



Endangered Wolf Center
ST. LOUIS, MO

Fall 2013



Our Mission:

To preserve and protect Mexican gray 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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Dear Friends of the Endangered Wolf Center,

As I reflect back on this year, I am proud to report that this has been a very busy, successful year here at the Endangered Wolf Center. Our new education programs and evening events have doubled in numbers, and annual event revenues have increased. We also have new staff members, an updated classroom and a fresh new website. All of this growth translates to more hearts touched by the Center, and more awareness being raised about the wildlife and wild places we are working to preserve and protect. A heartfelt thank you to all of you who've helped make these milestones possible.



As we build on this momentum, an important challenge lies ahead of us, and that is the federal government's delisting of the gray wolf. For now, this proposal is still being debated, which means we have time – though little of it. Over the next several months, the government will make the critical decision whether to remove the gray wolf from the protection of the Endangered Species Act.

Our Center strongly disagrees with the removal of this species. The population simply has not recovered enough to begin state regulation. But our voice is not enough. We need the strength of our entire membership to help echo this concern through media outlets, social channels and public hearings.

To read the proposal and comment directly to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, go to: <http://www.fws.gov/home/wolfrecovery/> The deadline for public comments is Dec. 17. Endangered Wolf Center staff members went to the public hearing Nov. 20 in Albuquerque, N.M., to make our voice heard.

I am confident we can do this. We must. Recently, I read an article regarding increased partnership between environmental organizations, corporations and governmental institutions, all needing to work together to improve the sustainability of Earth's resources – a joint effort that is not a choice anymore, but a necessity. Similarly, I strongly feel that growth for the Endangered Wolf Center will come with collaborative partnerships on all fronts – local, individual, corporations and environmental organizations.

I leave you with a quote highlighted in the article I referenced from noted theologian John Wesley: "Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can."

With this year's successes behind us and a great challenge ahead, please join us, and let's continue to work together for wolves and the ecosystems depending on them.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Virginia Busch". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Virginia Busch
Executive Director

2014 Events

March 14:
Trivia Night

April 6:
Volunteer
Appreciation Dinner

June 14:
Polo

September 27:
Wolf Fest

November 1:
Members' Day

December 6:
Holiday Boutique

December 9:
Volunteer
Holiday Potluck

For the latest on our annual and seasonal events, be sure to keep an eye on the events calendar on our website at www.endangeredwolfcenter.org.

All photos are property of
the Endangered Wolf Center

Design by Jim Kuchar

Editing by Steve Parker

Recent highlights at the Center

CAMPS

The Endangered Wolf Center added spring and fall camps to its lineup, and now features a camp for every season. Details about all of the camps are available on our website at www.endangeredwolfcenter.org or by calling 636-938-5900.

Here's the lineup of camps for 2014:

- Jan. 2 – Winter Wolf Camp (one day) Ages 6-15
- Jan. 3 – Winter Wolf Camp (one day) Ages 6-15
- March 19-20 – Spring Wolf Camp (two days) Ages 6-15
- June 23-26 – Summer Wolf Camp (four days) Ages 6-8
- July 7-10 – Summer Wolf Camp (four days) Ages 6-8
- July 21-24 – Summer Wolf Camp (four days) Ages 9-12
- July 28-31 – Summer Wolf Camp (four days) Ages 9-12
- Aug. 4-7 – Summer Wolf Camp (four days) Ages 13-15
- Oct. 11 – Fall Wolf Camp (one day) Ages 6-15
- Oct. 18 – Fall Wolf Camp (one day) Ages 6-15

NEW EVENING HOWLS

The Center unveiled a number of new specialty howls over the summer, and will be adding new ones throughout 2014. Among the unique choices we offered to summer guests were an Ice Cream Social Howl, Family Cookout Howl, Beer & Bratwursts Howl, and a Margaritas and Mexican Gray Wolves Howl.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Polo

The St. Louis Polo Club's second annual polo match to benefit the Endangered Wolf Center in 2013 was a huge success. Hundreds of people attended the event at the Blue Heron Farms Polo Club on Saturday, June 15, helping to raise more than \$34,000 for our non-profit Center.

The event offered people a rare chance to see the thrilling fast-paced sport of polo. They also got to meet and talk with the players, take pictures with them and get their autographs.

Wolf Fest

More than 2,000 people spent a warm, sunny day at Wolf Fest 2013 on Saturday, Sept. 28. The Center's annual open house allowed many to visit for the first time, and welcomed back hundreds of others. And it served as the year's top fundraiser with more than \$67,000 in profits. Exhibitions were put on by David Jackson's Conservation Ambassadors, Agility Dogs, Gateway Sled Dogs and Gateway Search Dogs. Information booths were provided by the St. Louis Zoo, the Shaw Nature Reserve, the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House, the Nature Conservancy, the Crown Ridge Tiger Sanctuary, the World Bird Sanctuary and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Members' Day

On Saturday, Nov. 2, the Center closed its doors to the public and set the day aside for its members. More than 160 people attended the Dine with the Keepers brunch, catered by Brio Tuscan Grille. Several hundred more came for events in the afternoon,



which included tossing pumpkins filled with treats to the animals. About 60 members took in the evening Campfire Howl; the wolves and the guests both howled. Visit our website at www.endangeredwolfcenter.org or call 636-938-5900 for more information.



A surprising turn of events

A historic wolf release is overshadowed by Mother Nature

BY TRACY REIN

In April 2013, a historic event was about to occur – though as we'd soon discover, it wasn't the one anyone was expecting.

For the first time in five years, a new pack of Mexican gray wolves was going into the wild. The milestone would have involved two wolves, Wesley and Ernesta, with roots at the Endangered Wolf Center, and Ernesta's expected pups. News and film crews were on hand to record the historic event as the pair were moved from Sevilleta, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's pre-release site in New Mexico, to a large acclimation pen in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in eastern Arizona.

"It was a remarkable day," said Virginia Busch, Executive Director of the Endangered Wolf Center. "Standing in the middle of a fire-damaged forest with signs of new life sprouting up everywhere around you, knowing the wolves you helped to raise were about to begin a brave new life of their own was just truly remarkable."



Regina Mossotti, Director of Animal Care and Conservation, keeps watch on the wolves.



Ernesta runs from her crate into the acclimation pen.

Wesley and his mate, Ernesta, now known as the Coronado Pack, were getting ready for the birth of their pups. Their acclimation pen had been placed in an area that was formerly Rim Pack territory. It was thought that the depleted Rim Pack, now consisting of a lone male wolf, had vacated the area. The goal was for the Coronado Pack to replace the Rim Pack in the territory, bringing with them new genetics to increase the health of the small wild population.

As the Coronado Pack was getting ready for release, the lone Rim Pack male appeared at the acclimation pen. And he wasn't alone. At his side was a young, previously unknown female. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes of this burned-out forest, the Rim Pack, it seemed, was poised to make a comeback.

The appearance of an unknown female wolf is a truly historic event for a population of only 75 known wild animals – though it wasn't the history we thought was being made. Nature herself was penning this chapter, our own historic event would have to wait. The Rim Pack pair made it clear they were willing to defend their territory. What's more, Ernesta had successfully delivered her pups in the safety of their holding pen, though none had survived.

Between the Rim Pack holding their ground and the loss of the Coronado Pack's pups, the decision was made not to release them this year. Ernesta and Wesley were transferred back to Sevilleta, where they await release next year. While this may feel like a setback, it's in fact an extraordinary victory for wolves. The Rim Pack pair brings the promise of new hope to their pack, while spring will bring new opportunities for Ernesta and Wesley to begin a pack of their own, in a new territory they can call home.

Before the move took place, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sent out a request for Species Survival Plan© members to pen sit. Sitters volunteered to camp about a



mile from the pen, and track radio-collared wolves in the area, give fresh food and water to the wolves in the pen and observe the wolves from a blind.

When moved to the acclimation pen, Wesley and Ernesta were not only accompanied by news and film crews, but also by Virginia Busch, Regina Mossotti, Director of Animal Care and Conservation; and Education Assistant Karen Nichols. Regina and Karen stayed on as the first pen sitters for the pair. Throughout May and June, three of our keepers, Zac Cochran, Erin Kipp, and Tracy Rein, also served as pen sitters and were able to gain and share information with the field biologists.

Tracy was one of the first to observe the uncollared female. The USFWS eventually trapped the young female and Tracy helped give her a thorough health exam and a tracking collar.

This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the staff of the Center, not only to assist with the release but also to accompany the Interagency Field Team during their field work, tracking from airplanes, hiking in bear country and driving back roads to find wild wolves.

Simultaneously, seeing the Apache-Sitgreaves forests that had been ravaged by fire two years before returning to life was awe-inspiring. It reminded the Center's staff that every day, in our daily work, we are helping these wolves do the same.

You can follow Wesley (M1051), Ernesta (F1126) and all of the wild wolves' progress at the USFWS website at http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/BRWRP_home.cfm. Scroll down to the menu and click on BRWRA Monthly Updates.

Swift fox kits are 'A' students

BY ZAC COCHRAN

The Endangered Wolf Center was blessed on May 8 to welcome four more kits to our swift fox family. Peggy, the mother; Ernie, the father; and even big brother Havoc have had quite the task of raising, teaching and dealing with the energy and curiosity of the kits.

"Havoc is learning how to raise a family," said Regina Mossotti, Director of Animal Care and Conservation. "It is something that we can offer him here, and this experience will help him be a wonderful dad when he gets the chance."

Last year, the keepers began husbandry training with our swift foxes. (Swift foxes are no longer considered endangered in the United States, so there is no release program.) The goal of training is to help make the foxes less wary of the keepers and make veterinary checks easier for both the foxes and the keepers.

This year's kits embarked on their training when only one week old, while their eyes were still closed. Keepers began by simply placing a hand in the den box to let the kits become used to getting touched and smelling our scents. The parents, now used to the keepers, would get treats from the keepers while they worked with the kits.

At two weeks old, the kits' eyes were now open and they could see the keepers and knew their scents. Keepers then started touch training.

The kits also learned by watching the adults interact with the keepers during the training sessions. "It is amazing to see the trust the adults have with the keepers," Mossotti said. "They have come to know them very well. Foxes are normally skittish, but the program the Endangered Wolf Center has developed for these foxes is unique and highly successful at building a relationship with the keepers through positive reinforcement."

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 Laurie Solet
 The Levy Family
 LightHawk
 Ms. Susan Lounsbury
 Main Street Diner
 Marquette High School
 Ms. Renee L. Meier
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Meyers
 Mr. Lon J. Meyers
 Missouri Botanical Garden
 Missouri Department of Conservation
 Mitchell James Salon
 Mr. and Mrs. Travis Mossotti
 Mr. Jeffery Myers
 Mr. Mark C. Nauman
 Mr. and Mrs. Matt Naumann
 Nayak Plastic Surgery & Avani Day Spa
 Ms. Lisa Nelson
 Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Nichols
 Mrs. Victoria O'Neil
 Mr. and Mrs. Tim O'Shaughnessy
 Panera, LLC
 Pappy's Smokehouse
 Parrots Treasure Toys
 Mr. Shy Patel
 Mr. and Mrs. Steve Payer
 Pet Centric Home Care
 Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Pfremmer

Mr. Bobby N. Pickle
 The Porch
 Raging Rivers
 Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Rearden
 Mr. and Mrs. Matt Rein
 Mr. Brad Richmond
 Rio Syrup
 Rombach Farms Pumpkin Patch
 Nelly Rosales and Family
 Russell's Cafe & Bakery
 Saint Louis Bread Company
 Saint Louis Zoo
 Sayersbrook Farm
 Mr. Robert F. Scherrer
 Schlafly Beer
 Schnucks
 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Shaffstall
 SLU Billikens
 St. Louis American Association of Zoo Keepers
 St. Louis Cardinals
 St. Louis County Police Department
 Mrs. Linda Straubinger
 Surdex Corporation
 Ted Drewes Frozen Custard
 The Webb Family
 Ms. Rebecca Webb and Mr. Scott Kolkmeier
 Ms. Diane Woepke
 Mr. Chad S. Wunsch
 Yellowstone Cafe
 Zerna Meat Co.

MATCHING GIFTS RECEIVED FROM

The Boeing Company Gift Matching Program

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dyer
 Mr. and Mrs. Don Goldacker
 Mr. and Mrs. Al Sonntag

Cee Kay Supply

Mr. and Mrs. Doug English & Family

ExxonMobil Foundation

Mr. & Mrs. Elliotte M. Harold

Microsoft Giving Campaign

Mr. Andy Lientz and Mrs. Chelsea Shure

Rabo AgriFinance

Ms. Caroline Depue

It's a boy! And a girl! And a boy! And...

YES, our pack has expanded, and we couldn't be more excited to share the news!

Last spring brought four swift fox kits and a Mexican gray wolf pup to our family. They're already busy taking in their world, learning and exploring and growing more and more every day.

As fun as they are to watch, it's inspiring and humbling to think of the role they

may each play one day in the continued recovery of their species.

With each birth comes new hope for these two species once on the brink of extinction. We hope you'll help us celebrate their arrival by becoming a part of their future through a donation on their behalf. Any amount helps make a difference. Those who donate \$75 or

more will receive a mouse pad with the photo of the newborn kits that's on the cover of this newsletter. Just note "2013 newborns" on your donation, either by mail, phone or online at...

www.endangeredwolfcenter.org.

Thank you for sharing in our celebration, and in the future of these rare animals and the ecosystems that depend on them.

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 newsletter 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 invitation to "Dine with the Keepers" and free PredaTour for 6
- ☐ **\$500 Wolf Guardian (\$42/month)**
Includes all of the above plus a beautiful photo book
- ☐ **\$1,000 Alpha Member (\$84/month)**
Includes all of the above plus a free VIP Animal Interaction Tour for 6

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 _____



NEW FREEZER AND MAINTENANCE SHEDS

We'd like to thank all the donors, especially the Beckmann family, who made a contribution toward the stand-alone outdoor walk-in freezer. It is installed and stores prepared diets and treats for the animals year-round.

We also thank Home Depot and longtime member Ann Jackson for donations that allowed us to install two new maintenance sheds.

Plaques listing all of our generous donors are on display on the freezer and sheds. You can find them on our tour route near the African painted dogs.

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 636-938-5900.

SCHNUCKS ESCRIP PROGRAM

You can help the wolves when you purchase groceries! Here's how: Pick up a free eScrip card at Schnucks or we'll mail one to you. When you register via phone or online, choose the Endangered Wolf Center as your charity recipient, then present your card to the cashier during checkout. Schnucks will donate up to 3 percent of your purchase at NO cost to you.

RELOCATING YOUR DEN? KEEP THE PACK INFORMED!

We try to ensure that our members never miss a newsletter or any of our mailings. 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.

MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

Small steps make big gifts! We heard you and we're responding to the many requests for a monthly donation program. We are proud to report that we have partnered with Caring Habits Inc. to make giving easy and safe for our members. Donations may now be made via credit card or bank account transfers either one-time or as a recurring gift.

How will the program work? Donors may visit our website at www.endangeredwolfcenter.org and click on the "Make A Donation" button. Just fill out the online form. If you'd like to learn more or have questions, our Development staff welcome your calls.



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.

We are excited to announce The Boeing Company Gift Matching Program is now matching gifts to the Endangered Wolf Center. You can find us listed as the Wild Canid Survival and Research Center. Call 636-938-5900 for more assistance.



PROFILES

STEVE JOHNSON Volunteer

When Steve Johnson retired from Cass Information Systems, a local bank holding company, he wanted to volunteer with a worthy organization.

Mutual friends of the Center's founders, Marlin and Carol Perkins, suggested he try the Endangered Wolf Center.

Since then, Steve has been an active volunteer, helping with tours, campfires, education programs and major events.

In fact, he helped bring about one of our biggest events. As the President of St. Louis Benefit Polo, a charitable arm of the St. Louis Polo Club, he persuaded the Polo Club to include the Endangered Wolf Center as one of four charities that benefit from its charity matches.



MARY ANN AMSINGER Office Manager and Gift Shop Manager

Staff members at the Center know Office Manager Mary Ann Amsinger as the person who balances the books and knows the budget front to back.

But visitors to the Center probably know her better as manager of the Gift Shop. All the T-shirts, jewelry, posters, and other items that are available for purchase were selected and put on display by Mary Ann.

Mary Ann joined the Center in 2010. She graduated from UMSL and has an MBA from Webster University. Before that, she and her daughter Denise owned and operated several businesses, including a florist shop, a gift shop and a small-business consulting firm. The two even lived in Costa Rica, which Mary Ann says showed her "the beauty of an ecosystem in harmony."

Her son Jesse has a degree in accounting from UMSL.



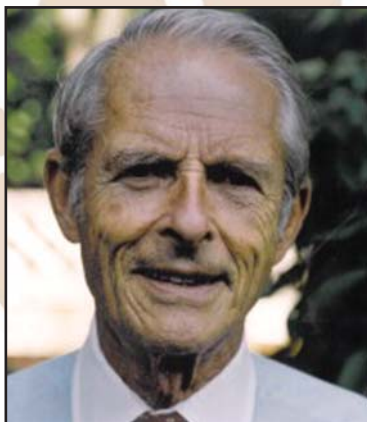
OBITUARIES

HARVARD K. HECKER 1915-2013

Harvard K. Hecker, one of the founders of the Endangered Wolf Center, died in March 2013 at age 97.

In 1971, Mr. Hecker, along with his wife Patricia Hecker of Clayton, worked with Marlin and Carol Perkins to found the Center, then known as the Wild Canid Survival and Research Center.

Mr. Hecker helped design and build the enclosures and ponds for the wolves that are still used today. He is a former chairman of the Center's Board. Mr. Hecker was an engineer, inventor, conservationist and philanthropist.



LISA D. EARLS 1958-2013

Lisa D. Earls, a volunteer at the Endangered Wolf Center, died Aug. 20, 2013, at her home in St. Louis. She was 55.

Her husband Verner is also a volunteer at the Center. The couple's first visit to the Center was for Wolf Fest in 1997 before they were even dating, and Verner credits that day with helping him "win her over." "Because of that visit, we have been involved on some level ever since," he said.

Mrs. Earls was an insurance broker and administrative assistant.

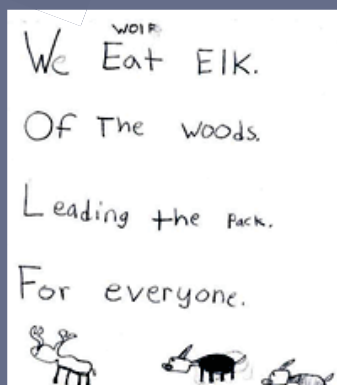


Falling for Wolves!



Endangered Wolf Center

Student Poems



Anonymous

Wolves – Seth Noel

When the wolves are
Out, they howl
Loudly, in the
Very cold night
Early in the morning
Some go hunt.

Submit your poem

The Center welcomes poetry submissions from local grade and high school students for upcoming newsletters. Poems should be about wolves or nature, and no longer than a half-page. Selected poets will get a free tour. Please send poems, with your name, grade and school, to Regina Mossotti. P.O. Box 760, Eureka, MO 63025

Find the numbers and names of our animals in these 2 word search puzzles.
Then, can you circle the animals according to their species?

6 8 5 0 2 2 0 6 8 1 5 3
8 2 4 8 6 0 7 1 2 5 9 4
1 6 6 9 2 4 7 5 7 7 6 2
3 1 2 5 9 4 1 1 6 3 0 1
0 9 5 4 7 8 3 6 7 8 1 9
9 1 5 7 9 7 5 1 6 9 6 0
6 4 1 0 5 0 2 8 1 4 0 2
4 2 6 5 2 6 8 3 1 5 7 6
3 8 3 9 1 5 0 2 6 8 4 2
9 7 2 6 8 2 5 4 0 2 2 9
5 6 8 8 2 1 6 2 7 8 2 6
2 6 1 3 8 8 6 2 1 5 9 3

375 Peggy
388 Havoc
546 Apache
681 Rocky
685 Anna
797 Madre
882 Abby
950 Perkins
972 Cedar
1050 BobbyJ
1167 Desi
1402DonMack
1593 Inapa
1790 Scout
2203 Tsavo
2204 Dogo
2205 Datoga
2423 Dillon
3175 Freesia
3177 Nina

K A R A T B J X G D J H
F S N I K R E P F O Y A
E I Y E X A L R Y N B V
N H F G G U E A K M B O
T L C O G E Y B C A O C
R S T A S E T B O C B B
C A A I P I P Y R K U D
D E A V N A D I L L O N
O L D A O A Q S C O U T
G G P A N I J U H Z L U
O A Y N R N S O C S E D
T R A E R D A M I S E D



Endangered Wolf Center
ST. LOUIS, MO

P.O. Box 760
Eureka, MO 63025
636-938-5900
www.endangeredwolfcenter.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Eureka, MO
Permit No. 4



If you would like to GO GREEN!
send us your email address at
info@endangeredwolfcenter.org
and we'll send email updates.

Animal Update



A female Mexican gray wolf pup was born at the Center on the morning of May 20. The offspring of an extremely important genetic pairing between Madre and Perkins, the pup will be a great asset to the Mexican gray wolf recovery program.



At the Mexican Gray Wolf and Red Wolf SSP® meetings this summer, we received our breeding and transfer recommendations for the coming year. Over the next few months, we expect to welcome some new faces to the Center and say goodbye to some familiar ones. This is an exciting time, as it will allow us to make room for new breeding packs and continue to play a large role in the recovery efforts for these critically endangered species.