth. Animals caught in neck snares may suffer edema, or what trappers call “jelly head,” a condition in which blood rushes to the animal’s head and cannot go back out, causing excruciating swelling. Some baits used to attract animals are toxic and can cause painful conditions like seizures, vomiting and heart arrhythmias. Hunting down wild animals with packs of radio-collared hounds can result in gruesome fights that can injure or kill all animals involved, and also put dependent young kittens, pups or cubs in the crosshairs, sometimes leading to their deaths as well.

If finalized, this rule would help provide a science-based approach for managing wildlife on refuges in addition to supporting conservation and giving wildlife refuge managers better tools to address the complicated threats of climate change and biodiversity loss.

The National Wildlife Refuge System dates to the early 1900s, when President Theodore Roosevelt established the first, with an aim to protect nesting birds: Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. In accordance with its original intentions, the National Wildlife Refuge System should be a sanctuary. It is the only network of federal lands and waters in the U.S. dedicated to the conservation of native wildlife. There are currently 570 national wildlife refuges in the U.S., occupying 95 million land acres and 750 million marine acres across all 50 states and five U.S. territories. The refuges are also very popular with the public, generating more than 67 million annual visits every year.

To help ensure essential protections for native carnivores, we’ll be fighting for the swift approval and implementation of this new rule, submitting substantive comments supporting the proposed rule during this 30-day comment period. You can communicate your excitement for this positive action for native carnivore species, too: Tell the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to adopt the proposed rule to prohibit predator control on the National Wildlife Refuge System. Thousands of wild animals depend on National Wildlife Refuges to provide them with safe habitat where they can live and raise their young. We are dedicated to making this a reality.



**Get yours to show support and help our wild wolves!**



## DENVER ZOO TO OPEN 570-ACRE CONSERVATION PRESERVE

*Lembke Family Preserve To Expand Facility's Breeding Efforts And Space For New Species*

by Michael Braithwaite | February 19, 2024

A new wildlife preserve will give the 84-acre Denver Zoo more room for its conservation efforts. The zoo will soon open the Lembke Family Preserve, a 570-acre facility in Weld County, which will give it the expansive space needed to develop its wildlife conservation efforts, according to a Thursday release. The preserve, donated to the zoo by the Lembke family, will not be open to the public. "The Lembke Family Preserve represents the start of a new era for Denver Zoo and will dramatically expand our capabilities for our animals and Colorado wildlife as we build it out in the coming years," said Bert Vescolani, president and CEO of Denver Zoo, in the release. "We are deeply grateful to the Lembke family for their generosity and mutual understanding that saving wildlife for future generations requires a dedicated community of donors, members, partners and neighbors." The project will be completed in two phases, according to the release. The first will focus on species survival breeding efforts and providing more space for animal families. Additionally, the facility will give the zoo far more space for temporary relocations due to habitat maintenance or renovation. The second phase will revolve around transforming the facility into a conservation center focused on the breeding and reintroduction of species that are threatened or endangered in Colorado and beyond, according to the release. The Denver Zoo, a non-profit organization, houses nearly 3,000 animals of over 450 species and serves nearly two million people per year, according to the release. "Denver Zoo has been part of our family tradition since the late 1950s," said Bob Lembke in the release. "With the stewardship provided to endangered species by the zoo through the preserve, we hope that the zoo can be part of our family for generations.



# MUTANT WOLVES ROAMING CHERNOBYL EXCLUSION ZONE HAVE DEVELOPED CANCER-RESILIENT ABILITIES: STUDY

Allie Griffin | The New York Post | February 8, 2024



Wolves have continued to breed in the Chernobyl zone, making lair inside abandoned house. *Photo: Adobe Stock*

Howl about that?

Mutant wolves that roam the human-free Chernobyl Exclusion Zone have developed cancer-resilient genomes that could be key to helping humans fight the deadly disease, according to a study.

The wild animals have managed to adapt and survive the high levels of radiation that have plagued the area after a nuclear reactor at the Chernobyl power plant exploded in 1986, becoming the world's worst nuclear accident.

Humans abandoned the area after the explosion leaked cancer-causing radiation into the environment, and a 1,000-square-mile zone was roped off to prevent further human exposure.

But in the nearly 38 years since the nuclear disaster, wildlife has reclaimed the area — including packs of wolves that seem to be unaffected by the chronic exposure to the radiation.

Cara Love, an evolutionary biologist and ecotoxicologist in Shane Campbell-Staton's lab at Princeton University, has been studying how the mutant wolves have evolved to survive their radioactive environment and presented her findings at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology in Seattle, Washington, last month.

In 2014, Love and her colleagues went inside the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone and put GPS collars equipped with radiation dosimeters on the wild wolves.

They also took blood from the animals to understand their responses to the cancer-causing radiation, according to a release published by the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology.

With the specialized collars, the researchers can get real-time measurements of where the wolves are and how much radiation they are exposed to, Love said.

They learned that the wolves are exposed to 11.28 millirem of radiation daily for their lifespans — more than six times the legal safety limit for humans.

The Chernobyl wolves' immune systems appeared different than normal wolves' — similar to those of cancer patients going through radiation treatment, the researchers found.

Love pinpointed specific regions of the wolf genome that seem to be resilient to increased cancer risk, the release states.

The research could be key to examining how gene mutations in humans could increase the odds of surviving cancer — flipping the script on many known gene mutations, like BRCA, that cause cancer.

Chernobyl dogs — the descendants of former residents' pets — may also possess similar cancer resilience, though they haven't been studied the same way as their wild cousins.

Dogs were immediately in the area after the disaster and have adapted better than other species — like birds, which experienced extreme genetic defects as a result of the toxic radiation.

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The findings are especially valuable as scientists have learned that canines fight off cancer more similarly to the way humans do than lab rats.

Unfortunately, Love's work has stalled somewhat as she and her colleagues have been unable to return to the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone — first due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and now due to the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.



▲ Scientists examine a wolf in the Chernobyl zone, measuring the radioactive contamination levels. *Photo: PBS*

▼ Wolves wonder freely inside the exclusion zone around the Chernobyl nuclear reactor. *Photo: REUTERS*



▲ The Chernobyl wolves' immune systems appeared different than normal wolves' — similar to those of cancer patients going through radiation treatment, the researchers found. *Photo: Adobe Stock*

▼ Chernobyl nuclear reactor. *Photo: Getty Image*





# EPA again OKs use of toxic herbicide linked to Parkinson's disease

*Agency's draft report backs paraquat's safety but lawsuit's plaintiffs say EPA ignored evidence of Parkinson's risk*

Tom Perkins | The Guardian | February 11, 2024

Photograph: Jae C. Hong/AP

The US Environmental Protection Agency is doubling down on its controversial finding that a toxic herbicide is safe for use across millions of acres of American cropland, despite what public health advocates characterize as virtual "scientific proof" the product causes Parkinson's disease.

The agency in 2021 reapproved paraquat-based herbicides for use, but a coalition of agricultural and public health groups sued, charging that the EPA had ignored broad scientific consensus linking the substance to Parkinson's.

The EPA agreed to reassess the most current science, but last week released a new draft report reaffirming the substance's safety. But the lawsuit's plaintiffs say the agency again ignored evidence of the Parkinson's risk, including dozens of peer-reviewed studies sent to it by the Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

By re-approving the "highly lethal" substance, the EPA has "violated the law" and put industry interests before public health, the plaintiffs allege. "There is an incredibly overwhelming body of evidence on this that has been accepted by scientists across the globe, and the EPA's decision really placed it at odds with the best available science," said Jonathan Kalmuss-Katz, a senior attorney with Earthjustice, the suit's lead plaintiff.

The EPA's decision is the latest salvo in a decades-long battle over the use of paraquat, which is a highly effective weed killer. Elsewhere,

Syngenta, which produces the substance, has lost – nearly 60 countries have banned paraquat. A state-owned Chinese company bought Syngenta in 2017, but China still prohibits the product, as do the UK and EU.

About 8m pounds annually are sprayed on US grapes, almonds, soya beans, cotton and other crops, most commonly in California's Central Valley, Iowa and the Mississippi River Valley. The substance's use tripled in the US between 2008 and 2018.

Research shows the paraquat interferes with dopamine production and regulation, and people with Parkinson's have reduced dopamine levels. Paraquat is also linked to respiratory damage and kidney disease, and ingestion of a single teaspoon is considered deadly.

By law, the EPA must review pesticides every 15 years and cannot approve those that create an "unreasonable risk" to human health. "Literally hundreds" of research papers – including epidemiological, animal and cellular studies – have linked the substance to Parkinson's, Kalmuss-Katz said.

Agricultural workers and communities are most at risk – an epidemiological study of central California farming communities exposed to paraquat and another herbicide clearly showed an increased risk of Parkinson's.

The EPA has touted its strict regulations around paraquat's application, and requires farmers to be trained and certified to use it while wearing

protective gear.

But even with the regulations, agricultural workers still face a high risk, Kalmuss-Katz said, which the EPA even acknowledged in its report. The agency stated it "concluded that these risks were outweighed by the benefits of the use of paraquat". However, the Parkinson's risk was not factored in, Kalmuss-Katz said.

The re-evaluation comes from the same notorious division in the EPA that whistleblowers say has been captured by industry. The Guardian last year revealed how internal corporate documents showed Syngenta has sought to influence regulators' decision making around the chemical, withheld risks from the public and attempted to edit unfavorable studies. Meanwhile, it maintained a "Swat team" that responded to independent reports that could interfere with its "freedom to sell" paraquat.

Although the EPA's latest decision suggests it intends to keep paraquat on the market, it has said it will review more science, and could change course when issuing a final report next year.

"The EPA can still correct its flawed decision, but it needs to follow the science and join dozens of other countries in banning paraquat," Kalmuss-Katz said.





## Nearly Half of the World's Migratory Species Are in Decline, U.N. Report Says

Christina Larson | February 12, 2024

Washington - Nearly half of the world's migratory species are in decline, according to a new United Nations report released Monday.

Many songbirds, sea turtles, whales, sharks and other migratory animals move to different environments with changing seasons are imperiled by **habitat loss, illegal hunting and fishing, pollution and climate change.**

About 44% of migratory species worldwide are declining in population, the report found. More than a fifth of the nearly 1,200 species monitored by the U.N. are threatened with extinction.

"These are species that move around the globe. They move to feed and breed and also need stop-over sites along the way," said Kelly Malsch, lead author of the report released at a U.N. wildlife conference in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. **Habitat loss or other threats at any point in their journey can lead to dwindling populations.**

"Migration is essential for some species. If you cut the migration, you're going to kill the species," said Duke University ecologist Stuart Pimm, who was not involved in the report.

The report relied on existing data, including information from the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List, which tracks whether a species is endangered. Participants of the U.N. meeting plan to evaluate proposals for conservation measures and also whether to formally list several new species of concern.

"One country alone cannot save any of these species," said Susan Lieberman, vice president for international policy at the non-profit Wildlife Conservation Society.

At the meeting, 8 governments from South America are expected to jointly propose adding 2 species of declining Amazon catfish to the U.N. treaty's list of migratory species of concern, she said.

The Amazon River basin is the world's largest fresh-water system. "If the Amazon is intact, the catfish will thrive, it's about protecting the habitat," Lieberman said.

In 2022, governments pledged to protect 30% of the planet's land and water resources for conservation at the U.N. Biodiversity Conference in Montreal.

# MEET A WOLF

COLORADO WOLF AND WILDLIFE CENTER

## MEET AND GREET WITH RAVEN

&  
TOUR ENDING WITH A  
SIGNATURE WOLF HOWL

FIRST AND THIRD  
THURSDAY OF THE MONTH  
FROM 2:00-3:30PM

ADULTS \$40  
KIDS (6-11) \$20

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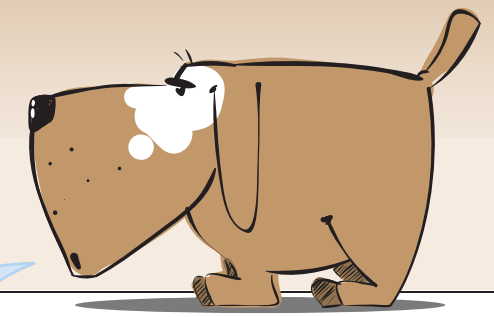
# Adoption corner

## TCRAS

Teller County Regional Animal Shelter  
tcrascolorado.org · 719.686.7707

## SLVAWS

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



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

**[ 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. ]**

### **FAYE >>**

Hello there. I'm a shy girl that likes to hide in a safe place. I like gentle head scratches and pets. I like to play with string type toys and I love to be brushed. A nice quiet home that understands my shy nature would be the best for me.



### **<< APHRODITE**

Hi there friends! My name is Aphrodite. I love my humans so much that I'll carry on a whole conversation with them! I am a bit nervous meeting new people but once I warm up, I'll love you forever! I'm a bit picky with my doggie friends mainly females; if you have any fur babies already, I would love to meet them beforehand. I have a medical condition that my friends at the shelter would like to speak with you about further prior to my adoption. I just need a little extra TLC.



### **RED >>**

My new name is Red. I was rescued along with Wilson and my girl friend Riley. We were so weak, we could hardly walk. I am also ~8 years old, neutered, chipped, all vacc's, about 60 lbs. I am a "leaner" and a lover and walk well on leash.



### **<< WILSON**

I am Wilson. My favorite volunteer says: "This boy is a gem in the rough. Give him one trip around the sun, with consistent good (smelly) food (as with men, Love goes through the stomach), and he'll smile again." I was rescued from starvation with 2 other dogs. My owner had died. I had deep wounds from a wild animal attack. I love mountainous forests or a quiet home in the country. Cuddle me up with an older person with no children or other pets. I walk well on leash. Neutered, chipped, all vacc's, ~8 years old.

