

# WOLF VISIONS

THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER FROM MISSION:WOLF

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Wolf Visions	p. 1
Education vs Extinction	p. 2
Experiential Learning	p. 2
Caretaker of the Year	p. 3
Update on Veteran Volunteer	p. 3
Featured Wolves	p. 3
Ambassador Wolf Program	p. 4
Meet Our Ambassadors	p. 4
2009 Fall Tour Schedule	p. 5
Wolf Teacher Pam Brown	p. 5
Gene's Kitchen	p. 6
The Playpen	p. 6
The New Barn	p. 6
Summer at the Refuge	p. 7
International Volunteers	p. 7
Kona	p. 7
The Trophic Cascade	p. 8
Learn More About Wolves	p. 9
How to See a Wild Wolf	p. 9
Land Update	p. 9
Celebration of Life	p. 10-11
Kevin Honness	p. 10
Rami	p. 11
Memorials	p. 12-13
New Arrivals	p. 14-15
The Crimson Fund	p. 16
New Horse and Vet Building	p. 16
Financial Update	p. 16
Color Me Wild	p. 17
Thank You's	p. 18
Hello from Carol Kennedy	p. 19
Become a Wolf Caretaker	p. 19



*We all miss Rami's gentle disposition and happy soul.*

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Hello and welcome to Wolf Visions, our periodic newsletter about living life with wolves. The last two years have been full of memorable events that continue to shape our future and inspire us to push forward.

In the end, we dream that

places like Mission:Wolf will become obsolete as people learn to respect wild animals in their natural habitat. As this happens, we will allow nature to thrive with diverse and balanced ecosystems around the world.

The continued return of

wild wolves across the US is a good sign our visions may be realized. I wish to thank all the generous and caring people who continue to help keep M:W and the wolf bus running.

- Kent Weber

### Visit us on the web at:

[www.missionwolf.com](http://www.missionwolf.com)  
[www.youtube.com/missionwolf-sanctuary](http://www.youtube.com/missionwolf-sanctuary)  
[www.youtube.com/tracyane-brooks](http://www.youtube.com/tracyane-brooks)  
<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/beneficiaries/30372>

## Featured Wolves: Soleil & Orion



*Soleil was a youngster when she arrived at the refuge in September 2005. Her mile long legs quickly earned her the nickname "Stilts."*



*Orion came to the sanctuary as a puppy in October of 2005. Staff named him for the star constellation that was overhead when he arrived. Photo Monty Sloan*

## New Arrivals



### Fenris and Amulet

Fenris and Amulet's mother was sent to a Michigan Humane Society when her breeder was killed in a shoot out with police. They discovered she was pregnant when she dug a den and had 4 pups. The pups were left in the enclosure with their mother for 4 months, only being handled once to spay and neuter them. The stress and trauma their mother experienced watching her owner die and moving into an unfamiliar environment was transferred to the puppies through extremely high levels of adrenaline in utero and then through her milk. Wolves only bark as an alarm call when something very dangerous is near, so the constant barking of the other shelter dogs told the wolves to be scared of everything all the time. After 4 months of constant barking Amulet and Fenris were neurotic, terrified puppies with nowhere to go. Through news reports and the outreach of the shelter staff, M:W found out about Amulet and Fenris and agreed to take them in. Amulet and Fenris spent their first months at the refuge cowering and fear barking in the very back of their enclosure. Eventually Fenris moved in with an adult female named Raven. Amulet lives with a wolf-dog named Luke who is helping her learn not to be so afraid.



### Sangre

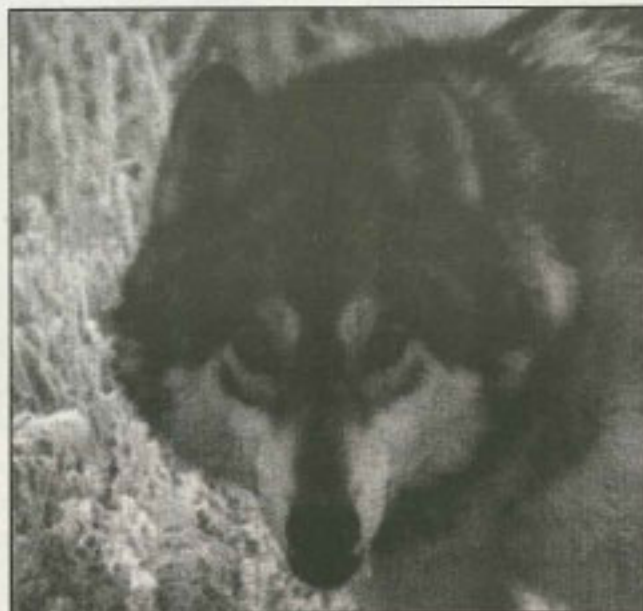
Sangre, known to some by his original name, Sarge, first arrived at Mission:Wolf in 2007. We don't know much about his past, but we do know that someone tried to keep him as a pet. We believe that he was untrained, which led him to be unpredictable especially toward men. When Sangre took his aggression out on his owner by biting hard, San-

gre lost his home so M:W agreed to take him in. Once he arrived, we realized he was a misunderstood dog who had been labeled a wolf-dog so the breeder could make more money. The refuge staff tried to rehabilitate and train him to be a house dog. We have successfully saved a few mislabeled dogs in the past, but Sangre had been neglected for too long. He is too unpredictable to be placed in a home. Sangre now lives with another wolf-dog named Daisy. They are a great match because they are both very confused animals who don't know how to act around humans or wolves. Over the months that they've been together, Daisy has helped Sangre adjust to refuge life and is slowly teaching him not to bark at the staff when they walk past.



### Nokona

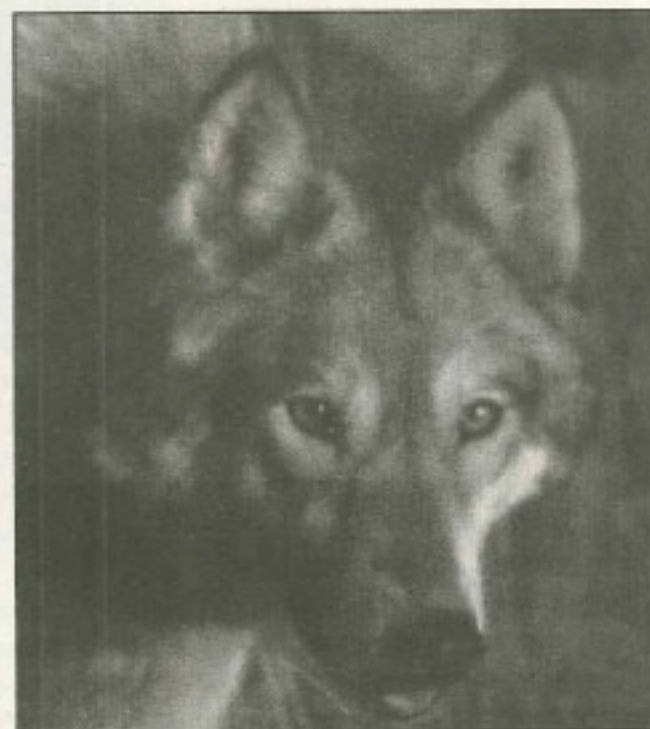
Nokona was born in January of 2002 and came to M:W in early spring of 2009. His background is unknown. To the best of our knowledge, he ended up in a dog shelter in Iowa and was scheduled to be destroyed as a wolf. A Colorado wolf sanctuary took him in and he lived there for six years until financial difficulties forced them to close. Nokona was delivered to M:W in the back of a truck and was placed in a large enclosure. He is timid and shy around most of the staff except at feeding time. We worked to get Nokona a new pack and placed him next to Raven and Fenris to get acclimated. All was well, and Raven and Nokona flirted a bit, but little Fenris was insecure. Just when it looked like all was well, the three ended up arguing and Nokona was moved into a new enclosure. We are still working to find him a companion. He has a very striking appearance and although he is wolf-like in appearance and behavior, we suspect that he has a touch of dog ancestry in him as well.



### McKinley

McKinley was born April of 2005 in Palmer, Alaska at Wolf Country USA. She was sold to a couple

who were in Alaska on a vacation. They came back to Colorado with their puppy McKinley. They raised her for three and a half years. They brought her to Lamire Humane Society because they were getting a divorce and could not keep her in an apartment. She was handled improperly at Lamire and was transferred to Clear Creek Animal Shelter by our sister Organization WOLF. At this time we had already decided to adopt McKinley. Jennifer McCarthy picked McKinley up, drove her to M:W, and they arrived on October 29, 2008. Every morning and evening the wolves of M:W howl. Her very first night here McKinley lead the other wolves howling. She lives with a young male named Texx and is comfortable in her new home.



### Texx

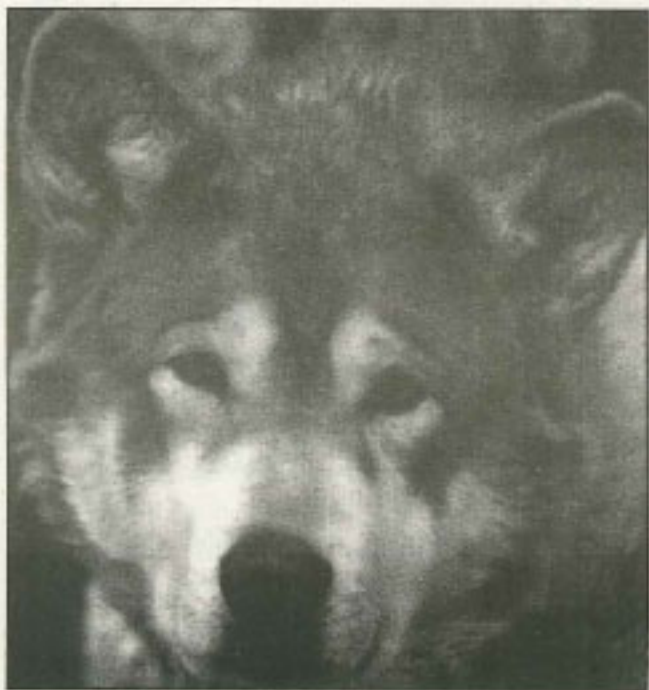
Texx is very tall, as shy as they come, and has lots of wolf traits. He also has markings and features that tell us he has some dog ancestry. He was born in January of 2005 and arrived at M:W after a long road trip from Texas in late 2008. We believe he was purchased as a pup and raised as a pet for an unknown time before he was either turned loose or escaped. He managed to survive while running free around Texas neighborhoods by scavenging dog food from backyards. As his presence became more noticeable, so did the neighbors concern for his safety. Texx was tricked by a clever homeowner who recognized what he was and how to use his behavior to help keep him from being shot. She found that while she walked her dog Texx would enter her dog's run and eat the food. Armed with a 100 ft rope, she set up a way to close the gate from a distance. When Texx snuck in for food, she closed the gate behind him. Knowing how well he could jump, they put a mesh top on the dog run to keep him contained. Now that he was safe, he was in need of a new home so M:W agreed to take him. Texx is very timid and not sure what to think of life in the mountains, but within weeks of his arrival we were able to get him a companion. He lives with a female named McKinley who is dominant over him and keeps him in line at feeding time. As time passes, he settles into life and has become a bit calmer. He enjoys his new life with McKinley.

## New Arrivals



### Talon and Valley Spirit

Talon and his mate Valley spirit were born in 2006 and came to M:W in spring of 2009 after a long, hard journey. They were discovered chained and padlocked in a backyard during a police raid. They were tranquilized, the padlocks were removed, and it was discovered that Valley Spirit was pregnant. They both were identified as wolves and scheduled to be destroyed. Quick action by wolf-dog rescues in Michigan and Indiana allowed them to be rescued. They were transported to a temporary facility where Valley Spirit gave birth. Sheltered by a makeshift den of straw bales, she nursed her pups and awaited transportation to M:W. With help from dog trainer Jennifer McCarthy and "The Dog Whisperer" production teams, all six were loaded and transported to us. When their carrier doors opened for the first time in three days, they emerged into their forested enclosures and let out sighs of relief. "Mama" Valley Spirit cleaned out an old wolf den and carried her pups to it. Then Talon and Mama eagerly greeted all of our staff and several visitors the following day, leaving a trail of wet kisses. Since the pups have emerged from the den Talon and Mama are occupied being parents.



### Luke

Luke was born in January of 2002 and came to

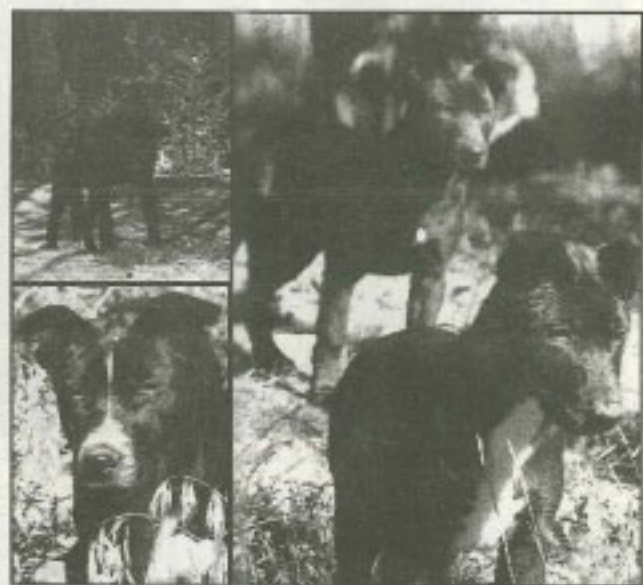
M:W late in 2008 from a refuge that was shutting down due to health and financial troubles. He was represented as a pure bred Arctic Alaskan, red-faced wolf, a species which does not exist. Luke was a very unusual, unsocialized and confused canine that barked and howled simultaneously. He lived in a remote and hidden enclosure and seldom saw people. Using a blow dart, we were able to sedate, capture, and kennel him for transport to our veterinarian, Dr. Hancock. During his neuter, we discovered that he only had one descended testicle. Luke ended up in surgery for over an hour to find and remove the missing testicle from his abdomen, costing over \$1000. Luke arrived at M:W with a sore and cold belly, and was placed next to our community kitchen where we could tend to his needs and watch his wounds heal. Luke seemed to be confused at the thought of humans in his space but slowly warmed up to staff. He is timid but curious. After healing he moved in with a female wolf named Amulet. He enjoys his new home and has even offered a greeting and a quick sniff to a few of the refuge staff.



### Aria, Arrow, Illiamna, Lil' Hailey Star, Zephyr

On July 16, 2009 M:W prepared for the arrival of eight wolf pups. They traveled from a facility in South Dakota and Dave Nora of Westcliffe was kind enough to deliver them to us. Maggie had just watched a new mother with four pups arrive and was longing for puppies of her own. At just three

months old, the four Arctic and four Grey Wolves were put in with Maggie and Abe. Maggie was somewhat overwhelmed but happily took them in as her own. Abe, perpetually rambunctious, was so worn out playing dad that he often fell asleep on visitor's laps! A joyous occasion soon became our worst nightmare when one pup died and four others became sick. This is the first time M:W has experienced a disease amongst the wolves and staff immediately took action. Within 48 hours the staff and several pups made runs back and forth to the animal hospitals and when all was said and done we had lost three pups to Parvo and one of the sickest ones, Aria, survived. Staff stayed with him for 36 hours straight, fed him, gave him five bags of intravenous fluids and homeopathic remedies, and within two days Aria came back to health and started tearing up the "Puppy Palace" vet building. The five puppies, Illiamna, Arrow, Zephyr, Aria and Lil' Hailey Star are all doing great, Aria and Little Hailey will soon be introduced to Raven and the rest are to stay with Maggie and Abe. Illiamna has been one of the bravest and curious of the pups and will travel with Ambassadors Maggie and Abe in the Wolf Bus.



### Asia, Batman, Buku, and Oreo

Asia, Batman, Buku and Oreo were born to Talon and "Mama" Valley Spirit at a temporary facility en route to M:W. Mama nursed them sheltered by a makeshift den of straw bales, then once at M:W, she cleared out an old den and continued to raise them. Both parents have wolf characteristics. We believe Mama is a wolf-dog cross and she has mostly wolf tendencies. Having seen the pups, we suspect that Talon is a wolf-Pitbull cross. The pups have a short, shiny coat and dog-like tails. Three of the puppies have round Pit-bull faces with half-cocked ears and one pup has a boxy Lab face with droopy ears and long wolf legs. As they grow we are starting to see each pup's individual personality.

If you would like to sponsor any of these animals please visit our website at [www.missionwolf.com](http://www.missionwolf.com) or see the Wolf Caretaker form on page 19.

## THANK YOU!

M:W wouldn't be able to do what it does without the generous contributions of countless people and organizations. To those who help us past, present, and future, M:W thanks you.

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Printing Services by Mountain Mail, Salida, CO

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