



The Wolf Print



Northern Lights Wildlife Wolf Centre

Volume No.1 Issue No.3

Fall 2004

Moab is Growing!

Little Moab is not so little anymore! Our new wolf pup just celebrated his four month birthday on September 3rd and already weighs over 40lbs, standing 23 inches at the shoulder, and 36 inches long from nose to bum. He will soon be bigger than the Karelian Bear Dogs!

Moab is fitting in well around here. He loves playing with the adult wolves and with the dogs - and tries, unsuccessfully, to play with the cats...



What Happened to the Central Rockies Wolf Project?

Or, perhaps more importantly, what happened to the wolves? The Central Rockies Wolf Project (CRWP) has recently closed its doors after more than two decades of studying the wolf packs in the Rockies. Sadly, there are not enough wolves left to continue the

study. By their own admission, CRWP may have been one of the contributing factors to the demise of those packs - by habituating the wolves through repeated invasive tracking methods. Habituated animals lose their wariness of humans, and may get too close to highways, ranches, farms, and towns. What have we learned after more than two decades?

Perhaps it is time to start questioning the need to intrude on wild lives: tranquilizing, weighing, measuring, and fitting with radio collars - all done in an elaborate effort to better understand those lives so that we may protect them.

It is said that it takes four to five generations for a wolf pack to become habituated. Maybe in our well-meaning efforts to understand wolves, we are speeding up that process. It is time to take a good look at non-invasive methods of studying wildlife that are proving to be just as informative, such as following wolves' tracks and not the wolves themselves, collecting fur and scat for genetic analyses, and communicating and sharing with other groups that are doing studies.

Although CRWP no longer exists, the umbrella organization called Wolf Awareness Inc. (WAI) is carrying on with education and awareness. WAI, founded in 1987, is in the process of

reconstruction, and is returning to its original mandate of public education and supporting existing wolf research projects. www.graywolf.ca

Through the Eyes of our Young Visitors

A little girl named Sadie visited Northern Lights Wolf Centre recently. Wolves are her favorite wild animal and she showed a very unique keenness in the wolves for her age, as well as an amazing talent for drawing. At only 7 years old, she captured these wolves on paper.



Thanks to all of the young artists who help to fill our walls with their wolf art. Each newsletter will feature a picture or letter from one of the young voices that visit our wolf centre.

Help Us Petition

We are organizing two petitions: one for wolf conservation in Canada, and another for using Karelian Bear Dogs. Check our website for new details!

Read a Good Book

If you cannot get enough of wolves, try some of these books:

NON-FICTION

- Of Wolves and Men
by Barry Lopez
- Playing God in Yellowstone
by Alston Chase
- Shadow Mountain
by Renee Askins
- The Wolf Almanac
by Robert Busch
- Thinking Like A Mountain
by Aldo Leopold

FICTION

- Never Cry Wolf (true events)
by Farley Mowat
- The Loop
by Nicholas Evans

JUVENILE FICTION

- Julie of the Wolves
- Julie's Wolf Pack
- Julie
by Jean Craighead George
- The Sight
by David Clement-Davies
- The Last Wolf of Ireland
by Elona Malterre

A good mix of fiction and non-fiction, adult and juvenile, so there is something to please everyone...

The Loop and The Sight have been recommended many times over by our visitors, young and old, over the last few months – so let us know what you think!

Conservation Issues

As most visitors to the Wolf Centre are aware, the Wildlife Act in British Columbia prohibits chasing a bear with a dog because it is “harassment”... thus, more than 1,000 bears are destroyed each year in this province when we could be trying to save some of them using Karelian Bear Dogs.

Karelian Bear Dogs are used to rehabilitate or condition bears that have become, or are in danger of becoming, habituated. The Conservation Officers in Alberta have been using them successfully for more than 5 years.

BC's bear/human conflict specialist, Mike Badry, hangs out in Victoria and takes two vacations in the summer, at the height of bear season. What has he done for bears lately?

We urge our visitors and our readers to write to Mike Badry and let him know you are in favour of a change to the Wildlife Act that would allow trained teams of Karelian Bear Dogs to do their thing in BC:

Mike Badry
Wildlife-Human Conflicts Strategy
Coordinator

Conservation Officer Service
Headquarters, Ministry of Water,
Land and Air Protection
PO Box 9376 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9M5

Email: Mike.Badry@gems4.gov.bc.ca
Tel: 250.387.9793 Fax: 356.5240

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 Member

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



Meet our new cartoon Wiley – you'll be seeing a lot of him from now on!



1.877.377.WOLF www.northernlightswildlife.com blackwolf@redshift.bc.ca
1745 Short Road, Blaeberry Valley, Golden BC V0A1H1