



The Wolf Print



Northern Lights Wildlife Wolf Centre

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One New Pup!

It's no secret that we were hoping for two little pups to join our pack... alas, things did not work out that way. But we are thrilled to give this little boy a new, loving home.



Celebrating his 7th week at our 2nd Anniversary party on June 20, he has doubled in size since we adopted him at 24 days old - now weighing 8lb (or about 3.5kg). Known (unofficially) as Scrappy, his official name is Moab, revealed at the party. Thanks to all who have given us their suggestions for the ideal name. Check our website for photo updates and more...

2nd Anniversary Celebration

The 20th of June, 2004, marked the beginning of our third year of being open to the public. So, we opened our doors to the community, and fun,

games, food, music, interpretive talks, and photo opportunities abounded, as more than 200 people checked us out.

The fence is finished! That afternoon, we opened up their new home, and Tuk, Maya, Aspen, and Moab were eager to check it out. Wiley, our traveling ambassador, who is not bothered by hundreds of people about him, was very leery of the new opening and would not go near it. Go figure! It will take him a few days to get used to it, after which we may never see him again as he disappears into an acre of forest...

As well, we had some excitement when a fight broke out between Aspen & Maya in front of the 50 or so people attending the last interpretive talk of the day. Our visitors got to see firsthand that these animals are wild, and that not everyone can or should have wild animals in their care. Shelley & Casey impressed everyone with their ability to handle the wolves, and explained to the crowd what had happened. Both wolves are wounded but will make it!

A Letter to Shelley

We had a visitor recently who impressed us with his empathy and strong, clear ideas. Shelley asked him to write us a letter expressing those

thoughts so that all of our visitors may be touched by his words:

“Dear Shelley,

My name is Jordan. I am eight years old... I wanted to say thank you and tell you how much we appreciate what you are trying to do for the wolves.

In my family we are very worried when we see or hear about the cruel things that human beings do to the other living creatures who share our world. We need to protect our fellow creatures and we need to stop destroying the forests where the wolves live. By destroying trees we destroy the shelter for the wolves and for their prey and kill just about every animal that lived in the forest. If we destroy wolves then the population of other animals like deer and elk get out of control and they do more destruction.

My dream is to save up all my money and start buying little bits of land and more land and more land and keep it safe and natural and have a huge sanctuary where all the animals can come and live in their natural state of balance and no humans would be allowed to come into my sanctuary unless they could prove that they loved and cared for the animals and that they would treat them with respect...

You would be welcome to come to my sanctuary any time.

Sincerely, Jordan Hartley”

Only a mountain has lived long enough to listen objectively to the howl of a wolf...

... I have lived to see state after state extirpate its wolves. I have watched the face of many a newly wolfless mountain, and seen the south-facing slopes wrinkle with a maze of new deer trails. I have seen every edible bush and seedling browsed, first to anaemic desuetude, and then to death. I have seen every edible tree defoliated to the height of a saddlehorn... In the end the starved bones of the hoped-for deer herd, dead of its own too-much, bleach with the bones of dead sage, or molder under the high-lined junipers.

A buck taken by wolves could be replaced in two or three years, but a range browsed out by an over-population of deer may fail of replacement in as many decades.

- Aldo Leopold, from *Thinking Like a Mountain*

Conservation Issues

The red wolf is currently classified as a separate species from the gray wolf, although some may disagree with that. It is believed the red wolf originated about 15,000 years ago when gray wolves may have interbred with coyotes.

The red wolf's historical range is the southeastern United States, west to mid-Texas, and north to Pennsylvania. By the 1980s, it was extinct in the wild, although breeding pairs survived in zoos. It has been reintroduced to Smoky Mountains National Park and Alligator River Wildlife Refuge in the United States - both areas within its former range. There are an estimated 100 red wolves in the wild, and 170 in captivity.

Today, the red wolf may lose its protected status, as the Endangered Species Act does not allow for protection of "hybrids"... One has to ask when, exactly, does a "hybrid" qualify as a separate species? 15,000 years is not long enough, apparently.

Canada's own Algonquin wolves are thought to be red wolves. Just recently, the Ontario government actually created a buffer zone around the park in an effort to protect them. What does this genealogical dispute mean for those wolves?

Keep visiting our website for the hot conservation issues that affect all of us.

Be a Pack Member

You can help promote wolf awareness, help to educate people, and help change legislation to protect our wilderness.

Annual membership includes quarterly updates via our Wolf Print news, pictures, and special discounts and offers.

This is how it works:

\$ 100 = Alpha Member
\$ 75 = Beta Member
\$ 50 = Omega Member
\$ 20 = Puppy Membership

Be an ongoing member of our pack and you'll also receive the eternal gratitude of Aspen, Maya, Tuk, Wiley, & Moab!

Moab meets new people



Shelley & Casey open up the new enclosure



Maya & Moab explore the new enclosure



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