

**50 AND STILL WILD!**



**Endangered  
Wolf Center  
2021 Edition**



## **Our Vision:**

Protecting the heart of the wild for more than 50 years, our vision is a world where endangered wolves thrive in their native habitats and are valued for their vital roles in a healthy ecosystem.

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## CEO'S MESSAGE

*Friends of the Endangered Wolf Center,*

This year we celebrate a notable milestone - our 50-year anniversary. Founded with a sense of urgency to protect endangered wolves in the 1970s, the EWC has stayed true to its mission while continually rising to the challenges of saving species. It is with gratitude and a deep appreciation for this mission that I announce my retirement.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure at the Endangered Wolf Center. Influencing the cultural value of wolves and other top predators by creating awareness about their essential roles in the health and sustainability of our ecosystems has been the most challenging aspect of my career thus far. I am proud of the work we have done on this front.

It was a pleasure getting to know many of you at events and on Members' Days. In 10 years, the organization has seen growth at all levels: financially, programmatically and through capital improvements. I must emphasize that these accomplishments could not have been possible without your support. Thank you for your dedication, drive, and passion for our mission.

I am confident that with Mark as your Executive Director, along with the leadership team of directors, talented staff and volunteers, this dedicated group will continue to lead the organization along its new strategic plan and beyond.

My commitment to the EWC remains strong, and I will continue to operate in a Strategic Consultant role that will include donor relations.

With much appreciation, admiration and respect,



**Virginia Busch, CEO**



*Photo Credit: Kelsey Grant*

## 2022 Events

**February 12**

Valen-Tail's Howl

**April 10**

Volunteer Appreciation

**May 16-20**

International African Painted Dog Conference

**June 11**

Members' Day

**September 10**

50th Anniversary Gala

**Oct 23**


Howl-O-Ween Enrichment Howl

**December 3**

Holiday Boutique

**December 18**

Howliday Enrichment Howl

Visit [endangeredwolfcenter.org/calendar](https://endangeredwolfcenter.org/calendar) for our full events calendar and digital booking. 

Managing Editor: Rachel Broom

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Photographer: Michelle Steinmeyer

On the cover: Photo featured is Oka, an American red wolf known for successfully raising seven pups at the EWC with his mate, Artemis, and for greatly contributing to the American red wolf recovery program.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



It has been a pleasure and honor to have worked with Virginia Busch over the past two years. She is an incredibly talented leader, and I will miss working with her on a daily basis. Her cell number will still be on my speed dial list!

The EWC has accomplished much during Virginia's tenure, but I believe that her crowning achievement was her passion for the development of an organization-wide strategic planning process and plan for the EWC. With the input of key supporters, donors, staff, board members and external partners, we have created a "living" roadmap for the next five years. We are excited about the plan, and I encourage you to read more about it on pages 6 through 9.

While the strategic plan looks to the future, it is also important to note all that we have accomplished in 2021. We have constructed two new ½-acre enclosures for our recovery animals, upgraded a maned wolf habitat, and the centerpiece of our capital projects - the new Richmond Family Veterinary and Nutrition Center - is now open.

I encourage you to visit us soon to see these wonderful new additions and participate in one of our many educational programs. We look forward to welcoming you at the EWC!



**Mark Cross, Executive Director**



Looking back on the last five years as we move forward with our five-year strategic plan.

## WHAT WE DO

We blend canid conservation and recovery, behavioral and biological research, and public engagement to preserve these keystone species and the ecosystems that depend on them.

### CONSERVATION

#### RECORD-BREAKING BIRTHS

The 2019 puppy season was the largest in our 50-year history with **54 births** from **five different species**, doubling our animal population.

**266** The EWC has the most Mexican wolf pups born at one facility.

#### THE FIRST

to have Mexican wolf pups born from artificial insemination using valuable genetics from the past with previously frozen semen.

to successfully place captive-born Mexican wolf pups into wild dens.



#### RELEASES

**38** Captive-born **Mexican wolf pups** from the EWC have been placed into wild dens.

**3** **Mexican wolf adults** from the EWC have been reintroduced into the wild over the last decade.

**2** **American red wolf adults** from the EWC have been reintroduced into the wild over the last five years.

**10** **American red wolves** have been born at the EWC within the last five years.



### EDUCATION OUTREACH

We believe that teaching the importance of coexisting with wolves and other wildlife is vital to the survival of our ecosystems. We reach thousands of guests annually during our inspiring educational programs.

#### PROGRAMMING

Our programming is now being offered in three different ways so you can customize your experience: On-site, Virtual, & through Community Outreach.

- 🐾 Menu of New Programs
  - Wolves + Yoga
  - Themed Wolf Howls
  - Tours (VIP, Photography, Enrichment or Training, Keeper for a Day)
- 🐾 Week of the Wolf Curriculum
- 🐾 Virtual (Caught in a Food Web, Animals in my Backyard, Animal Behavior)

#### THE EWC'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING REACHED...

**95,470** On-site Visitors

**342,671** Off-site Outreaches

**850,000+** Social Media Followers

### ORGANIZATIONAL MILESTONES

From 2011 - 2020, we grew organizational revenue from \$500,000 to over \$3,000,000 and increased staff from 6 to more than 25 employees

#### AWARDS

- 🐾 Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA)
  - Significant Achievement Award for Mexican Wolf Recovery (2003)
  - North American Conservation Award with top honors for Red Wolf Recovery Program (2007)
  - Edward H. Bean Award for Mexican Wolf (2019)

The EWC is on the AZA Species Survival Plan Steering Committee for the American red wolf, Mexican wolf, swift fox, and African painted dog.

#### ANIMALS

Expanded our ambassador animal education program to include new species, including fennec foxes, a red fox, an Arctic fox, a Western hognose snake, an opossum, and turtles. These animals inspire environmental stewardship that lasts a lifetime.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE/BUILDING PROJECTS

- 🐾 Built nine new habitats (indoor & outdoor fennec fox habitats, Fox Haven Habitats, maned wolf habitat, outdoor turtle habitat, Mexican wolf habitat, two American red wolf habitats)
- 🐾 Beautified habitats and improved functionality, including flood mitigation
- 🐾 Built an outdoor stage
- 🐾 Built a state-of-the-art Veterinary and Nutrition Center



# Historic Release of American Red Wolves to the Wild

## Things Just Got Wild...



▲ American red wolves board their flight to North Carolina.

▲ (Top of page) An American red wolf from the Endangered Wolf Center is one of four adults added to the wild population in North Carolina to help this critically endangered species recover.

On April 30, 2021 four American red wolves from the **Endangered Wolf Center**, **Wolf Conservation Center**, and **Wolf Haven International** were released in a protected refuge of North Carolina. The goal? To assist in maintaining the *only* wild population left of the most critically endangered wolf in the world.

This collaborative effort is the first time since 1998 that adult American red wolves were released into the wild directly from managed care facilities.

### Why Save the American Red Wolf?

“The American red wolf is a national treasure, and I am proud to be part of this committed team working to save the American red wolf from extinction,” said Chris Lasher, Animal Management Supervisor at the North Carolina Zoo and AZA Red Wolf Species Survival Plan (SSP) Coordinator.

As a keystone species, red wolves are critically important. Keystone species help ensure that our ecosystems stay healthy and balanced. Not only do wolves help keep prey species from becoming overpopulated, they also can remove sick animals, reducing the spread of disease, including zoonotic diseases (diseases that can spread to humans), creating a healthier environment for animals, plants, and humans.

“We are connected and dependent on healthy ecosystems,” said Virginia Busch, CEO of the Endangered Wolf Center. “Keystone species such as red wolves are a crucial piece of the puzzle to help restore

balance to these damaged and fragmented wild places, which are all around us.”

### Red Wolves Prepare for Takeoff, Thanks To...

Transportation for these four red wolves was donated by **Aero Charter**, **LightHawk**, and **Pilots To The Rescue** and at a significantly reduced rate by **Alaska Airlines**.

One of the flight crew joked that the wolves seemed calmer than many of their human passengers!

### Wild About Red Wolves – Why Are Releases so Important?

Releasing animals is a conservation strategy that takes individual wolves bred and born in managed care and places them in their native range. Because the wild population of American red wolves is dangerously low, it is vital to place individuals of breeding age on the landscape to assist in growing this endangered population. Zoos and conservation centers that house these red wolves care for them in a way that allows them to retain natural instincts that will help them survive in the wild: caregivers preserve the wolves’ natural instincts to stay away from people, wolves live in family units or “packs” to learn how to work together, and they are fed native prey (such as deer) that are donated by hunters to teach them what to hunt.

The American red wolves were introduced to the landscape through a “soft release” process. A habitat surrounded by temporary





▲ USFWS and Endangered Wolf Center staff work together to collar an American red wolf before releasing it into its native range in North Carolina.

fencing was installed and animals were placed inside for a length of time providing them an acclimation period to their new environment and time to bond with their mates. After an acclimation period, the fencing was opened to allow the red wolves to confidently enter their new home.

## The First Recovery Effort of Its Kind

This American red wolf recovery effort is the first of its kind. The **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**, working with their partners, released the first red wolves into the wild in 1987. The program was successful for several decades and the wild population grew to an estimated 150 individuals. Unfortunately, over the past 14 years, the already critically endangered wild population plummeted to fewer than 20 American red wolves in the wild. Before

these four wolves were released this year, there were 10 known collared red wolves and an estimated 17-20 total red wolves in North Carolina.

American red wolves are solely native to the United States. Historically they roamed the Southeastern United States, from Pennsylvania to Missouri to Texas to Florida. Due to overhunting and habitat loss, the population declined dramatically. In 1973, the red wolf was officially listed as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. In the 1960s and '70s, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worked to capture the few remaining wild wolves to bring them into zoos to launch a breeding program in hopes of recovering this species. They accomplished this goal, but by capturing the few remaining wild red wolves, the American red wolf was declared functionally extinct in the wild. The breeding program

was successful and led to the first releases in 1987 in North Carolina, which is currently the only location in the United States inhabited by wild American red wolves.

It is with a heavy heart that we let you know that the four wolves that were released, including Show Me and Imani, have passed away. Three of the four were hit by vehicles a short time after they were released. This situation is one of the leading causes of mortality. While this is incredibly heartbreaking news, we are grateful that these wolves had a chance to run free in the wild. Recovery of endangered species, especially large carnivores, continues to face many challenges. But that can not deter us. It needs to make us stronger. Our partners are working to help reduce vehicle mortalities and we are working with USFWS to help make future releases more successful so that we can save the American red wolf. 🐾



▲ "This historic conservation effort was a great example of what can be accomplished when multiple entities such as the USFWS, conservation groups, nonprofits, and private companies all work together with the same principal goal to save an American species," said Regina Mossotti, Director of Animal Care and Conservation at the Endangered Wolf Center and the AZA American Red Wolf Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) Program Chair.



▲ Aero Charter staff prepare the plane for takeoff, donating this flight to help save the most endangered wolf in the world.

## How You Can Help

1. Symbolically adopt our pack of American red wolves.
2. Learn, research, and understand the issues surrounding this critically endangered species.
3. Contact your local representative to learn how each state is supporting species conservation.





## OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

In 2021, we crafted a strategic plan honing in on our mission of Recovery, Reintroduction and Education. These four goals will guide our activities for the next five years, and we hope you'll choose one to support. Together, no goal is too ambitious.

**Elevate and align our Mexican and American red wolf programs** to accelerate conservation efforts for both species.

- A key focus of this priority is to formally grow our partnerships and increase collaboration among the agencies and organizations who align with our Mexican and American red wolf conservation efforts.
- We'll also identify future reintroduction needs and respond proactively to accelerate the timeline.



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## 2

Create a **portfolio of virtual and in-person programming with a curriculum** that inspires key stakeholders to value biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.

- We will strengthen national and local recognition for our exciting and fun on-site, community outreach and virtual programming.
- By prioritizing programming with the highest mission impact, we will connect our programming to actions in our participants' everyday lives and demonstrate individual impact/efficacy.

Our education pawprint is expanding! By offering virtual programming, our mission can now reach passionate animal lovers and conservationists around the world.

In collaboration with Conservation Centers for Species Survival and their technology partner, I3M, the EWC is participating in an exciting new "Animal World" education initiative - a virtual reality universe that will shine a spotlight on conservation centers that are making a difference for endangered species.

Our first experience will highlight the American red wolf, the most endangered wolf in the world. In this immersive virtual experience, you'll get an intimate look at this critically endangered animal, learn from dynamic educational content and videos, and immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the EWC's Missouri woodlands environment.







Deepen our commitment to **community-based conservation** and implement actions in our key recovery areas.

3 







# 4

**Diversify and strengthen our funding streams** to secure our long-term financial health and support capacity building efforts.



▲ Mr. August A. Busch III and Mrs. Virginia Busch are generous matching sponsors of the Endangered Wolf Center often influencing others to care about the well-being of our wildlife and wild places as much as they do.

## Grand Opening of Red Wolf Habitats

With fewer than 20 American red wolves left in the wild, we are excited to share one of our latest projects that will help save this species.

The Species Survival Plan for American red wolves identified an urgent need - to double the population of red wolves in managed care. While breeding critically endangered species comes with its own challenges, for large carnivores like wolves, space plays an important role.

Wolves live in family packs that are multi-generational. The spacious, natural landscape of the EWC is the perfect habitat for red wolves, which once roamed in Missouri.

Thanks to generous support from the Donald Slavik Family, Weiler Woods for Wildlife, the William and Billie Ross Family, Conservation Centers for Species Survival, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, we constructed two new red wolf habitats that can house approximately 25 wolves in multi-generational packs.

In addition to this new, beautiful space, we have worked alongside the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) to create a SAFE (Saving Animals From Extinction) Program for the American red wolf. With EWC's Regina Mossotti as the Program Leader, this effort aligns with our mission and complements the new habitat project.



# Welcome to the Pack, Stephanie!

## Stephanie Arne Appointed Director of Education

Stephanie Arne is an accomplished wildlife conservationist and the former host of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom. She has worked in 20 countries and filmed stories on everything from polar bears to penguins.

With a strong connection to nature, Arne embraces the importance of living as a part of



Photo Credit: Mutual of Omaha

the natural world, rather than separate from it. Knowing that sharing that connectivity is critical to protecting nature on a global scale, she has worked with and learned from biologists, conservation leaders, CEOs, farmers and fishermen in Africa, Australia, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and the United States. "Her impressive work experience will be invaluable to the Endangered Wolf Center," said EWC CEO Virginia Busch.

As a wildlife conservation professional, Arne is committed to raising awareness about the disconnect between modern society and the natural world. She's determined to explore and share how each of us can use our specific talents and skills to bridge that gap to make our planet a healthier place for generations to come.



Photo Credit: Mutual of Omaha

"I am incredibly excited to join such an innovative, passionate organization that will allow me to tap into my long-standing commitment to education and engagement of adults and children to understand the importance of conservation and endangered animals," said Arne. "I first met the EWC team while filming a story for Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom online series a few years ago. I was so inspired by their work! I truly look forward to being a member of this impressive, dedicated animal care team and leading-edge canid research and fostering program." 🐾

## Female Eagle Scout Honors Marlin & Carol Perkins' Legacy

The Endangered Wolf Center celebrated the Grand Opening of the Marlin & Carol Perkins Stage alongside Shannon Renkey, the Perkins family, and current host of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom, Peter Gros. The Marlin & Carol Perkins Stage is an Eagle Scout project led by Shannon Renkey of Scouts BSA Troop 911.

"I first visited the Endangered Wolf Center in December of 2019. It was so fun to tour the EWC and get to see so many wolves up close. After the tour, our group made wreaths that we threw into the painted dog enclosure. It was fun to be able to interact with the painted dogs and to watch them play with the wreaths. I wanted to be able to help these amazing animals by raising awareness for the EWC." – Shannon Renkey.

She dedicated this stage to EWC founders, Marlin and Carol Perkins, in honor of our 50th anniversary. Marlin was the TV host of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom, so it is particularly special that they generously matched Shannon's fundraising efforts to help make this project possible.

Shannon and her volunteers completed the on-site installation in March. The stage has a stunning railing, stairs perfect for group photos, and a beautiful stain on the wood. It is located near our campfire area and was recently opened to the public. We are grateful for her efforts and dedication to our mission.

"We love working with youth leaders in our community – like Shannon – to promote awareness and action to help conservation efforts. We're excited to use the stage for animal ambassador meet and greets, summer camps, presentations, concerts, and more!" said Executive Director, Mark Cross.

Shannon, along with the entire EWC Staff, thanks all of the donors and volunteers that contributed to her project, especially Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom and the family of Marlin and Carol Perkins for their generous support. Shannon is honored to contribute her project to this valuable conservation history. 🐾



◀ Shannon Renkey is one of five scouts that founded the first female Scouts BSA Troop in the greater St. Louis Area Council Boone Trails District. Special thanks to Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom for providing a matching gift for this project.



▼ Peter Gros joined EWC staff and the Perkins family to celebrate the Grand Opening of the Marlin & Carol Perkins Stage.







## Wild Field Trip: Coyote Peterson Visits the EWC

The Endangered Wolf Center had a fun week filming with Coyote Peterson, Mario Aldecoa, and the whole Brave Wilderness team for their upcoming series, “Coyote Peterson’s Wild Field Trip.” This YouTube Originals production will continue pushing protections for our planet’s canid species.

Coyote reached out to long-time friend and EWC Education Director, Stephanie Arne, eager for an opportunity to share the important story of the American red wolf to his audience. Of course our team responded with a howling, “yes!”

The Brave Wilderness YouTube channel has more than 19 million subscribers and four billion views of videos that shine a spotlight on “unlovable” animals and follow along with Coyote’s exciting, educational adventures.

Arne said, “My favorite thing about Brave Wilderness is they meet kiddos where they are and in a way that others envy. They are ridiculously enthusiastic and entertaining, and they encourage curiosity in a fast-paced, engaging format kids love. Their programs help kids and adults alike better understand the importance of a healthy coexistence with eels, wasps, badgers, gators, and snakes in their backyards.”

Coyote responded with,

“A howling big thanks to the @endangeredwolfcenter for their incredible hospitality this past week! It feels as if we have made a pack of friends for life. Be Brave, Stay Wild 🐾”

The EWC spent a week filming with this fun, knowledgeable, and respectful team, and we can’t wait to share our endangered American red wolf story with EWC fans once it airs! Stay tuned by following @endangeredwolfcenter on social media. 🐾



## Summer Camp

This past June and July, Wolf Camp 2021, “Back to the Wild,” provided a refreshing summer of outdoor learning, creation, and connection for more than 100 young animal enthusiasts. Lead counselors Julia Delaney and Shelby Weinmann, as well as dedicated volunteers and interns, led campers in a variety of outdoor learning activities ranging from wildlife-themed games to animal enrichment crafts, all tied together with exciting hikes to observe our resident species first hand.

**Wolf Camp connects kids with a magical mission of hope and sustainability and encourages authentic exploration of the wild world around them.**

After a full week of themed activities, creek exploration with new friends, and unique historical hikes, it’s no wonder we have so many returning campers and even adult staff today who recall fondly their days as wolf campers. The education team was left inspired by this summer’s camp families with their excitement and resilience. We look forward to growing into our new spaces, which will allow us to bring more impactful opportunities to young creative minds walking the path of conservation in years to come! 🐾







# EWC Fosters 11 Mexican Wolf Pups to the Wild

**2021 has been an eventful and record-breaking pup foster season at the Endangered Wolf Center.**

In total, 22 pups born in managed care – half of which came from the Endangered Wolf Center – were fostered into eight wild packs this spring.

Two of our Mexican wolf mothers, Vera and Zana, gave birth to litters that were fostered into four wild packs in New Mexico and Arizona. Their valuable genetics will strengthen the health of this critically endangered wild population.



## An Unforgettable Journey

At only 10 days old, the pups may not remember their journey to the wild, but the experience is unforgettable for our team.

In fact, the pups were so tiny that their ears and eyes were still closed. They relied entirely on our team to safely transport them to the wild. Partnering with state and federal agencies, the biologists worked to get them settled into a den with their new brothers and sisters – a task our team didn't take lightly.

It was still dark outside at about 4 a.m. when a small group of our Animal Care experts brought several pups from our Mexican wolf litter in for veterinary exams.

Once the pups were weighed, microchipped, and given their health exams, they were driven to the Spirit of St. Louis Airport in Chesterfield, MO, where they flew off to their new wild homes.

◀ Pups are weighed and microchipped so they can be identified during future surveys of the wild population.



▲ Pups receive a thorough vet exam prior to their flight to the wild.

The pups traveled with our Animal Care team to Arizona and New Mexico from Missouri on donated flights. Two of Vera's pups went into the Owl Canyon Pack in New Mexico and three went into the Elk Horn Pack in Arizona; just a few weeks later, three of Zana's pups were placed into the Lava Pack in New Mexico and three into the Hoodoo Pack in Arizona.

## Fostering Pups is Making a Difference

The wild Mexican wolf population is already seeing the benefits of fostering wolf pups as an important conservation technique.



The Endangered Wolf Center works in collaboration with many state and federal agencies, and Native American Nations, as well as the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan (SSP) partners, all of which work together to save this critically endangered wolf. The SSP, which is made up of more than 50 zoological institutions across North America, helps with breeding genetically healthy animals.

The Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Team (IFT) has documented that fostered pups have the same survival rate as wild-born pups in their first year. “The data shows this technique is working, and for a critically endangered animal that was once down to just a handful of individuals left in the wild, this incredibly creative and innovative conservation effort is proving to be invaluable,” said Regina Mossotti, EWC’s Director of Animal Care and Conservation and the USFWS/SSP’s Pup Foster Advisor.

## The Journey Continues

The travel may be over, but for these 11 newly wild pups, their journeys are just beginning.

### *Can Wolves and Humans Coexist?*

Absolutely. As our world changes rapidly, coexistence with wildlife is becoming more important than ever.

“Our relationship with wildlife and wild places has been out of balance. Programs like pup fostering show that great strides are being made to help the wild rebound, recover, and continue to support healthy ecosystems,” said Virginia Busch, CEO of the Endangered Wolf Center.

Because keystone species - such as the Mexican wolf - play a critical role in keeping our environment healthy, we need to learn how to use new, innovative techniques, as well as time-tested options, to coexist. 🐾



▲ Pups are fostered when they are under 14 days old. Their eyes are still closed - they’ll open to a wild new life.



▲ Members of EWC Animal Care team, including Keeper Coralie-Michele Francois, fly with the pups to ensure safe travels for the precious cargo.

## We thank the many individuals and organizations that helped to make this possible.

### AERIAL TRANSPORTATION:

- 🐾 Aero Charter
- 🐾 APLux
- 🐾 Arizona Game and Fish Department
- 🐾 LightHawk Conservation Flying

### EWC WILDLIFE RELEASE HEROES:

- 🐾 Jim and Lionelle Elsesser
- 🐾 Jane Habbegger
- 🐾 Geraldine Hufker
- 🐾 Peg Kaltenthaler
- 🐾 Jim and Kathy Runk
- 🐾 Celeste Ruwwe
- 🐾 Jay and Sharlla Smith
- 🐾 Doug and Joyce Wiley
- 🐾 Karen Winnick
- 🐾 Dr. Rhiannon McKnight
- 🐾 Dr. Tammy Smith

### SPECIAL THANKS TO THE COORDINATED EFFORTS OF:

- 🐾 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 🐾 Arizona Game and Fish Department
- 🐾 New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
- 🐾 U.S. Forest Service
- 🐾 Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan

## You Can Help Endangered Mexican Wolves

If you would like to become a **Wildlife Release Hero**, please make a donation here and mention “Wildlife Release Fund” in the comments section.



# Visit Us!



## Field Trips

Virtual and on-site field trips provide students with interactive science, nature, and wildlife education. With programs such as Home Sweet Habitat, Caught in a Food Web, and Passport to Predators, we have unique experiences tailored for every grade level.

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## Yoga/Meditation

Reset, relax, and reconnect with nature during our monthly yoga series, Wolves + Yoga, led by Yoga Buzz. We also partner annually with PALM Health for "Meditation with the Wolves."



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## Scouts

We work with Scouts of all ages to assist with a number of badge requirements through programs here at the Endangered Wolf Center. But it isn't just about the badge they'll take home, they also leave with a deeper connection with wildlife that will stay with them for a lifetime.

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## Keeper for a Day

Have you ever wanted to work with animals? Follow our keepers on their daily adventures caring for some of the most endangered wolves in the world. Learn how their unique and world-renowned animal care techniques prepare wolves for a life in the wild.

## Tours

Choose your adventure! Our specialty tours are tailored to your interests and passions.

- 🐾 Private Tour
- 🐾 Animal Trainer Experience
- 🐾 VIP Tour
- 🐾 Photography Tour

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# EWC Team Collaborates with STL AAZK (the American Association of Zoo Keepers)

## Staff Spotlight: Rachel Crosby Community Spotlight: STL AAZK

The Endangered Wolf Center's expert Animal Care staff has been involved with the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) for more than a decade. AAZK is a national professional development organization that focuses on sharing best practices in the world of animal care and aids in research and development of creative techniques that ensure the best welfare of the animals in zoos around the world.

Members of the AAZK local chapter include the Endangered Wolf Center, the Saint Louis Zoo and the St. Louis Aquarium. Our Animal Care team sits on the professional development committee, the conservation committee, and the art and event committee.

AAZK raises funds for saving endangered species through events. One of their most popular local events is Bowling for Rhinos, which pivoted during COVID-19 to Bingo for Rhinos and raised nearly \$10k for rhino conservation.

We are proud to share that both the national and local AAZK chapters have provided grants for our Animal Care team to attend national conferences and assist with conservation efforts. Rachel Crosby, keeper at the Endangered Wolf Center and AAZK Liaison for the local chapter, was granted funds to assist USFWS and the rest of

the Interagency Field Team with their annual Mexican Wolf Helicopter Population Surveys. During her time on the Survey, she assisted in putting radio telemetry collars on wolves, giving health exams and vaccinations, and releasing Mexican wolves back into the wild.

"The Endangered Wolf Center team is proud to support and work with AAZK on their goals to improve the lives of the animals in zoos across the world, as well as aid conservation efforts for species that we love," said Regina Mossotti.

As STL AAZK Liaison, Crosby's goal is to continue connecting local animal care professionals with the resources and opportunities available through this unique group. 🐾



## Volunteer Spotlight: Jeremy Martin

President of STL AAZK and Antelope Keeper at the St. Louis Zoo, Jeremy Martin, is also an EWC volunteer. As a former intern and seasonal keeper at the EWC, we are grateful for his enthusiastic volunteer spirit. Together with STL AAZK, Martin and Rachel Crosby have organized multiple volunteer groups to help the Animal Care team make improvements on animal habitats. Included on the list are fence repairs, digging wells, cleaning den boxes, and assisting in habitat inspections.

"I love supporting the direct conservation impact of the Endangered Wolf Center, whether that's helping with wolf observations, animal care tasks, or educating people about wolves and how awesome they are. Though I work with hoofstock now, I will always love carnivores. My first experience with exotic animal care was an internship at the Endangered Wolf Center. I've kind of built my life around the impact of that experience so the EWC will always be important to me."

"My favorite canid is the African painted dog. They are one reason I wanted to do an internship at the EWC back in the day. They're so beautiful and playful, and I'm forever impressed with their teamwork," said Martin.

During National Zoo Keeper Week, STL AAZK organized a group wolf howl and many Animal Care professionals had their first in-person opportunity to hear a wolf howl. Volunteer projects that encourage collaborative conservation and strengthen the local animal care community have occurred despite COVID-19, including projects to craft bat boxes and squirrel boxes for the Wildlife Rescue Center of Ballwin.

With STL AAZK and all of our local conservation partners, the EWC is committed to collaborative conservation and grateful for the support of volunteers like Jeremy. 🐾

*"One reason I've continued to stay as a volunteer with the EWC is because I know it will always be hugely involved with saving red wolves from extinction."*



# Keeping Up With the African Painted Dogs

**P**ainted dogs Shaba, Peppie, Chaka, Lady, Greta, Kiama, and Pammie are still at the EWC, often playing together through group chases, swimming in their pond, problem solving with enrichment items, or on cooler days, snuggling together under the sun.

CeeCee and Suelly moved to Henson Robinson Zoo in June of 2020 to be companions to their grandfather, Selous. They immediately bonded with him and are often seen snuggling together.

Akili and her 10 pups (including Koda, Raina, Halali, Stephen, Ada, Imani, Charlie, Tico, and Duke), moved in 2019 to the Cincinnati Zoo under the care of Christina Gorsuch, the African Painted Dog Species Survival Plan Coordinator. They enjoy their training

sessions and playing in their waterfall and pond. Many EWC supporters have had the opportunity to see them (and Fiona the hippo) at the Cincinnati Zoo.

We hope you'll come out for a tour to visit our pack of painted dogs. Shaba and six of her daughters are a favorite stop along our tour route and bring joy to our guests year-round. 🐾

To help keep them warm during the upcoming colder months, we've upgraded the painted dogs' den boxes and added new windbreaks. The wind tunnels are made of brick, which is more durable and retains heat better. Our Animal Care team partnered with Bricklayers' Local #1 of Missouri JATC to provide students and apprentices hands-on training while at the same time helping our animals stay warm.

## Where Are They Now?

Similar to our families, we hope our kids will leave home to start their own families. As our African painted dogs have gotten older, they have met this milestone.

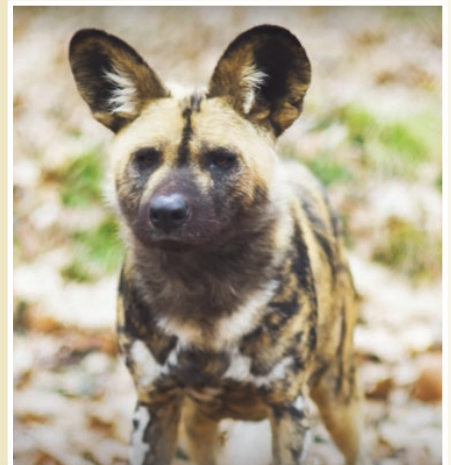
While it was difficult to part with some of our painted dog pack, we made sure they went to excellent new homes!

In February 2021, five males traveled to their new home at Sedgwick County Zoo - Rasmussen, Torgerson II, Ng'amba, Rowdy, and Tito. There they loved exploring, meeting their new keepers, and entertaining visitors.

## Remembering Haka

With a heavy heart we share that Haka was humanely euthanized on January 29, 2021 due to a medical emergency caused by a torsion.

Haka was a wonderful father, helping raise 23 pups, attentive to each and every one. He also was a devoted mate to both Shaba and Akili - a great defender, protector, discipliner, and play partner to his pack. He brought joy to our keepers every day; his legacy will live on in his pups that he helped raise to be wonderful adults.





# MEET LUCKY, ARTIE, & COOPER!



**MANED WOLF**



**ARCTIC FOX**



**MELANISTIC RED FOX**

## FOXY FUN FACTS

Though different species, Artie & Cooper share a habitat and have become great friends.



Maned wolves have several different nicknames, like "fox on stilts" and "skunk wolf," but they aren't actually wolves OR foxes! They are the last living species in their genus.

## STORY TIME!



## ENRICHMENT MAD-LIBS



Fill in the blanks and insert your own words into the story!

1. Onomatopoeia \_\_\_\_\_
2. Adjective \_\_\_\_\_
3. Verb + "-ing" \_\_\_\_\_
4. Noun \_\_\_\_\_
5. Verb + "-ed" \_\_\_\_\_
6. Adjective \_\_\_\_\_
7. Adjective \_\_\_\_\_
8. Adjective + "-ly" \_\_\_\_\_
9. Your Name \_\_\_\_\_
10. Adjective + "-y" \_\_\_\_\_
11. A trick you might do to jump in the pool \_\_\_\_\_

"( 1 ) \_\_\_\_\_!" Artie exclaimed as he alerted Cooper to what was in store. A big, ( 2 ) \_\_\_\_\_, blue kiddie pool was ( 3 ) \_\_\_\_\_ their way. It was enrichment time (which they lovingly referred to as " ( 4 ) \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock". ) Keeper Danielle ( 5 ) \_\_\_\_\_ over and greeted the brothers. 'Hooray' thought the boys simultaneously 'I can smell the ( 6 ) \_\_\_\_\_, ( 7 ) \_\_\_\_\_ fish from here'. Artie and Cooper wiggled and geckered ( 8 ) \_\_\_\_\_ with anticipation as the big, blue thingy made its way into their habitat. Artie and Cooper drooled as their keepers as ( 9 ) \_\_\_\_\_ and Danielle dumped the ( 10 ) \_\_\_\_\_, glistening pile of ice and fish into the kiddie pool.

"Cowabunga!" cried Cooper as he did a ( 11 ) \_\_\_\_\_ into the frigid water. Together, the two foxes scraped away at the fishy ice blocks in a fit of joy until they grew too full and tired. Off they went to sleep in their cozy dens in the beautiful hills of the Endangered Wolf Center.

The end...



## GIFTS RECEIVED OCTOBER 1, 2020 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

*We make every effort to acknowledge all gifts received and to maintain accurate records. If you discover a discrepancy or have questions, please call Development Staff at 636-938-5900.*



▲ Virginia Busch, Dr. Rhiannon McKnight, Rachel Crosby, Rachel Broom, Mark Cross and Marguerite Perkins Garrick celebrate a milestone for recovery species as they reveal a sign marking the entrance to the EWC's newest breeding site.

### BEQUESTS

Ms. Nancie Fitzwater  
Bill and Julie Gerlach  
Mrs. Patricia G. Hecker, Hecker  
Family Charitable Foundation  
of the Greater Saint Louis  
Community Foundation  
Ms. Doris M. Layman  
Ms. Carol Perry  
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### ARCTIC FOX PACKMATES (CONTRIBUTIONS \$500,000+)

Kevin Beckmann Charitable Trust

### RED FOX PACKMATES (CONTRIBUTIONS \$200,000- \$499,999)

Anonymous  
August A. Busch III Charitable Trust

### FENNEC FOX PACKMATES (CONTRIBUTIONS \$100,000- \$199,999)

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Ms. Ruth Garza

### AFRICAN PAINTED DOG PACKMATES (CONTRIBUTIONS \$25,000- \$99,999)

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Ms. Colleen Igou  
John and Renee Javorek



▲ Janet Cole joins family and friends on a tour of the EWC to see the brand new American red wolf habitat her family funded through the WS BK Ross Charitable Foundation Trust.





▲ Rachel Broom presenting Ray Van de Riet a photo and pawprint of a Mexican wolf pup named Ray in his honor for all of his support as a Wildlife Release Hero. Ray has coordinated several flights for the Mexican wolf pups and American red wolves ensuring safe trips to the wild.

▼ Our hard-working Development team members, Amanda Hanlon, Erin Kipp and Victoria Ziglar take a fun learning break with Coyote Peterson during his visit to the EWC.



▲ Steve and Lu Penfold raised money through the Veterans United Foundation and presented the check to Rachel Broom in support of kids ages 4-15 years old attending the EWC's inspiring educational programming during summer camps.

John Henry Foster and  
Bernadine Foster Foundation  
Jacqueline and Charles Johnson  
The Joseph and Catherine  
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All The American Red Wolves Who  
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Elise Beal's Birthday  
Stephanie & Darrell Bearce's  
Birthdays  
Alexa Berezney  
Benny Bierman & The College  
School  
Boo  
Brandy, Katie, Scarlet, Beignet,  
Rhett, Spirit, Tuco & Maggie  
Maele Briggs' 12th Birthday  
Jumana Brodersen  
Rachel Broom



▲ Eagle Scout, Shannon Renkey cut the Grand Opening ribbon revealing the new Marlin and Carol Perkins Stage. Joining Shannon for this exciting moment included Mark Cross, Virginia Busch, Marguerite Perkins Garrick and Peter Gros.





▲ Rachel Broom, Kevin Beckmann, and Stephanie Arne enjoy a beautiful day at the EWC's picnic area. Kevin is an inspiring example of generosity and leadership. His unwavering support has greatly strengthened the EWC's operations over the last decade.

Nancy Brune & Les Jones  
Mark Buell  
Virginia Busch  
Suzie Buzzo  
Kaye Campbell-Hinson  
Our Children – Kirk, Bradley, Tracy  
& Marty  
Cooper  
Wiley E. Corgote  
William Courtney IV  
William & Laura Courtney  
Owen Crump  
My Friend Danielle  
Dharma, At Wolf Park  
Barb Doering  
Raffaele Donofrio  
Natalee Doyle  
Winnie Duncan  
Amber Durlock

Sharon Sterling Elhage  
Joyce Ellis  
Emma, Czech Vlcak Dog  
Andrea Espinoza  
Lucy Esposito  
Jane Falcon  
Shirley Franz  
Cassidy Freedman & Cody Pail  
John Gallagher  
Marguerite P. Garrick  
Celeste Gee  
God  
Good Boy Balu  
Anna Graham  
Ellie Grey  
Jack & Suzie Hanna  
Patsy Hanrahan  
Alice Hartle  
Jericole Hellems

▼ Rachel Broom, Kathy and Jim Runk, and Regina Mossotti joined Mexican wolf pup Toovi during his health check right before his departure for the wild. Kathy and Jim named Toovi making it possible for the EWC to foster him into the Owl Creek Pack in New Mexico.



Mimi Hirshberg  
Luise Hoffman  
James Hounsell's Birthday  
House Of Two Wolves  
Joseph Hrbacek  
Alicia Hubert  
Gerry Hufker  
EWC Staff & Volunteers  
King Isaac  
Nikola Jarboe  
Andrew B. Johnson  
Spencer Kimmey  
"Luke," Kathy & Thad King  
Heather Kork  
Diane Korn  
Sharon Kraemer  
Janet Krause  
L.J.M.  
Lakeside Children's Academy  
Mildred Law  
Lobo



▲ EWC's volunteer project manager met with Peter Gras during his visit to the brand-new Richmond Family Veterinary & Nutrition Center.

Diane E. Meyer  
Erin Miller  
Gregg Miller  
Maggie Miller  
Minnow  
Morrgan



▲ Felix and Susan Williams give two wolves up in support of American red wolves. Felix and Susan have been long-time supporters of several conservation initiatives at the EWC and most recently by establishing The Slavik Family Foundation Endangered Species Breeding Site.

Lola  
Elena & Tania Lopez  
Ron & Kate Lovett  
Tom, Rosemary & Robert Luczaj  
Sam Macheca  
Julia "Howling" Martin  
Sandy McCracken  
John A. McDonnell  
Carol McGowan

Genie & Travis Mossotti  
Alexandra Mowe  
My Grandchildren  
Annemarie & Alex Nauert  
Paul Orf  
Our Frontline Medical People  
Leena Patel's Birthday  
The Pet Doctor  
Yehuda Pierce  
Pongo  
Rhys Rainwater  
Randy Reid  
Josh Rudman  
Celeste Ruwwe  
Emily Schrepf  
Madeline Senay  
Jaden Skelly  
Jane W. Smith  
Eaen & Elsa Stegeman  
Stephen  
Linda Straubinger  
Kendra Strohmayer  
Kaylyn Studdard  
Amanda Sullivan  
Ashley Swift



Brian Sztukowski  
Tiger at the Saint Louis Zoo, Kali  
The Animal Care Staff  
The Therian Guide  
Justin Grubb & Danielle Therrien  
Charlotte & Jed Tiller  
Jordan Turner  
Dave and Karen Tylka  
Katie Valdes



▲ Martin Bell and Paula Crevoshay visited the EWC while in St. Louis for Paula's jewelry trunk show at Saks Fifth Avenue. Paula designs wolf pins using mineral specimens from the seven crystal systems in honor of wolves at the Endangered Wolf Center and donates a portion of her sales to help the animals.

Vanessa  
Dan Walker  
Sylvia Walsh  
Clara Webb  
Charlotte, Zoe, & Brendan Wegmann  
Darren L. Weihe  
Doris Whiting  
Coralee Williams  
Joseph Wilson  
Dale Weiler & Loti Woods  
Barbara & Carl Yoensky  
Declan Zygmunt

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Richard W. Renner  
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Sondra Schol



▲ Jeremiah Dellas and Gilbert Fix visit the Endangered Wolf Center for a private tour.

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▲ Marguerite Perkins Garrick being interviewed by Peter Gros, the current host of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom for a documentary called "Inspired by Wild Kingdom." This documentary highlights the impact Wild Kingdom had on nature and wildlife programming, as well as inspiring generations of people to pursue conservation and wildlife-related careers. It will air during the holidays. Marguerite discussed her parents, Marlin and Carol Perkins, and their commitment to conservation education, not just through Wild Kingdom but also the Endangered Wolf Center.



# A New Way to Support Our Mission –

## SHOP OUR ONLINE GIFT SHOP!

Ewcgiftshop.org



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Cute animal prints and outdoor apparel to gear up for your adventures.

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Some of our best sellers! Elegant jewelry and gifts for any occasion.

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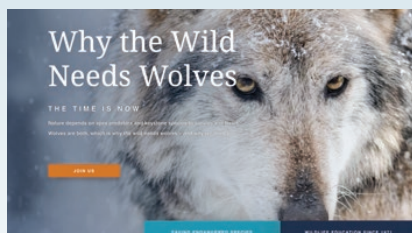
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Nature-themed reads for all ages, along with interactive games, journals, and puzzles to inspire a lifelong love of wildlife and wild places.

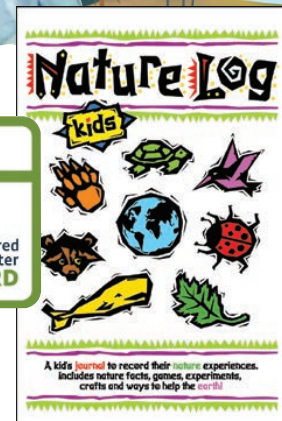
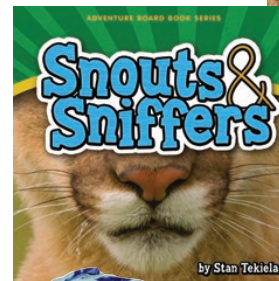
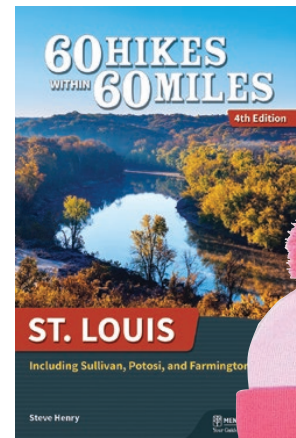
## Want to Visit In-Person?

Our Gift Shop sells products to support the animals and our mission. The Gift Shop is open during tours, programs and events. You are also welcome to visit the Gift Shop during our regular business hours, normally Wednesday through Monday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., but call ahead to make sure we're open or to schedule a private shopping experience: (636) 938-5900.

## New Look, Same Mission!



Our updated website makes it easier to meet our pack, keep up with our events and animal news, and get involved in saving species with us. Visit [endangeredwolfcenter.org](http://endangeredwolfcenter.org) to see the new look!





# Join our 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 directly support the animals and help save wolves with my membership gift:



## Basic Membership Levels

### ☐ \$50 Friend of EWC (\$5/month)

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

### ☐ \$95 Family Pack (\$8.50/month)

Includes all of the above and free PredaTour for four

## Adopt-a-Wolf Membership Levels

### ☐ \$135 Adopt-a-Wolf (\$12/month)

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

### ☐ \$250 Animal Keeper (\$22/month)

Includes all of the above plus a Private Tour for 10 people

### ☐ \$500 Wolf Guardian (\$42/month)

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

### ☐ \$1,000 Alpha Member (\$84/month)

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### ☐ I want to contribute with a recurring monthly gift.

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

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☐ Checking Account (fill out form 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 remains in effect until I notify the EWC in writing I wish to change or stop my contributions.**

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## Payment Information:

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

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

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Signature (as it appears on the card) \_\_\_\_\_

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My company, \_\_\_\_\_, will match my contribution.

Send in enclosed envelope to: Endangered Wolf Center, PO Box 760, Eureka, MO 63025

## PLEASE HELP US MEET OUR \$500,000 MATCHING GRANT

It's no secret it's been another year of uncertainty and adaptation. One thing has remained constant - our commitment to conservation is unstoppable. And so is yours. We see it every day, and it inspires us.

Events are integral to our fundraising efforts and in helping us provide care for our animals. To help us recover the losses due to canceling events, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support our conservation, education, and operational costs.

Now through Dec. 31, 2021, your donation will be matched to double your impact up to \$500,000, thanks to the Kevin Beckmann Charitable Trust and the August A. Busch III Charitable Trust.



## HOW TO DONATE

☒ In the enclosed envelope

@ At [endangeredwolfcenter.org](https://endangeredwolfcenter.org)





# Endangered Wolf Center

If you would like to GO GREEN!  
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and we'll send email updates.

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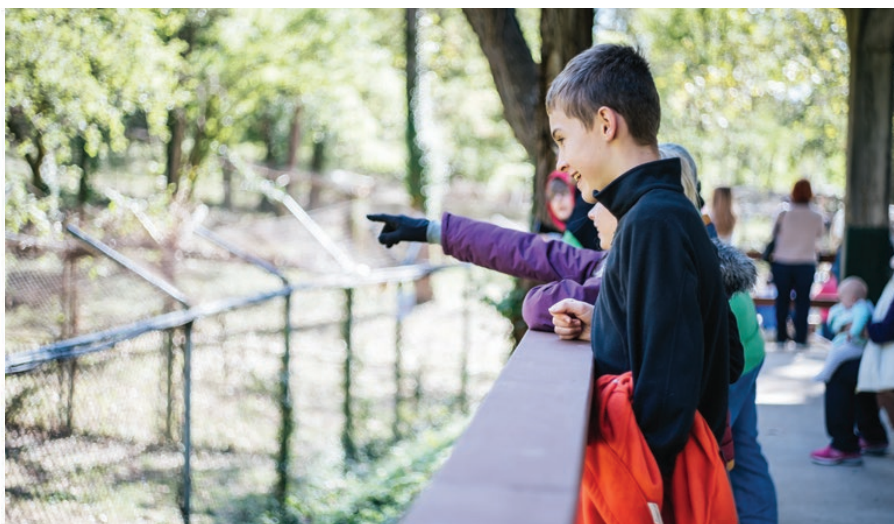
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- Adopt a Pack
- Visit Us
- Attend a Virtual Program



[endangeredwolfcenter.org](http://endangeredwolfcenter.org)



*The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service performed the annual helicopter survey to monitor and evaluate the wild Mexican wolf population in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area along the border of Arizona and New Mexico. They reported that the Mexican wolves have increased by 14% since last year, raising the total number of wolves in the wild to a minimum of 186 animals in the US and approximately 25 animals in Mexico. While there is still much work to be done to conserve the Mexican wolf, these survey results show our efforts are making a difference.*