



December Adoption Newsletter

WOLF CONSERVATION CENTER



Happy December from your four-legged friends at the WCC! 'Tis the season: our campus is fast turning into a winter wonderland, & our wolves simply can't get enough of the colder weather! We've already seen some snow, which they have been all too happy to leap through, roll in, and rest upon the fluffy beds of white! Brrr! While this time of year we humans don our cozy coats, wolves can stay nice and toasty with their undercoats! In fact, some wolves (specifically arctic gray wolves) can even survive in -70 degrees Fahrenheit. That's a pretty impressive feat! In addition, their bodies can also keep their foot temperature just above freezing, ensuring their tissue doesn't freeze while they're treading through miles of snowy terrain. No mittens needed for these amazing creatures! Another helpful adaptation for treading snowy peaks rests in the size of their paws, which help them move more efficiently by acting like snowshoes!

Not only is winter the perfect temperature for wolves, it's also the perfect time to find love! This is because winter marks the start of the breeding season. After breeding, their gestation period (length of pregnancy) is about 63 days. Here at the center, we're crossing our paws for some new wolf pups this spring!

While we're excited for potential newcomers, we want to take the time now to highlight our wolf families and pairs this month and share what your fluffy friends have been up to!



Alawa & Nikai



Our ambassadors Alawa and Nikai have been ringing in the season by spending as much time as possible perched on their log cabins and dens. Nikai especially has taken to snoozing comfortably in the lowering temps, as this is his and Alawa's favorite time of year. Keep an eye out on our webcams this month as we give our ambassadors some fun present-themed enrichment. Luckily for our ambassadors, they won't have to wait for Santa to come to town!



Sage & Jacques

Next up is our new dynamic duo, Sage and Jacques! This sweet new pair have been living it up this month, and Sage especially has been making sure Jacques gets his steps in! She's quite a fireball and is always finding ways to try and get Jacques to participate in her latest adventure through their enclosure. See if you can spot them on our webcams bounding around playfully and chasing each other! We're glad they're getting to enjoy some alone time together before things could potentially get busier should they have some pups keeping them occupied this spring!

Tyke & Lava



Red wolves Tyke and Lava have also had a great start to the season! They have been spotted taking some luxurious mid-day naps and perfecting the art of camouflage with their gorgeous coats. Lava and Tyke have the opportunity to breed this year, so we're crossing our paws for them. In the meantime, they have been content to patrol their perimeter and exchange occasional howls with their next-door neighbors Valentia and Diego.



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Fact: Meals for our red wolves & Mexican gray wolves consist of roadkill deer & roadkill beaver!

Why: We want to ensure our wolves in the red wolf & Mexican gray wolf program only eat what they would naturally find in their environments



Sam & Family

Winter has been a welcomed season for red wolf Sam and his boisterous and beloved fab five team. Kiddos Martha, Max, Hunter, SkyRae, and Notch have been keeping Sam busy and youthful! They've also been reminding him of the importance of beauty sleep and have particularly been enjoying napping together as a family. Some of Sam's crew were recently spotted on webcam watching off in the distance for something. Perhaps waiting for Santa to arrive? While it's a little early for that, we applaud the dedication. No eating the reindeer, though!

Valentia & Diego



Over at the Mexican gray wolf enclosures, our pairs and families have also been celebrating the season of giving. Valentia was spotted gifting her mate Diego with a nice little surprise: a groundhog she had caught! Although we provide them with food, Diego and Valentia still have their hunting instincts as wolves. We're sure Diego thought this was a delicious treat indeed. The pair were also spotted howling recently, their singing permeating the cold evening air with rich tonal qualities. Perhaps they were singing a wolf Christmas carol? Only they will know!



Belle & Rhett Family

Pack parents Belle and Rhett along with kiddos Nita, Jean, and Maus have been enjoying their time leisurely exploring their enclosures. They've also had some friendly competition with Valentia and Diego to claim the title of champion Christmas carolers. Check out their webcams to see if you can hear them "fa-la-la'ing" their way through the season. Sisters Nita and Jean have also been observed participating in their usual shenanigans of playing and being all around goofballs together. This sweet sister duo really highlights how strong siblinghood is within a pack and the power of the family unit!



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In closing, here at the WCC our wolves have certainly been living it up this season! Between the combination of cold winter air and snow on the horizon, they've got a lot of festive cheer to take advantage of. We want to extend a very happy holiday and a happy new year from our pack here to you and yours!

We'll see you back in your inboxes in 2023.

-Your friends at the WCC



Rosa & Family



Although lots of holiday cheer has been circulating through the wolves, sadly Mexican gray wolf Rosa lost her dear Alléno at the end of October. He was 12 1/2 years old, and their bond was strong as steel. We miss him dearly and know she does, too. All things considered, she is navigating that loss with quiet strength. Daughters Bria, Diane, and Hélène have also been missing their dad but are still eating and playing as usual, which is a good sign! They've enjoyed exploring their new digs which were recently redone by our facilities staff and volunteers who generously offered their time. Some were even recently spotted napping in the new space. Perhaps they had visions of sugarplums dancing through their heads?



Trumpet, Lighthawk, & Family

For someone in Trumpet and Lighthawk's pack this will be their first holiday season! We're looking at you, Sonda! Sonda has come quite a long way from the tiny ball of fluff he once was, and we've loved getting to see him grow alongside his siblings. His siblings Joe Darling, Kral, George, Nicholas, Mosby, and Babs have also been getting into the decorating mood. Deck the halls with...scattered deer bones? Nothing quite says, "We wish you a Merry Christmas" like scattered deer bones! At least they serve a two-in-one purpose: decorations and leftovers. Not quite your average wintry candy cane snack, but still crunchy to chew on nonetheless. Bon(e) appétit to our festive fluffy friends!

