

Puppy Edition



Endangered Wolf Center
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

FALL 2019

OUR MISSION:

To preserve and protect Mexican wolves, red wolves and other wild canid species, with purpose and passion, through carefully managed breeding, reintroduction and inspiring education programs.

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CEO'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends of the Endangered Wolf Center,

"In life, change is inevitable. In business change is vital." Warren G. Bennis

The Endangered Wolf Center has experienced dramatic change over the past five years with new team members, educational programming, and collaborations and partnerships – all while remaining constant to our mission – *To preserve and protect Mexican wolves, red wolves and other wild canid species, with purpose and passion, through carefully managed breeding, reintroduction and inspiring education programs.*



Photo Credit: Kelsey Grant

Change through growth is another constant theme. The 2019 puppy season has been the largest in our nearly 50-year history with 54 births from five different species, the highlight of which came from our painted dog packs with the birth of 13 puppies from mom, Shaba, and four days later the birth of ten puppies from mom Akili. To say the staff has been busy assisting in the "Mothering" of our brood is a gross understatement, albeit an enriching, delightful experience for all.

Lastly, I am delighted to welcome Mark Cross to our team as the Endangered Wolf Center's new Executive Director. Mark is passionate about education and integrating a holistic approach to environmental stewardship and learning. I look forward to continuing to expand the EWC on all levels in collaboration with Mark and his leadership. As Executive Director, Mark will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Endangered Wolf Center, as well as overseeing development, educational programming, and staff management. He joins us from Flance Early Learning Center where he served as its Director for the past four years. While there, he doubled enrollment, increased earned and donated revenue, and successfully built partnerships with more than a dozen other agencies.



Virginia Busch
CEO

2020 Events

February 21

Trivia Night

April 26

Volunteer Appreciation Event

June 20

Members' Day

May 11-14

African Painted Dog Conference

September 12

Polo Garden Gala Classic

October 17

Howl-O-Ween Enrichment Howl

October 24

Wolf Fest

December 5

Holiday Boutique

December 27

Howliday Enrichment Howl

Managing Editor: Rachel Broom
Editorial Assistance: Betsy Heck
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Contributing Photographer:
Michelle Steinmeyer

On the cover: Two African painted dog puppies representing the first successful litter born at the Endangered Wolf Center. Learn more on page 18.



Mark Cross, Executive Director

I am delighted and honored to join the pack at the Endangered Wolf Center. I am passionate about conservation and helping to create and maintain healthy ecosystems, and as the Endangered Wolf Center is at the forefront of those efforts, I look forward to being a part of this important organization.

I have spent most of my career in nonprofit organizations, throughout the United States and overseas. In addition to serving as director of the Flance Early Learning Center, I managed the Interchange program, an arts integration program with teachers and artists, at the Center of Creative Arts (COCA), spent 12 years teaching in public schools and almost a decade in various administrative capacities with the Sisters of Mercy at hospitals in Missouri and Georgetown, Guyana in South America.

I am excited to help the Endangered Wolf Center continue to grow and build on its national and international reputation. If you are a member, volunteer, or simply interested in wolves and other canid species, please come to the EWC and introduce yourself as I would greatly enjoy talking with you about our work.



Regina Mossotti Appointed Pup Foster Advisor

Regina Mossotti, EWC's Director of Animal Care and Conservation, was appointed as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan Pup Foster Advisor. In this role Mossotti's responsibilities include mentoring facilities fostering Mexican wolves to the wild to help ensure the efforts go smoothly; to conduct and/or assist with fosters as needed; to help with foster protocol development; and to troubleshoot challenges that arise with fostering.

Mossotti, a carnivore biologist, understands the logistics that make efforts like fostering so complicated from the field perspective, combined with her extensive experience of caring for captive Mexican wolves and the challenges zoological facilities face, make her an excellent liaison between the Service and the SSP community, to assist our partners as needed and make sure this important conservation work is successful.

EWC Flood Update



The Endangered Wolf Center is currently undergoing repairs to fix the damage from devastating flash floods that occurred this summer. Unfortunately, because of weeks of rain that preceded this event, the ground was saturated and the rainwater had nowhere to go. This caused extensive erosion, exposed buried safety fencing, damaged den boxes, and the wind from the storm impaired overhangs and fencing. The animals and staff were safe, which is the most important thing. A weather event like this has not been seen in the EWC's almost 50-year history. Through the generosity of our donors and supporters, the EWC has hired experts in earthwork and grading design through Kolb Grading LLC to help divert water flow and prevent damage like this from occurring in the future. The repairs will take several months as we have to work around the animals' needs. We have started with repairing exposed ground wire in our corridors and repairing den boxes so

the animals have safe, warm and dry homes for the upcoming winter months. From all of the board, staff and volunteers, we cannot thank you, our community, enough for helping us persevere during this challenging time. While it was an unfortunate event, it was also a moment that was encouraging and inspirational because we saw how our pack came together to help the EWC and our animals. We are rebuilding so that the EWC is better than ever and so that (hopefully) nothing like this will happen again.

Shade Sails



If you were around Fox Haven this summer, you probably noticed that it was feeling much cooler. Several shade sails were donated by Lisa Houska, one of our amazing volunteers, and Alan Gaut, a new volunteer formerly of Secure Data Tech. Ameren Electric not only donated their time to install the new poles, they donated all the poles too! Guests will now be able to relax in the shade while observing the foxes and wolves during our Educator's presentation.

Happy Howlidays

The holidays are just around the corner, and we're celebrating with a few exciting events... Join us on November 30th for Small Business Saturday and shop at the Endangered Wolf Center for your special holiday gifts, including plush animals, EWC memberships and wolf adoptions. Our gift shop will open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with mini-tours available in between shopping.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Then come out on December 28th when we host our annual Howliday Celebration where guests are invited to make decorations for the animals' Christmas trees that will be put into their habitats for a special howliday enrichment.

"Citizen Science" is the collection and analysis of data relating to the natural world by members of the general public, typically as part of a collaborative project with professional scientists. Join us for our Citizen Science projects!

First, we are excited to be teaming up with the St. Louis Zoo to become a Frog Watch monitoring site. Free training will be held in early spring to prepare staff and volunteers to lead data collection for frog and toad populations.

Then in the fall we also will be participating in Project Monarch Watch, tagging 4th generation monarchs for the journey south to Mexico.

Throughout the year, Educators will also be participating in ebird bird surveys as well as iNaturalist.

Pints for the Pack

Mackenzie Brewing has joined the pack of EWC supporters. Two fun events marked the partnership and put the "fun" in "fundraising!" The EWC hosted a Campfire Wolf Howl for ages 21+ that included free beer from Mackenzie Brewing. A few weeks later Mackenzie Brewing hosted their own event at their microbrewery in Valley Park, MO. They generously donated 20% of the sales from the evening to the EWC. We look forward to working with Mackenzie Brewing for more pack events in the future.

New Turtle Habitat

Our three-toed box turtles Phoebe, Pickle, and Minya have a new home here at the EWC. These ambassador turtles came from Wildlife Rescue Center and until recently were patiently waiting in temporary indoor quarters while their new outdoor habitat was being built by our Animal Care staff and dedicated volunteers. These three lovely ladies enjoy taking walks outside and have been seen strolling around at some of our events as well as many outreaches throughout the year.

JUST FOR Pups

In the Spotlight!



Artie the Arctic fox (left) and Cooper the red fox (melanistic, right) are playful proof that adults can act like kids too. Do you know any adults who like to have fun and act like a kid?

"Pups" are what we call baby wolves.
Do you know what baby foxes are called?
Well, they're called "kits"!

Which one are you?

I'm a Pup!

- 🐾 I'm a wolf, I love to howl & sing.
- 🐾 I'm still growing into my big, big feet.
- 🐾 It's time to eat — I want some hearty meat.

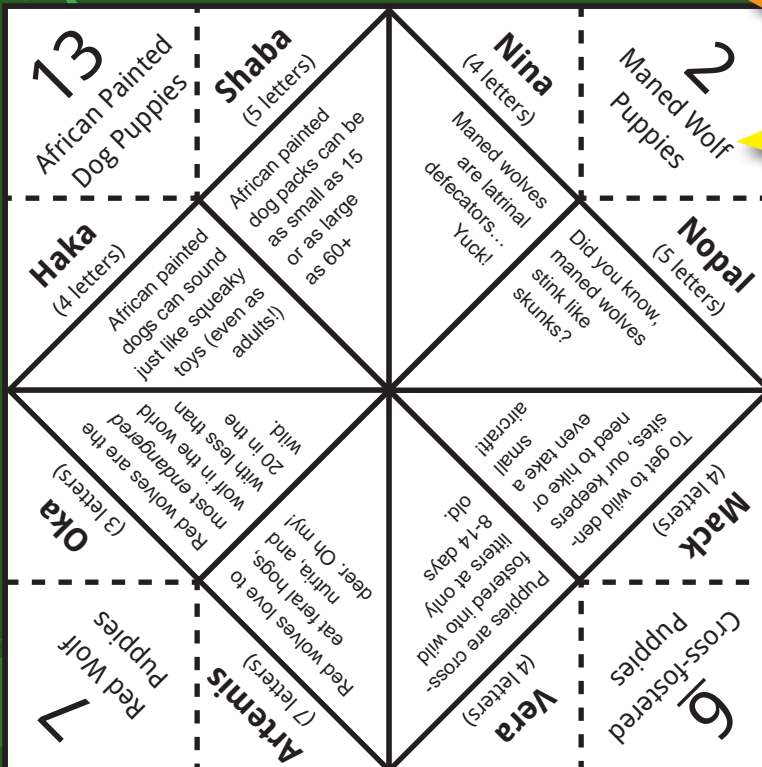
I'm a Kit!

- 🐾 Squeaking and yipping is more my style!
- 🐾 I just can't contain all my energy.
- 🐾 Fruit or fish, to me, would be so sweet.

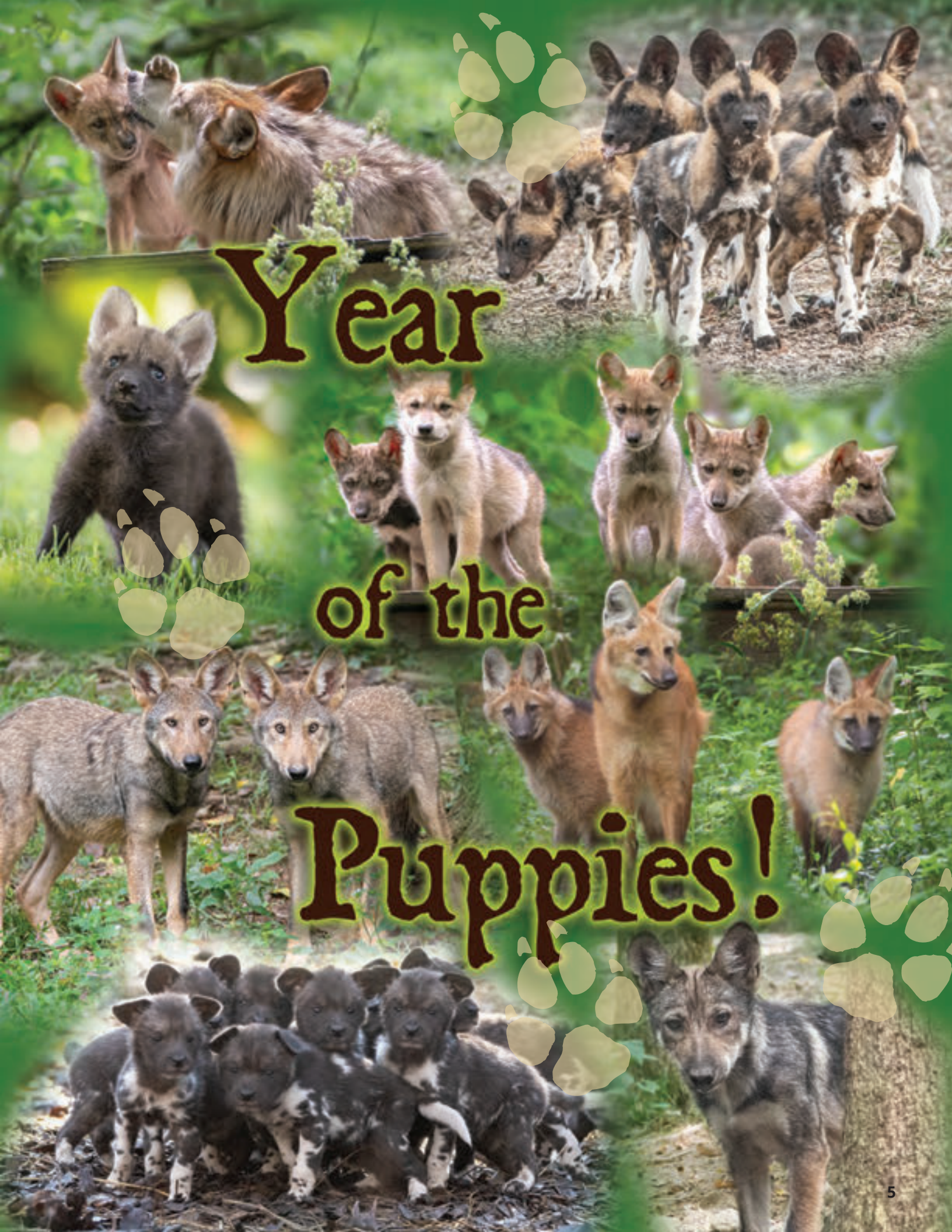
Shower your friends and family with unique facts about your favorite Endangered Wolf Center species with our fact-finder!



Above: Jr. Artists show off their skills and Leave No Trace with their Andy Goldsworthy style critter creation. No glue needed, just ground-space and nature!



With an adult's help, cut out the fact finder square above and fold it like a fortune-teller. For detailed instructions on how to fold, please visit: <https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/how-to-make-a-fortune-teller/>



Year

of the

Puppies!

OVERCOMING MANY OBSTACLES:



MEXICAN WOLF PUPS FLY TO AZ & NM TO HELP SAVE SPECIES IN HISTORIC CROSS-FOSTER EVENT

This past spring the Endangered Wolf Center once again made science and conservation history by attempting the first ever foster of six Mexican wolf pups at one time into two different packs in two different states. Funded by individual donors and the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund, we partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Interagency Field Team (IFT) which consists of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, USDA Forest Service, USDA Wildlife Services, and the White Mountain Apache Tribe. It was truly a team effort to bring these 11-day-old

pups born at the EWC to their new homes in the wilds of New Mexico and Arizona.

Cross-fostering is a technique where wolf pups from a litter in human care are placed into a wild litter in hopes that the wild wolf mother will adopt the additions as her own. This cross-foster not only helps increase the population size in the wild but increases genetic diversity for this small population.

“Saving species requires creativity and breakthroughs in conservation techniques,” said Regina Mossotti, Director of Animal Care and Conservation at the EWC. “This cross-foster was a great example of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the EWC and the states working together to seize a unique opportunity to help Mexican wolves.”

Mossotti, who also serves as a Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan Pup Foster Advisor, was accompanied by Erin Connett, EWC General Curator and Rachel Crosby, EWC Animal Keeper. This team ensured the pups were well cared for and safe during the trip to their new homes.

(above) Puppies born at the EWC integrated into a pack of puppies born in the wild.

(above left) Dr. Chris Hanley assisting with pups’ health exam before EWC staff headed to the airport.

The journey started at 3 a.m. on April 18th when the staff arrived at the EWC to collect six of Vera’s nine pups. Vera’s exceptionally large litter, combined with the timing of two wild litters, allowed this historic effort to be possible. “Fostering is difficult because it is rare to have a litter match up, so to have several at once was very exciting!” said Mossotti.

Once Vera and Mack’s pups were removed from their den, Dr. Chris Hanley, Saint Louis Zoo veterinarian, performed a quick health check before the team headed to the airport to catch their flight to the southwest. All six pups received a clean bill of health, and during the exam they were microchipped, just like domestic dogs and cats, which will help biologists identify the pups later in life.

Placed under the seats in their comfy, warm carriers, the staff took great care of their cargo. From the commercial flight to a small plane, then a drive and then a hike,



Regina Mossotti is tube feeding one of the pups. Tube feeding is a safe and easy way to quickly feed pups along the journey.



Erin Connett, Pilot Paul, Rachel Crosby and Regina Mossotti on the Arizona Game & Fish Department's plane in order to get the puppies closer to the recovery area and wild dens.

the long journey had to take place before dark to reach both dens.

"It was emotional when the den was located. We knew the pups were going home, that we did it. It was a once-in-a-lifetime moment I will never forget," said Crosby. One female pup named Laura was fostered into the Prime Canyon Pack in Arizona, growing their seven-pup litter to eight. Two other females, Dianne and Winnie, and three male pups, Max, Victor and Boomer, were fostered into the Frieborn Pack in New Mexico. The Frieborn Pack already consisted of six puppies, so biologists decided it was best to bring three of the wild male pups, Ripley, Logan and one sweet pup that still needs a name, to the Endangered Wolf Center to be fostered by parents Vera and Mack. This gave the Frieborn Pack a total of eight puppies, the maximum given to a pack because wolf mothers have eight nipples.

The goal of fostering is to put new genetics into the wild population, and the pups



Regina Mossotti and Rachel Crosby after putting EWC pups into the den, which is behind them up the hill in the rocks.

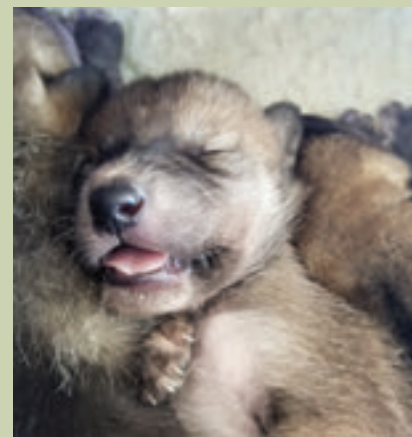


Rachel Crosby taking a genetic sample (cheek swab) from a wild pup at the den.

from managed care represent new genetics that can help make the overall population healthier. Bringing the wild pups into managed care also helps create better genetic flow between the two populations (captive and wild) which will help make the overall population healthier.

Extreme terrain, weather and logistics make fostering challenging, and the timing has to be just right. Wild and captive litters have to be born within a few days of one another, and the transfer from managed care to the wild has to occur before the pups are fourteen days old. "Everything has to line up...the stars, the sun, the moon, and the planets all have to align to make a foster happen," said Mossotti.

"Our staff members are experts, and they did an incredible job making sure that these precious pups stayed safe, warm and well-cared for on their journey to the wild," said Virginia Busch, Endangered Wolf Center CEO. "The Endangered Wolf Center is proud of our efforts to collaborate to grow the conservation success for the endangered species we're working to protect."



Mexican wolf puppies born at the EWC sleeping cuddled together during their airplane ride to the wild recovery area.

About Mexican Wolves

Mexican wolves are a critically endangered wolf native to the Southwestern United States. Once numbering in the hundreds of thousands, extermination programs and habitat loss have led to a dramatic decline. It was almost too late when scientists learned how important this keystone species was to keeping an ecosystem healthy, and in the late 1970s the last remaining wild Mexican wolves were captured in an effort to save them; technically they were extinct in the wild. The seven remaining Mexican wolves that were brought into managed care, including a few of the founders that came to the Endangered Wolf Center, started the breeding and recovery program. In 1998, the first Mexican wolves were released back into the wild in Arizona and New Mexico. That population has grown to 150 Mexican wolves today, mostly found in Arizona and New Mexico.

Learn more at <https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/>.

Although the foster program is relatively new, some of the first pups fostered have reached maturity, resulting in another historic foster event—for first time, a wild wolf parent that was once a fostered pup grew up to become the alpha male of the Prime Canyon Pack in the wild and is now a parenting a foster pup. It's another cross-foster success story.

Cross-fostering is now considered a successful tool in helping with Mexican wolf preservation, and it's a technique the EWC is proud to champion. 🐾

GIFTS RECEIVED JULY 1, 2018—SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

We make every effort to acknowledge all gifts received and to maintain accurate records. If you discover a discrepancy or have questions, please call Judith at 636-938-9306.

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Virginia Busch welcoming Jack Hanna and Julie Catron to the Center for a special tour. Virginia and Jack have been working together on conservation initiatives for over 19 years making this visit a special reunion.

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Celebrating our volunteers, partners and leaders this spring during the Partners Appreciation Dinner with Regina Mossotti, Marjorie and Jeremiah Dellas, Dr. Jeffrey Bonner, Virginia Busch and Dr. Chris Kostman.

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Joan Berkman, EWC Public Relations Consultant, welcoming the Center's new Executive Director, Mark Cross.



Animal Keeper Danielle holding N'gamba, an African painted dog puppy named by Jane Habbegger, during a health check exam.

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Virginia Busch and Kathy Snowden introducing an African serval kitten to Kathy's grandchildren igniting their hearts and creating future conservationists.



It was an exciting moment when Erin Connett introduced Chrys, a maned wolf puppy born last fall to his sponsors and namers, Dr. Peter Weiss and Dr. Barbara Horn during his health exam.

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 Mr. Kevin Wills
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Charlie and Michelle Meyers
 Ms. Laura Lucas



Dr. Bill Armon recently retired and was honored this spring for serving 45+ years as the EWC's staff veterinarian.

Kristin Huizinga
 Ms. Judy Van Elk Huizinga

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 Mrs. Jennifer Nguyen

Steve Johnson
 Ms. April Leach

Peg Kaltenthaler
 Ms. Rebecca Pehle

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 Ms. Masja Kampinga

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 Ms. Kay Peterson Cook

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 Ms. Brandi Rammelkamp
 Mr. and Mrs. Eric Rammelkamp
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We provided a unique opportunity to our supporters that named our African painted dog puppies by inviting them to attend a health exam. EWC Board member Sally Kriegel, Keeper Danielle Rosenstein, and Terry and Sue Schoeninger came to support Suelly during her exam.

Adam Rimmer

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Caroline Rudnick

Ms. Amy Rudnick

Celeste Ruwwe

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Sam and his love for wolves

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Keepers Rachel Crosby and Danielle Rosenstein posing with puppies Raina and Rowdy along side their sponsors and namers Molly and Betty Beckmann.

Leni Kriger

Ms. Deborah Wodraska

Harlan Kuddes

Ms. Tamara Kuddes

Raj Kumar and Lila Dixit

Drs. Vishva and Manjul Dixit

"Fozzie"

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Mr. and Mrs. Roger Eime

Mr. and Mrs. Barry Hauf



Glenn and Gail Kellow named two Mexican wolf puppies, Laura and Boomer before the two ventured to their new home in the wild recovery area.

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Two Socks, Shadow and Kumaj

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Joyce and Doug Wiley attended the African painted dog puppies' health exam in support of Lady and Duke, the two puppies they named and sponsored.



Generous supporter, Janet McGehee and General Curator, Erin Connett got to know a very special guest, a baby kangaroo, at Wolf Fest.

Our tiniest new additions - Swift fox kits



One boy and three female swift fox kits were born on May 2, 2019 to parents Catherine and Havoc, the pair's first litter.



One of the swift fox kits exploring its habitat on a beautiful sunny day at the Endangered Wolf Center.

The Endangered Wolf Center is happy to announce the birth of a litter of swift fox kits! One boy and three girls were born on May 2, 2019 to parents Catherine and Havoc, the pair's first litter.

Catherine came to us from the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls, SD in July 2018. She is feisty and a little nervous around people. As a new mom, she was duly protective, alarm barking whenever the Animal Care staff walked by their habitat. It is rare to hear vocalizations from swift foxes, but she warned her kits of our approach every time for the first few weeks.

Havoc, born here in 2012 to Peggy and Ernie, is a favorite among staff and visitors. As one of the first swift foxes to be involved in our training program, he is a star, demonstrating confidence, well-trained behaviors and even creating artwork.

The Animal Care team began building relationships with the kits by offering them meat chunks at about four weeks of age. They were shy at first and would hide when Catherine alarm-barked. Havoc would carry food to the den boxes and call the kits to let them know it was time to eat. As the kits have grown, their differing personalities have started to show – all three girls are confident and one is extremely bold. The boy is shy, hanging out in a den box and getting meat chunks from dad. Mom no longer alarm-barks, seeming content to allow the kits to retrieve their own treats from keepers. We look forward to working with the kits

more and watching them accomplish their developmental milestones.

Swift foxes are charismatic with alert, intelligent personalities and incredible physical abilities. The species earned its name from early Western settlers impressed by its speed and agility—the swift fox has been clocked at nearly 40 mph. Considered the smallest of North America's wild canids at just four to six pounds, the swift fox (*Vulpes velox*) is smaller than the average housecat. They are primarily nocturnal predators, hunting almost continuously from dusk to dawn, feeding on small mammals such as rats, mice, squirrels, and rabbits, as well as birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and vegetation.

Swift foxes' habitat is mixed grass prairies, and they are native to 10 U.S. states and two Canadian provinces. Recent studies suggest that swift fox habitat is changing in some areas – unusually high precipitation, leading to an increase in vegetation height and density, may lead to a decrease in swift foxes in these areas. Other challenges include diseases that affect the food sources for swift foxes, resulting in swift fox population decline. Researchers are studying these factors to understand why some populations are doing well while others are not and are working to find ideal habitat for future releases.


The kits born this year at the EWC offer hope for the continued efforts to help keep the swift fox population healthy, helping to create awareness and conservation action for this small, fragile and vital species. 🐾

New Junior Volunteer Program

Calling all Junior Volunteers! We're looking for teens who are interested in conservation efforts, wolves and other canid species, or who want to give back to the community. Our Junior Volunteer program has flexible scheduling and includes volunteer opportunities that include:

- ✓ Creating enrichment for our animals
- ✓ Helping with our special events, such as Wolf Fest
- ✓ Assisting with education programs, including our PredaTours, scout programs, and birthday parties
- ✓ Helping with evening programs such as Wolf Howls and overnights
- ✓ Assisting with summer camps

Junior Volunteers are between 14 - 17 years old. If you're interested, please contact Lauren Pickard at info@endangeredwolfcenter.org for an application.



Junior Volunteers making enrichment out of papier mache for the animals at the Endangered Wolf Center. Enrichment items provide the animals with activities that help preserve, encourage, and challenge their natural instincts.

Volunteer & Staff



Ron Suchara Volunteer

Ron Suchara is a retired chemist who has recently joined our volunteer pack. An accomplished musician, teacher and a member of St. Louis Woodworker's Guild, Ron is passionate about wolves. Feeling a lifelong connection to wolves, he has a strong desire to try to help them survive and

flourish. Ron has already contributed immensely to the EWC; he built a cedar storage bench for guests to enjoy that also serves as storage for our hose when it's not in use; he has cut and sanded hundreds of cedar cookies for us to use in kids' crafts at events; and he built us a new corn-hole game. Most recently, Ron constructed a beautiful custom checkerboard with checker pieces featuring wolves and moons. With Ron's expertise leading classes and his skills as a musician and woodworker, we are excited to have his help in our pack! 🐾

Erin Connett General Curator

Following her lifelong passion, Erin Connett has always worked for and around animals - from her first job as a federal Park Ranger at the Riverlands Area to serving at the Missouri Department of Conservation as a Naturalist at Rockwoods Reservation and

then a 15-year career at the Saint Louis Zoo in the Carnivore Department working with bears, big cats, hyenas, painted dogs, sea lions, red pandas and more. During her time with the Zoo, she won numerous awards, became the first Polar Bears International (PBI) Arctic Ambassador and helped certify the Zoo as an official Arctic Ambassador Center through PBI.

Erin joined the EWC pack in 2018, and this past spring she was part of the foster team that placed Mexican wolf pups into wild dens in Arizona and New Mexico. "This has been the most exhausting but most amazing thing I have ever done in my life!" Erin says. "The Endangered Wolf Center has been the leader of canid conservation and I am so honored to be a part of this pack!" 🐾



Fall Family Fun at Wolf Fest 2019

We don't know who had a better time at Wolf Fest 2019 – the kids on the rock wall, the adults taking the day to unplug and connect with nature, or the Vikings cooking porridge – yes, you read that correctly! This year we added Viking demonstrations into the mix at Wolf Fest and it was a fun and educational experience!

Attendees enjoyed a beautiful fall day of up-close animal experiences, live music, food trucks, and shopping for local arts and crafts.

Our canid tours were extra special this year because guests had a chance to see some of our many pups born this spring. Red wolf pups romped with mom and dad, while African painted dog pups were given a special enrichment meal that

taught our visitors about their unique family dynamics.

Proceeds from Wolf Fest make a huge impact in benefitting our work and supporting our critical conservation efforts. We are filled with gratitude after seeing all of the smiling faces at this year's event. It was truly a special day for guests of all ages.

Wolf Fest 2020 is already in the works and set for October 24th, so mark your calendars for our largest annual fall family festival! 🐾

Presented by: Emerson

EVENT SPONSORS:

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Authentic Viking demonstrations wowed audiences on the "battlefield".



Jaw-dropping cuteness of an African serval kitten presented by David Jackson and Lisa Hugueley of Conservation Ambassadors.



Kids and kids at heart enjoyed rock climbing and face-painting in our kid's area.

Polo 2019

An Exciting Garden Gala to Benefit Our Endangered Canids

The Endangered Wolf Center hosted the Polo Classic Garden Gala on September 14, 2019 at the McGehee Polo Field in Chesterfield. The benefit was a huge success and for the first time we raised more than \$100,000 to support our conservation mission.

Guests and sponsors were treated to a garden gala experience in cabanas overlooking the polo match. Decorated with plants provided by Kirkwood Gardens, they were served a special meal catered by Flavor 360 and desserts by Nothing Bundt Cakes. Floral design and

decor by Cass Olson Designs created the perfect ambience to take in the action of this "Sport of Kings."

Whether a family outing or business occasion, guests of all ages couldn't help but be caught up in the action and prowess of the athletes and their horses.

Thank you to our generous supporters, the St. Louis Polo Club, and our hosts Smith and Janet McGehee for joining us in supporting endangered wolves, foxes, and other canids in this unique way! 🐾

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SymBowl
Eugene Tichacek



Our generous Polo Classic Garden Gala Event Sponsor, Kevin Beckmann with EWC Director of Development, Rachel Broom.



Cynthia Ven, Linda, and Bill Houts reserved a private cabana including charcuterie, drinks and the perfect view of the polo match.



Lauren and Pat Duggan, Grant Sharp and Becky Claas from Duggan Construction attended the match to show their support.



Gene Tichacek and Gail Bowman enjoyed the polo match from the sponsors' party tent.



African Painted Dogs

A Growth Study

This year was nicknamed “Year of the Puppies” by many of our staff and volunteers as the Endangered Wolf Center experienced a population boom that broke a record! Among our 54 pups born this past season, our largest addition was our 23 African painted dog pups.

Mother Shaba gave birth to 13 pups and her sister, Akili, gave birth to 11 pups. It is incredibly unusual for two females in the same pack to give birth at the same time and have pups from both litters survive.

“Even though it is incredibly rare, we knew it was a possibility so we [EWC] planned and prepared extensively for it, just in case... but we honestly didn’t think it would happen.” said Regina Mossotti, Director of Animal Care and Conservation at the EWC. Mossotti also sits on the management team for the African Painted

Dog Species Survival Plan (APDSSP); the SSP helps manage the genetics and care of the population for this endangered species at over 25 facilities across the country.

African painted dogs are unique in the Canidae family (canids, relatives in the dog family, like wolves, foxes, etc.) for their exceptionally large litter sizes of 10 pups. To put this in perspective, wolves have an average of four to five pups in a litter.

The EWC staff did an excellent job preparing their habitats and dens, making sure they were warm and safe, providing great nutrition for the mothers, and conducting round the clock observations during labor and for weeks after the births to ensure the mothers and pups were thriving.

The Pack Grows

Shaba went in to labor first on November 16, 2018 and was calm and attentive to the pups. She had 13 pups and kept them all alive, clean and well fed. Four days later, Akili went into labor and gave birth to her own litter of 11 pups, one of which was stillborn. The remaining 10 pups were healthy and both first time parents quickly became remarkable mothers.

The EWC was able to share this experience with the public on our live webcams, and we had hundreds of thousands of views from people all over the world. This learning opportunity showed the beautiful, nurturing side of this endangered species.



In spite of their close relationship, the sisters had to be separated during their labors. We had hoped that we would be able to put the mothers and their pups back together but when this was attempted, they showed increased protectiveness of their litters. We decided to keep the mothers separate to give their pups the best chance of survival.

Haka, the father of both litters, spent time with each of them and was able to travel between the two habitats. He was an amazing father, regurgitating to both mothers while they were nursing, and once the pups were old enough, he brought them food as well. He was patient, caring, and playful with the pups, but disciplined them when they would get a little unruly.

A Unique Research Opportunity with Global Impact

With large litters of pups with similar genetics, Mossotti saw a unique research opportunity. It has been observed that wild painted dogs may have certain physical characteristics that differ from those in managed care. The EWC took this opportunity to study how diet could affect the leg length and growth of African painted dog pups. The separation



Akili displaying a large pregnant belly during her pregnancy.

of the pack allowed the EWC to feed one litter a typical, controlled zoo diet, while the other litter could be free fed, as much food as they could eat until six months old to mimic wild pups' diets.

Mossotti reached out to Tammy Cloutier, a Ph.D. candidate at Antioch University and painted dog researcher to collaborate on this research effort. Cloutier and Mossotti collected data and added it to Cloutier's research to compare growth of painted dogs raised under typical human care with nutritional conditions enforced versus mimicking wild nutritional patterns.



Dr. Rhiannon McKnight and EWC Lead Keeper Sarah Holaday retrieving this African painted dog pup to conduct its health exam.

This research has important implications both for in situ (wild) and ex situ (captive) management and conservation of African painted dogs. In managed care, we strive to provide the best welfare to our animals across the zoological community, and we want to ensure that we use the species' natural history to guide our animal care protocols. To base these protocols on sound science that takes in the needs of the wild and captive dogs is vital to the SSP's success.

This research can also help wildlife management decisions in the wilds of Africa. Learning what the nutritional and caloric needs are of the wild pups can help wildlife managers make more informed decisions on how to protect and manage the dwindling wild populations of African painted dogs to ensure they have the resources to push conservation further.

Research is a critical part of the EWC's mission. The more we know about and

understand a species, the better equipped we are to save them, to make conservation and management decisions that are thoughtful and effective.

A Lot of Mouths to Feed

The EWC's supporters stepped up to help fund this vital research because feeding 26 painted dogs is very expensive and required a lot of staff time.

"It is like feeding 26 of your family members steak dinners three times a day," said Erin Connett, EWC General Curator. Connett was instrumental in implementing the logistical needs for this research, as well as managing the intern observations.

The pups at the EWC, regardless of species, receive health checks and vaccinations at around six, nine, 12 and 16 weeks of age. Just like domestic dog pups, vaccinations at this age ensure they have the best chance at survival. During these health checks, we collaborated with the Saint Louis Zoo veterinary team, Dr. Dan Frasier, Dr. Rhiannon McKnight, Dr. Tammy Smith and Washington University researchers, as well as our staff, interns and volunteers to assist with the exams to ensure that they went quickly and smoothly. We took the last measurement of the pups at their six-month exam, the estimated time where major growth stops.

Cloutier is currently analyzing the data and the research will be submitted for publication once data analysis is complete.

"This was an incredible moment added to the EWC's rich history. I am proud of our staff for stepping up and seizing this opportunity to push the limits of knowledge further," said Busch, EWC Chief Executive Officer. "The work that went into the research and the world class care of our animals is what makes the EWC so special. The Center's dedication, passion and expertise is how we continue to make significant impacts in canid conservation."

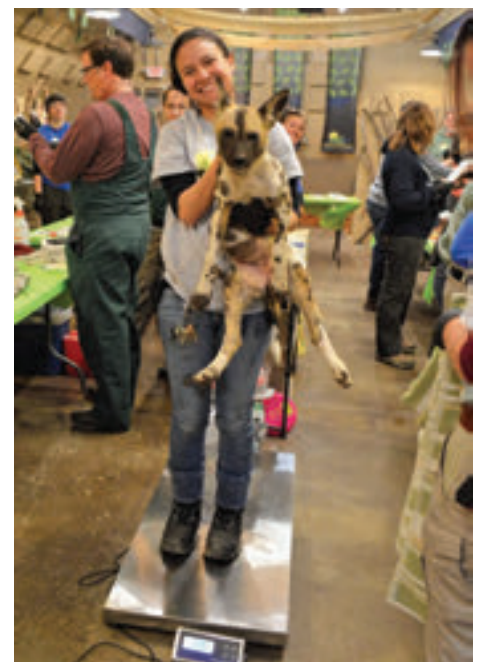


Collecting body measurements at different ages and stages of growth provided valuable data for the nutritional growth study. EWC General Curator Erin Connett measured this puppy's head at 14 weeks old.

Keeping Up with the Pups

Once the pups reached six months old, Akili and her 10 pups moved to their new home at Cincinnati Zoo, an APDSSP partner and home to African Painted Dog SSP Coordinator, Christina Gorsuch, who will help manage and care for this pack. We could not have asked for a better home for our painted dog family.

You can follow Haka, Shaba and their 13 pups on the EWC's live webcams, and Akili and her 10 pups on Cincinnati Zoo's Facebook page. You can also help painted dog conservation and the efforts of the EWC by donating to the EWC, symbolically adopting the African painted dog pack and sharing their story with your friends and families. 🐾



EWC Lead Keeper Sarah Holaday is weighing one of Akili's puppies helping to determine its growth progress.

Meet our “Champion Pack” of American Red Wolves!

This spring the EWC welcomed eight American red wolf pups, born in two litters in April and May. There are six males and two female pups, and they are OH SO CUTE.

Red, White, and BLUES!

We call this our “Champion Pack” because the litters were born right around the St. Louis Blues’ Stanley Cup victory. Our wonderful supporters named two of the pups Gloria and Stanley as an homage.

They are certainly future “champions” for their species, the most endangered wolf species in the world with less than 20 wolves left in the wild and around 250 in the captive breeding program. These new additions to our pack are small now, but they will have a BIG impact on their species’ survival.



Stanley, named in honor of the St. Louis’ Blues Stanley Cup victory in 2019, is part of our “Champion Pack”. His sister, Gloria, and the rest of their pack represent hope for the most endangered wolf species in the world, the American red wolf.

The EWC has played an integral role in saving the critically endangered red wolf; we have bred a total of 45 red wolf pups since their survival program began in the 1980s. Today, many of the red wolves now roaming in North Carolina’s wild territory can trace their roots back to the EWC.

A strikingly beautiful animal, the red wolf is a different species from its gray wolf cousins, and slightly smaller, weighing between 55-70 pounds. Red wolves fill a different niche in the ecosystem than



▲ The Champion Pack represents hope for their species.



▲ Raising a pack of champions is a full time job for parents Oka and Artemis.



▼ Oka and Artemis are wonderful, nurturing parents.

their smaller cousins, the coyote, and focus on a different prey source.

The American red wolf is truly a national treasure as the only large carnivore species solely native to the United States.

Historically, red wolves were found throughout the Southeastern United States, including Missouri, Arkansas, Texas and Illinois. The last red wolf seen in the wilds of Missouri was in the 1950s.

Red wolves were declared extinct in the wild in 1980, due to predator control programs, poaching, coyotes migration, loss of habitat, and disease from domestic dogs. More than 40 zoological and conservation institutions have come together in an effort to save red wolves.

Behind the Scenes of Saving an Endangered Species



Wildlife Filmmaker Alex Goetz captures an EWC team meeting before red wolf vet exams.

To raise awareness and educate a broader audience about the critical situation facing the American red wolf, the EWC collaborated with The Conservation Centers for Species Survival [C2S2] and National Geographic award-winning filmmakers from Running Wild Media to create an educational film: *Resilience: the Story of the American Red Wolf*. Our Champion Pack was six weeks old when the film crew came to St. Louis to capture footage of our vet exams, facility, and interview our expert Animal Care team.

This film will be a free resource for schools, zoos, the public and the conservation community to spread awareness and create action for the world’s most endangered wolf.

They represent hope for their species and an opportunity to balance our natural ecosystems here in the United States.

What You Can Do to Help

Small actions make a big difference.

Sharing knowledge, volunteering with wildlife organizations such as the EWC, donating to fund conservation programs, and doing your part to live sustainably impacts our natural world.

These adorable red wolf pups are also available for adoption through our Adopt-A-Wolf Program.

Your support makes you an advocate for wolves and wild places whose ecosystems depend on them. 🐾

Best Birthday Surprise — Maned Wolf Pups!

Nina, a female maned wolf arrived at the Endangered Wolf Center in August 2010, less than a year old and full of energy! She immediately became a favorite, with her bold and curious personality. For the majority of her life she lived with her sister, Freesia, but a big change came in 2015, when the EWC welcomed a handsome new male named Nopal (Spanish for “prickly pear cactus”) from the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute to pair with her. Nopal’s shy and calm personality is the perfect complement to Nina’s outgoing and audacious character. They immediately bonded and are often seen cuddling in their den, grooming each other, or walking together exploring their habitat. They are a favorite sight on our tours, and our guests walk away with an appreciation for their threatened species, eager to help in their conservation.



Nina, a maned wolf, with her puppies at six months old.

Near the end of September 2018, keepers at the EWC observed breeding behavior between Nina and Nopal. Because maned wolves are notorious for not “showing” during their pregnancies, keepers couldn’t be sure – but they crossed their fingers and readied the heated den box in hopes of soon welcoming pups.

On November 27, 2018 Nina gave birth on her own 9th birthday! Could there be a better gift? Nina and Nopal became parents to two maned wolf pups, a girl, Francisca, and a boy, Chrys - their first successful litter. Through close monitoring via den cameras, keepers observed Nina quickly became a dutiful mother, grooming and nursing her pups.

In the beginning, Nopal gave Nina space, letting her focus on caring for the pups. He was happy to see her when she came out to stretch her legs, but seemed to know not to disturb the little ones.

As the pups grew, Nopal stepped in to help Nina with caring for them. His patience was amazing, letting the pups climb all over him, often playing tug-o-war with dad’s ears and tail. It was amazing to watch both parents and their tiny pups snuggle together in the den. Francisca and Chrys are healthy and active, and at just about a year old, they



(above) Chrys, a male maned wolf puppy named in honor of its genus *Chrysocyon*. Maned wolves are the only species in this genus.

(above left) Francisca, a maned wolf puppy, exploring her habitat at nine weeks old.

are exploring their habitat and learning valuable skills.

Maned wolves are unique, unfamiliar to many people due to the small number in zoological facilities. They are native to South America, where its range extends from the Amazon basin in Brazil to the dry shrub forests of Paraguay and northern Argentina.

The maned wolf is a canid, and therefore related to the wolf, but despite its name, is not actually a wolf. Maned wolves are more closely related to an ancient ancestor of today’s modern canids. It is the only species in its genus, however, meaning that the maned wolf has no close relatives. Their foxlike appearance, in conjunction with their remarkably long legs, has earned them the nickname of “fox on stilts.” As the tallest canid in the world, they stand at nearly 3 ½ feet tall, but weigh less than 50 lbs). 🐾

EWC Awarded Prestigious National Award in Conservation

The EWC is honored to have received the prestigious Edward H. Bean Award from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, announced at the AZA's recent national conference in New Orleans.

The Edward H. Bean Award recognizes a significant captive propagation effort that clearly enhances the management of the species. The Endangered Wolf Center was recognized for our long-term work with the critically endangered Mexican wolf that has produced multiple successful births that have a quantifiable impact on the sustainability of the species or subspecies.

This is a tremendous honor and a testament not only to our dedicated staff, but to the commitment and unyielding support of our wonderful Board members, volunteers and supporters.

The Endangered Wolf Center has been a part of Mexican wolf recovery since the beginning of the program. We hold the honor of having the most Mexican wolf pups born at one facility, with 231 pups since 1980. Part of the EWC's success can



A Mexican wolf puppy that successfully made her journey to the wild this year.

be attributed in part to the thoughtful husbandry protocols developed by our expert staff that take the requirements of the animals and their natural history into account. The EWC has always put the needs of the recovery species as our top priority, knowing the critical role each individual can play in ensuring the success of the conservation program.



The Endangered Wolf Center has not only been the most successful breeding facility for Mexican wolves, but we have also conducted and supported vital research, prioritized sharing knowledge, and we work to create innovative conservation techniques. We understand the power of collaboration and have forged partnerships across the United States and Mexico that help grow Mexican wolf conservation efforts.

The EWC continues to be a model for other zoological, breeding and research institutions by communicating critical conservation messages and for promoting greater conservation action.

Winning this national, significant conservation award reinforces our standing as a world-renowned conservation organization. Previous honorees include the Bronx Zoo, Minnesota Zoo, Vancouver Aquarium, Disney's Animal Kingdom, and the Saint Louis Zoo — so we are indeed in lofty company.

In announcing the award winners, AZA President and CEO Dan Ashe said, "We are proud to honor the distinguished leaders in our profession for their outstanding accomplishments. Their contributions have inspired all within the zoo and aquarium community to advance AZA's mission of creating a world where all people respect, value, and conserve wildlife and wild places."

For almost five decades, our staff, volunteers and supporters have worked



Regina Mossotti, EWC Director of Animal Care and Conservation, received the Edward H. Bean Award at the AZA Conference by AZA President and CEO, Dan Ashe.

to create a Center recognized for not only our achievements, but our leadership role in the recovery of the endangered species in our care. YOU, our supporters, have been an important part of our success. Your commitment to wildlife conservation, and your ongoing support of our work with all of our canid species, enables us to be a leader in this most essential cause. 🐾



Vera, a Mexican wolf mom at the EWC watching over her pup born this spring.



Join the Pack Today!

Contribute to the possibilities of tomorrow. Join a growing group of people dedicated to wildlife preservation through your membership gift today.

Yes, I want to support and save the wolves with my membership gift of:

Basic Membership Level

☐ \$50 Friend of EWC (\$5/month)

Includes free PredaTour for 2, a member gift, discounts in gift shop and select programs and magazine subscription

☐ \$95 Family Pack (\$8.50/month)

Includes all of the above and free PredaTour for 4

Adopt-a-Wolf Membership Levels

☐ \$135 Adopt-a-Wolf (\$12/month)

Includes all of the above plus an adoption certificate, photo, bio, plush and updates from Animal Care staff

☐ \$250 Animal Keeper (\$22/month)

Includes all of the above plus an enrichment activity for 4

☐ \$500 Wolf Guardian (\$42/month)

Includes all of the above plus a beautiful photo book and an invitation to "Dine with the Keepers"

☐ \$1,000 Alpha Member (\$84/month)

Includes all of the above plus a free VIP Animal Interaction Tour for 4 (ages 14+)

Payment Information:

☐ Enclosed is a check or money order payable to the Endangered Wolf Center.

☐ Please charge \$_____ to my ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Account Number: _____ Exp. Date _____ Security Code: _____

Signature (as it appears on the card) _____

Telephone Number _____ Email _____

My company, _____ will match my contribution.

Send via enclosed envelope to: Endangered Wolf Center, PO Box 760, Eureka, Mo. 63025

Thank you for your support!

☐ Yes, I want to contribute to the possibilities of tomorrow by joining a growing group of people dedicated to wildlife preservation through my recurring gift!

☐ I authorize the Endangered Wolf Center to make the following automatic monthly transfer of \$_____ from my (please check one option):

☐ Credit Card/Debit Account (simply fill out credit card form)

☐ I will set up a monthly bill payment at my bank

☐ Checking Account (simply fill out and enclose a check for your first payment) Automatic transfers will occur each month on the following day:

Please check one: ☐ 3rd ☐ 18th

This authorization will remain in effect until I notify the Endangered Wolf Center in writing that I wish to change or stop my contributions.

Signature _____ Date _____

PLEASE HELP US MEET OUR \$100,000 MATCHING GRANT

Please help us meet our biggest matching grant offer ever!

The August A. Busch III Charitable Trust has offered to match dollar-for-dollar all donations up to \$100,000 until Dec. 31, 2019. Please consider a tax-deductible gift and help us reach this historic matching grant. You can make a donation via our website, endangeredwolfcenter.org. Please write "Matching Grant" in the notes field at the bottom of the donation form. You can also donate by calling 636-938-9306. Be sure to tell your friends when you do and encourage them to match your gift. Thanks everyone, and a special thank you to our generous matching grant sponsor!

LEGACY GIFTS

We are deeply grateful for the significant commitments our friends and supporters make through their estate plans in the form of bequests or living trusts. For information on establishing a legacy that reflects your dedication to wildlife preservation, please call Rachel Broom at 636-938-9306.

RELOCATING YOUR DEN? KEEP THE PACK INFORMED!

You can help us save resources and keep our records up-to-date by notifying us of new or incorrect mailing and email addresses. Together we will continue to keep you informed on wolf conservation issues.

BE A MATCH-MAKER

Do you work for a business or corporation that has a matching gift program? If so, your gift can be matched dollar-for-dollar or on a 2-to-1 or even 3-to-1 basis! Some companies also have a matching gift program for your volunteer hours. To learn more, contact your HR department.



Generous supporters, Virginia and August A. Busch III, have offered the largest year-end matching grant of \$100,000 to the EWC.



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send us your email address at
info@endangeredwolfcenter.org
and we'll send email updates.



Oka, an American red wolf at the Center became a father of seven puppies this spring.