



# COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

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The Invisible Wolf...  
Sakara thinking no  
one can see her.

thanks Vivian for the  
great photo

## CWWC FREE APP for your iPhone on iTunes

- nine beautiful wallpapers plus a short story about each one
- facts about wolves, foxes & coyotes
- wolf howls
- tour information - make reservations right from your phone
- google map and directions





Mike and his project  
The beginning of the new  
entrance gate.



Mike and the USAF group that  
helped lift and erect  
the 600 pound gate into the  
steel guides.

### ALMOST FINISHED GATE

This spring an automatic gate opener, camera and keypad will be installed. Mike built this gate from scratch so for those welders, carpenters, engineers, and electricians, you can appreciate the work involved.

Thank you Mike!

**Kalani** is our newest ambassador wolfdog in training. He was one of 84 dogs in a large case seizure by the Saskatoon SPCA in Canada.

The day after the seizure it was noted that he could not use his hind legs. They estimated his age to be about two months old. He was taken to the vet and diagnosed with secondary hyperparathyroidism due to lack of nutrition. His bone density was poor and he had several fractures in his legs. He was put into foster care in hopes that they could reverse the bone problems.

With a nutritional diet he improved within five days. He was starting to walk with an occasional hop. A month later he was brought back to the vet and given a clean bill of health.

Kalani was unable to be adopted out so we were contacted in July 2010 to see if we could find him a home. He came to Colorado in August 2010. He had some behavioral problems mostly around food. He would become very food aggressive. Imagine being a pup with 83 other animals and having to fight for your food.

With a lot of patience, I am happy to say he has come a long way. He is learning good manners from our other ambassador wolfdog Timber.

He has done a program at The Broadmoor and I'm hoping to bring him to Earthday at The Garden of The Gods this spring.

I am able to bring him to the center to play with his new best friends, Nakai and Navi. I am so proud of my handsome boy. To be able to give him a second chance and see him run and play like he was meant to do.

*Peggy*



## **BIRD FATALLY STABS MAN AT COCKFIGHT**

**Delano, CA - A California man attending a cockfight has died after being stabbed in the leg by a bird that had a knife attached to its own limb. The Kern County coroner says 35-year-old Jose Luis Ochoa was declared dead at a hospital about two hours after he suffered the injury in nearby Tulare County Jan. 30.**

## *a few of our guests....*



We loved the tour (as we always do!) Thanks again for an awesome "field trip" - the best one we take! Candace Riggelman, Cheyenne Mountain Elementary

## *new volunteer profiles*



### **Sindy**

My name is Sindy - I was born and raised in Michigan but I've been fortunate to have lived in many different States. I moved to Colorado in March 2010 to be closer to my daughter and grandkids. My first tour at CWWC was in April of that year...of course it was a VIP tour! After kisses from Wakanda, it was a done-deal, I moved to Cripple Creek and started volunteering at the Center in October.

My passion for wolves has been life-long, but became \*more\* in the early 1970's when I bought a wolf-dog (I didn't know what I didn't know!). At the same time, rumblings started about returning wolves to the wild in Yellowstone National Park. I believed in the "rightness" of that, and so began my advocacy for wolves.

I am often asked who is my favorite wolf, that is difficult to answer, there is something I love and respect in each of them: I love the "wildness" of our critically endangered Mexican Gray Wolf brothers, Rio and Ciero, Princess for her willingness to trust when it's not easy for her, Sakara because she is the epitome of alpha wolf, Micah because he's just silly, Keara for her uniqueness, Na'vi and Nakai because of their love of life, Koda for her joy - Wakanda, Shunka & Makah's regalness, Tala is sweetness in a fur coat, Zaltana and Kwahadi for their stalking abilities....but the two I enjoy spending time with are; Kekoa = pure love on 4 legs....and beautiful Akela, her "wolf-purr" is astonishing, she greets her people with such enthusiasm.

Thank you Darlene and Peggy for allowing me to do something I believe strongly in at a sanctuary that I have the utmost respect for.

## Katie Geist

I was born and raised in a small town in Connecticut, but had the fortune to move to Colorado during my high school years. Even though work and life have led me to live in Illinois and New Mexico, Colorado has always been my home. Work brought me back to Colorado in 1992. Four years ago we realized one of our dreams by buying a log home in the Florissant area. An early retirement from a 26-year career in the travel industry soon followed.

Retirement has allowed me to travel, spend time with my family, and pursue several personal interests including gardening, hiking and art. I proudly received my certificate in Botanical Illustration this fall from the Denver Botanic Gardens. I live with my husband, two dogs, one cat and one parakeet. My new grandson lives within driving distance with my son and daughter-in-law in Lakewood.

After driving by the Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center for



four years, I finally went on a tour in September 2010. I was so impressed with the Center, the wonderful wolves and the informative tour. I knew one of my neighbors volunteered at the Center for several years and was intrigued. When she approached me about volunteering, I was excited to learn more. As a life long animal lover, I applaud Darlene's passion for the center's animals and her efforts to educate the public about the importance of wildlife in our environment. I am glad to give my time to this cause.

My training and coaching background have helped me to lead tours and share all that I've learned about the center, the wolves, coyotes and foxes, and why they matter. The wolves are incredible, and I still get chills every time I hear them howl.

My favorite wolf... They are all so fascinating, with such different, distinct personalities that it's hard to decide. I will say that Akela has a very special place in my heart since she gave me my first wolf kiss.



## Jessica Busto

I was born and raised in Colorado, yet I have traveled quite a bit. I've always had a passion for animals and felt drawn to wolves. The wild spirit and light in their eyes makes my heart smile and long to connect deeper with them. So I am grateful that a wonderful place like CWWC exists. I went to college at CSU in Ft. Collins. I have a Masters Degree in Psychology and I am also a Yoga Instructor and aspiring aerial silk dancer. I enjoy painting, reading, and spending time with my boyfriend and our three dogs. I have always seen helping others and animals as something that brings light to my life. I have enjoyed getting to know all the wolves and I always leave the center feeling rejuvenated. My favorite moment so far at the center was witnessing Shunka and Akela be matched up when he followed her into her enclosure after a walk one day. Observing the two

of them together that day was such a joy to see, love was in the air, and now Akela has a buddy. Akela's warm welcomes as she kissed my face and rubbed up against me like a feline with an almost purr like sound melted my heart that day. I have grown quite fond of the foxes as well, such precious, gentle little animals, and such a delight to work with. Life is a journey, but it is all about the precious moments along the way, and I'm looking forward to witnessing many more precious moments with the wolves, coyotes, and fox family!

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Seacrest Wolf Preserve  
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Mexican Grey Wolves  
[www.mexicanwolves.org](http://www.mexicanwolves.org)

Project Coyote  
[www.projectcoyote.org](http://www.projectcoyote.org)

Wild Earth Guardians  
[www.wildearthguardians.org](http://www.wildearthguardians.org)

Defenders of Wildlife  
[www.defendersofwildlife.org](http://www.defendersofwildlife.org)

## WOLF MYTHBUSTING

Debunking common myths about wolves

### MYTH: Wolves are wiping out elk and other prized game species in the Northern Rockies.

Overall, elk and deer continue to do well in the region. The 2010 hunting forecast from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation estimated regional populations (in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming) at more than 370,000, with most herds at or above management targets. In addition, there are more than a million deer, leaving plenty of game for both hunters and wolves.

Elk herds naturally increase and decrease in size over time. They do so in response to changes in habitat, nutrition, disease, hunting pressure, predation, weather and a number of other factors. Sometimes predators may cause local impacts on local prey populations, but predator numbers are primarily driven by the availability of their prey, which in turn is controlled by the availability of food and the uncertainty of the weather. These intertwined factors demonstrate nature's inherent balance, and ensure that elk, deer and other ungulates are not 'wiped out' by the animals that eat them.

It is possible for wolves and humans to coexist, but the size of the population varies with our willingness to accommodate them.

### CWWC INTERESTING FACT:

The Skyfox Freeway is 60' long and 13' high. It was built in 2004 at the facility in Florissant to provide transportation for the fox to get from one enclosure to another so they would have more space due to the lay out of the terrain. With the move to our final current destination, the bridge was disassembled in three parts and the naval engineers erected it again where the Red Fox once again enjoy the views.

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