



COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

NOVEMBER 2023 · 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.



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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.



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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.

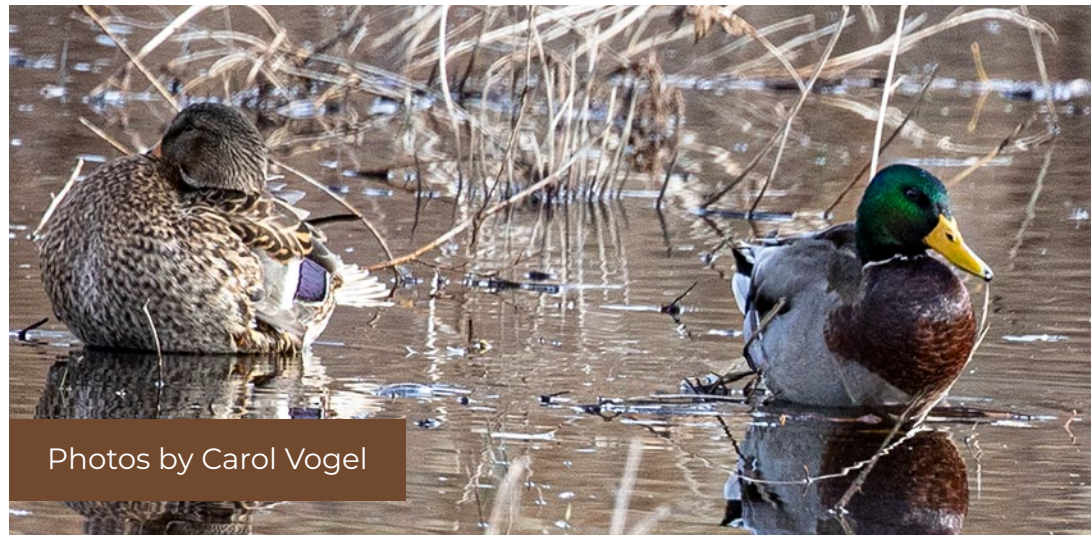


Follow us on Twitter: @Wolves_at_CWWC to see photos of our animals, read fun facts, and hear about events happening at CWWC.



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!



Photos by Carol Vogel



Meet a Wolf



RESERVE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!





Wiley

2008 – OCTOBER 25TH, 2023

I have attempted to write this numerous times, but I am deeply saddened by the loss of my beloved and extraordinary friend. I am at a loss for words, except to say that I will miss our walks together and the sound of his bell that he rang every morning for 15 years. I miss seeing him in his enclosure when I look out of my window, and I miss running my fingers through his beautiful fur. I simply miss him, as he was a part of my life for over 15 years. In honor of his life, I am an advocate for coyotes, helping to rehabilitate those who are sick or suffering from mange. I dedicate myself to nurturing them back to health for at least a year before releasing them, granting them a second chance to thrive. Anyone who has experienced a special bond and spiritual connection with an animal knows the profound pain that I am feeling. He will forever hold a place in my heart, and his star will forever shine brightly in the heavens above.

Darlene Kobobel





Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center Celebrates the Arrival of American Red Wolf in Collaboration with the Saving Animals From Extinction Program

Press Release | November 17, 2023

Divide, Colorado – The Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center, nestled in Divide, Colorado, proudly announces the arrival of their newest resident, an American Red wolf meticulously selected through the Saving Animals From Extinction program. In steadfast dedication to shedding light on the most critically endangered wolf species, CWWC welcomes Fender, a 1½ year-old male that was transferred from Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium.

Fender's entrance into Colorado on November 17th marks a momentous occasion for the center. He has been strategically paired with Shawnee, an 11-year-old female wolf who lost her mate in early 2023. Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center is optimistic that this union will provide Shawnee with much-needed companionship and contribute to the preservation of

this critically endangered species.

American Red wolves, being the sole species of wolf genuinely endemic to the United States, face a precarious existence, with estimates indicating that fewer than 20 individuals remain in the wild. In the entire state of Colorado, Shawnee and Fender stand as the exclusive representatives of their kind, proudly serving as ambassadors for the education of American Red wolves. Follow CWWC's social media channels for updates on how he is settling into his new home.

The Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center extends an invitation to the public to witness the rarest wolves in the world.




SCHEELS Colorado Springs will be donating \$100,000 to local non-profit organizations. Follow the link below to nominate Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center:

CLICK HERE & NOMINATE CWWC!

The final day to submit a nomination is Friday, December 1st. Please share with your friends!

From this...



Rose
in rehab at CWWC

...To This!



Rose will be released in the Spring.



New Network Gives Hope to Animals Trafficked Through Illegal Wildlife Trade

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | Press Release | October 27, 2023

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums today announced the launch of the Wildlife Confiscations Network in southern California. The network is a pilot program of AZA's Wildlife Trafficking Alliance that provides a coordinated response for the care and wellbeing of wildlife confiscated from illegal trade.

Online marketplaces and social media have made it significantly easier for consumers to illegally acquire wild animals. Every year, millions of trafficked animals fuel this global demand. Wildlife trafficking decimates species in the wild, fuels criminal networks, destabilizes governments, encourages corruption and threatens human and animal health through the transmission of diseases.

"Wildlife trafficking is a serious crime that impacts imperiled species throughout the world," said **Martha Williams, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director**. "When live wild animals and plants are seized at U.S. ports of entry, it is critical to provide the highest standard of care as quickly as possible. It is also essential to grant safe and appropriate housing for species that cannot be returned to their country of origin. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proud to work with a broad spectrum of law enforcement and conservation partners to ensure the health, wellbeing and proper care of all seized wildlife and plants in our

custody. This newly established pilot program network will help conserve animals and plants for future generations."

Successful wildlife law enforcement often involves the seizure, confiscation and holding of a diverse array of wild animals, notably at U.S. ports of entry or exit. In 2022, Service special agents and the Service's law enforcement partners investigated over 10,000 wildlife trafficking cases and collected over \$11,000,000 in criminal penalties. That same year, wildlife inspectors across the country worked alongside other federal agencies to process over 160,000 legal and declared shipments of wildlife products – and seize illegal shipments at U.S. ports of entry.

Through a cooperative agreement between the Service and AZA, the network will be a point of contact for wildlife law enforcement officers in southern California to lessen the logistical burden of searching for appropriate placement of trafficked animals. With a dedicated wildlife confiscations coordinator, wildlife law enforcement can now make a single phone call to relay the specific housing needs of the species involved. The coordinator will then refer to a list of fully vetted and permitted professional animal care facilities in the region to determine which can meet the case needs. Currently a pilot program, the network plans to replicate the framework developed in southern

California throughout the U.S.

"Many AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums already work closely with law enforcement agencies to provide critical support for the victims of the illegal wildlife trade," said **Dan Ashe, AZA president and Chief Executive Officer**. "We are pleased to formalize this work by establishing the Southern California Wildlife Confiscations Network pilot program to ensure the ongoing conservation of threatened species and the wellbeing of individual animals. We will take what we learn in this process and begin to build out the network nationwide."

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proud of the work AZA has done to establish the Wildlife Confiscations Network," said **Ed Grace, assistant director of the Service's Office of Law Enforcement**. "Using the network to coordinate placement and care of seized live animals will enhance wildlife law enforcement's ability to effectively combat illegal wildlife trafficking. This program exemplifies how working together can help serve the American public."

If you encounter a potential wildlife crime, please report it to the Service's wildlife trafficking tips line at 1-844-FWS-TIPS (397-8477) or online at: <https://www.fws.gov/wildlife-crime-tips>. If your tip leads to an arrest, or other substantial action, you may be eligible

to receive a financial reward.

About the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov.

About AZA:

Founded in 1924, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, animal welfare, education, science, and recreation. AZA is the accrediting body for the top zoos and aquariums in the United States and 12 other countries. Look for the AZA accreditation 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 AZA is a leader in saving species and your link to helping animals all over the world. To learn more, visit <https://www.aza.org/>.

About AZA's Wildlife Trafficking Alliance (WTA):

The Wildlife Trafficking Alliance is a coalition of over 90 nonprofit organizations, companies, and AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums, working together to combat illegal wildlife trade around the world. To learn more, visit aza.org/wildlife-trafficking-alliance.

Tension between lethal control and coexistence plays out in wolf-reintroduction efforts

Legislators guarantee depredation reimbursement, while non-lethal strategies are optional under federal 10(j) rule

Amy Hadden Marsh | Aspen Journalism | October 31, 2023

As the final steps fall into place before wolves are officially reintroduced to Colorado, policies governing both lethal take in response to livestock depredation and how to foster coexistence with the apex predator have been a flashpoint among livestock growers, conservationists and lawmakers.

It's been a long, three-year haul from Colorado voter approval of gray wolf reintroduction to the creation of the Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan in May to locating a viable population in a Western state that is willing to donate the wolves. (Oregon announced in early October that it would donate 10 wolves after other Western states with established populations declined to do so.)

Many have remained anxious about having a lethal control option or "management flexibility" in place before Dec. 31, the date by which the state is legally required to reintroduce wolves. It wasn't until mid-September that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service signaled that it would authorize a so-called 10(j) rule allowing for lethal control of wolves that have preyed on livestock. Barring a reversal, the rule is expected to be in place in time.

However, some conservationists are already saying the management plan and the 10(j) rule will set up the wolves to fail.

What is 10(j)?

Section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act applies to reintroduced, federally threatened or endangered species. Since an official population of gray wolves does not yet exist in Colorado, during CWRMP development, CPW requested that FWS designate the reintroduced gray wolves as a "non-essential, experimental population," using the 10(j) rule. This would remove ESA protection, essentially downlisting gray wolves from endangered to threatened.

The draft 10(j) rule, released Sept. 15, states that the FWS may designate a population of a listed species



Delia Malone, ecologist and chair of the Wildlife Committee of the Sierra Club's Rocky Mountain Chapter, was hopeful that the state's wolf reintroduction management plan would have required non-lethal coexistence measures, but those were not included in the final draft. Photo: Amy Hadden Marsh/Aspen Journalism

as experimental if it is released into suitable natural habitat outside the species' current range but inside the species' historic range. Non-essential means that the loss of that population would not decrease the ability of the species to survive in the wild.

The express purpose of the 10(j) rule is to allow for lethal control. It is illegal to kill an endangered species in all cases except proven self-defense. If the reintroduced gray wolves are downlisted to a threatened, non-essential, experimental status, the 10(j) rule would allow those wolves, identified by geographic location, to be "hazed, killed or relocated," but only if they kill domestic animals and only if there's proof.

The FWS is now in a "wait period" before issuing the final record of decision on the 10(j) rule.

No mandate for coexistence

Michael Robinson, senior conservation advocate for the Center for Biological Diversity, told Aspen Journalism that the draft 10(j) rule has left out three key components. First, he said, the rule fully authorizes killing wolves that kill livestock with no restriction on the number of wolves to be killed, even on public lands.

"The (CWRMP) and (draft 10(j) rule) have no limits on killing wolves on public lands," he said. "What that means is the same level of negligence that is permitted throughout the state also applies to public lands. If wolves kill livestock on public lands, wolves will get killed also."

Secondly, he said, "Ranchers do not have to take preventative measures." Neither the CWRMP nor the draft 10(j) rule requires non-lethal control or coexistence methods, such as range riders, lights, noise or fladry (the use of flags on a fence to scare off predators), prior to killing a wolf that may be threatening or killing livestock. "Right now, it's voluntary," said Robinson.

Delia Malone, ecologist and chair of the Wildlife Committee of the Sierra Club's Rocky Mountain Chapter, told Aspen Journalism that the final CWRMP took out parts of the draft plan that conservation groups agreed with. "A key thing that the (draft) plan suggested was that coexistence methods be required, and that was not included" in the final plan, she said.



Carter Neimeyer, an Idaho-based wolf expert, is shown here handling a sedated gray wolf and equipping it with a radio collar while training several biologists. Neimeyer captured the wolf in a foothold trap and sedated the animal to demonstrate safe and humane techniques of monitoring temperature, pulse and respiration during the handling process. Carter Neimeyer/Courtesy photo

The final plan states that "conflict management techniques are not required to be eligible for compensation; however, CPW will work with livestock producers to implement such techniques to reduce the risk of further depredation."

Robinson's third concern is that the effort in Colorado makes no room for the reintroduction of Mexican wolves. He said scientists recommend, for good reason, that the endangered Mexican gray wolf be recovered alongside the northern gray wolf in the southern Rockies.

"The Mexican gray wolf has limited genetic diversity," he said. "A large enough population to regrow genetic diversity could occur from being connected to northern gray wolves, which is what it was like before wolves were exterminated."

Robinson added that the reintroduction of wolves in Colorado is being set up for failure as result of the combination of no requirements for preventive, non-lethal measures and generous payment for livestock loss.

"It's a perverse incentive to facilitate wolves killing livestock and for more wolves to be killed," he said. "The livestock industry, having failed with a big-money campaign to defeat (2020's Proposition 114), has worked to subvert it through a wolf plan that includes the absence of a requirement for preventative measures."

Depredation funding mandated while coexistence support is a choice

The activity of Colorado state lawmakers during the 74th General Assembly, as evidenced by two funding bills, suggests that lethal control and livestock compensation are seen as higher priorities than coexistence strategies.

The CWRMP plan states that livestock producers can receive fair-market value up to \$15,000 per animal that is a confirmed wolf kill, plus up to \$15,000 for veterinary costs. Compensation covers cattle, sheep, horses, mules, swine, goats, llamas, alpacas and guard animals, such as burros and dogs. State lawmakers voted to fund compensation via Senate Bill 23-255, which establishes a special Wolf Depredation Compensation Fund. The bill, which passed unanimously in both chambers and was signed into law in May, appropriates hundreds of thousands

of dollars from the state general fund for livestock compensation for the foreseeable future.

For the fiscal year ending June 2024, \$175,000 will go to the WDCF. For every fiscal year thereafter, \$350,000 will be transferred to the WDCF for livestock loss compensation. The largest sources of general fund revenue are income and sales taxes.

State Sen. Dylan Roberts (D-District 8), co-sponsor of the bill, told the Steamboat Pilot & Today that “by creating this in statute, we are dedicating funds that will always be available for compensation, regardless of what happens with the state budget or DNR programming.”

On the other hand, House Bill 23-1265, also known as the “Born to Be Wild” bill, which governs money for non-lethal control, puts the onus on vehicle owners who like wolves. A specially designed license plate will be available starting Jan. 1 for \$100. A one-time fee of \$25 goes to the Highway Users Tax Fund, and another \$25 goes to the Colorado DRIVES fund. The remaining \$50 goes into CPW’s Wildlife Cash Fund for non-lethal control. Whoever buys the plate agrees to pay \$50 annually to keep it.

“This bill is an opportunity for everyone who supported (Proposition 114) to support non-lethal measures for our farmers and ranchers,” state Rep. Elizabeth Velasco, D-District 57, primary sponsor of the bill, told Aspen Journalism in an email. Velasco estimates that the fees could bring in up to \$1 million for non-lethal mitigation.

For fiscal year 2023-24, the bill authorizes a \$548,000 appropriation to the Department of Natural Resources for use by CPW. That amount corresponds with the estimate that state finance officials believe the license plate sales will bring in before the end of the fiscal year in June. It also sets the ceiling for how much the state can spend on non-lethal control.

“The appropriation of \$548,000 is the limit of our authority to spend for the stated purposes,” said Travis Duncan, CPW public information supervisor. “If less revenue is received, we will spend less than that total. If more is received, we will need to ask the legislature for authority to expend more.”

According to the Colorado Legislative Council Staff’s April 5 revised fiscal note for the “Born to Be Wild” bill, expected demand for the plate is based on

60% of the actual demand for the “wildlife sporting” license plate in its first three years, when a total of 22,810 such plates were purchased. “As such, the fiscal note assumes that the ‘Born to Be Wild’ plate will be issued on the following schedule: 10,960 in the first year, 2,740 the next year and at least 200 plates per year thereafter.” But, unlike SB 23-255, the amount is not guaranteed.

Duncan told Aspen Journalism that the agency will work closely with the state to determine license plate revenue.

“These funds will go into CPW’s Wildlife Cash Fund and be used to implement gray wolf reintroduction and management,” he said in an email. “But not for lethal control.”

The bill also states that revenue from the wolf license plate can be used for non-lethal mitigation programs, training, personnel, contractors, community outreach, equipment, research and bill promotion.

State Sen. Perry Will, R-District 5, co-sponsored the bill despite a general dislike for license-plate legislation.



Colorado drivers, beginning Jan. 1, will be able to purchase a “Born to be Wild” specialty license plate. Proceeds will benefit programs to foster coexistence with wolves. Funding for depredation reimbursement will be automatically appropriated annually from the state’s general fund. *Courtesy photo*

“It’s a good bill,” he told Aspen Journalism.

Will noted that the legislature considered a license plate bill for livestock compensation but decided against it.

“It wouldn’t bring in enough money,” he said.

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INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE COEXISTENCE NETWORK



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HOWL - 0 - WEEN *Happenings*



DOG WHO SURVIVED AFTER OWNER'S DEATH RETURNS TO TRAILS



By Amy Beh Hanson

A faithful dog who survived after spending more than 10 weeks by her owner who died of hypothermia while hiking in the Colorado mountains has regained most of the weight she lost during her ordeal and is back on the trails, the family said Thursday. Rich Moore, 71, of Pagosa Springs, set out with his Jack Russell terrier named Finney to climb Blackhead Peak on Aug. 19, but they didn't return home. A days-long search between the peak and his vehicle was unsuccessful. A hunter found his body and a very protective Finney in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado on Oct. 30. Finney had lost about half her body weight, and her ribs were visible, officials said. Less than 3 weeks later, "Finney is doing well," Moore's wife, Dana Holby, said Thursday. "She

has gained almost all of her weight back, and her strength is almost where it was. She is the miracle dog." She does have an injury on her snout that might leave a scar, Holby said. "She is now 3, very clingy and will not let me out of her sight," Holby said. "Her ravenous appetite has calmed down, but at first she could not get enough to eat and wanted food at all times of the day and night." Finney's survival story has made her famous on the hiking trails around Pagosa Springs, Holby said. "People say, 'Is that Finney?'" to which Holby responds with an enthusiastic, "Yes!" "She is such a comfort to me and a great companion on hikes," covering 4-5 miles a day, Holby said. "I know that she was with Rich to the very end and somehow that should be a comfort. I don't know how she did it, but she was there when he needed her," Holby said. *Photo: Dana Holby via AP*



BIRD'S EYE PHEW!

Gov. Jared Polis pardons 4 turkeys, including Gus, left, from Hayden Fresh Farm during an inaugural pardoning ceremony in the Governor's Residence at the Boettcher mansion on Monday in Denver. The governor said the first-time event was a chance to support Colorado's farmers. The pardoned turkeys will live out the rest of their lives at Luvin Arms Animal Sanctuary in Erie.

Photo: Helen H. Richardson/The Denver Post via Getty Images

Mexican wolf didn't have to be captured

ABQJournal News Staff | Albuquerque Journal | January 29, 2023



Members of the Mexican gray wolf recovery team preparing to load a wolf into a helicopter in Reserve, N.M., so it can be released after being processed during an annual survey on Jan. 30, 2020. An endangered Mexican gray wolf has roamed beyond the species' recovery area into the more northern reaches of New Mexico. U.S. wildlife managers have been tracking the female wolf and while they say it's not a threat to human health or public safety, they have notified ranchers in the area. (AP Photo/Susan Montoya Bryan, File)

Western Watersheds Project and other conservationists had been celebrating the travels of Asha, a.k.a. Mexican gray wolf #f2754, the young female disperser from the Rocky Prairie Pack of Arizona. She had made it all the way to Taos, breaking records with her movements north of Interstate 40, east of Interstate 25, and outside of the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area of southern New Mexico and Arizona. She was on a journey whose logic was inscrutable to us two-legged types. She headed away from her birthplace, beyond the territories of any of her reintroduced kin, and into parts unoccupied by her species for decades. Then she was stopped in her tracks by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who can't seem to allow for the "wild" part of "wildlife." The justification for her capture was that she needed to

be kept safe from reckless hunters and careless drivers, brought back into the area she had already left, and put in queue for whelping pups. The reintroduction project's boundary of Interstate 40 is an arbitrary line that resulted from a political compromise between the federal government and the states of Arizona and New Mexico at the outset of the program. The boundary is not based on suitable habitat or prey densities. The

political opposition to letting wolves roam free has trumped the best available science in setting the policies of the recovery program. In fact, leading scientists have concluded that Mexican wolves need additional populations outside of the current recovery area to support the species' long-term survival, including in the very areas that Asha was traipsing through. Asha showed us the folly of trying to keep wild animals confined by lines on a map. Moreover, Asha didn't need to be rounded up and contribute offspring this year in order to be valuable to the recovery project. That reflects a very narrow view. She was already contributing quite a bit. She was showing us where unbound wolves will wander. Her scent trails will beckon the expanding wolf population into places well-suited for the species to survive in a changing climate paradigm. She doesn't need to breed to be a leader, we only need to let her choose her own fate and to learn from her path. Asha is young yet, and she might have figured it out on her own if the agencies hadn't thwarted her unknowable ambitions. She may have kept on running and continued to stay out of conflict with livestock and people. She might have missed her extended family and headed south again. We don't know what she would have done, but it's clear that those in charge couldn't stand to just wait and see.

Word Search

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Conservation	Environment	Endangered	Howl
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Keystone	Endangered	Ponderosa	
Juniper	Red Wolf	Coyote	
Swift Fox	Arctic	Canis	
Spruce	Tundra		

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\$40 · 12 and older
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Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center

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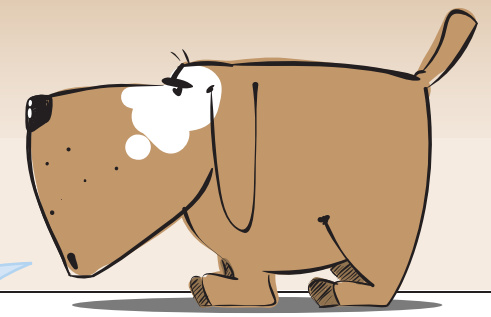
Adoption corner

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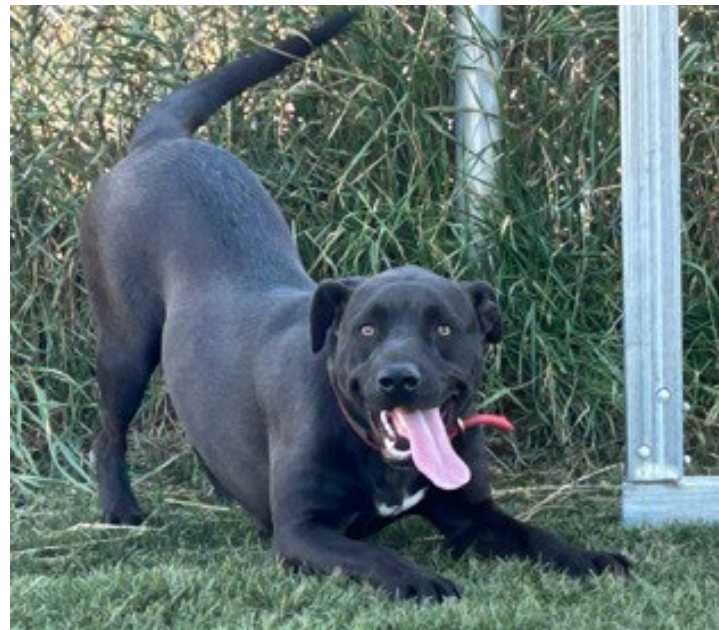
San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society
slvaws.org · 719.587.woof (9663)



[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.]

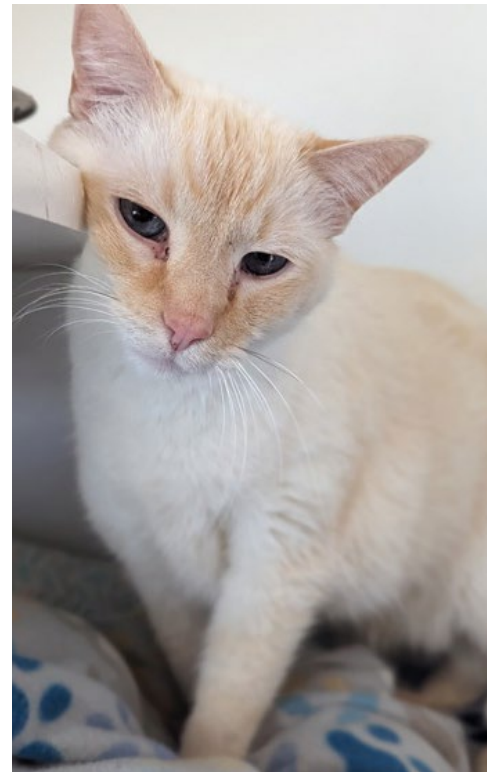
SISSY »

Hi! I'm a sweet girl, but I'm choosy about my canine friends! I would prefer to meet any dogs you have before you take me home. I'm a pretty big snuggle bug, so far my friends at TCRAS are giving me a decent amount of love...but I'd really prefer a family to give me all the love! I love playing with a ball, haven't quite figured out fetch but I love to run around with it!



« PIPER & JASPER

Hi there friends! My name is Piper! I am a sweet older gal who loves attention and my brother Jasper! We would love to go to the same home together. As they always say, 2 is better than 1! We both love cuddles and having a warm lap to curl up on!



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7680 N. Academy Blvd.
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ROSCOE »

Little Roscoe is a 35-lb sweetheart. Loves children and toddlers. Subordinate to dominant dogs. He is very intelligent. As you can see he will lok you straight into your eyes. Neutered, all vac's, chipped. 1 1/2 years old. His owner's home burned down.



« VEGA

Vega is a 2 year old mini pit mix. She was rescued from a feds seized operation on the East Coast but was never involved in fighting, just happened to be on the property. The rescuers wanted desperately to save her and drove her all the way to us, at least a 2-day 'round trip. Good with other dogs. Spayed, all vacc's, chipped.