



# COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

MARCH 2024 · 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.



**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.



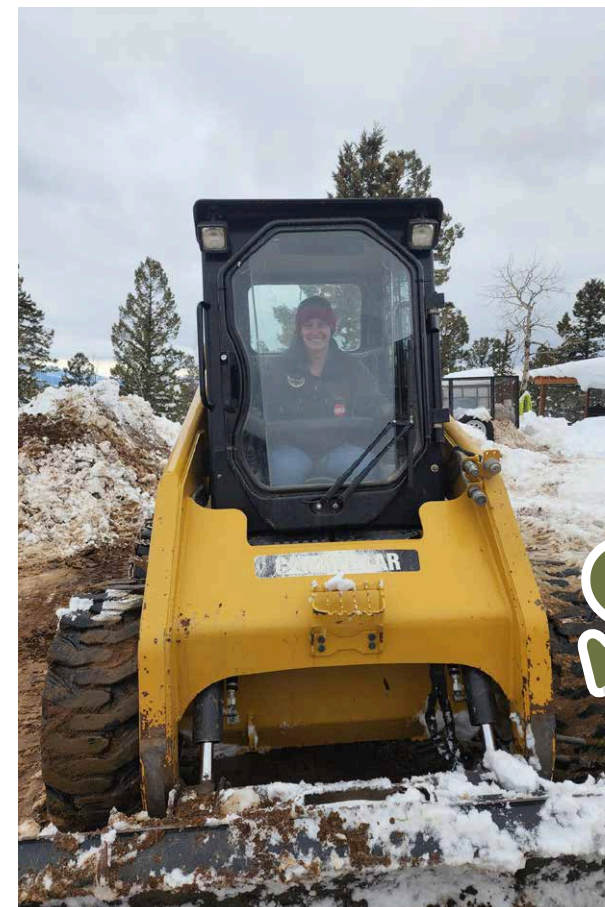
**Follow us on TikTok: @cowolfcenter** for the videos you won't see on our other social media pages.

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

## Amongst the Howls: The Severin Honeymoon

In the midst of February's chill, our recent visit to the Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center was a captivating journey into the untamed wilderness. We were led by knowledgeable and passionate guides for an informative yet immersive tour into the world of the wolves. With their commitment to conservation and education, they offer more than just a glimpse into the lives of wolves; they provide a profound connection to wilderness and our place within it. This visit was nothing short of extraordinary, an experience with several wolves up close and personal was a bucket list activity checked off for the both of us. An attraction that we were interested in became truly the MOST exciting part of our honeymoon. These magnificent and friendly creatures offer enduring memories whilst fostering a unique connection which my new husband and I will share for a lifetime. For those seeking an adventure that ignites the spirit, without hesitation, we would highly recommend. Thank you for offering to put us into your newsletter and we hope to receive a copy for our keepsake. ♥♥♥

*Respectfully, Ian & Stephanie Severin*



# Spring SNOW

# 3-month-old puppy found tied to rescue van with heartbreaking note—'Please'

Alison Gibbs | Newsweek  
March 13, 2024

A dog that was found tied to the van of a rescue worker is looking for a new home after he was taken in by SPCA New Zealand.

SPCA Field Officer Jamie returned to his vehicle to discover a young puppy tethered to the back. The dog, later named Samuel, had been positioned on the shady side of the vehicle with water and food within reach.

The number of dogs and cats taken in by pet shelters in the U.S. hit 46,807 during January 2023, an increase of 1,744 compared with January 2022, the 24Pet "Shelter Watch Report" found. Around 920,000 surrendered animals are euthanized every year.

Shelters are striving to minimize euthanasia rates by promoting adoption campaigns, spaying and neutering programs, and behavior rehabilitation.

Thankfully, the rescue took in Samuel, but it clarified that where possible it is always a better idea to seek support before leaving animals abandoned.

"Like all rescues, SPCA is struggling to keep up with the number of animals and owners needing help in our communities, but we are always here to support however we can," said the SPCA New Zealand. "It is always, always better to reach out to us for help than to



Photo: Paulette Sinclair / Alamy Stock

dump your animals, which will only serve to boost the stray and unwanted population."

Newsweek reached out to SPCA New Zealand for comment.

The rescue's post on Facebook has since gained thousands of reactions. "So good of the owner to actually leave him safely and thoughtfully," said one comment.

While another Facebook user said: "I hope this baby finds a loving home."

Now available for adoption, Samuel is estimated to be around 3 months old and has been health checked, microchipped, and neutered. He has had all vaccinations, worming, and flea treatment.

Full of energy, Samuel is looking for a home where he can express his cheeky personality and enjoy a busy lifestyle.

# Endangered red panda among 87 live animals seized from smugglers at Thailand airport

CBS/AFP | CBS News | March 7, 2024

**Bangkok** — Thai customs officials have arrested six Indians for attempting to smuggle a red panda and 86 other animals out of the kingdom, including snakes, parrots and monitor lizards, officials said Wednesday.

The illicit menagerie was discovered hidden in the suspects' checked luggage at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport as they tried to fly to Mumbai.

Thailand is a major transit hub for smugglers in the illicit wildlife trafficking trade, who often sell the animals in China and Vietnam, although recent years have seen an uptick in trafficking to India.

Photos released by the department showed the red panda — an endangered species — peeking out of a wicker basket, and a parrot shut in a plastic container with air holes crudely drilled in the lid.

More plastic tubs held lizards, while snakes were seen coiled together in cloth bags.

The suspects face a maximum of 10 years in jail or four times the amount of import duties.

Last month a Mongolian man was arrested at the same airport for trying to smuggle Komodo dragons, pythons and two dozen live fish out of the kingdom.

The trafficking of wildlife has flourished into the 4th biggest illicit trade on the planet, worth an estimated \$100 and \$150 billion per year. Decades of charity-driven conservation efforts have largely failed to curb the trade, which experts say is linked to virtually every other facet of global organized crime, from weapons and narcotics smuggling to terrorism.

A confiscated red panda is seen inside luggage at Suvarnabhumi Airport after authorities arrested Indian nationals who were allegedly trying to smuggle wildlife, in Bangkok, Thailand, March 7, 2024.



Photo: Thai Customs Department/Handout/Reuters

# AIR FORCE'S FIRST GREY WOLF PATROL HELICOPTER ARRIVES AT MALMSTROM

Rachel S. Cohen  
AirForce Times  
March 15, 2024



An MH-139A Grey Wolf, the replacement for the UH-1N Huey, prepares to land at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., March 5, 2024. (Senior Airman Breanna Christopher Volkmar/Air Force)

The Air Force's newest helicopter has reported for duty.

The first field-ready MH-139 Grey Wolf arrived at Montana's Malmstrom Air Force Base earlier this month, marking the start of operations for a new fleet of aircraft designed to safeguard America's land-based nuclear missiles.

The Grey Wolf will be used to patrol the intercontinental ballistic missile fields at Malmstrom; F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming; and Minot AFB, North Dakota. It replaces the UH-1N Hueys that entered service in 1970.

The 341st Missile Wing filmed Malmstrom's first Grey Wolf touching down on base March 5. Officials from Air Force Global Strike Command, which manages the service's nuclear enterprise, and the helicopter community celebrated the milestone at a March 9 ceremony.

"Today we begin a new era in ICBM security," 582nd Helicopter Group Commander Col. Philip Bryant said at the Malmstrom event

"You will convert from the Huey to the Grey Wolf at a rapid pace. ... You will not have the luxury to pause the mission," he told airmen. "Embrace that challenge. You have an opportunity that few Air Force aviators and few defenders receive, so make the most of it."

Bringing on the MH-139 is one piece of the Air Force's multibillion-dollar modernizations of its nuclear weapons, the aircraft that carry them and the assets

to safeguard them.

The Air Force says the Grey Wolf can cruise 50% faster and farther than the Huey, with a 30% larger cabin and the ability to lift an additional 5,000 pounds.

Airmen received the initial test airframe in 2019; the service activated its Grey Wolf training unit at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, in January

Though the service had originally planned to purchase as many as 84 helicopters from Boeing under a \$2.4 billion production contract, it now expects to drastically shrink that buy to 36 operational airframes.

According to Air Force budget documents, the service has enough money for 42 helicopters, training devices and other support equipment. Six of those are test airframes that have already been delivered.

Andrew Hunter, the Air Force's civilian acquisition chief, told reporters March 12 that while the service plans to replace the nuclear enterprise's helicopters, it will no longer use them for secondary missions like VIP transport and search-and-rescue operations.

The cut means Joint Base Andrews, Maryland; Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington; and Yokota Air Base, Japan, will go without helicopters once their Hueys are retired.

"We had anticipated also fielding to replace aircraft in other locations not associated with Global Strike," Hunter said, according to Breaking Defense. "Those we will not be able to replace."

LEFT: KELLY | MIDDLE: BRANDON  
RIGHT: DARLENE | WOLF: TALA



## A HOWLING THANKS!

**CWWC would like to thank Brandon with Teller WI-FI for the generous donation. The donation is a way the Teller WI-FI is giving back to the community. Teller WI-FI has served Colorado Wolf and Wildlife since the fall of 2022 and living in the mountains it is important to have wi-fi that is reliable. Teller WI-FI has exceptional service to rural Teller County.**

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# Opinion: My resignation from Colorado Parks and Wildlife commission should serve as a wake-up call to hunting community

*Colorado's values about wildlife are changing, and CPW commissioners need to have a more inclusive view of wildlife resources*

Gary Skiba | The Colorado Sun | March 20, 2024

I recently resigned from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife commission in the face of opposition from hunting, outfitting and livestock producer groups. The opposition to my confirmation provides an interesting look at the past and the future of wildlife management and hunting in Colorado.

The commission oversees policy for our state parks and wildlife agency and creates regulations to manage wildlife and lands. It was clear that the state Senate would not confirm my appointment by Gov. Jared Polis because of the interest groups opposing me. I concluded that pushing to the vote would do more harm than good to CPW.

I've been a hunter and angler all my life and a career wildlife biologist; I served the Division of Wildlife for nearly 24 years. Aldo Leopold, the father of wildlife management, is one of my heroes. He was ahead of his time in understanding the ecological basis of wildlife management. Leopold was a lifelong hunter, and his views on wildlife management evolved, leading to his appreciation of all wildlife species, not just those we hunt or fish for. I share his views.

Unfortunately, some in the hunting community do not share Leopold's views. They see little or no value in threatened and endangered species or nongame animals and believe wildlife agencies should focus all their resources on the game species that they

hunt. They see hunters like me, who embrace hunting and broader values of wildlife, as insufficiently supportive of our hunting and angling heritage.

The restoration of wolves to Colorado, which I support, is another issue. Some hunters, outfitters and ranchers are adamantly opposed to wolf restoration and thus they opposed my appointment. That was a mistake, and here's why.

Colorado values about wildlife are changing dramatically, and opposition to CPW candidates who have a more inclusive view of public wildlife resources is shortsighted and self-defeating. We all know that due to urbanization, demographic and economic factors, hunter numbers have been declining and will continue to decline. In fact, less than 6.3% of Coloradans are hunters. As a result, the influence of the hunting community is diminishing. That's a reality, which I urge hunters and outfitters to understand, and work constructively to maintain public support for our hunting traditions.

Since my appointment by the governor in July 2023, some of my opponents have wrongly suggested that I supported an alternative wolf management plan proposed by WildEarth Guardians, when I served on CPW's Wolf Stakeholder Advisory Group, or SAG. Those members were appointed by CPW to provide recommendations for the wolf management

plan to implement wolf restoration as required by the passage of Proposition 114 in November 2020. The SAG was composed of hunters, outfitters, wolf advocates, livestock producers and others, and met over 18 months to create a consensus report to the agency.

Several SAG members opposed my confirmation, claiming I supported the alternative plan. I never supported the WildEarth Guardian plan as it undermined the CPW planning process.

In my Senate Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee confirmation hearing, I was treated rudely and disrespectfully. CPW commissioners are volunteers who contribute thousands of hours to manage and improve the state's wildlife, state parks and outdoor recreation opportunities. Thus, the behavior of some senators was particularly outrageous.

Wildlife management requires hunting and angling as management tools, and for the recreational benefits they provide. Hunting will continue in Colorado as will attempts to restrict it. The commission must recognize those trends

and rise to meet them; the hunting community should react constructively. Many hunters were so blinded by disinformation that they didn't recognize they were attacking one of their strongest advocates. It's also unfortunate as it creates a negative image of hunters in the minds of the public.

Hunters and anglers have lost an ally on the commission by opposing my confirmation. Without champions who can bridge the gap between hunting interests and the changing attitudes toward wildlife in Colorado, hunters will become increasingly marginalized.

On a final note, some hunting and outfitting organizations opposed my appointment due to my advocacy for wolf restoration. Based on that standard, those hunters and outfitters would oppose the appointment of Aldo Leopold himself to our CPW commission. We should give that some very hard thought.

*Gary Skiba lives in Durango and was appointed to the CPW commission in July and resigned March 7.*

## Chick-Fil-A backtracks from its no-antibiotics-in-chicken pledge, blames projected supply shortages

The Associated Press | March 24, 2024

Atlanta - The fast-food chain Chick-Fil-A backtracked from its decade-old "no antibiotics ever" pledge intended to help prevent human antibiotic resistance linked to the rampant use of the drugs in livestock production.

Instead, the company said in a statement that it will embrace a standard known as "no antibiotics important to human medicine," often abbreviated as NAIHM, which entails the avoidance of medications commonly used to treat people and limits the use of animal antibiotics to cases of actual animal illness.

Livestock producers have long used antibiotics to boost rapid weight gain in animals such as chickens, pigs, cows and sheep, improving the profitability of their businesses. Over the past decade, however, many nations, including the United States, have begun to restrict the practice as evidence mounted that it was contributing to drug resistance and reducing the effectiveness of antibiotics against disease in humans.

Chick-Fil-A said it will begin shifting to the new policy in the spring of 2024. A company spokesman added that the move reflects company concerns about its ability to acquire sufficient supplies of antibiotic-free chicken. One of the poultry industry's largest companies, Tyson Foods, said last year that it was reintroducing some antibiotics to its chicken production and removing its "No Antibiotics Ever" package labeling. It began to eliminate antibiotics from some of its poultry production in 2015.

In a May 2023 video featured on the Tyson Foods YouTube channel, Tyson's senior director of animal welfare, Karen Christensen, described the shift as "based on scientific research and industry learnings." She noted that Tyson planned to begin using antibiotics known as ionophores, which don't play a role in human medicine, to "improve the overall health and welfare of the birds in our care." Ionophores have long been used to promote growth in livestock.



Photos by Carol Vogel



**MAYOR of Divide 2024**  
where pets are the candidates  
All proceeds benefit TCRAS, Teller County Regional Animal Shelter

**CLICK HERE AND VOTE FOR FENDER!**



# MEET A WOLF

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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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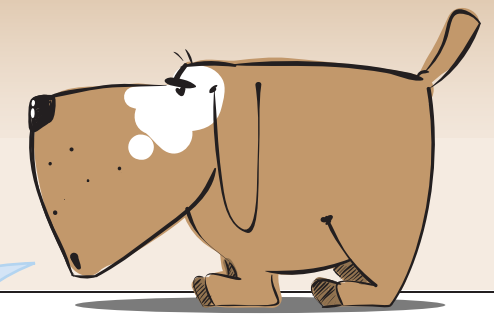
# Adoption corner

## TCRAS

Teller County Regional Animal Shelter  
tcrascolorado.org · 719.686.7707

## SLVAWS

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



**[ 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. ]**

### SNOWFLAKE >>

Hi there!

My name is Snowflake! I am ready to float down into your heart!! My friends at the shelter love hanging out with me and giving me, attention and I love showing my affection back.



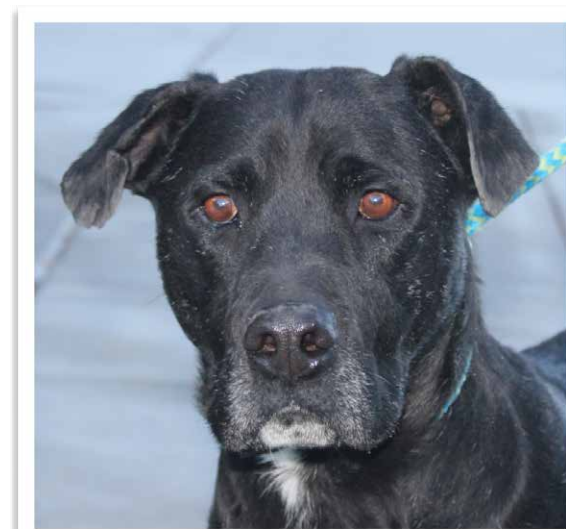
### << APHRODITE

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.

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

### 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.