



# The HOWLING REPORTER

2023/2024 TRIPLE EDITION

YOU CAN HELP US SAVE  
**INDIGO  
MOUNTAIN  
NATURE  
CENTER**

**9 RESCUE MISSIONS**  
**28 RESCUES BROUGHT HOME**

**ZEEBIE**

15 YEAR-OLD HIGH-CONTENT  
MALE WOLFD OG

# Introducing EDUCATIONAL ENCOUNTERS



**We've brought back the opportunity to interact with some of our animals!**

Longtime supporters of Wild Spirit will remember that we used to offer tours where guests could interact with some of our more social rescues. Many of our animals enjoy meeting new people, and the educational benefits for both animals and humans are richer with direct interaction. Educational Encounters are free during or following Standard and Specialty Tours!

Please be aware that these encounters require two trained staff members and we cannot guarantee that an encounter will happen after every Standard Tour, nor can we guarantee interactions with our rescues - they are allowed to choose with whom they would like to interact, if they want to interact at all.

#### ANIMAL CARE INTERNS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ISSUE

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Ellie Northrop • Danny Ponce • Siena Radice • Paola Rivera • Sara Tronsue • Maya Vides • Kelis White

#### CURRENT AND FORMER STAFF THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ISSUE

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## SAVING THE SANCTUARY SAVING LIVES

Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary is poised to absorb Indigo Mountain Nature Center, a non-profit wolf and wildlife sanctuary in Colorado, following the passing of their Founder and the organization's imminent closure.

This will save IMNC's 25 wolfdog residents; expand WSWS's mission of Rescue, Sanctuary, and Education; and provide longterm sustainability for both organizations.



# THE IMPACT

## Rescue, Sanctuary, Education

Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary is a USDA licensed 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with 30+ years of success rescuing wild canids. It is also the largest canid-specific sanctuary North America and one of the top rescuing organizations in the country.

Our rescues are not adoptable, and they do not legally qualify for release into the wild: they are captive-born and therefore reliant on humans for survival. Our care is customized to each animal's needs, desires, personality, and health.

We welcome thousands of people to our facility every year to teach them about the animals within our care, and their wild counterparts as well.



## 500+ Animals Provided Lifelong Sanctuary

Throughout WSWS's history we have saved the lives of over 400 wolves, wolfdogs, foxes, dingoes, and many other wild canids in need of a safe place to call home.

IMNC has saved over 115 animals throughout the last 25 years. Without their sanctuary, these lives would have been condemned to euthanasia.

## Thousands Of Educational Endeavors

Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary welcomes 2,000-3,500 individuals to its property annually. Each tour guest is provided with comprehensive educational chats crafted to equip them with the most up-to-date information possible. From Scout groups to school field trips, youth groups, and more, Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary has been able to provide educational information to countless people throughout the years.

# THE WHY

## Sanctuaries Are Always Full

Currently, the number of dedicated wolf sanctuaries in North America is minimal, and most are at or over capacity, often forced to turn away animals that desperately require rescue and rehabilitation.

This scarcity of space poses a grave threat to the lives of these animals, many of whom have complex needs and cannot be safely placed in traditional shelters or with private individuals.



## 300-500+ Intake Requests Annually

Each year hundreds of wolves, wolfdogs, and other wild canids require sanctuary placement. With fewer than 50 sanctuaries in North America, keeping IMNC's sanctuary operational is crucial. These animals cannot afford to lose one of the few safe places they can call "home."

## Challenges Due to Location

WSWS faces significant struggles due to our current location, nestled firmly within one of the most impoverished counties in New Mexico--one of the poorest states in America. While our mission to rescue and provide sanctuary to these animals is unwavering, our remoteness severely limits our ability to attract visitors and generate essential funds.

In contrast, the opportunity to expand into Colorado presents a remarkable solution. The state is wealthier and boasts a robust tourism market, making it an ideal location for attracting visitors. Positioned near Denver and Colorado Springs, IMNC is ideally situated to capitalize on the high traffic of tourists seeking unique experiences.

With Colorado's thriving economy and a greater willingness to invest in tourism, we anticipate a substantial increase in visitor numbers and thus, funding initiatives, poised to benefit both WSWS and IMNC.

# THE HOW

## Buy The Property; Absorb IMNC

The first step in saving IMNC requires the purchase of their property, which comes with a \$715,000 price tag. Their current population of 25 rescued wolfdogs are in desperate need for us to raise these funds. Without proper funding, their home—and possibly lives—are in jeopardy.

From there, WSWS and IMNC will work together on the arduous process of dissolving IMNC and transforming it into a satellite property of WSWS.



## USDA Licensing

While licensed by the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Pet Animal Care Facilities Act (PACFA), Indigo Mountain is not currently USDA licensed, and thus, is not open to the public. This limits the amount of education and outreach the sanctuary can accomplish, and in a state in which wolfdog ownership is common, and wild wolves now live.

To become USDA licensed, we would need to build a perimeter fence and appropriate barriers for guests, perform veterinary care on every rescue, and so much more.

## Open To The Public

Once Indigo Mountain is licensed by the USDA, we will be able to open the sanctuary to the general public! This will increase opportunities for education and drastically broaden our reach!

IMNC has the potential to provide WSWS with more funding due to its proximity to Denver and Colorado Springs. While we love how remote our sanctuary is to accommodate some of our shy critters, it is a double-edged sword; it makes it incredibly difficult for us to sustain our operations and thrive in the current economy, mainly because it is difficult for our guests to get to us. IMNC would be an excellent opportunity to not only help fund WSWS's expenses and keep us running, but to finally allow us to flourish!



# WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

1.

**PROPERTY ACQUISITION:  
\$715,000**

This is the bare minimum we need to make this Rescue Mission possible. This is the asking price for the privately owned property.

2.

**IMMEDIATE VETERINARY CARE:  
\$75,000**

USDA requires each animal to be vetted annually. To meet this requirement, every animal at IMNC will need to be vetted in 2025.

3.

**PERIMETER FENCING:  
\$50,000**

To become USDA licensed for wolves and other wild species, we must install a perimeter fence around all 36 acres of IMNC's property.

4.

**BARRIER FENCING:  
\$30,000**

Barrier fencing will be required on the public tour path in order for IMNC to be open for visits. This will protect the animals and guests alike!

5.

**OTHER FACILITY NEEDS:  
\$250,000**

From adding water lines to enclosures, creating an accessible tour path, and other necessary infrastructure, there are A LOT of additional construction projects needed.

6.

**STAFFING THE SANCTUARY:  
\$60,000**

To operate the facility, WSWS must provide at least two onsite staff members. This will cost approximately \$30k per person in accordance with Colorado's minimum wage of \$14.42 per hour.

# SAVE INDIGO MOUNTAIN, SAVE THE WOLVES

# MAKE YOUR IMPACT

Sponsorship Package	Investment	Available Sponsorships	Primary Recognition Opportunities	Additional Opportunities
Name the Sanctuary	\$2,500,000	1	Sanctuary renaming rights Significant recognition feature on property	Donor wall recognition; Digital recognition via email, socials, and web; Invitation to visit and tour facility before grand opening; Free tours at both facilities for life
Name the Visitor's Center	\$1,500,000	1	Visitor's Center Naming Rights; Bench / feature on property	
Perimeter Fence Sponsor	\$50,000	2	Perimeter fence naming rights; Bench / feature on property	
Name an Enclosure	\$25,000	20	Naming rights for one enclosure; Tour sign recognition	
Name an Animal	\$25,000	5	Naming rights for one animal; Tour sign recognition	
Medical Care Sponsor	\$25,000	4	Sponsor medical care for a portion of our animals for the first year; Bench / feature on property	
Feed the Wolves Sponsor	\$25,000	3	Sponsor food for all of our animals for the first year; Bench / feature on property	
Barrier Fence Sponsor	\$15,000	3	Barrier fence naming rights; Bench / feature on property	
Full Pack Sponsor for 3 Years	\$5,000	5	Sponsorship packages for entire IMNC population for 3 years; Donor wall recognition; Digital recognition via email, socials, and web	
Full Pack Sponsor for 1 Year	\$3,500	10	Sponsorship packages for entire IMNC population for the first year; Donor wall recognition; Digital recognition via email and web	
Save Indigo Mountain Sponsor	\$1,000	∞	Donor wall recognition; Digital recognition via web	
Helping Hand Sponsor	\$500	∞	Donor wall recognition	

# THANK YOU!

To make this vision a reality, we need your support now more than ever.

Every dollar you contribute will directly support our mission. Your contributions will enable us to:

- Rescue and Care for Animals
- Expand Educational Opportunities
- Increase Outreach and Impact
- Provide Long-Term Sustainability to Both Organizations

We believe that every individual can make a difference. Whether you choose to donate, spread the word about our mission, or introduce us to potential funders, your support matters.

**Together, we can create lasting change and ensure that these deserving animals have a safe, loving home.**

# We've been busy!

## 9 Missions 28 Rescues From 9 States



FEMALE, LOW-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 37.1% GRAY WOLF

# THISTLE

In April of 2022, Wild Spirit was contacted by a young woman who was living her dream life in Alaska, surrounded by 14 beautiful and hard-working sled dogs! One of these canines was a magnificent golden girl named Honey (now Thistle, because we already had a Honey!), who she had rescued as a pup and raised as part of her team.

Sadly, when DNA testing revealed that Thistle was a low-content wolfdog with approximately 37% grey wolf in her genetic makeup - making her illegal to own throughout the entire state of Alaska - her owner was forced to begin looking for a sanctuary that could take her in.

Thankfully, Wild Spirit was able to offer her a place with us, where she now spends her days eating, lounging, and playing with her beloved companion, a mid-content wolfdog named Antoine.

# GAMBIT

MALE, HIGH-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 86.9% GRAY WOLF

Gambit joined the Wild Spirit "pack" in December of 2022, after his owner realized he had started to outgrow his environment physically, mentally, and emotionally, and felt the best thing he could do for his animal was find him a more suitable home - one where he would have the space and resources needed to thrive.

In addition, Gambit is the younger brother of Sox, a female wolfdog that came to Wild Spirit in October of 2020 as a result of extreme stress and anxiety that failed to resolve despite her owner's efforts. Since arriving at the sanctuary, Sox has been paired up with a number of male wolfdogs for varying lengths of time, but none of them have ever been a long-term fit.

Knowing this, Gambit's owner wondered whether Sox might do better with one of her family members, especially considering she and Gambit are only a year apart in age and spent a great deal of time together during their youth.

After discussing our thoughts at length, we agreed to take a chance on Sox and Gambit as a possible pair, crossing our fingers and toes that it would work out for everyone in the end! In order to help assess their initial introductions, Gambit's owner drove him from Ohio to New Mexico, where he spent the next three days coming out to visit, getting updates, and providing his own feedback on how things seemed to be going. By the end of the third day, we all felt comfortable with the new pair.

At this point Gambit has fully settled into his new home, where he shows a constant curiosity about his human Caretakers, but only blesses a select few with his physical affection. He and his sister Sox continue to get along splendidly, which we are eternally grateful for!



In November of 2022, we received an email from the McKinley County Humane Society (a shelter located about an hour from our sanctuary) advising they had just taken in a stray dog they suspected might have some wolf content. Unfortunately, because wolfdog ownership is illegal in McKinley County, this sweet boy couldn't be adopted out into a human home; instead, he needed to be placed with a sanctuary or face euthanasia.

Upon receiving this email, our Executive Director asked if we might be able to come meet the animal (who we've since named "Zayne") and conduct an in-person assessment of his potential wolf content, as well as his health and behavioral disposition.

After meeting Zayne in person, we did not feel comfortable assigning him a wolfdog label, as he didn't have any physical traits that clearly demonstrated wolf content. We asked the shelter if they'd be willing to conduct an Embark DNA test, which would tell us with a greater degree of certainty whether or not wolf content was present. After about a month of waiting, we had our results: Zayne was approximately 22% gray wolf and needed us to save him.

While we'll never know for sure what led Zayne to life on the streets, it seems most likely that he either escaped his home and was never found (or claimed by his owners at the shelter), or he was simply dumped out into the world, left to fend for himself. But since being rescued, he has been the sweetest boy, with a love of toys, long walks, his comfy dog bed, and of course, humans.

Sadly, soon after Zayne was rescued we learned that he had a condition known as Degenerative Myelopathy, an inherited neurologic disease typically affecting dogs around 8+ years old. It causes gradual muscle wasting and incoordination in the hind limbs, and then progresses to an inability to walk after 6-12 months. This news is quite difficult to bear, as we're already seeing signs of the disease affecting Zayne, meaning he may not have a long life with us... Regardless, we're grateful we were able to take him in, and know that in doing so, we've guaranteed that the rest of his life will be filled with all the love and comfort he deserves!

MALE, LOW-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 22.8% GRAY WOLF

# ZAYNE



# CELESTE

FEMALE, MID-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 60.5% GRAY WOLF

In October of 2022, Wild Spirit was contacted by a fellow wolfdog sanctuary looking for placement for two of their rescues: a low-content male named Atlas, and a mid-content female named Celeste.

For context, while the sanctuary's founders were incredibly dedicated to their mission of saving lives through rescue and education, for years they struggled to find a property on which to house their rescues. Instead, they partnered with another local sanctuary that allowed them to utilize enclosure space in exchange for assistance with their animals.

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# ATLAS

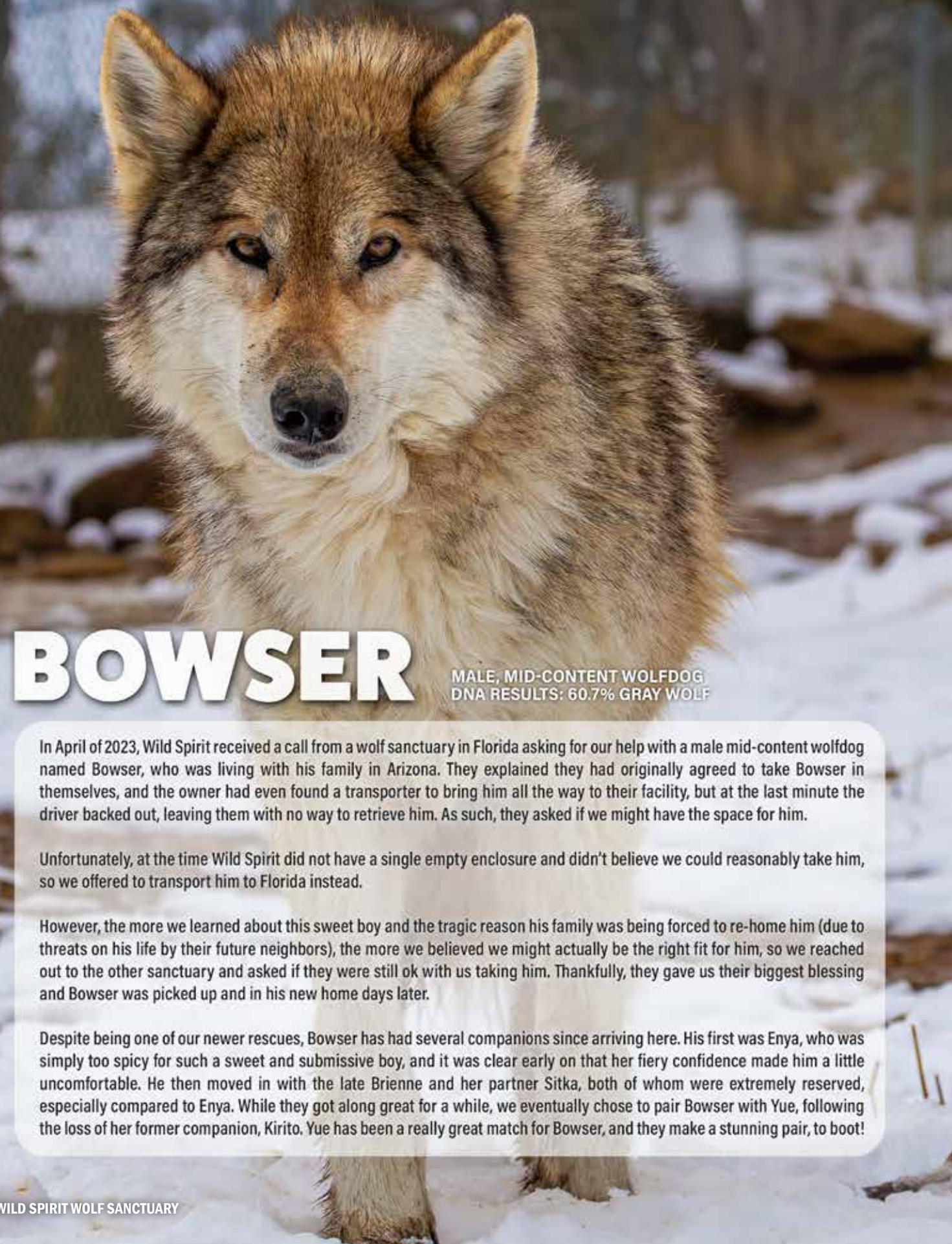
MALE, LOW-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 28.5% GRAY WOLF

Unfortunately, one day Atlas tried to rush past a Caretaker's legs, hoping to make a break from his enclosure. Attempting to prevent an escape, the person grabbed him by his collar and pulled him back into the space: a mistake Atlas rewarded with a bite... The same thing happened on a second occasion with a different volunteer, leading the property owner to demand that both animals be relocated.

Without a property of their own, the sanctuary's founders were forced to seek placement with an outside organization, leading them to contact Wild Spirit for placement.

At this time, Atlas and Celeste have been with us for nearly two years, and they've demonstrated amazing trust toward their new Caretakers! Atlas was extremely social prior to arriving at Wild Spirit and has remained very much the same, but to our surprise, Celeste is also starting to warm up to a few trusted humans, and absolutely loves her neighbors. We're so grateful to have them in our care, and look forward to their continued growth.





# BOWSER

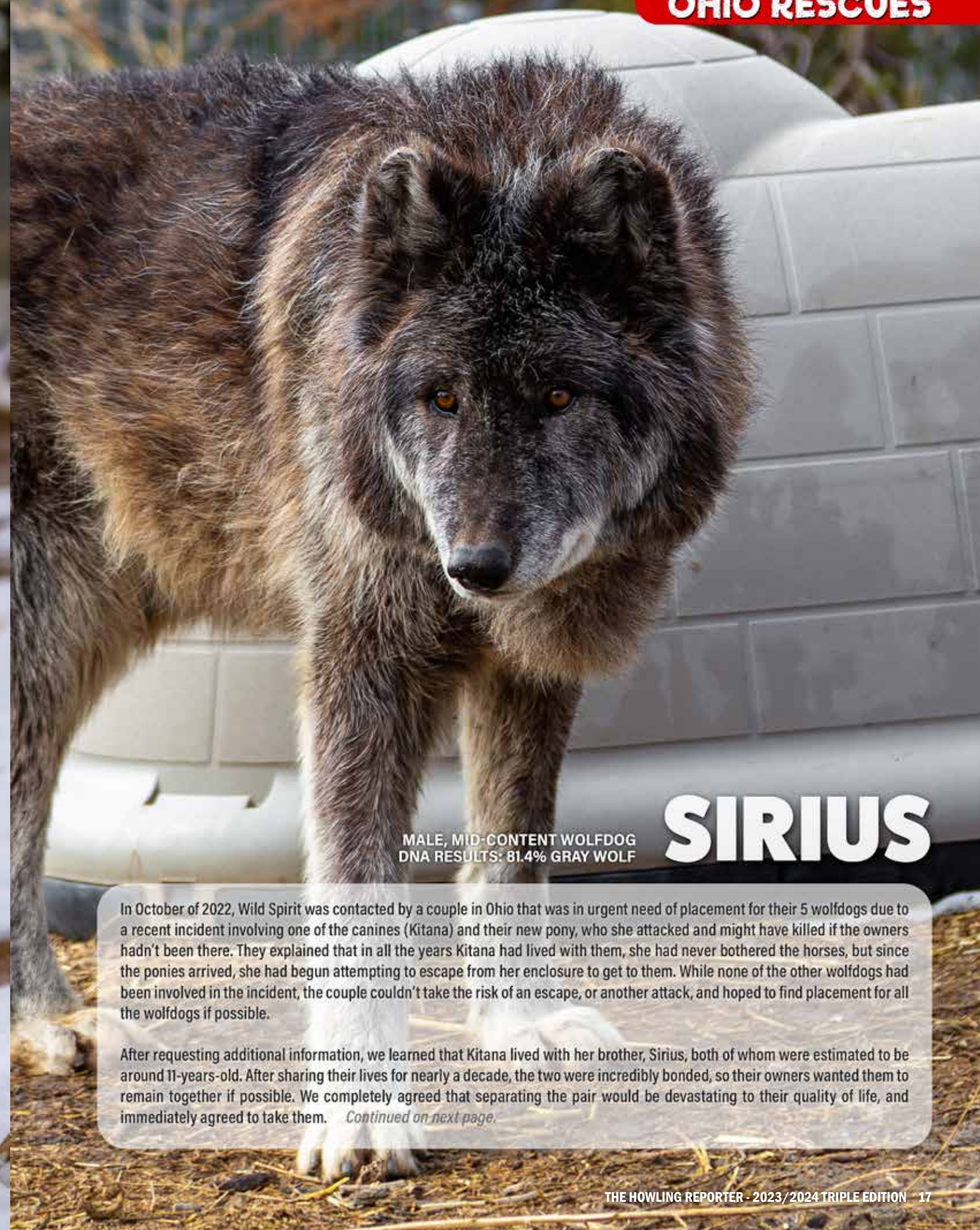
MALE, MID-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 60.7% GRAY WOLF

In April of 2023, Wild Spirit received a call from a wolf sanctuary in Florida asking for our help with a male mid-content wolfdog named Bowser, who was living with his family in Arizona. They explained they had originally agreed to take Bowser in themselves, and the owner had even found a transporter to bring him all the way to their facility, but at the last minute the driver backed out, leaving them with no way to retrieve him. As such, they asked if we might have the space for him.

Unfortunately, at the time Wild Spirit did not have a single empty enclosure and didn't believe we could reasonably take him, so we offered to transport him to Florida instead.

However, the more we learned about this sweet boy and the tragic reason his family was being forced to re-home him (due to threats on his life by their future neighbors), the more we believed we might actually be the right fit for him, so we reached out to the other sanctuary and asked if they were still ok with us taking him. Thankfully, they gave us their biggest blessing and Bowser was picked up and in his new home days later.

Despite being one of our newer rescues, Bowser has had several companions since arriving here. His first was Enya, who was simply too spicy for such a sweet and submissive boy, and it was clear early on that her fiery confidence made him a little uncomfortable. He then moved in with the late Brienne and her partner Sitka, both of whom were extremely reserved, especially compared to Enya. While they got along great for a while, we eventually chose to pair Bowser with Yue, following the loss of her former companion, Kirito. Yue has been a really great match for Bowser, and they make a stunning pair, to boot!



# SIRIUS

MALE, MID-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 81.4% GRAY WOLF

In October of 2022, Wild Spirit was contacted by a couple in Ohio that was in urgent need of placement for their 5 wolfdogs due to a recent incident involving one of the canines (Kitana) and their new pony, who she attacked and might have killed if the owners hadn't been there. They explained that in all the years Kitana had lived with them, she had never bothered the horses, but since the ponies arrived, she had begun attempting to escape from her enclosure to get to them. While none of the other wolfdogs had been involved in the incident, the couple couldn't take the risk of an escape, or another attack, and hoped to find placement for all the wolfdogs if possible.

After requesting additional information, we learned that Kitana lived with her brother, Sirius, both of whom were estimated to be around 11-years-old. After sharing their lives for nearly a decade, the two were incredibly bonded, so their owners wanted them to remain together if possible. We completely agreed that separating the pair would be devastating to their quality of life, and immediately agreed to take them. *Continued on next page.*

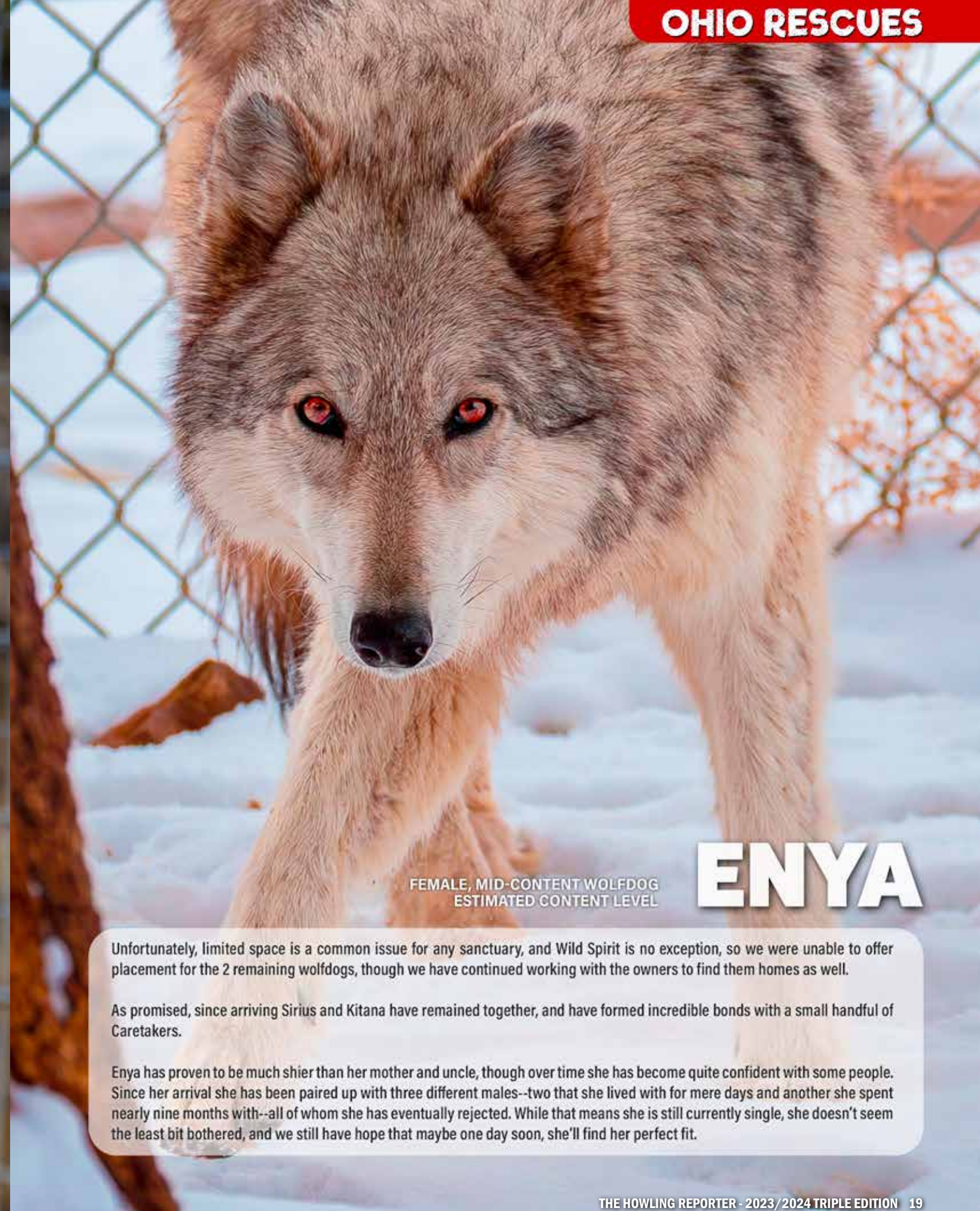


# KITANA

FEMALE, MID-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 80% GRAY WOLF

Next we were told about Enya, an approximately 5- to 6-year-old single female, and the daughter of Kitana. The owners explained that as Enya got older, she began to demonstrate same-sex aggression and had even attempted to kill several female animals she had previously had no issues with. Unfortunately, this is an extremely common issue among higher-content wolfdogs, especially females, but with no single males on their property, Enya was forced to live alone. Knowing we had several single males at Wild Spirit, we decided Enya would make a great addition to our "pack" and agreed to take her as well.

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# ENYA

FEMALE, MID-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
ESTIMATED CONTENT LEVEL

Unfortunately, limited space is a common issue for any sanctuary, and Wild Spirit is no exception, so we were unable to offer placement for the 2 remaining wolfdogs, though we have continued working with the owners to find them homes as well.

As promised, since arriving Sirius and Kitana have remained together, and have formed incredible bonds with a small handful of Caretakers.

Enya has proven to be much shier than her mother and uncle, though over time she has become quite confident with some people. Since her arrival she has been paired up with three different males--two that she lived with for mere days and another she spent nearly nine months with--all of whom she has eventually rejected. While that means she is still currently single, she doesn't seem the least bit bothered, and we still have hope that maybe one day soon, she'll find her perfect fit.



# FENRIS

MALE, HIGH-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 95+% GRAY WOLF

In December of 2022, Wild Spirit was asked to make a miracle come true by taking in five high-content wolfdogs in need of urgent rescue after their owner passed away. At the time, we were beyond our maximum capacity, with not a single empty enclosure for new intakes. While we wanted nothing more than to save these animals' lives, we weren't sure it was possible with our limited resources.

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# FREYA

FEMALE, HIGH-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
ESTIMATED CONTENT LEVEL

Fortunately, we weren't alone in wanting to see this rescue through, and in a matter of days an entire team of people from across the country had agreed to assist us in going to get the animals AND putting up five new enclosures once we got back home with them! Thanks to this massive show of support, we made plans to retrieve the animals, meeting up with half our team in Kansas while the other half stayed behind to work on constructing the new enclosures.

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# SITKA

MALE, HIGH-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 95+% GRAY WOLF

After arriving at the owners' property and seeing the animals for the first time, it was clear they were all experiencing extremely high levels of stress following the loss of their owner, and as a result of our presence as well. As such, we quickly came up with a game plan for getting the animals out of their enclosures, vetted, and into the rescue van as quickly as possible. Thanks to the experience and teamwork of all involved, this process went off without a hitch, and within a matter of hours, all five wolfdogs had been seen by the vet and loaded for transport! *Continued on next page.*



# ARIES

MALE, HIGH-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 95+% GRAY WOLF

Since arriving back at the sanctuary, the "Kansas Five" have all made some major adjustments to their new home, and especially toward their new Caretakers! Fenris, who was previously known for being extremely aggressive toward strangers, shocked us all by turning out to be the most affectionate of the group, and at this point, most of the "family" have started coming up for gentle pets, allowing us to get to know them slowly but surely.

Update: Sadly, Aries passed away due to severe leukemia and lymphoma after we finalized this issue. He will be honored in our next issue's Big Pack in the Sky tribute.



# RUHN

MALE, HIGH-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 95+% GRAY WOLF

In March of 2023, Wild Spirit was contacted about a delicate situation involving six wolfdogs living as pets in Pennsylvania (a state in which wolfdog ownership is completely illegal), all of which required new homes as their owner's health was failing.

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# CASSIAN

MALE, HIGH-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 95+% GRAY WOLF

At the time, we were beyond our maximum capacity after taking in seven wolfdogs from Kansas following the death of their owner just a few months prior. However, we wanted to help as much as possible in securing the Pennsylvania Six a safe place to call home, so we agreed to assist by reaching out to the Wolfdog Rescue Network to see if any other facilities might be able to place them.

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# AMREN

FEMALE, MID-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 61.2% GRAY WOLF

To sweeten the deal, we even offered to make the trip to Pennsylvania to assist with and pay for each animal's vetting, and then transport them anywhere in the lower 48, all to make sure these sweet babies (all of which were 3 years old or younger at the time) lived to see another day.

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# NESTA

FEMALE, MID-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
ESTIMATED CONTENT LEVEL

Sadly, after weeks with no offers for placement, we realized if we wanted to see these animals' lives saved, we'd need to take matters into our own hands. Thus, we began building several new enclosures - AGAIN - all with a tight deadline looming over our heads. Fortunately, we were able to pull off construction in time, and quickly made our way to Pennsylvania to retrieve our six new wild-spirited rescues, all of whom are since settled in wonderfully.

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# AZRIEL

MALE, HIGH-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
ESTIMATED CONTENT LEVEL

Now that the Pennsylvania Six have been with us for over a year, we thought we'd provide some updates on each of them. Ruhn is currently sharing his life with a high-content female named Josie, who will be featured in our next edition of The Howling Reporter. Amren lives with mid-content wolfdog Lazar Wolf, who has been helping her come out of her shell more and more each day.

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# EMERIE

FEMALE, HIGH-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 95+% GRAY WOLF

Cassian and Nesta have remained together as a pair, just as they were in Pennsylvania. For a while, they acted as surrogate parents to Hela, one of the pups from our Minnesota Rescue. While Cassian absolutely adored her, Nesta wasn't the biggest fan, especially around mealtimes. As such, Hela has since moved in with Emerie and Azriel (who have also remained together as a pair since arriving here), and the three are doing exceptionally well together!

# ZEPHYR

FEMALE, MID-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
ESTIMATED CONTENT LEVEL

In October of 2023, Wild Spirit received word of a situation involving 15 wolfdogs in need of placement in central Minnesota. These animals-along with over 80 others-were once privately-owned by a licensed individual, though he was later forced to re-home them due to issues with local zoning ordinances, and concerns about the animals' welfare.

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# HELA

FEMALE, MID-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
ESTIMATED CONTENT LEVEL

Fortunately, by the time we were contacted about this situation most of the animals had already been relinquished to licensed facilities; this included 3 of the 15 wolfdogs. Unfortunately, that left 12 canines (eight adults and four juveniles) still in need of urgent placement, and with less than a week to find their new forever homes.

Right away, we knew we could reasonably commit to the four 8-month-old puppies, which included two males (Dorian and Iroh) and two females (Zephyr and Hela). In addition, with three bachelor males at the sanctuary, we were prepared to take 1-2 adult females (Larka and Haiku) as well, assuming they seemed like promising matches for our boys.

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# LARKA

FEMALE, HIGH-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 95+% GRAY WOLF

After several conversations with the Minnesota law enforcement officials coordinating the effort, our team hit the road to retrieve our new rescues. Along the way, a true miracle occurred and we were able to secure placement for the six animals we were unable to take in due to spatial limitations, meaning every single animal would be saved! (These wolfdogs found homes at USDA-licensed facilities in Ohio, Colorado, and Nevada.)

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# HAIKU

FEMALE, HIGH-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 95+% GRAY WOLF

Finding committed homes for the last six wolfdogs had us on Cloud 9 with not a worry in sight... so you can imagine our surprise when, upon arriving at our destination (and before we had even left our vehicles) we discovered that one of the 8-month-old pups was running loose on the property, forcing us to abandon our original plan in order to get him safely contained! Thankfully the pup didn't seem too distressed in the presence of strangers, which allowed us to dart him using our blow-dart gun. Unfortunately, the drugs didn't take effect, resulting in the need for a backup plan.

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# DORIAN

MALE, MID-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
DNA RESULTS: 76.2% GRAY WOLF

With the help of one of the owners, as well as a close family friend that had helped care for the pups since birth, the animal was able to be led into a small fenced-in section of the property where we were able to corner and then sedate him for his necessary vet care. This animal would come to be called Dorian.

After Dorian was seen by the vet, loaded into the rescue van, and reversed from sedation, we moved on to his siblings, Hela, Zephyr, and Iroh, and finally the two adult females, Larka and Haiku.

Despite the overall welfare concerns that existed for these animals, which included being underweight and the presence of fleas and intestinal parasites, we were pleased to learn they were all heartworm negative and free of any tick-borne diseases.

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# IROH

MALE, MID-CONTENT WOLFDOG  
ESTIMATED CONTENT LEVEL

Since arriving at Wild Spirit, the Minnesota Six have settled in at their own paces with their new "families." Dorian now shares his life with Lincoln and Octavia, who have helped him come out of his shell more than his shier siblings. Zephyr and Iroh have remained together as they were in Minnesota, but were introduced to Sitka who is patient and gentle with them. Hela initially lived with Cassian and Nesta, but food-related issues prompted by Nesta led us to introduce her to Azriel and Emerie instead. Finally, Larka is sharing her life with Zion, who has acted as a bridge in teaching her to trust and seek out affection from humans, and Haiku is sharing her life with Loki, who is doing much the same for her.

A huge thank you to the families that hosted us along the way on this journey, and to every other animal care professional that made this rescue mission a success!

# A Loving Tribute

*to the rescues we lost between  
April, 2022 and April, 2024.*

## BIG PACK IN THE SKY

Awilix was deeply loved by her original owners who were forced to re-home her due to a move to a state in which wolfdog ownership is illegal.

Tragically, on July 19th, 2023 Awilix was captured and sedated for her annual vet care—a procedure she had undergone several times without issue. The next morning she was discovered deceased in her enclosure. Given the inconclusive nature of her death, we conducted a necropsy hoping to gain clarity on her passing.

The report discovered a condition called myocardial degeneration, the impact of which can range from mild symptoms to rapid fatality. This could have been related to Awilix's genetics, but we'll never know for sure.

The death of any animal at the sanctuary is always sorrowful, but in recent memory few have been as agonizing to reckon with as Awilix's. We carry on our work in her honor, and she will always be a part of Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary.

AWILIX



Aussie came to the sanctuary as a pup, along with his two brothers, Glacier and Uluru, and their mother, Kooyong, who was originally born at the Dingo Discovery and Research Center in Australia.

As he aged, Aussie developed arthritis in his hind legs. He was put on pain medication and received Adequan injections on a regular basis to keep him comfortable. Unfortunately, we observed Aussie struggling with his mobility much more than usual, seeming unable to use one of his back legs reliably, so he was immediately taken to the vet. We then learned that in addition to his arthritis, Aussie had a condition called Degenerative Myelopathy (DM), which gradually causes hind limb weakness, paralysis, and incontinence (it is somewhat similar to Lou Gehrig's Disease in humans).

Sadly, DM is treatable, but when it reaches the point it had with Aussie, it usually indicates that permanent paralysis is not far off. As such, on April 26th, 2023, our team made the difficult decision to help him cross over the Rainbow Bridge, surrounded by his brothers and the humans that loved him endlessly.

AUSSIE

Lovingly known to most of us as Tiki, Azteca came to Wild Spirit in 2009 with her siblings, Goldie, Saint, Katrina, and Juno. They were rescued from a shelter, where they were under-socialized and constantly returned after being adopted out, due to their timid natures.

The NOLA Pack all lived long lives at the sanctuary, with Azteca passing away at the ripe old age of 15, leaving Juno as the last remaining sibling.

Throughout her life, Azteca brightened everyone's day when she would run a "happy lap" around the enclosure with her sisters, excited for her morning treat or breakfast. We'll all dearly miss seeing her so excited, but know our sweet girl is now free to run and play like she hasn't in years, with the rest of her late siblings right by her side.

AZTECA

BEAR



Bear was a mid-content wolfdog that came to Wild Spirit in 2018, along with three other rescues. One of our shier residents, Bear generally preferred the company of his own kind to that of his human caretakers. However, he did share a special bond with a small handful of people during his time with us, and only those lucky enough to be welcomed into his world could understand the depths of his love.

With those that he trusted, Bear was always eager to say hello, and could often be heard whimpering with excitement before they even reached his enclosure. Once inside, he was quick to come up to say hi, offering his version of "kisses" in which he would stick his nose near a person's face and hold it there, allowing them to plant as many smooches as possible right on his snoot!

Now across the Rainbow Bridge, he has rejoined many of his old friends and pack members, who we're certain welcomed him with a big howl and loving embrace.

BJORN



Bjorn was one of five wolfdogs rescued from Kansas following the death of their owner. Unfortunately, he was with us for just a few short weeks before we noticed he was behaving abnormally, prompting an immediate trip to our vet.

Sadly, during the 2.5 hour drive to Albuquerque, Bjorn became unresponsive. Our Executive Director began to administer CPR in an attempt to resuscitate him, but he was already gone. . . Hoping to gain some clarity on what might have happened, we conducted a necropsy and learned that Bjorn had passed away from an intestinal rupture/perforation resulting from the consumption of a foreign object that he was unable to pass.

Bjorn's death was extremely devastating for the Wild Spirit team, as we suspect he likely ingested something in his previous home or while on his way to us, but failed to show symptoms until it was too late. . . Sadly, our team had no opportunity to save him. Still, it's hard not to blame ourselves for his loss, even while knowing all the above. As we heal from the heart break we are striving to, instead, remain grateful for the small impact we were able to have on his life during the short time he was in our care.

# BIG PACK IN THE SKY

BRIENNE



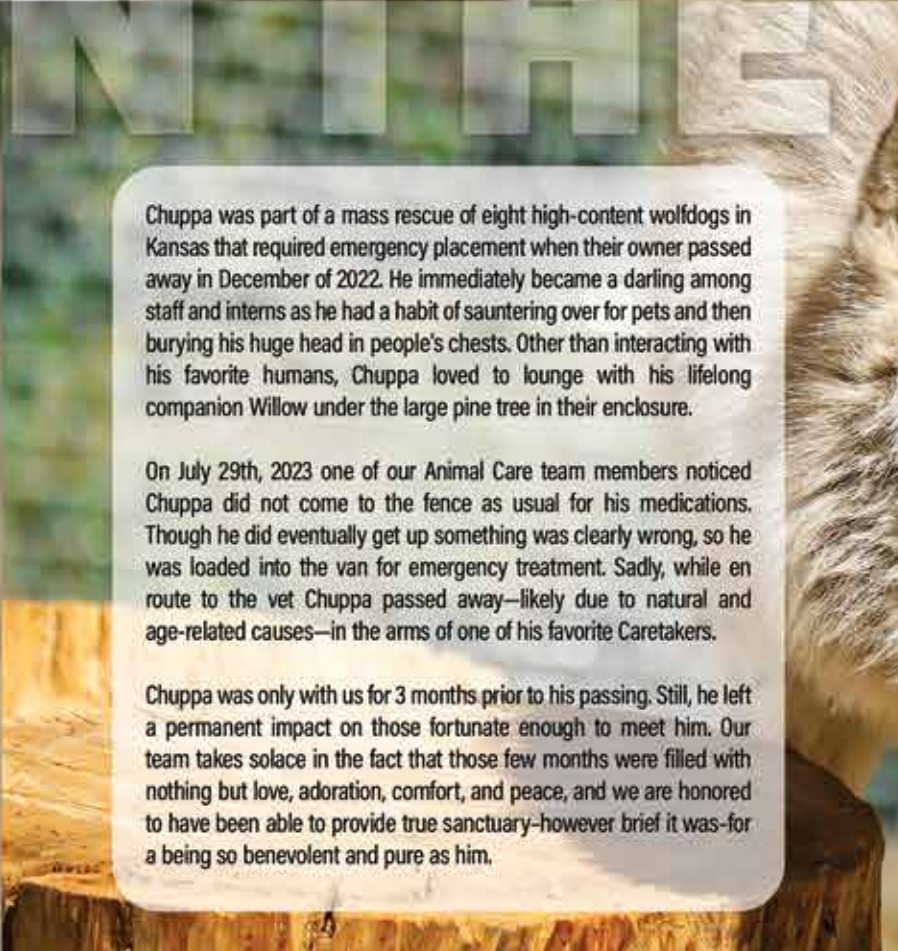
Prior to life at Wild Spirit, Brienne was one of 11 wolfdogs rescued from a breeding facility in Iowa in late 2012. For years these animals were in deplorable conditions, and with many health-related issues.

Fortunately, thanks to the generous support of George R.R. Martin and his wife Parris, Wild Spirit was able to provide them with a home, and new names to commemorate their rescue. In honor of the Martins, each rescue was named after a character in Game of Thrones and dubbed The Westeros Pack as a whole. Brienne was named after Brienne of Tarth, a fierce and noble female knight and one of the most iconic characters in the novels.

Sadly, it was in the fall of 2023 that we noticed a dramatic decline in Brienne's quality of life. At 18-years-old, she began suffering from mobility issues and Canine Cognitive Disorder—similar to dementia in humans. As such, we made the difficult decision to assist her in passing, allowing her to be reunited with the other Westeros animals, and her former companions as well.

Until the very end, Brienne was a force of nature that seemed eternal and indomitable. Though the time of The Westeros Pack has come to an end with her passing, Brienne's life and memory will be a touchstone for all of us as we continue our mission of rescue, sanctuary, and education.

CHUPPA

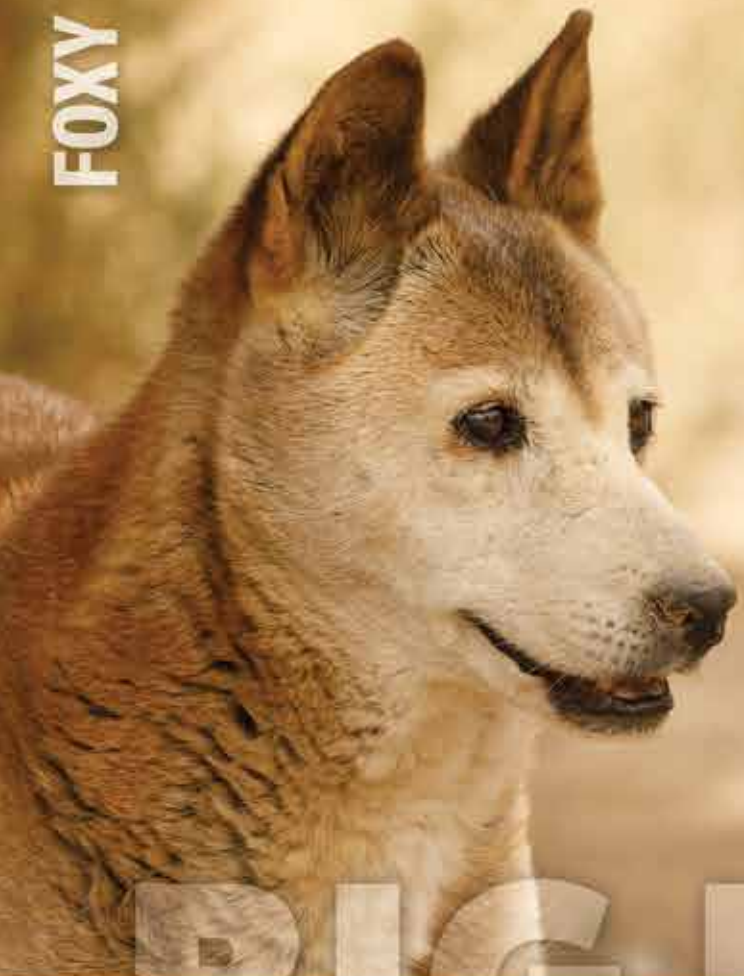


Chuppa was part of a mass rescue of eight high-content wolfdogs in Kansas that required emergency placement when their owner passed away in December of 2022. He immediately became a darling among staff and interns as he had a habit of sauntering over for pets and then burying his huge head in people's chests. Other than interacting with his favorite humans, Chuppa loved to lounge with his lifelong companion Willow under the large pine tree in their enclosure.

On July 29th, 2023 one of our Animal Care team members noticed Chuppa did not come to the fence as usual for his medications. Though he did eventually get up something was clearly wrong, so he was loaded into the van for emergency treatment. Sadly, while en route to the vet Chuppa passed away—likely due to natural and age-related causes—in the arms of one of his favorite Caretakers.

Chuppa was only with us for 3 months prior to his passing. Still, he left a permanent impact on those fortunate enough to meet him. Our team takes solace in the fact that those few months were filled with nothing but love, adoration, comfort, and peace, and we are honored to have been able to provide true sanctuary—however brief it was—for a being so benevolent and pure as him.

FOXY



Foxy was a New Guinea Singing Dog that was rescued in 2010, along with four other singers that also made their way to Wild Spirit. Our sweet lady was approximately 1-year-old at the time, and retained her shy, stoic demeanor throughout the rest of her life. Never one for human affection, Foxy always preferred the company of her companion, Bowie, to that of her Caretakers (though that didn't make us love her any less).

Unfortunately, one morning Foxy began to exhibit abnormal behaviors, alerting staff that something wasn't right. Based on what we were seeing, we suspected Bloat and immediately rushed her to the nearest veterinary clinic. Upon arrival, our suspicions were confirmed, and x-rays showed that her stomach had already twisted. Based on Foxy's age and other health conditions, and considering she was a hands-off animal, the vet recommended that we assist her in passing, rather than force her to undergo a risky surgery with such a difficult recovery process.

We said goodbye to our sassy lady, but know she is now running free with her daughter, Princess, and the rest of our "pack" across the Rainbow Bridge.

GLACIER



Glacier came to the sanctuary as a pup, along with his two brothers, Uluru and Aussie, and their mother, Kooyong, who was originally born at the Dingo Discovery and Research Center in Australia.

In his later years Glacier had been diagnosed with Intervertebral Disc Disease, a condition that is incredibly common in senior canines and mainly affects the spine and lower back, and often results in paralysis. For Glacier, IDD caused frequent hind end slouching, whether he was moving or simply standing still. Much of this was exacerbated during the cold winter months, so we elected to bring him and his brother Uluru indoors for greater comfort and increased monitoring.

Sadly, Glacier eventually started to reject his medication, which worsened his mobility. Despite our best efforts, he started to have more bad days than good, and we decided to assist him in passing, surrounded by his favorite Caretakers and eventually reunited with the rest of his family in our Big Pack in the Sky.

# BIG PACK IN THE SKY

JAEGER



Jaeger was a high-content wolfdog that was originally brought to Wild Spirit at around 1 year old, and passed away just one month shy of his 12th birthday.

As one of our most loving, calm, and gentle souls, Jaeger got to meet many of our guests in his younger years, and was well-known for enthusiastically scent-rubbing on the backs, shoulders, and heads of everyone that came to sit in his enclosure.

Unfortunately, during a routine vet visit in April we discovered that Jaeger had cancer, with no viable treatment options for an animal of his age and condition. In that moment we made the difficult decision to assist him in passing, surrounded by some of his favorite people. While we are heartbroken over his loss, we're grateful to know he is no longer in pain, and has joined so many of his old friends in our Big Pack in the Sky.

Juno was the last living member of our NOLA pack, a litter of five low-content wolfdogs rescued from a shelter in New Orleans in 2009. At the time of her passing, Juno shared her life with a male mid-content wolfdog named Lazar Wolf, who offered an abundance of love and companionship following the loss of her siblings. Though Lazar was several years her junior, Juno found immense comfort in his presence and was glad to have a friend to spend her days with again.

Sadly, at the age of 15-years-old, Juno began showing signs of decreased quality of life, such as loss of appetite and eventually, struggles with her mobility. In consultation with our vet, we decided that helping her pass on was the best decision, and our staff bid Juno a heartfelt and somber goodbye as she joined her siblings in our Big Pack in the Sky.



JUNO

KIRITO



Kirito came to us in 2021 after he was surrendered by his previous owner. He became an instant favorite among staff and volunteers because of his adorably small stature coupled with his larger-than-life personality.

Sadly, in December of 2022 Kirito was taken to the vet after exhibiting abnormal behaviors and discomfort. He was diagnosed with advanced intestinal cancer and given about 6 months to live. Though we were devastated by this news, we returned Kirito to the sanctuary determined that he would live out his days with us, however long that may be. While he outlived his prognosis, we were forced to bid him a somber goodbye on July 16th, 2023.

During his time here, Kirito garnered many nicknames, including Build-a-Bear, Curly Toes, Wolfdog-in-Sheep's-Clothing, Scruggly Man (or just Scruggles), and, perhaps most prestigiously, Danny Devito. While these nicknames are amusing, they are also a reflection of the impact Kirito had on all of us, and the unique love we had for him.

LYLA ROSE



Prior to her passing, Lyla was one of our oldest rescues. While she remained in great physical health late into life, we noticed her beginning to show signs of Canine Cognitive Disorder—similar to dementia in humans—often seeming to forget where she was and staring off into space, even in the presence of humans (which she had always been shy of). In time, she started to refuse her food, or only eat little bites, and stopped taking the medication we gave her for joint pain.

Extremely concerned for her quality of life, especially with her not eating or taking medications, we took her to a veterinary clinic and requested updated bloodwork. It was then that we discovered Lyla had entered into severe kidney disease, and her organs were failing her. Treatment for kidney failure requires consistent medication and long-term hands-on treatment, something Lyla wasn't a candidate for. As such, our staff made the decision to assist her in passing, freeing her from any pain.

Like all the coyotes at Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary, Lyla was born in the wild and was never meant to live a life impacted by humans. While we know our team will miss her dearly, we're grateful to know she can once again run wild and free with the rest of our Big Pack in the Sky.

# BIG PACK IN THE SKY

SUGAR



Having come to the sanctuary at just days old, Sugar and her siblings were hand-raised by the staff and volunteers of the time, and to this day many people still reach out to share their memories of the animals they helped care for.

Interestingly, for those at the sanctuary these days, Sugar had always been known to be a shy and hands-off animal. But for those that came before us, she was a social girl who enjoyed the company of those she knew and trusted; so much, in fact, that she could even go for walks around the sanctuary, usually in the company of her brother Powder and pack member Dakota, both of whom have since passed away.

Sadly, at 16-years-old, Sugar was called over the Rainbow Bridge where she was reunited with all her friends and family members from over the years. She is deeply missed by all that knew and loved her.

TEHYA



Tehya was just 3 years old at the time of her passing. Throughout her time with us she was in apparently good health, never exhibiting signs for concern, even during routine vet visits. So you can imagine our shock when she suddenly collapsed one afternoon, unable to make use of her back legs, resulting in a trip to the emergency vet.

Sadly, even after performing a physical exam and x-rays, vet staff were unable to determine a cause; since Tehya was unable to walk, they recommended we assist her in passing in order to ease her suffering, and perform a necropsy for greater clarity.

We soon learned Tehya had Canine Granulomatous Meningoencephalitis (GME): an inflammatory disease that affects the central nervous system and is characterized by lesions within the brain and/or spinal cord. Not much is known about what causes GME, but the chances of a positive outcome are slim. In Tehya's case there was nothing that could've been done to reverse the effects the lesions already had on her body.

While we are deeply saddened to experience the loss of such a young animal, we are grateful to know that thanks to the guidance of our trusted veterinarian, Tehya is no longer in pain.

TETON



At the time of his passing, Teton was the last living member of a litter of pure Arctic wolves that were born at Wild Spirit on May 8th, 2007, following the rescue of his father Yukon and (already pregnant) mother, Sierra.

As is often the case with senior animals, Teton began developing mobility issues in his hind legs in his later years. In the winter of 2021, these issues worsened, and he also began suffering from bouts of incontinence. With medication, Teton showed incredible resilience through the fall of 2022, but as the harsh, snow-heavy winter arrived, he began to struggle once again.

It was a frigid morning in late January, 2023 when the difficult decision was made to help Teton pass on. He was sedated and then loaded onto a stretcher to be brought down to our animal care building. As staff made the trek past several other enclosures with Teton, the entire sanctuary erupted in a mournful howl, as if his many friends and neighbors were bidding him a final farewell. Then, almost as if on cue, a heavy snow began to fall—a fitting and dignified sendoff for an Arctic wolf.

Teton's passing marks the end of an era for Wild Spirit. He was immensely popular among staff, volunteers, and visitors alike. His powerful presence in the very heart of the sanctuary, and the piercing gaze of his yellow eyes will be dearly missed.

ULURU



Uluru came to the sanctuary as a pup, along with his two brothers, Glacier and Aussie, and their mother, Kooyong, who was originally born at the Dingo Discovery and Research Center in Australia.

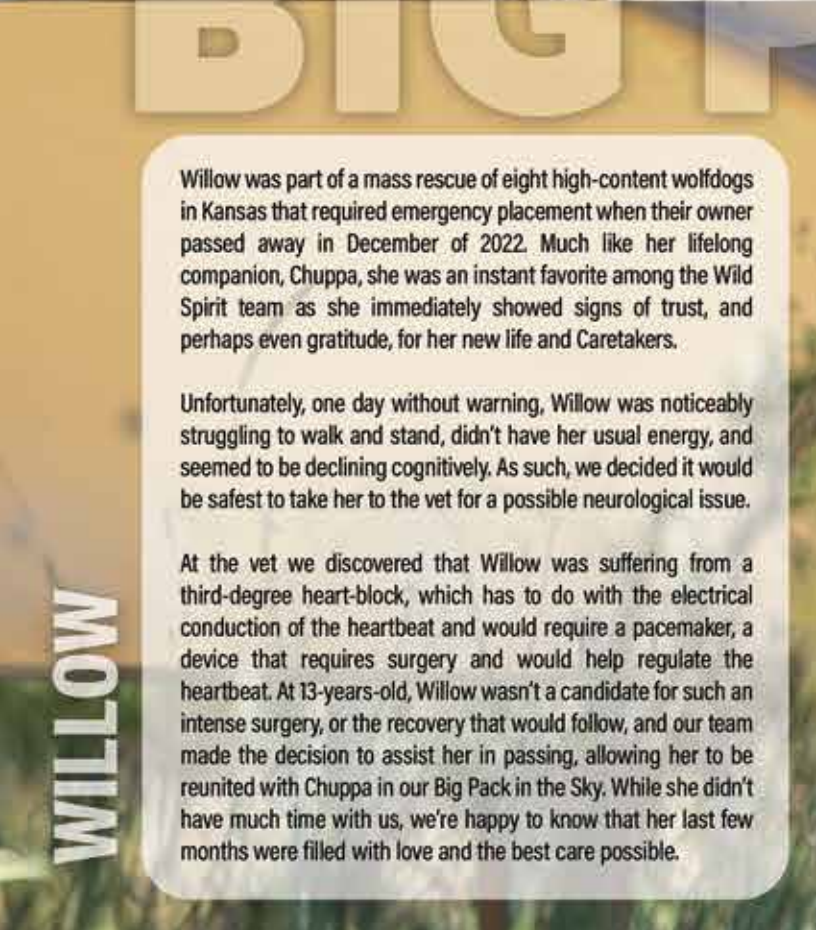
Uluru suffered from a degenerative joint disease that caused a lot of stiffness in his hind end. Over time his condition worsened, and he began refusing medications and meals, especially into the winter months. We decided it would be best to move him and his brother Glacier indoors for warmth and closer monitoring.

Sadly, the same day we moved them inside Uluru had a very sudden onset of labored heaving and diaphragmatic breathing which we had never seen before. We sent a video to our vet who initially recommended a trip to an emergency clinic, suspecting possible Lung Lobe Torsion, a rare and life-threatening phenomenon in which the lungs twist on their axis resulting in lack of oxygen, heart complications, and eventual death. However, upon discussing Uluru's age and other diagnosed health conditions, and knowing the nearest emergency vet is over 2 hours away, we agreed it would be best to assist him in passing to end his pain and suffering.

Uluru was assisted in the comfort of his indoor area, with his brother and some of his favorite Caretakers by his side. Though the team was devastated by our sweet boy's untimely passing, we're glad to know he is now running wild and free with the rest of his family on the other side of the Rainbow Bridge.

# BIG PACK IN THE SKY

WILLOW



Willow was part of a mass rescue of eight high-content wolfdogs in Kansas that required emergency placement when their owner passed away in December of 2022. Much like her lifelong companion, Chuppa, she was an instant favorite among the Wild Spirit team as she immediately showed signs of trust, and perhaps even gratitude, for her new life and Caretakers.

Unfortunately, one day without warning, Willow was noticeably struggling to walk and stand, didn't have her usual energy, and seemed to be declining cognitively. As such, we decided it would be safest to take her to the vet for a possible neurological issue.

At the vet we discovered that Willow was suffering from a third-degree heart-block, which has to do with the electrical conduction of the heartbeat and would require a pacemaker, a device that requires surgery and would help regulate the heartbeat. At 13-years-old, Willow wasn't a candidate for such an intense surgery, or the recovery that would follow, and our team made the decision to assist her in passing, allowing her to be reunited with Chuppa in our Big Pack in the Sky. While she didn't have much time with us, we're happy to know that her last few months were filled with love and the best care possible.



Zeus was a mid-content wolfdog that was rescued in 2015. While we don't know much about his life before Wild Spirit, we do know that it wasn't a kind one. At 4 years old, Zeus came to us with signs of neglect and abuse, which his body carried into old age.

Even before he was officially a "senior," Zeus was already showing signs of severe hip dysplasia, spinal-sloping, pain, and loss of mobility. Each of these suspicions were confirmed during routine vet visits, where we learned that he was also experiencing spinal degradation and loss of joint support as a result of his physical makeup. We knew, even then, that our gentle giant wouldn't be with us forever, but with a specialized treatment plan put into place with the help of our primary vet, we were able to give him a few more good years.

In the end, Zeus, who was a mostly hands-off animal throughout his time with us, let us know when he was ready for his soul to be set free from his pain-riddled body. He even allowed one of his favorite Caretakers to come into the enclosure and sit with him, giving him gentle pets while he laid by their side, allowing them both a special moment to say their goodbyes.

ZEUS

# BUILDING MUTUAL

# TRUST

One Caretaker's Personal Journey  
By August Hoffman



Freya (left) and Fenris.

I am nearing a decade working with rescued wolves and wolfdogs. They are often named after gods, deities, monsters and other mythical beings and legends. That being the case, I've met many named Fenris, and a few Freyas. But I've met none more deserving of such weighty, powerful names as the Fenris and Freya currently residing at Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary. Many will have already recognized these names from Norse mythology. Fenris (or Fenrir) was the fabled wolf who would devour the sun and kill the god Odin during Ragnarok—a cataclysmic event that heralded the end of the world. Freya, on the other hand, was the most prominent of the Norse goddesses, and presided over love, fertility, battle and death (for a more in-depth analysis of how wolves figure in folklore and mythology, see our Winter 2021 issue).

This deeply bonded pair arrived at the end of 2023. We didn't have empty enclosures available, but we worked painstakingly through the mud and snow of winter to construct them (I spent more hours than I care to remember shuffling dirt about in a small bobcat on VERY uneven terrain, flipping it over on one occasion). In the meantime, they were living in temporary 10x10 pens. This was obviously far from ideal, but better than the tragic alternatives they and their packmates were faced with.

Freya was initially pretty terrified of her new human caretakers. When one of us two-leggeds came into view, she would leap on top of her tiny wooden shelter and cower in the corner (she did this with such frequency that she ended up causing the shelter to collapse). I tried to slowly alleviate her anxieties and fear by interacting with her from a distance. Every time I walked by I would playbow at her from a few yards away, and eventually she began to reciprocate, and when she saw me approaching she would pounce on the ground and her tail would begin to twirl. Then I would give her offerings—treats, bones, weird smelling things—anything to help make life in her tiny pen a little more bearable. She accepted these with suspicion and trepidation initially, but quickly began to look forward to them.

Fenris, we were told, had a somewhat troubled history. He was described as being extremely aggressive, to the point that only his previous owner could safely interact with him in his enclosure. He had put at least one person in the hospital, though that was supposedly an incident that began as playful but then escalated into him injuring someone. Fenris displayed some seemingly contradictory behaviors with us; snarling and baring his teeth at

the sight of humans, yet also whining and soliciting for pets and affection by pressing up against the side of his pen. It was as if he wanted to trust us, but wouldn't yet allow himself to totally let his guard down.

When we finally triumphed over the elements and finished their new enclosure, we reunited them after months apart. This was one of the most rewarding and affirming moments I've ever experienced in this field. As their caretakers, we always talk about how startlingly complex canids are in terms of their emotional and intellectual capacities. And how, like us, they are fundamentally social animals who need companionship. These are things we know to be true, for it is part of what captivates us about them. But to directly witness the complexity and depth of these creatures—of Fenris and Freya—distilled into that exceedingly pure and blissful moment of their reunion, was another thing entirely. They are as bonded as any two canines I've ever seen, and I will cherish that memory till the end of my days.

Even though the two were exceedingly happy and much more comfortable in their new home, we were still apprehensive about interacting with Fenris free-contact. When we had to do work in their enclosure, Fenris was lured into a smaller, adjacent pen with a bone or other high-value item until we were done. But as summer dawned on us and we were firmly out of breeding season, which can cause dramatic behavioral changes and reactivity in

*“Each time they allow me into their home, each time I kneel down to meet their piercing gaze and am confronted with the awe-inspiring maw of the wolf, it is an exercise in mutual trust.”*

some wolves and wolfdogs, I was honored to be trusted by Wild Spirit's Executive Director, Brittany McDonald, to be the first person to interact with Fenris free-contact since his relocation to Wild Spirit. I was both exhilarated and nervous at this prospect. Fenris is one of the largest wolves in captivity I have ever seen. I'd be lying if I said my mind didn't conjure up images of the mythological Fenris, who upon being chained to the Earth by the gods for fear of

his destructive potential, bit off the hand of the god Tyr.

Yet upon entering Fenris' newfound domain for the first time, he was immediately welcoming—ears pinned back, tail softly wagging, even gently whining—he sauntered over very nonchalantly, and sidled up to me for pets. After a few more minutes of assessing his behavior, I knelt down to be face-to-face with his enormous head, and he gifted me with several very wet licks. In short, Fenris was the antithesis of aggression. The antithesis of the fabled Wolf Who Shall Devour the World and bring about the end of days.





Freya (left) gets her belly scratched while August and Fenris share some mutual admiration.

Since then, Fenris has continued to radiate a kind and inviting nature, with only some light resource-guarding tendencies observed. I have helped introduce him to many other humans, and he has greeted each of them with a gentle curiosity (with occasional moments of exploratory mischief sprinkled in. He is a son of Loki, after all!). Freya's confidence has skyrocketed with Fenris by her side, and she has begun to socialize with a select few of our staff (she's also shown her own penchant for mischief, occasionally trying to steal tools and other novel items). Even more astoundingly, both he and Freya have taken to leash work well, and are always eager to go out for a walk around the sanctuary to explore.

I hesitate to be too heavy-handed or loose with the mythological comparisons and metaphors, but their names bestow unavoidable connotations that add, at least for me, a certain gravitas to their social development and trajectory here at the sanctuary. Another layer to their story, if you will.

Each time they allow me into their home, each time I kneel down to meet their piercing gaze and am confronted with the awe-inspiring maw of the wolf, it is an exercise in mutual trust. Placing my trust in them, and they placing theirs in me. It is also just as

much an exercise in trusting myself. None of this is to say that caution isn't warranted when interacting with such predators, especially one with a history like Fenris. Rather, it's a reminder not to let fear overdetermine our relationships with others. In my reading, their story (and Fenris' in particular) is a retort to the old gods: Let us not chain, confine or flee from our fellow creatures based on the fear of what might be. Rather, in the name of trust, love and even interspecies solidarity, let us break those chains, as Fenris and Freya have taught us, in the hope of what might be. I am forever grateful to you, Fen and Freya, for your teachings, patience, and trust. May we carry these teachings with us as we continue our mission of rescue, sanctuary, and education. 🐾



*This article is a personal reflection that one of our Animal Care Specialists, August Hoffman, wrote about the development of his relationship with two of our recent rescues, Fenris and Freya. They are two of seven high-content wolfdogs that Wild Spirit rescued from Kansas in December 2022 after their previous owner had unexpectedly passed away.*

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Recent intern Kelis White with mid-content male wolfdog, Antoine. Kelis successfully completed her internship in August, 2024.



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# Need Heavy Equipment!

We're in serious need of a new backhoe! We've put a lot of time and money into our 1978 Case 580 Super E, but it has finally become too expensive to maintain. We're reaching out to our Howling Supporters hoping that one or more of you can provide us leads for a replacement! We would love to find a newer one that is in good working condition and that is less than 20 years old. Our old backhoe was in near constant use, maintaining drainage on our compound and in our campground, and helping us to move large amounts of dirt and gravel for various projects, as well as loading and unloading trucks of donated food. If you know someone willing to help, please have them contact Tim via [media@wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org](mailto:media@wildspiritwolfsanctuary.org)



The photo is NOT our current backhoe!

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