



March Adoption Newsletter

WOLF CONSERVATION CENTER



Happy March!

Happy March from your four-legged friends at the WCC! March has been mild, but the wolves have certainly been taking advantage of the cooler weather.

For those who've adopted our red wolves and Mexican gray wolves, you may be wondering how they handle the cooler weather here in New York. Our ambassadors Nikai and Alawa—being gray wolves—are built to thrive in colder climates. However, is the same true for the Mexican gray wolves and red wolves? After all, red wolves are found in North Carolina, and Mexican gray wolves are found in Arizona, New Mexico, and northern Mexico. What's the verdict? Yes! They both grow in undercoats and are able to stay warm in cold temperatures. These wolves had a wide historic range and are therefore suited for a variety of different temperatures.

That being said, as we roll into spring, one thing to look out for with your adopted wolves is shedding of that undercoat. You can see this process unfolding on their family or pair's webcams. Shedding is a natural process that takes place in spring, as wolves lose the need for their warm undercoat. Heading into March also means we are nearing the whelping season (when wolves are born). Although this won't happen until around April-May, it's certainly something to get excited about, as we've witnessed several pairs in a mating tie during breeding season.



Alawa & Nikai



Alawa and Nikai are heading into March one paw at a time! The dynamic sibling duo got some new enrichment recently, which was very exciting for them. Enrichment is something that's different that they don't experience every day. Enrichment is an important way of keeping our ambassador wolves engaged and discovering interesting new objects, scents, or food. This time the enrichment was a large, neon green tennis ball! Alawa was keen to check it out first, but she lost interest pretty quick. Nikai, on the other hand, was initially hesitant toward the new feature in his home. However, he eventually got up the courage to smell and nuzzle at it and was content on inspecting it vigorously!



Sage & Jacques

We've noticed Sage and Jacques paying particular attention to a spot behind their hill lookout. They were seen frequently traveling toward that area and looked to be observing something. Upon investigation, we realized they were watching as a bunch of ravens were feasting on leftovers from their neighbor's enclosure. Maybe they wanted in on those extras? Apart from keeping a watchful eye on their home, the two were recently seen engaging in a mating tie! This is great news since they are one of our three breeding pairs. We are hopeful for the possibility of pups. In the meantime, we hope you're enjoying watching them on webcam being silly and sweet!

Tyke & Lava



Lava was recently spotted eyeing a very specific log before going over to inspect it. She was sniffing away between the different limbs, seemingly looking for something. Upon closer examination, we realized she had sneakily hidden some leftover meat beneath certain spots of the fallen tree limb. Tyke came over to inspect, but he didn't detect the meat as quickly as Lava did. This ensured she got to eat most of the leftover snacks that she had hidden. Well played, Lava! Better luck next time, Tyke! Apart from hoarding delicious deer, Lava has been getting some serious heart eyes from Tyke lately. Additionally, the pair have had several mating ties.



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Did You Know?

FACT: WOLVES BEGIN TO SHED THEIR UNDERCOAT IN SPRING TIME

HOW: A HORMONE CALLED PROLACTIN IS STIMULATED AT THE ONSET OF LONGER DAYS, WHICH ENABLES THE UNDERCOAT TO BE SHED



Sam & Family

Sam and family have been easing into March and taking the time to appreciate the transition from winter to spring. Skyrac and Martha were spotted engaging in a game of play-wrestle recently, which is a great demonstration of how wolves—like people—like to have fun and be silly, too! Meanwhile, Sam has been lazily laying around and enjoying the extra time of sunlight we've been getting as the days start to get longer. Brothers Notch, Max, and Hunter were recently spotted navigating the terrain searching for any new smells they might have missed! Sense of smell is extremely important to wolves, and these brothers won't have any problem identifying any new ones—they can smell about 100 times better than people can!

Valentia



Valentia's March has been a tough transition, as her mate Diego passed away February 25th of old age. This couple was devoted, sweet, and stable. Their bond was strong, and Valentia's younger age kept Diego on his toes! She provided a fun-loving energy and kept him spritely. Diego was a truly special wolf that we all loved. He leaves an amazing legacy behind. He had one pup during his life (Trumpet) who had two daughters (his granddaughters) that continue his legacy out in the wild as cross-fostered pups (Hope & Crumbo). We are all going to miss him dearly.



Belle & Rhett Family

Over in Belle and Rhett's family, some of the family members were spotted trotting around the enclosure multiple times. Why? They wanted to proudly parade around the meal of the day dangling out of their mouth: a deer head! This show went on for about an hour, proving that "Don't play with your food" is not a rule in the wolf world! Maus and Rhett were also spotted by staff engaging in some father-son bonding time napping next to each other. Sisters Nita and Jean scoffed at the mid-day siesta, opting instead to race each other around their enclosure. They darted and dipped between the trees and shrubs like only an exceptionally skilled wolf can! Belle joined in on the chase initially, but decided it would be easier to just watch from her spot along the rock wall she enjoys relaxing near.



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In closing, we hope that you and yours have a magnificent March!

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



-Your friends at the WCC



Rosa & Family



In the rainy and icy weather of New York's March, getting some sun can be a rare occasion. So, several family members of the Rosa pack were not about to pass up that very chance! The wolves looked mighty cute sunning themselves, and they were all cuddled up and content to take in the rare rays casting warmth in the late afternoon. Equally important to resting, though, is taking some time to engage in family bonding. Wolves will often do this through playing, grooming, or even vocalizations. Howling is a great way for wolf packs to maintain social bonds, which is just what staff observed these pack members doing. Early in the morning as staff drove around to distribute water, we were pleasantly greeted by Diane and Hélène starting up a chorus of howls together. Bria and Rosa joined along shortly after, adding their voices to the mix. Witnessing their bond is always a sweet way to start the day!



Trumpet, Lighthawk, & Family

The Trumpet and Lighthawk family have been doing well, and Trumpet and Lighthawk have been as invested in each other as ever! The pair have been seen in multiple mating ties. Meanwhile, staff stumbled upon brothers Joe Darling, Kral, Nicholas, and George in the middle of teaching Sonda the tools of the trade of hiding food. After all, who doesn't like an occasional mid-day snack? Being the younger sibling to four older brothers means lots of mentoring opportunities for Sonda. Brothers of the year award goes to these boys for sure!



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