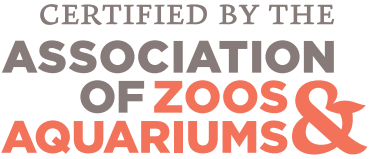




COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

JULY 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 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.



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!



Remembering Jaikara

— A SWEET SPIRIT SET FREE —



On Tuesday, July 22nd, we said goodbye to our beloved two-year-old Jaikara as he crossed the rainbow bridge. A healthy, playful big pup, Jaikara lived alongside his sister Zarah and was always happy to greet his human friends, generously sharing his affectionate spirit with all who came near.

Last fall, during an energetic play session in our enrichment enclosure, Jaikara sustained what initially appeared to be a minor limp. Though the concern was subtle at first, our animal caretakers and veterinarians continued close observation as his condition gradually worsened.

Jaikara underwent extensive diagnostics—Our veterinarian Dr. Volz did a full body X-ray and comprehensive blood panel, which came back normal so the next step was to see a neurologist. We made arrangements to take him to Dr. Song in Parker, Colorado at the Animal Emergency and Specialty Center where she and the top specialists performed a full head-to-tail MRI. Again, results showed nothing out of the ordinary. His spinal fluid was tested for infectious, fungal, and bacterial anomalies, but all findings were inconclusive.

We consulted with additional specialists, however, the prognosis was still the same. Each confirmed the scans and test results appeared normal, with no identifiable cause. The only possible explanation was a rare, undetectable genetic issue.

Though Jaikara remained mentally vibrant and full of life, the decline in his physical condition was undeniable. For a wolf, the joy of running, playing, and exploring is essential—and losing the ability to do so was heartbreaking. After deep reflection and consultation, our management, staff, and veterinarians came together in agreement: the most compassionate choice was to help Jaikara pass peacefully and free him from the limitations that this life imposed on him.

Now, Jaikara runs wild and free, unburdened by his illness and depression. His powerful, gentle spirit continues to watch over the center and all who loved him. His memory leaves pawprints on our hearts—forever cherished, never forgotten.

Run free, sweet boy.



Photo: Getty Images

Montana Considers Killing Nearly Half Of Its Wolf Population

Montana is considering setting a wolf kill quota of 500 for the 2025-2026 wolf seasons, nearly half of its wolf population. It would allow hunters and trappers to take as many as 15 wolves each.

Mark Heinz | Cowboy State Daily | July 16, 2025

Montana is considering setting a wolf kill quota of 500 for the 2025-2026 wolf seasons, allowing hunters and trappers to take as many as 15 wolves each.

If hunters and trappers fill the quota, it would cut Montana’s wolf population roughly in half, leaving about 550 of the predators, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) reports.

Some argue that’s extreme overkill and indicates that Montana is trying to eradicate wolves.

Others claim it’s sound predator management, and 550 wolves would still be more than enough to keep them from being re-listed as an endangered species in Montana.

During last year’s wolf seasons, Montana hunters and trappers killed 289 wolves, missing the quota of about 300.

In light of that, it’s doubtful that the proposed new quota of 500 wolves will be met, Ryan

Bronson, spokesman for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) told Cowboy State Daily.

FWP has a proven track record of managing Montana’s wolves, and the agency should have the leeway to adjust hunting quotas as needed, he said.

Lizzy Pennock, carnivore coexistence attorney for WildEarth Guardians, said Montana’s wolf policy has been too heavy-



Photo: Getty Images

handed for years, and killing 500 wolves would be outrageous.

That would not only hurt the wolf population in terms of sheer numbers, it would also hamper healthy genetic exchange, she told Cowboy State Daily.

The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission will take up the matter during its next meeting Aug. 21.

‘Wolves Manage Themselves’

WildEarth Guardians opposes predator hunting, but still considered Montana’s wolf management policy to be “relatively more balanced” prior to 2021, Pennock said.

Since then, the state has taken an increasingly intolerant stance toward wolves and other predators, she said.

Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte took office in January 2021, and has been an outspoken advocate for more aggressive wolf hunting.

The proposed 500-wolf quota takes things to a “shocking” new level, Pennock said.

She questions why wolf hunting and trapping is necessary in the first place, arguing that wolf populations are naturally self-regulating because packs are so territorial.

“If you look at the wolves in Yellowstone (National Park), they manage themselves,” she said. “The No. 1 killer of wolves is other wolves.”

For example, one of Yellowstone’s most famous wolves, 907F, died on Christmas Day 2024 after being severely injured a few days earlier in a fight with wolves from a rival pack.

What’s more, wolves in Montana are “source wolves” for an expanding population in the Pacific Northwest, she said. So the overkill of wolves in Montana will hurt the species’ ability to expand its territory.

Allowing hunters or trappers to kill up to 15 wolves on a single license is geared toward eradication, not sound management, Pennock said.

“It just doesn’t make sense. No other game species is managed this way,” she said.

Habitat Management And Predator Control

As Bronson sees it, Montana is, in fact, managing wolves like other species by adjusting quotas as needed.

Northwest Montana is densely populated with wolves and is also “in a part of the state where people are clearly frustrated by (lower)



deer and elk populations,” he said. RMEF considers wolves to be a factor contributing to the decline in big game populations, he said, adding that forestry management is also a major factor.

RMEF supports more timber cutting, as some people in Wyoming have.

Using timber harvest to create more clearings and meadows in forests makes for better forage and habitat for deer and elk, he said.

“We’re thinking of balanced management, and that means balancing our forest management and managing out predator populations,” he said.

Endangered Again?

Pennock said the apparent push to drive down Montana’s wolf population prompted her group and others to file a lawsuit calling for wolves to be re-listed under Endangered Species Act protection.

Bronson said RMEF doesn’t want to see wolves re-listed, but he doesn’t think Montana’s proposed hunting quotas would lead to that.

The state has a well-established population of wolves, he said. Even if 500 are killed in the upcoming hunting season, the remaining 550 wolves would still be well above threshold level for possible re-listing, he said.



HELP GET ASHA AND THE CALDERA PACK OUT OF CAPTIVITY!

Asha, the famed young Mexican wolf known for her travels into northern New Mexico, still sits in captivity. Asha and her young family (she had 5 pups in May) are known as the Caldera Pack because her travels took her to the beautiful Valles Caldera in the Jemez Mountains.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service committed to releasing Asha, her mate Arcadia, and their pups back into the wild in June. But they still sit in captivity due to nefarious politics from the Trump administration and pressure from the livestock industry.

We need your voice to advocate for Asha's immediate release!

[CLICK HERE TO DEMAND ASHA'S RELEASE](#)



Not only does Asha deserve to be free, but she and her pups need to be freed—right now. They are at a critical developmental stage to learn to hunt and survive in the wild. **Delaying their release is a broken promise and a sign of politics trumping science and humanity.**

As Guardians' own Leia Barnett beautifully wrote, "we should recognize that our human politicking and power-playing will not serve the planetary future we must create. Imposing artificial boundaries on the wild world does not serve its recovery."

BOEBERT'S ATTACK ON WOLVES IS UNFOUNDED

Jim Martin | The Denver Post | June 27, 2025

Recent media coverage of U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert's bill calling to delist the gray wolf from federal protection misses the most salient point: Boebert loathes wolves.

Three years ago, Boebert rivaled Disney's 101 Dalmatians villain Cruella DeVil by appearing in a horrid video calling for the shooting of wolf pups and turning them into "little hats."

Hostility is not a sound platform for serious-minded, science-based wildlife policy. Nor for a healthy Colorado that adheres to humane ethics.

Gray wolves are not recovered and continue to need Endangered Species Act protection. Without it, gray wolves will be subject only to state laws. But existing state laws have failed egregiously. In the Northern Rocky Mountain states, where wolves have been delisted, state legislation allows unlimited hunting, trapping and killing of gray wolves, sending wolf populations into declines reminiscent of the historic kill levels that resulted in near-extirmination.

Boebert's bill, the Pet And Livestock Protection Act, does nothing to measurably or responsibly protect pets or livestock. According to a federal study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 97.6% of all deaths in adult cattle nationwide were not due to predators, but caused by respiratory problems, weather-related illness and other threats. In fact, domestic dogs often attack, injure, and sometimes kill livestock, especially sheep and calves.

In Colorado, ranchers and wolf advocates are working together to prevent conflict. Wolf advocates from Rocky Mountain Wolf Project raised \$75,000 to buy conflict reduction equipment for ranchers to use. It works when used correctly, as reported by Idaho rancher Glenn Elzinga, who has not lost any cattle or had to kill any wolves in the past decade.

These voices and stories need to be elevated.

And don't be fooled. Boebert's anti-wolf bill is designed for the destruction of a native species intrinsic to a healthy Colorado and the West. The bill is symbolic of the mindset of past centuries, when wolves were killed out of ignorance and unfounded fear. Today, her call to kill wolves is supported by U.S. Reps. Jeff Crank, Gabe Evens, and Jeff Hurd.

Delisting wolves nationwide will affect Colorado. Just look at the cascading effects of wolves of Yellowstone. It's a marvel to witness how the wolf as top predator holds the balance of nature, bringing back beavers and biodiversity.

Hunters can appreciate the recovery of gray wolves has coincided with an increase in elk numbers in all 3 Northern

Rocky Mountain states. Wolves are removing elk, deer, and moose infected with chronic wasting disease, present in 37 states and 3 provinces.

Gray wolves are one solution to the climate crisis, allowing trees and shrubs to flourish, which sequester planet-warming carbon dioxide. Trees and shrubs enable water to be stored in soil, instead of rapidly running off and causing floods. Woody plants also shade streams and protect them from bank erosion, which provides habitat for fish and water for human use.

Wolves are killed across the Northern Rockies using steel-jawed traps, neck snares, packs of dogs and even snowmobiles.

Conservationists are right now working to restore Endangered Species Act protections for wolves in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming through a federal district court that could rule in a matter of weeks.

Wolves in these 3 states do not have federal protection. In 2009, U.S. Fish and Wildlife promised to restore protections for wolves in these Northern Rockies if state lawmakers and wildlife managers acted recklessly toward wolves. The agency has failed to hold up to that promise.

We see state lawmakers in these 3 states allowing the year-round, unlimited trapping of wolves, and killing with the use of night-vision scopes. People who dislike wolves have turned motorized vehicles into weapons.

One famous case involved Cody Roberts, who ran over a young female wolf with a snowmobile, taped her mouth shut, then paraded her in a bar before shooting her.

Bounties are paid today for dead wolves. This is a war on wildlife. Boebert is one of the loudest generals. Tell our Colorado lawmakers that wolf loathing has no place in Colorado, and to protect our wolves with federal protection nationwide, because wildlife has no borders.

And, it is time to elevate the voices from the West Slope and Front Range working together. This is not the time for stoking fear, division, and animosity for such an ecologically valuable species.

Hello!

This is Elias Wright from the National History Day competition. Thank you for your help with my Colorado wolf reintroduction project! Just an update on my project: I won first place in my category for the entire state of Colorado thanks to your support, and I received an honorable mention at the international contest in Washington, DC last month. I met kids from all over the world and had the opportunity to sit down with our two Colorado senators at the Capitol. It was such a great experience. Thousands of people from around the world saw my exhibit and learned about wolves in Colorado, the Endangered Species Act, and the important work you're doing. Thank you so much for helping me with my project and for giving me this wonderful opportunity!

With gratitude,
Elias Wright



“Colorado had an incredible wild flower season this year! Here’s a few pictures Michelle took while out on a hike with her dogs, Shaya and Fox.



**JOY
RIDIN'**



Volunteer Your Time at

THE WILD ANIMAL Sanctuary

The Wild Animal Sanctuary is not a zoo... and therefore we do not have a large paid staff, or an army of personnel to take care of every task that needs to be done. Our facility is primarily operated by a very dedicated group of volunteers.

Are you interested in volunteering? If so, then you need to know a few details about how involved our volunteer program is before you apply.

First, we have over 600 large exotic animals currently living here at the sanctuary - and that number is constantly growing due to our dedicated efforts to save the lives of what seems like a never ending stream of animals needing to be rescued.

Second, you need to know caring for this many large carnivores on a weekly basis is a mind boggling task. We feed over 40,000 pounds of a specially blended USDA quality meat diet to our large cats per week - and over 45,000 pounds of specially blended Bear food too!

And cleaning the facility is an incredible task - as thousands of square feet in building space has to be hosed down, scrubbed, and steam cleaned, as we follow a rigorous schedule that keeps our facility amazingly clean - which provides a healthy home for the animals to live in.

But it doesn't stop there, as we have a myriad of other tasks to complete each day — ranging from office work and educational duties, to fence building, to habitat construction, to fundraising, to working with animals, and always going on - or managing our cross-country rescue schedule.

"No one ever said running a Wild Animal Sanctuary was going to be easy... and after 41 years of back breaking work - I can testify to how committed you will have to be to succeed".
- Pat Craig, Executive Director & Founder

It all boils down to one thing... we need dedicated people who really care, and want to help animals - especially these kinds of magnificent creatures!

However, this is not a part time, fun filled, once in a while thing to do. We require our volunteers to commit heart and soul to the Sanctuary, as the animals here



need people they can trust and depend on. If you want to come out once in a while, and stay just a few hours - then this isn't the place for you.

We need people who will make the Sanctuary a true part of their everyday lives. You will need to come a minimum of two days a month - and we expect you to integrate the animals and their welfare into your daily life. You will need to think, talk, and do everything you can to help the animals. And if this is too much to ask of you... then you really need to rethink whether volunteering at a wildlife sanctuary is what you really want to do!

Now comes the part where you cross that line, change

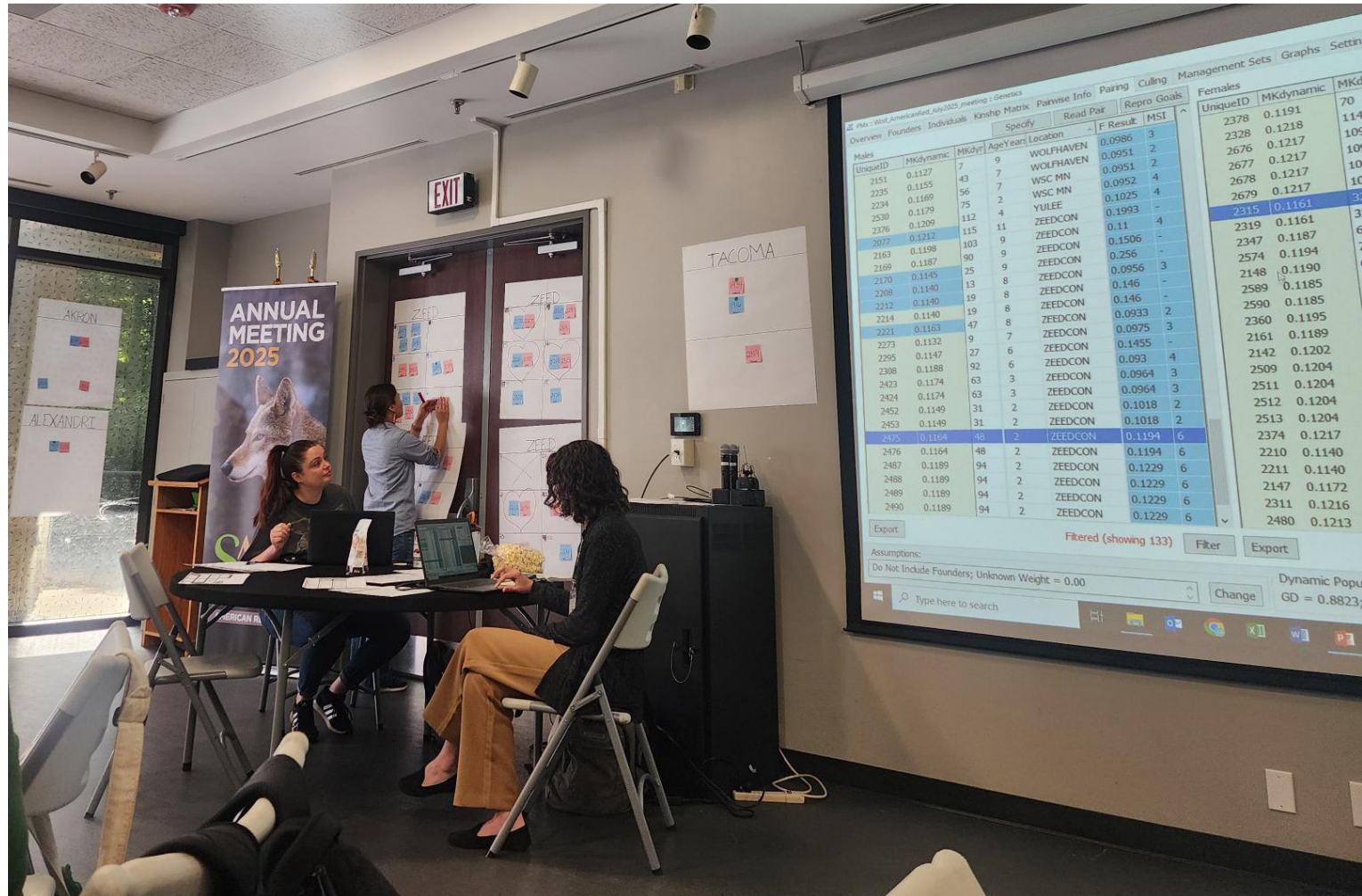
your life, and join one of the finest Sanctuaries in America! All you have to do is [click on this link](#), and it will take you to our online Volunteer Application where you can apply and submit your application. Our Volunteer Coordinator will then contact you to come to a volunteer orientation & training.

One last word of caution though! This is a serious volunteer opportunity, and we don't accept anyone who isn't ready to make a total life changing commitment, so be ready to truly dedicate your life to the animals!

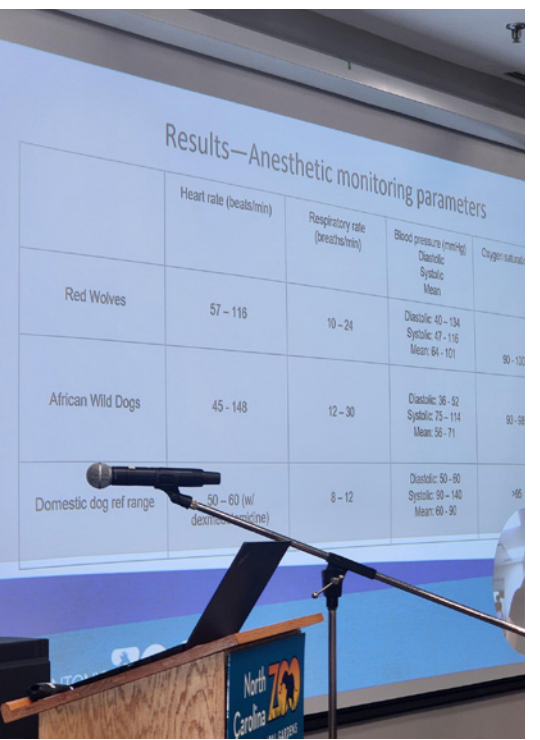
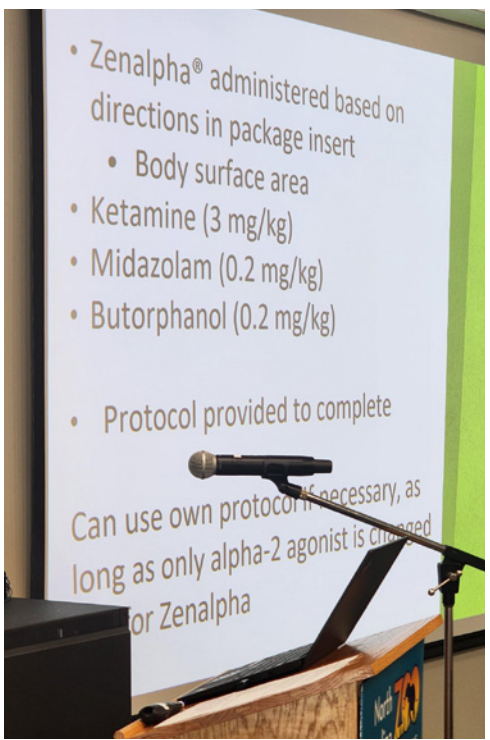
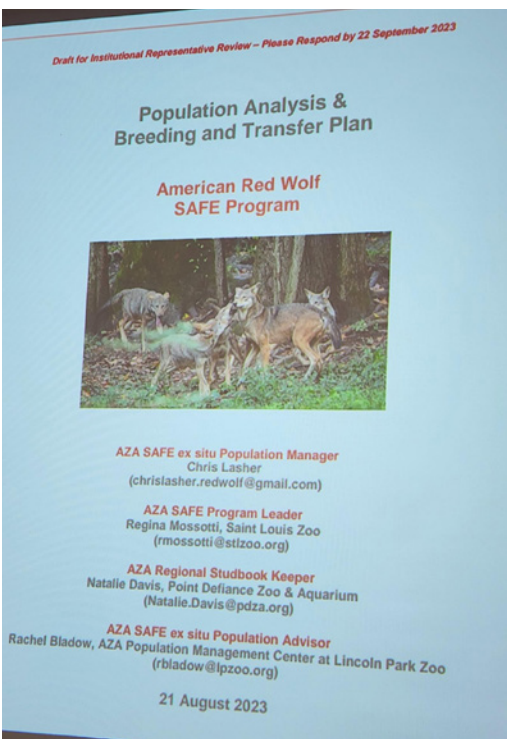
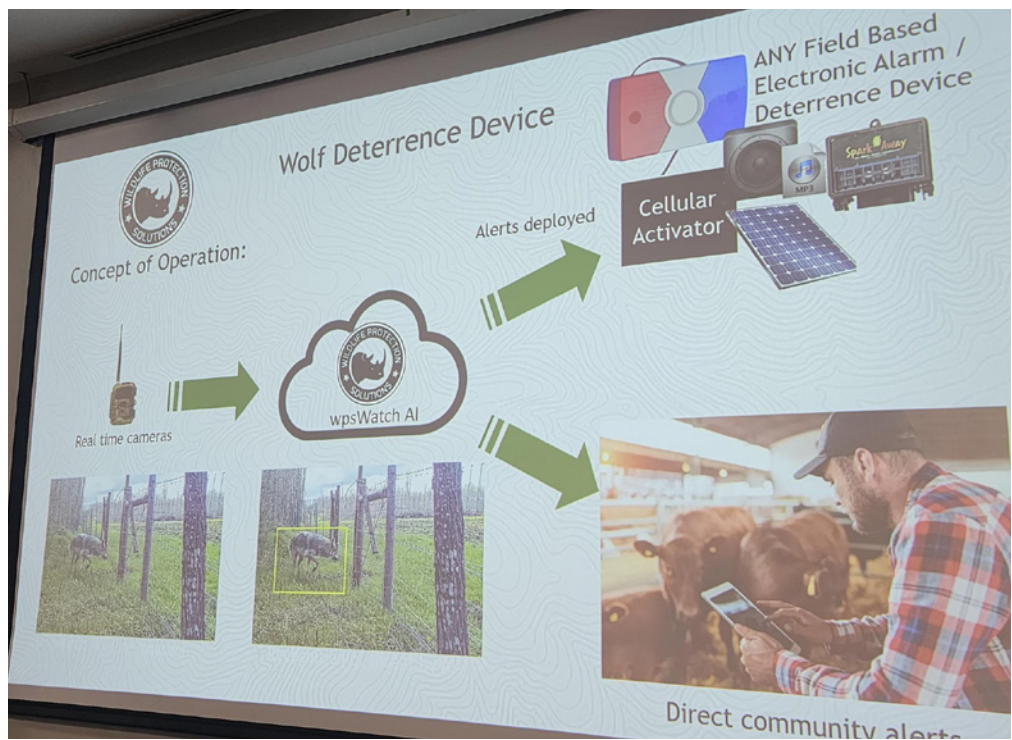
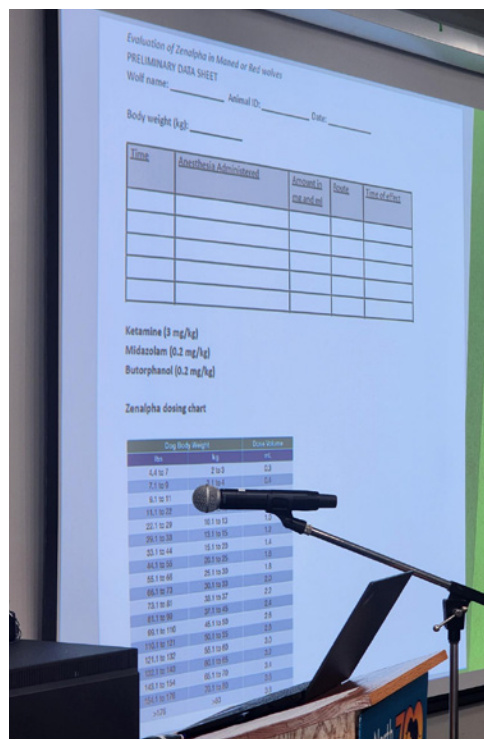
*NOTES: Minimum Age For Volunteering is 16

CLICK HERE TO CONTACT
the Wild Animal Sanctuary's Volunteer Coordinator





SAFE'S AMERICAN RED WOLF ANNUAL MEETING 2025



MEXICAN FIESTA FUNDRAISER

HELP US EXPAND OUR NEW HOME!

**Saturday, Sept 13th
4-6PM**



- Feeding Tour
- Meet & Greet
- Seasonal Treats
- Refreshments & Adult Beverages
- Vegetarian & Meat Chili
- And other festivities!

What better way to enrich their lives than to give more space to be wolves? Thank you for contributing to this project!

RESERVE TODAY 719-687-9742

RINGO & RAFFLE

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH
5:30-6:00PM**

**MEET & GREET
WITH RINGO STARR**

**\$5 RAFFLE
TICKETS**

**ADULTS \$30
KIDS 8-11 \$20**

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

Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center



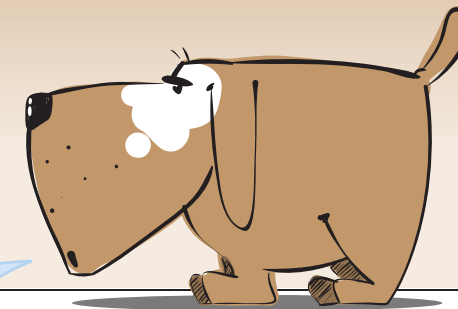
Adoption corner

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?



« PAT

My name's Pat and I'm a young, friendly guy looking for a home to call my own! I'm tall and lanky, and I love to run around (especially with a toy) and play and be with my people. I still have a lot to learn in the way of manners, but I like learning and I'm very smart! I think cats are SUPER interesting...I should probably have a slow introduction to any cats in a home. Will you be my new family and teach me how to be the best boy?



SLVAWS
Please check our website,
www.slvaws.org for our next
adoption fair in Colorado Springs,
every Saturday 10am-3pm.

SPRINKLES & SUGAR

Sprinkles and her sister Sugar, 1 year old stray moms who came in pregnant with 17 puppies together. Their puppies have found homes and they now are ready to get attention and love for themselves. Spayed, all vacc's, chipped. Wheaten Terrier/labradoodle mix?

