

WOLF

TRACKS

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Autumn update

Erik Wilber, Animal Care Assistant

FALL IS NOW OFFICIALLY HERE, and the very warm summer we had is finally passing (much to the delight of the wolves). Although the wolves finished shedding only a short few months ago, they are once again donning their fluffy winter coats.

The annual Species Survival Plan (SSP) meeting for both the red wolf and Mexican gray wolf took place recently. At these meetings, program directors and management staff from participating agencies and facilities come together to make breeding and transfer recommendations. An official determination was made that there will be no changes in the coming year for the Mexican gray wolves residing at Wolf Haven. Our six pre-release males, as well as our four exhibit animals (Diablo, Gypsy, Fiona, and Lorenzo) will remain here. None of our Mexican gray wolves this year were recommended for breeding.

As for the red wolves here at Wolf Haven, our pair Sissy and Jacob were recommended for breeding. However, due to Sissy's reproductive history (or lack thereof), if she does not produce pups this year, it was decided that she will be excluded from the breeding program in the future. Our other red wolf pair, Sioux and Ruby, will remain with us another year, again as a non-breeding pair.

We received a lead on a potential mate in Washington State for Siri, one of our off-tour gray wolves, who is currently alone. See page 7 for a breaking news update.

Clarice, an older female who resides off-tour, had to be taken to the vet a couple months ago. On the morning of July 1, we noticed Clarice was unsteady on her feet and appeared disoriented. She was taken to the clinic for



Mexican gray wolves Lorenzo and Fiona (standing) will remain here at Wolf Haven next year. PHOTOS BY JULIE LAWRENCE.

tests, and while nothing specific was found, our veterinarian was fairly convinced that she had suffered a stroke. She was brought back to Wolf Haven and closely monitored. Over the next few weeks, she made a slow and steady progress back to health. I am happy to report that Clarice has made a full recovery, and is back to her normal self.

Chinook was taken to the vet clinic on September 24 for what appeared to be a

ruptured anal gland. While there, we also found a small tumor just to the left of his anus, which was removed and sent out for biopsy. Thankfully, the tumor turned out to be a low-grade carcinoma of the sebaceous gland. This type of tumor, while locally aggressive, typically does not metastasize, which is good news. Chinook is back in his enclosure and continues to do very well.

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to a dear friend, Wolfy. Wolfy was an older wolf-dog hybrid that was at a stage in his life where he was having good days and not-so-good days. During the big heat wave this summer, Wolfy in particular was having a hard time, despite the measures we took to keep our wolves cool. Throughout the heat wave, we refilled their water buckets with cold water every couple of hours, and kept their splash tubs full. Animal Care staff changed their schedule around completely and fed only in the late evenings, which allowed the wolves to rest in the shade throughout the day. We also did ice enrichment and put a bag of ice in each of their buckets. The wolves had fun sticking their heads in the bucket to pull the ice out.

On July 29 the temperature was over 100 degrees, so we were extra diligent monitoring everyone throughout the day. On the 4:00 p.m. water refill, Wolfy was laying in the shade and seemed fine. However, when we went to refill buckets again at 6:00 p.m., Wolfy was on his side and unresponsive. We immediately wetted him down and transported him to the office into an air conditioned room. His initial temperature was 108 degrees (nominal range is 100 -102). We applied ice

Clarice



Chinook



Wolfy

